



## Minutes

### EPC MONTHLY MEETING

April 21, 2025

City Hall, Conference Room 2000

[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

#### Attendance

<b>EPC Members (12)</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Dan Beattie	P	Melissa Atwood, T&ES
Eldon Boes	PR	Chris Ziemann, T&ES
Benjamin Cuddy, Vice-Chair	P	Ryan Freed, Office of Climate Action
Jennifer Debias	P	Dustin Smith, Office of Climate Action
Charlie Garlow	P	
Kathie Hoekstra	P	<b>Guests</b>
Perrin Krisko	PR	Gloria Mog, Elders Climate Action
Philip Mobilia	P	Moir MacDougall, Grassroots
Marta Schantz, Chair	P	William Krumier, Grassroots
Julia Slayden	P	Stephen Koenig, Planning Commission
Yanique Revers	P	Steve Banashek
		Rishabh Juneja

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 provided an overview of topics to be covered. Introductions were completed for all attendees, followed by a brief discussion on FOIA requirements for Commissions, which will be addressed further in a later meeting. Announcement of Commissioner Kishla Askins resignation was made.

#### 2. Public Comment

None received.

#### 3. Update Green Building Policy (Dustin Smith)

Mr. Dustin Smith, Green Building Manager, provided an overview of the draft 2025 Green Building Policy Update, which includes a new focus on energy use intensity (EUI), onsite renewable energy and electrification associated with building use. EUI targets were identified using models, in coordination with a consultant, to understand the cost required to achieve a given EUI. The policy requires a 3% onsite renewable energy

generation, where developments that cannot achieve this are able to contribute to the Clean Energy Fund. Electrification, which used to live in standard development conditions, will now be in the policy.

EPC commissioner, Kathie Hoekstra, member of the Green Building Policy Advisory Group, provided comments on changes to the draft policy update. Further discussion included how the city would address future updates to the GBP; how EUI, renewable energy and electrification are the focus to get the city to net zero; how often changes would be brought to council for policy updates; and clarification that GBP is for new developments only at this time.

Ms. Jen Debias and Chair Schantz will participate in the EPC-PC working group meeting to generate a draft letter on the draft GBP Update. The joint meeting will be scheduled for the week of May 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### **4. Transportation Annual Update (T&ES)**

Mr. Chris Ziemann, Transportation Planning Division Chief, provided a presentation on transportation initiatives and programs.

Transportation nationwide is the largest contributor to climate change, and the only sector that continues to increase. It also impacts air quality, noise pollution, water quality, and land use. To address this, the city uses the avoid-shift-improve model. Mr. Ziemann highlighted various innovative road improvement projects and how they connected to the EAP 2040 Transportation actions.

Further discussion mentioned the I-495 Project (South Side Express Lane Study), which expands the number of lanes from 6 to 10 lanes, consuming a significant amount of acreage, as well as affect water quality and air quality.

#### **5. Elders Climate Action (Gloria Mog)**

Ms. Gloria Mog, Virginia Coordinator for Elders Climate Action, provided an overview of their organizations mission. Elders are a significant demographic in the US, which provides them the power to make a difference. Virginia chapter has about 150 volunteers. Goals are to partner with youth groups and coalitions, , work toward getting an Elders Climate Action chapter started in every state, building relationships with elected officials, and joining community meetings.

#### **6. Administrative Items**

##### **a) Approval of Meeting Minutes for February 10, 2025**

Vote on February 10, 2025, regular meeting minutes, for approval. Motion: Mr. Charlie Garlow; Second: Mr. Philip Mobilia; Vote: Unanimous approval, with abstention from Ms. Kathie Hoekstra and Ms. Perrin Krisko.

## **b) Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 10, 2025**

Vote on March 10, 2025, regular meeting minutes, for approval. Motion: Mr. Dan Beattie; Second: Mr. Philip Mobilia; Vote: Unanimous approval, with abstention from Ms. Kathie Hoekstra, Ms. Jen Debias, Mr. Ben Cuddy, and Ms. Julia Slayden.

## **c) Volunteer Opportunities for EPC at Eco-City Festival**

Reminder of volunteer opportunities sent out via email. Possibly help at the Eco-City Homes or Eco-City Business booth. Email Amy Posner with interest. Event is on May 10<sup>th</sup> at Ben Brenman Park from 10am – 2pm.

## **d) Reports from Commissioners/Staff**

**Update from Ryan Freed:** Dominion filed their Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), which identifies how they will provide electricity to rate payers. IRP did not meet the VCEA, which required them to be fully clean energy by 2045, with some energy efficiency (5% by 2025). City intervened, focusing the majority of the city's strategy on energy efficiency, since it can be ordered to start now. Dominion is currently about 2.6%. The city has a right to expect that Dominion and the Commission follow the law. Without it, the city cannot reach their EAP2040 goals or Climate Action Plan. City requests that Dominion be required to work directly with local governments to develop high yield energy efficiency projects. Achieving this requirement would have a higher impact on city climate goals than other initiatives.

### **Update from Chair Schantz:**

- Retreat is being held at Sister Cities Conference Room in City Hall, from 8am – 3pm. Light breakfast snacks and lunch provided. Let Melissa know if there are dietary restrictions.
- Spoke in support of the Office of Climate Action during the add/delete discussion initiated by Councilman Chapman, along with a good showing of climate advocates.
- Commissioner Yanique Revers and Chair Schantz previously worked on EPC comments for the Housing Master Plan to include sustainability. Update was released and sustainability is present in both the principles and goals.
- Community Choice Aggregation (CCA): Looking to follow up on previous discussion regarding CCA's by engaging directly with Montgomery County and possibly having them speak at an upcoming EPC meeting.

**Incorporating EAP 2040 goals into the City Master Plan (Vice-Chair Ben Cuddy):** How to make the EAP more aspirational versus tactical. Office of Climate Action is working on various strategies that may have the same goal, so Mr. Cuddy will continue discussions with Ryan Freed.

**Ellen Pickering Award (Ms. Jen Debias)**: Presentation of the award will happen April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Del Ray GardenFest at 1:00pm. Ms. Debias is also working with AlexRenew on getting more nominations in the coming years.

**Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers regulation changes (Melissa Atwood)**: City will attend the May 13<sup>th</sup> Legislative Meeting to provide update on the regulation change for use of gas-powered leaf blowers, including community comments received so far.

**Transportation Commission (Mr. Dan Beattie)**: Leadership change in the Transportation Commission, which was effective last week. Commission discussed the I-495 expansion.

**Waterfront Commission (Mr. Eldon Boes)**: Last meeting was largely focused on an update regarding the flood mitigation project. Chair Schantz will speak at the next commission meeting regarding the heat island effect.

## **7. Adjourn**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Ms. Kathie Hoekstra

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44p.m.

### **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	May 3, 2025 (Retreat)	May 19, 2025	Jun 16, 2025	TOTALS
Kishla Askins	P	P	P	PR	E	PR	E					100%
Dan Beattie	P	P	P	PR	P	P	P	P				100%
Eldon Boes	P	P	P	PR	P	A	P	PR				83%
Alexander Clark	E	P	E	PR	E	A						83%
Benjamin Cuddy	E	P	P	E	P	P	E	P				100%
Jennifer Debias	E	P	PR		PR	P	E	P				100%
Charlie Garlow		P	P	PR	P	P	PR	P				100%
Kathie Hoekstra	P	PR	P	PR	PR	P	PR	P				100%
Perrin Krisko							P	PR				100%
Philip Mobilia	P	P	P	PR	P	P	P	P				100%
Marta Schantz	P	P	P	PR	P	PR	P	P				100%
Julia Slayden	P	P	P	PR	E	P	E	P				100%
Yanique Revers				PR	PR	E	P	P				
James Vandeputte	E											100%

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