



Minutes
EPC MONTHLY MEETING
January 13, 2025
City Hall, Council Workroom
Zoom Meeting Recording
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Attendance

EPC Members (12)	Status	Staff
Kishla Askins	E	Melissa Atwood, T&ES
Dan Beattie	P	Ryan Freed, Office of Climate Action
Eldon Boes	P	Karl Moritz, P&Z
Alexander Clark	E	
Benjamin Cuddy, Vice-Chair	P	Guests
Jennifer Debias	PR	Diana Elson
Charlie Garlow	P	Nate Burraro-Glass
Kathie Hoekstra	PR	Rose Esper
Philip Mobilia	P	Don Burke
Marta Schantz, Chair	P	Edie Juno
Julia Slayden	E	Rasha Abdu Latif
Yanique Revers	PR	Steve Davidson

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. In person EPC attendance does not meet quorum. No items will be voted on during meeting.

2. Public Comment

Rose Esper: Lives near King Street Metro and provided public comment on past flooding events in the area. Asked the EPC to advise City Council to adopt an environmental and human rights impact screen for all city investments.

Don Burke: Good news that his condominium community successfully turned on EV charging since he last attended an EPC meeting in October. They are averaging over 80 charging sessions a month.

Diana Elson: Lives in Old Town North, close to the former PRGS. Inquired about the EPC’s approach to the PRGS redevelopment project. Questions focused on what

environmental areas of concern the EPC would address with City Council, Planning Commission and the City Manager; and how concerned and affected residents can learn of suggestions or progress made by the EPC. Also noted an interest in learning more about the 2040 Environmental Action Plan (EAP).

EPC commissioners' discussion related to public comments:

- PRGS: EPC has weighted in extensively over the past couple years, leading to a stronger sustainability strategy and coordinated development plan for the site, including information across the EAP2040. The city's website link to the PRGS project was provided.
- EV Charging at Condominium: Congratulations on getting this up and running. Inquired if condominium considered applying for the Eco-City Homes Program either as an association or individually. EPC commissioner suggested contacting his condominium board member to collaborate.
- Request EPC submit a letter to Council: EPC indicated it is possible to discuss further when putting an eco-lens on budget recommendations to see how EPC can possibly support request. This would take a longer discussion.

3. Update on Upcoming Development List (P&Z)

Mr. Karl Moritz provided a summary of the projects planned for the first half of 2025, providing a short description of each project on the list. There was also specific mention of the Robinson Terminal North project, which was of interest for the EPC during the previous development update and is scheduled for Planning Commission (PC) and City Council in February. Also, the 1900 Beauregard Coordinated Development District (CDD) project, which is likely going to hearing in March. P&Z requested and was confirmed to present this CDD project at the February EPC meeting. The George Mason Elementary School project will be required to meet the net zero requirements of the Green Building Policy. Discussed alternate energy options, such as solar, as well as the geothermal testing at Douglas McArthur that is performing better than expected and is expected to have similar success at other schools. P&Z also confirmed they will provide the Development 101 discussion to the EPC when they attend for the CDD discussion.

4. Administrative Items

a) Input on Housing Master Plan Principles & Goals

Ms. Yanique Revers and Chair Schantz provided an overview of their thoughts on how to add sustainability to the Housing Master Plan, related to the six (6) principles and seven (7) goals from the 2013 to 2025 Housing Master Plan. This plan is currently in the community engagement phase of being updated. Ms. Revers and Chair Schantz suggest the EPC recommend adding a sustainability principle (seventh principle). Additional thoughts on how to revise some principles and goals were provided in the document for EPC members to consider.

Discussion included adding a definition of sustainability, focusing on energy use intensity (EUI) versus reaching certain LEED certifications. Consider how the EPC wants to proceed in offering suggestions to Office of Housing. Document seems to focus on economic sustainability. Tying environmental sustainability to it could increase probability of recommendations being included. Office of Housing needs EPC comments by the end of January. Ms. Revers and Chair Schantz will write up commentary based on input from the January EPC meeting and send to Ms. Tamara Jovovic, Office of Housing, by the deadline.

b) Update on EPC Strategy Document

Ms. Kishla Askins is continuing to build out the EPC strategy document. Ms. Askins is putting together a google survey for commissioners to fill out with interests as it related to EAP and environmental priorities. This will be discussed further at upcoming meetings.

c) Brainstorm EPC Retreat Topics

EPC discussed possible retreat topics, or topics for future meetings, such as inviting past retreat speakers to attend again, educational presentations with various City departments and community organizations, and opportunities to engage with City Council.

d) Meeting Minutes

EPC attendance does not meet quorum. Vote for meeting minutes was postponed until February EPC meeting.

e) Reports from Commissioners/Staff

Update from Ryan Freed:

- Eco-City Homes program is launched and been received well by the community. Applicants get customized messages whether they achieve award status or not. The city will be launching a series of Eco-City Homes program library events, hopefully increasing engagement by having attendees sign the Eco-City Pledge. When residents sign the pledge, they get the winterization supplies the Office of Climate Action is giving away. Actions on the pledge are ways to have the community interact and connect with staff.
- Eco-City Academy launched with the first of six classes last Thursday, January 9, 2025. Twenty-five of the 60 applicants were selected to attend.
- Eco-City Festival 2025 will be May 10th.
- The Office of Climate Action received an energy efficiency and conservation block grant award of \$197,000 for outreach and education activities over a 2-year period. Benefit of the grant is to supplement the money the Office of Climate Acton has and it can be put toward a sizable enough incentive, managed through a 3rd party, to generate interest. Education efforts will

include environmental justice, education, training for city staff and Eco-City Ambassadors.

- Eco-City Newsletter is launching in January. It will be a quarterly letter to talk about the great news happening in the city. It will be distributed through eNews.

Waterfront Commission (Mr. Eldon Boes): Last meeting focused on one topic, where to locate the pump station for the Flood Mitigation Plan project. The Waterfront Commission sent a letter to the City Manager.

Transportation Commission (Mr. Dan Beattie): No meeting since December. Nothing to report.

f) Zebra Engagement

Mr. Charlie Garlow drafted the first article for the EPC to send to the Beatification Commission. Mr. Phil Mobilia will draft another on the Eco-City Homes program.

g) Earth Month Planning (Melissa Atwood):

Thank you to Commissioner Boes for attending various planning meetings for Earth Month and providing connections to other organizations that may participate. EPC suggested an Earth Month article for the Zebra.

5. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 9:30p.m. No vote as quorum was not met.

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	E							100%
Dan Beattie	P	P	P	PR	P							100%
Eldon Boes	P	P	P	PR	P							100%
Alexander Clark	E	P	E	PR	E							100%
Benjamin Cuddy	E	P	P	E	P							100%
Jennifer Debias	E	P	PR		PR							100%
Charlie Garlow		P	P	PR	P							100%
Kathie Hoekstra	P	PR	P	PR	PR							100%
Philip Mobilia	P	P	P	PR	P							100%
Marta Schantz	P	P	P	PR	P							100%
Julia Slayden	P	P	P	PR	E							100%
Yanique Revers				PR	PR							100%
James Vandeputte	E											

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