



Minutes

EPC MONTHLY MEETING

June 17, 2024

Virtual via Zoom

Zoom Meeting Recording

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Attendance

EPC Members (13)	Status	Staff
Kishla Askins	E	Adriana Castañeda, T&ES
Dan Beattie	P	Felipe Ip, T&ES
Eldon Boes	P	Ryan Freed, Office of Climate Action
Alexander Clark	E	
Benjamin Cuddy	P	
Jennifer Debias	P	
Kathie Hoekstra, Chair	P	Guests
Philip Mobilia	PR	
Marta Schantz, Vice-Chair	P	
Julia Slayden	P	
James Vandeputte	E	

P: Present; **PR:** Present Remotely; **A:** Absent - Unexcused; **E:** Absent – Excused; **N:** Not a Member

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Kathie Hoekstra called the meeting to order. No introductions were needed, no public present.

2. Public Comment

No public comments.

3. Administrative Items

a) Conduct EPC Annual Elections

Mr. Philip Mobilia, Secretary, conducted the nominations for:

- Chair: Ms. Marta Schantz. Vote: Unanimous agreement.
- Vice-Chair: Mr. Ben Cuddy. Vote: Unanimous agreement.

Ms. Kathie Hoekstra, Chair, conducted the nominations for:

- Secretary: Mr. Philip Mobilia. Vote: Unanimous agreement.

Chair Hoekstra turned the meeting over to Vice-Chair Schantz to run.

b) Meeting Minutes

Vote on May 20, 2024, regular meeting minutes, for approval. **Motion:** Mr. Dan Beattie; **Second:** Ms. Ben Cuddy; **Vote:** Unanimous approval.

Vote on April 27, 2024, Retreat minutes, for approval. **Discussion:** add Small Modular Nuclear Reactor before SMR for clarity. **Motion to approve with edits:** Ms. Kathie Hoekstra; **Second:** Mr. Dan Beattie; **Vote:** Unanimous approval.

c) Approval, Post-Send, of Letter of Support for P&Z Proposal to eliminate parking Minimums at Hoffman/Eisenhower East CDD #2

Motion to Approve: Ms. Jennifer Debias; **Second:** Mr. Dan Beattie; **Vote:** Unanimous approval.

d) Reports from Commissioners/Staff

Update from Ryan Freed:

- Green Building Policy. Provided an update on next steps and timing for getting the policy out for public comment, hopefully in the summer. Working with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) and finding a contractor to assist in areas PNNL does not cover. Approval process will include a 30-60 day public comment period and parallel discussion with City Council, Commissions, and Boards in the fall. Most likely not on City Council's first reading until their October meeting.

NOTE: EPC will schedule an additional meeting in the summer, if needed, depending on timing of the Green Building Policy, to allow time for review and to provide comments.

- Request for EPC Letter of Support for EV Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant for the Federal Highway Administration: The Office of Climate Action is applying for this grant. Previously applied and asked for Level 2 and Level 3 charging. This time, request is for Level 3, fast charging, that takes 20 minutes (versus Level 2 that takes several hours). Requesting a letter of support that the Office of Climate Action can put in their application for the grant. Staff will draft the letter for the EPC to edit and finalize, if they agree to support the grant.

Motion for EPC to write a letter to the Federal highway Administrator in support of the EV Charging Infrastructure Grant: Mr. Beattie; **Second:** Ms. Jennifer Debias; **Vote:** Unanimous approval. Mr. Beattie will work with Staff to write the letter, which is due in several months.

Update from Ms. Marta Schantz:

- Timing to Send EPC Letter of Support, for Duke St, Option 2. Letter is finalized and has been reviewed by a transportation advocate for accuracy. City Council

will not vote on this until the fall, so discussed timing of sending letter now versus closer to the time it will be voted on. EPC will monitor Council agenda's to determine timing for sending prior to the applicable meeting.

- AlexWest Plan, Sustainability Elements, possible Letter of Support. Discussed whether EPC was in support of having P&Z staff draft a letter for EPC to update and submit as a letter of support. Ms. Schantz will confirm with P&Z to provide a draft for the EPC to use as their template and update as needed.
 - o Chair Hoekstra has attended several meetings for the AlexWest Plan. Areas the EPC may want to highlight: residents are not being moved out of their communities, but the plan converts parking lots to buildings, which can help with the heat island effect.
 - o **Motion** to pre-approve a letter, authored by Mr. Ben Cuddy, in support of the AlexWest Plan, Sustainability Features: Ms. Julia Slayden; **Second:** Mr. Eldon Boes; **Discussion:** Mr. Cuddy will work with Staff to draft the letter, send to the EPC for review, and EPC comments can be sent back to Mr. Cuddy for incorporation prior to finalizing. **Vote:** Unanimous approval.

Update from Mr. Dan Beattie:

- Transportation Commission: Next Transportation Commission meeting is Wednesday, June 19, 2024, where the Commission should get an update on the recommendations for AlexWest. Mr. Beattie will forward any new/updated information to the EPC for awareness.
- Eco-City Festival: Commended staff for their work and efforts in making the festival a success.

4. Review of Eco-City Homes Recognition Program

Vice-Chair Schantz discussed the collective list of comments from the five EPC members that provided additional comments since last month's meeting. From here, the Subcommittee is proposing to take the feedback and overall spreadsheets and pass it to the Office of Climate Action to continue developing the program. Ms. Schantz mentioned how the Office of Climate Action is thinking about starting early promotions for the program, in late summer.

Ryan Freed discussed how the final proposal submitted to Office of Climate Action would be reviewed against their work plan through the summer, with a hope to start talking to people about it during the summer along with other related sustainable messaging. The work plan and launch plan will be developed and approved internally.

EPC members can continue to provide comments to Ryan Freed as the program is passed to the Office of Climate Action.

5. Review of Retreat Information

Discussion points and topics brought up at the retreat and here for further conversation:

- Eco-City EAP Steering Committee – Two City Council members are on this committee. Possible avenue for EPC to be more connected to Council and where EPC can be strategic about sharing plans.
 - o Discussed focus of this meeting, to request EAP bi-annual meetings to elevate EAP actions/initiatives that may be behind and where EPC could help suggest/request more resources.
 - o Use these meetings to think about EAP update ideas in discussion with the Office of Climate Action.
 - o Climate Action is currently looking for bigger topics the EPC wants included in the updated EAP, in FY26. Strategies and tactics of how to accomplish it would be at the staff level.
 - o Consider how EPC can determine the best way to communicate the development and execution of the new EAP, and coordinate with Council and the Office of Climate Action.
 - o Subcommittee to develop ideas for EPC involvement and engagement in the EAP development and with Council. The subcommittee will include Ms. Julia Slayden(lead) and Chair Hoekstra; and possibly other EPC members. Subcommittee will look at other jurisdictions for comparison as well as how to promote engagement.
 - o Council generally has a meeting about priorities in November – January timeframe.
- EPC Charter and Ordinance – consider whether EPC wants to review and possibly make changes, including possible changes to the member categories to make them current and increased engagement with other Commissions.
 - o Member Categories: Two EPC positions are open and will not be posted until the fall (August).
 - o Decision: EPC will not suggest changes at this time.
- Future Meeting Topics: DRAFT calendar will be sent out for review.
 - o Discussed list of possible guest speakers during the year.
 - o Joint meetings with Transportation Commission and Planning Commission.
- Possible Subcommittees to lead drafting of Legislative Asks and Budget letter.
- Vice-Chair Schantz will reach out to Karl Moritz, P&Z, to continue discussions about getting P&Z updates, including development plans in queue, at EPC

meetings. Ms. Schantz will also reach out to Dustin Smith, Green Building Manager, to identify proposed developments where EPC may want to provide comments.

- Invite Yulia Fernandez Marcos to attend an EPC meeting in early FY25 to give an overview of her work plan and provide the commission a chance to open dialogue.

6. Initiate Discussion about FY26 Budget

Discuss Budget at October 2024 meeting. Budget subcommittee, if developed during September meeting, can initiate work on this letter and lead discussion in October.

- Are there any local funds that should be allotted to support the federally funded, state implemented grants for energy efficiency, expected to be available in January 2025, to ensure Alexandria's capture the greatest benefits of these programs. Including possible budget for education and outreach to help residents learn about programs.

7. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Eldon Boes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32p.m. Next regular meeting is Monday, September 16, 2024.

FY2024 Attendance

Member	Sept 18, 2023	Oct 16, 2023	Nov 11, 2023	Dec 11, 2023	Jan 22, 2024 <small>(virtual only)</small>	Feb 26, 2024 <small>(virtual only)</small>	Mar 18, 2024	Apr 15, 2024	Apr 27, 2024 <small>(Retreat)</small>	May 20, 2024	Jun 17, 2024	TOTALS
Kishla Askins						P	P	P	P	P	E	100%
Dan Beattie	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Eldon Boes	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Alexander Clark	P	P	P	P	E	P	A	P	P	P	E	89%
Benjamin Cuddy	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	100%
Jennifer DeBias	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Cynthia Elliott	P											
Oleksandr Faryga	A	E										
Kathie Hoekstra	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	100%
Anna Marino	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	E		90%
Philip Mobilia		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Michael Olex	P	E	P	P	P							100%
Theresa Romanosky	P	P	E	P	P	P	E					100%
Marta Schantz	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Julia Slayden					P	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
James Vandeputte	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	100%