



Minutes

EPC MONTHLY MEETING

November 17, 2025

City Hall, Conference Room 2000

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Attendance

EPC Members (12)	Status	Staff
Dan Beattie, Vice-Chair	P	Melissa Atwood, TES
Eldon Boes	P	Ryan Freed, Office of Climate Action
Jennifer Debias	P	Samantha Heitsch, OCA
Charlie Garlow	PR	Yulia Fernandez Marcos, OCA
Kathie Hoekstra	P	
David Hole	P	Guests
Perrin Krisko	P	Dane Lauritzen, Grassroots Alexandria
Philip Mobilia, Secretary	P	Julie Harris, Grassroots Alexandria
Marta Schantz, Chair	P	Megha Munipalla, Student at ACHS
Rick Schneider	P	Emma Bidwell, Student at ACHS
Julia Slayden	P	
Yanique Revers	P	

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.

2. Public Comment

Dane Lauritzen, Grassroots Alexandria, attended meeting to urge the EPC to support the forward motion of the Waterfront Pump Station, a critical piece of flood mitigation and resilience, as originally planned in Waterfront Park and without further delay.

Emma Bidwell, attended to share updates on programs mentioned at the October EPC meeting regarding city cleanups scheduled in December and decision to target recycling.

3. **Community Engagement/Programs for Voluntary Action, Environmental Justice - Office of Climate Action goals, metrics, impact**

Yulia Fernandez Marcos, the City's Community Engagement & Climate Justice Manager, spent her first year with the City focused on building connections and partnerships using the process of Learning, Adapting, and Acting Quickly. With this approach, the team tries different initiatives, actions, and programs to see what works best to promote equity and environmental justice to all Alexandrians in a meaningful and effective way.

Now, the Office of Climate Action is adapting their work to lessons learned and how the team will look at future action. Programs are being tailored/adapted to make participation easy, and all programs are designed with at least one other city partner for deeper involvement.

This is consistent with the City's Eco-City branding, including the creation of the Eco-City Coordinating Group, which is an interdepartmental approach, or a city-wide approach, to making sure that we're achieving goals, making the City a credible source of environmental information, and increasing the number of people reached by July 2026. The goals of having a unified Eco-City brand include cross-departmental collaboration, consistent messaging to residents, and increased accountability of each department's sustainability objectives.

Ms. Fernandez Marcos discussed various campaigns and programs, identifying the goals, metrics, and lessons learned associated with each program. Programs include the Eco-City Academy, Ambassadors, and Advocates; media campaigns, such as Act Now, Winter with Eco-City Homes, and We Are Eco-City video series, as well as other environmental programs.

Ms. Samantha Heitsch, Sustainability Coordinator, discussed the initial launch and relaunch of the Eco-City Business program. Relaunch moved focus to a commitment to take action versus having already completed the action. After having only 7 businesses join the program after the initial launch, the relaunch resulted in 22 more businesses, for a total of 31 businesses currently in the Eco-City Business program. As part of the relaunch, staff is providing 1-hour webinars for businesses to learn about one initiative/action they can take in becoming more sustainable as they continue participating in the program. Similar launch and relaunch process was used for Eco-City Homes. Many applicants were not qualifying, and it was hard to keep those applicants engaged to move forward in sustainable actions that would lead to them eventually qualifying for the program. Relaunch added a commitment piece to the program, which gets more people involved, generating a larger audience to continue messaging to regarding additional sustainability actions. Office of Climate Action also discussed the new multifamily building challenge program.

4. **Administrative Items**

a) **Approval of Meeting Minutes for October 20, 2025**

Vote on October 20, 2025, regular meeting minutes, for approval. **Motion:** Ms. Kathie Hoekstra; **Second:** Mr. Dan Beattie; **Vote:** Unanimous approval.

b) Reports from Commissioners

Update from Vice-Chair Dan Beattie: There is not a November Transportation Commission meeting. Vice-Chair Beattie did attend the CBF Manhattan Fish webinar on behalf of the commission.

Waterfront Commission (Mr. Eldon Boes):

- Pump station: in the process of reviewing the cost of the pump station at the 2 possible sites. Discussed whether EPC wants to write a letter to move forward as Grassroots encouraged. Commissioners noted the review of cost for the two possible pump station locations is underway, so felt it best to wait and see what the study shows.
- Torpedo Factory is under discussion to possibly move management from the City to a private entity that is more of a subject matter expert in the arts.
- City Council is reviewing all Commissions/Boards to see if they need to remain. Waterfront Commission is under consideration for disbanding.

Update from Chair Marta Schantz: Several members of the commission reached out regarding PFAS. Evaluate whether EPC members have interest in this as an environmental topic. Commission will consider again next month.

Public Health Advisory Commission, PHAC (Ms. Krisko): No updates at this time

Park & Recreation Commission (Mr. David Hole): Met with a Park and Recreation Commissioner, who is interested in looking for synergies with EPC. Mr. Hole is unable to attend their next 2 meetings but will start attending after that. Commission seems to favor getting the pump station built but are also waiting for study information.

Youth Engagement (Ms. Perrin Krisko & Mr. Boes):

- Trash Cleanup is in process of being scheduled in December
- On the policy forefront, they are interested in working with Ms. Wendy Ginsberg to learn more about policy as they do not have as much experience in this area. Commissioner Kathie Hoekstra invited Emma and Megha to attend Richmond with her in January/February.
- Interest in reading out EPC actions at a City Council Public Hearing, similar to EPC initiative.
- Continue conversations about wanting to have a youth seat on the EPC.

Bike Bus (Ms. Krisko & Mr. Boes) – Currently two bike buses started in Alexandria, Patrick Henry and Naomi Brookes. Patrick Henry may split into two bike buses after the rezoning, at McArthur and Patrick Henry. Naomi Brookes

had initial success that is waning. Commissioner Jen Debias is still planning to draft a zebra article.

OCA has a social post to promote the bike bus scheduled for tomorrow. The pilot program is complete and feedback was received from schools. Some obstacles include Duke St splitting the school zones. EPC will provide another pilot in the spring before turning it over to the school PTAs.

Flood Resilience Plan (Secretary Mobilia & Ms. Slayden):

Mr. Phil Mobilia attended the City's virtual meeting on the Flood Resilience Plan. Flood Resilience Plan does not exist now but will be developed. Staff will continue public outreach in late spring after getting more data. Ms. Jessica Lassetter will attend EPC in December to give a presentation on the plan.

Housing Master Plan (Ms. Yanique Revers and Ms. Hoekstra):

Commissioner Yanique Revers is meeting with the City's Housing Analyst, Christopher Do, tomorrow. Ms. Revers also attended the first part of tonight's Housing Master Plan meeting, which focused on landlord/tenants' rights and resources. Mr. Do shared the proposed guidance for language in the housing master plan. September 2025 Draft Housing 2040 Goals, #10 states: *IMPROVE energy efficiency and resilience in existing housing and ADVANCE green building, sustainability, and resilience practices in new residential development*. Discussed clarifying language proposed by Commissioner Hoekstra that will be provided to Mr. Do.

Community Choice Aggregation (Mr. Charlie Garlow & Ms. Krisko):

ALX Now article is taking a long time to be accepted. After last meeting, they changed focus to be a personal/individual writeup instead of representing the EPC; therefore, no vote needed on the article. Commissioner Hoekstra also recommended other avenues to submit the writeup.

Council Public Hearing EPC Remarks

Commissioner Jen Debias attended the City Council Public Hearing and provided remarks on the budget letter, including a line item for the feasibility study for Community Choice Aggregation, and provided a recap of the existing budget items the EPC continues to support, such as full funding for OCA, support of sustainability features for some upcoming capital projects, etc.

Chair Schantz attended the October Public Hearing to provide public comment regarding the legislative priorities and EPC's overall priorities. Also included a statement that EPC would attend monthly with similar updates.

Reminder to sign up the Monday before the public meeting so you are one of the first 15 speakers. Additionally, commissioners can type up their notes and leave it for further distribution to Council after the public hearing.

For December, Mr. Boes will attend with Mr. Garlow as backup. For the January 24th Public Hearing, Ms. Debias will attend with Ms. Krisko as backup.

5. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Kathie Hoekstra

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40p.m.

DRAFT

FY2026 Attendance

Member	Sept 15, 2025	Oct 20, 2025	Nov 17, 2025	Dec 15, 2025	Jan 26, 2026	Feb 23, 2026	Mar 16, 2026	Apr 20, 2026	TBD (Retreat)	May 18, 2026	Jun 15, 2026	TOTALS
Dan Beattie	PR	P	P									100%
Eldon Boes	P	P	P									100%
Benjamin Cuddy	E	E	N									100%
Jennifer Debias	P	P	P									100%
Charlie Garlow	P	P	P									100%
Kathie Hoekstra	P	P	P									100%
David Hole	P	P	P									100%
Perrin Krisko	P	P	P									100%
Philip Mobilia	P	P	P									100%
Marta Schantz	P	P	P									100%
Rick Schneider	P	P	P									100%
Julia Slayden	P	P	P									100%
Yanique Revers	P	P	P									100%