



**Minutes**

**EPC MONTHLY MEETING**

**December 16, 2024**

**VIRTUAL only (via Zoom)**

**[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)**

**7:30 – 9:30 p.m.**

**Attendance**

<b>EPC Members (11)</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Kishla Askins	PR	Melissa Atwood, T&ES
Dan Beattie	PR	Bill Skrabak, T&ES
Eldon Boes	PR	Ryan Freed, Office of Climate Action
Alexander Clark	PR	Tamara Jovovic, Office of Housing
Benjamin Cuddy, Vice-Chair	E	Eric Keeler, Office of Housing
Charlie Garlow	PR	Laura Prince, ACPS
Kathie Hoekstra	PR	
Philip Mobilia	PR	<b>Guests</b>
Marta Schantz, Chair	PR	Alisa Wong
Julia Slayden	PR	
Yanique Revers	PR	

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

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Chair Marta Schantz called the meeting to order; and introductions were completed for all attendees.

**2. Public Comment**

No public comments.

**3. Discussion on Housing Master Plans (Office of Housing)**

Ms. Tamara Jovovic and Mr. Eric Keller, Office of Housing, provided an overview of the Housing Master Plan, what it means for all residents, how it provides support for older communities, and how to create and preserve affordable housing. The presentation included challenges, how Housing 2040 Topics and Projects are being identified, a timeline for the Housing 2040 Update, and approaches to integrating sustainability. The housing survey is designed to get feedback on housing issues that are directly impacting residents or their communities. This includes issues/concerns for renters

and homeowners, senior issues, and housing conditions concerns. Survey is currently open and available in several languages. It will close on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion was provided on current approaches to integrating sustainability into Housing 2040, including utilizing partnerships and maintaining compliance with the Green Building Policy, as well as possible considerations or challenges with integrating sustainability. Discussion concluded with a look at the 2013 Housing principles and goals. Office of Housing requested feedback and ideas for what principles the EPC would like to see in Housing 2040 to address sustainability.

Presentation concluded with Q&A. Chair Schantz. Chair Schantz and Ms. Yanique Revers are interested in looking closer at the housing priorities and goals and putting together thoughts on including sustainability.

#### **4. MWEE Environmental Education Collaboration with ACPS (Environmental Quality & ACPS)**

Ms. Laura Prince, Secondary Science Specialist with ACPS High School and Middle School Science, introduced the Meaningful Watershed Education Experience (MWEE), which is a requirement through the Chesapeake Bay Agreement legislation that was signed in 2014. This legislation requires all students, when they graduate from high school, to have knowledge and skills to protect and restore local watersheds. Presentation included discussion on the importance of creating this for all ACPS students, hosting the field day at Ben Brenman Park, and collaborating with partners to successfully bring a high volume of students (over 1,000 students) through an efficient and effective outdoor education experience. This program was coordinated by Ms. Prince and Ms. Melissa Atwood, Environmental Quality. Station activities were developed and provided by partners, Buddie Ford Nature Center (Invasive Species), Stormwater Management (Water Quality Testing), and Office of Climate Action (Carbon & Climate), with volunteer support from ALX Libraries and Master Naturalists. Presentation also discussed school and city benefits, including tie-in to City Council Priorities.

#### **5. Earth Month Planning Update (Environmental Quality)**

Ms. Atwood provided an update on Earth Month 2025 planning. The city will continue to highlight and connect Eco-City principles to Earth Month messaging and activities. The 2025 Earth Month theme is “Steps to a Greener Alexandria,” focusing each week (5 weeks) on different Environmental Action Plan (EAP) 2040 principles, through social media messaging and in-person and/or virtual events and activities.

#### **6. Office of Climate Action FY25 & FY26 Plans (Office of Climate Action)**

Mr. Ryan Freed, Climate Action Officer, providing an overview of the FY25 programs/goals for the Office of Climate Action to date, as well as those planned for the next 6 months, closing out FY25. Mr. Freed provided a look ahead to FY26 programs, noting that the FY26 budget is not yet approved.

Commissioners showed interest in getting a Community Choice Aggregation success story speaker from another jurisdiction to present at an upcoming EPC meeting.

## 7. Administrative Items

### a) Meeting Minutes

Vote on November 18, 2024, regular meeting minutes, for approval. **Motion:** Mr. Philip Mobilia; **Second:** Mr. Dan Beattie; **Vote:** Unanimous approval, with abstention from Mr. Al Clark.

### b) Zebra Engagement

About a year ago, the Beautification Commission assisted the EPC in submitting short, informative articles. At that time, most of the articles were not accepted, but the EPC is looking to try again. Mr. Charlie Garlow volunteered to write a short, 300-word article, with picture/photo, to submit. The Zebra is always looking for articles on different aspects of what sustainability means in Alexandria. Article topics could focus on highlighting different sustainable programs and amplifying areas/information that are less well known. Mr. Phil Mobilia and Ms. Yanique Revers offered to assist Mr. Garlow in this.

### c) Update on EPC Priorities Discussion

Ms. Kishla Askins continued to work through EPC priorities and how related information can be best addressed in a document. Basic format for the EPC Priorities document includes outlining priorities, looking at where the commissioners background and interest are focused; and connecting this to City Council members interests and backgrounds. It would become a document to communicate what, why, and how the EPC operates.

### d) Reports from Commissioners/Staff

**Waterfront Commission (Mr. Eldon Boes):** Met last Tuesday to discuss one topic, where to locate the pump station for the Flood Mitigation Plan project. One location is in Waterfront Park, along the edge next to Strand Street. Commission is proposing the City try to buy the building across Strand St, demolish it and redevelop to house the pump station. Waterfront Commission passed a motion to write a draft letter regarding pump station location. Mr. Boes will provide updates on how it is written once available.

**Transportation Commission (Mr. Dan Beattie):** Nothing to report at this time. Next meeting in January.

**Update from Mr. Dan Beattie:** Mr. Dan Beattie provided an update on the home energy and home electricity and appliance programs last discussed at the April 2024 retreat, with the guest speaker from the VA Department of Energy. Virginia

has submitted its application, but it is not yet approved. At this time, very few states have had their applications approved by the US Department of Energy. Mr. Beattie noted that there is a lot of activity by the Biden Administration to try to move toward approval of these states plans prior to January 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Beattie is considering checking in as a concerned citizen with state and federal officials, and Congressman Beyer's offices, to encourage approval.

**Update from Chair Schantz:** Spoke with Mr. Karl Moritz, P&Z, regarding the announcement that JBG Smith plans to develop multifamily housing in Potomac Yard. Confirmed this would trigger a CDD and anticipated to be presented to the EPC.

## **8. Adjourn**

The meeting concluded at 9:30p.m.

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**FY2025 Attendance**

Member	Sept 16, 2024	Oct 21, 2024	Nov 18, 2024	Dec 16, 2024	Jan 13, 2025	Feb 10, 2025	Mar 10, 2025	Apr 21, 2025	TBD (Retreat)	May 19, 2025	Jun 16, 2025	TOTALS
Kishla Askins	P	P	P	PR								100%
Dan Beattie	P	P	P	PR								100%
Eldon Boes	P	P	P	PR								100%
Alexander Clark	E	P	E	PR								100%
Benjamin Cuddy	E	P	P	E								100%
Jennifer Debias	E	P	PR									100%
Charlie Garlow		P	P	PR								100%
Kathie Hoekstra	P	PR	P	PR								100%
Philip Mobilia	P	P	P	PR								100%
Marta Schantz	P	P	P	PR								100%
Julia Slayden	P	P	P	PR								100%
James Vandeputte	E											100%

**\*NOTE: Dec 16, 2024 meeting was virtual only**

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