



Minutes
EPC MONTHLY MEETING

April 20, 2026
2900 Business Center Drive Conference Room
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Attendance

EPC Members (12)	Status	Staff/Presenters
Dan Beattie, Vice-Chair	P	Melissa Atwood, TES
Eldon Boes	P	Ryan Freed, Office of Climate Action
Jennifer Debias	E	Marc Barbier, Emergency Management
Jordon Eccles	P	
Charlie Garlow	PR	
David Hole	P	Guests
Perrin Krisko	P	Laura Vanin, Grassroots Alexandria
Philip Mobilia, Secretary	P	Scott Barstow, Build our Future
Marta Schantz, Chair	P	Olu Smoak, resident
Rick Schneider	P	Ray Juneja, Grassroots Alexandria
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. Olu Smoak, incoming EPC commissioner effective May 1, 2026 provided a short introduction to her environmental background.

Marc Barbier, Emergency Management, provided a short description of emergency management in the city, focusing on policy, advocacy, and resilience.

Commissioner Charlie Garlow attended pursuant to the electronic participation policy from Alexandria, VA for personal reasons.

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Alexandria's Physical Climate Risk of Extreme Heat

Ryan Freed, Climate Action Officer, provided a presentation on Stay Cool ALX, a program that brings together internal and external partners to address impacts of heat. Presentation provided the following information:

- Excessive heat can lead to heat illness, increased medical bills and utility bills, and a decrease in comfort. The number of days over 90°F or 100°F are predicted to increase significantly by 2030 and again by 2050. This can lead to heat illness, which causes increased medical bills because residents chose to turn off air conditioners to avoid high utility bills.
- Stress on the grid, operated by PJM. PJM is having trouble securing enough electricity generation capacity to meet our resilience needs today. Capacity needs are expected to increase over time, causing additional stress on the grid that can lead to blackouts, creating risk from everyone.
- Partnership with VA Tech students, who are focusing on urban heat islands in Alexandria by creating a variety of maps that show concepts such as where heat islands and green canopy are located, reflectivity of roofs, and other concepts that affect the heat in the City.
- Stay Cool ALX near term actions focus on amplifying existing City programs. Long-term actions focus on interventions that address heat impacts, including how residents experience heat (e.g., individual exposure to heat).
- The City is putting together a City Working Group and Community Actions Working Group to identify near and long-term ideas that address extreme heat. Ideas included shade, pocket parks, pavement treatments, expanding the Alexandria Snow Buddy and Heat Buddy programs, green/white roof incentives, and water stations.

EPC questions and comments focused on:

- Community Education: Ms. Yanique Revers asked about educating students on extreme heat and its impacts. Ms. Atwood was recommended as a strong Alexandria City Public School connection for that.
- Ms. Perrin Krisko and Mr. David Hole cautioned that local analysis is important, but many localities already found success in certain programs. Noted the importance of action.
- Chair Schantz reminded the EPC that the Energy & Climate Change Action Plan (ECCAP) includes many policy/program recommendations on addressing extreme heat, with specific examples of other localities doing those efforts.
- Ms. Julia Slayden commented that the next EPC budget letter could be more specific to support the Stay Cool ALX initiatives with the greatest impact.
- Ms. Krisko commented on the importance of cooling centers, with services that incorporate usability and comfort, privacy, and are pet friendly.

4. Administrative Items

a) Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2026

Vote on March 19, 2026, regular meeting minutes, for approval. **Motion:** Mr. Phil Mobilia; **Second:** Ms. Jennifer DeBias; **Vote:** Unanimous approval, with Commissioners Julia Slayden and Perrin Krisko abstaining.

b) Ellen Pickering Award Update (Mr. Eldon Boes & Ms. Yanique Revers)

Five nominations were received for the Ellen Pickering Award, with close scores, as assigned according to the agreed-upon rubric. Ms. Yanique Revers provided a summary of each nomination and noted the winner was Mr. Russell Bailey. Mr. Russell Bailey will receive the award during the Del Ray GardenFest on Sunday, April 26, 2026.

c) Youth Engagement (Ms. Krisko & Mr. Boes)

- Reminder that EPC agreed to move forward with drafting bylaw updates to add a youth seat to the commission. Ms. Krisko will draft.
- Discussed recent successful bike bus events. Mentioned National Bike to School Day bike buses that will be running.
- Bike to Work Day is May 15, 2026.

d) Flood Resilience Plan (Secretary Phil Mobilia & Ms. Julia Slayden)

No updates at this time.

e) Housing Master Plan

Ms. Revers drafted the EPC Letter of endorsement for the Housing 2040 Draft Plan Recommendations and Strategies, which was submitted, by Chair Schantz, to the Office of Housing on March 21, 2026.

f) Community Choice Aggregation

Feasibility study is the next step. Once completed, EPC may have opportunities to support outreach and education on Community Choice Aggregation to the community.

g) Council Public Hearing EPC Remarks 9 March signups

Commissioner David Hole provided public comment at City Council's April Public Hearing.

EPC members signed up for the following meetings:

- May 16th – Mr. Jordan Eccles
- June 13th – Mr. Rick Schneider

h) Staff/Commission Updates:

Staff Update - Ryan Freed

Mr. Ryan Freed mentioned the City's EV Ride and Drive that was part of Earth Month activities. Office of Climate Action (OCA) has also had good success with recent Eco-City Homes initiatives where residents receive a giveaway, including programable

thermostats, induction portable burner, or energy efficiency kits when they apply. OCA is also expanding outreach efforts. For the Eco-City Business program, postcards were sent to as many businesses as they could identify in Alexandria. OCA is also sending postcards promoting the Eco-City Homes program to anyone that applied for a solar permit in Alexandria.

OCA is also working on three State Corporation Commission (SCC) cases: a water rate case, gas rate case, and demand side management programs from Dominion.

Staff Update – Melissa Atwood

Ms. Melissa Atwood mentioned two upcoming Earth Month events. Saturday, April 25 is the “We are Eco-City Alexandria” tree planting and ACPS Art Showcase at the Buddie Ford Nature Center. Sunday, April 26 is the Ellen Pickering Award presentation during the Del Ray GardenFest.

Reminder to all EPC commissioners that the annual retreat is Saturday, May 2, 2026 at Business Center Drive.

Update from Chair Schantz

Chair Schantz provided a summary of the EPC retreat agenda. Agenda is set through lunch with options for the afternoon session being considered.

Commissioner Perrin Krisko mentioned a possible discussion on what the EPC’s role is and where the EPC wants to go as a commission.

Transportation Commission – Vice-Chair Dan Beattie

Meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 2026. Elected a new chair, Tim Lovain, and vice chair, Dan Beattie.

Waterfront Commission – Mr. Boes

Meeting focused on reviewing the docking policies and use of the docks. Not relevant to the EPC.

Public Health Commission – Ms. Perrin Krisko

No update at this time.

Park & Recreation Commission – Mr. David Hole

No update at this time.

5. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Dan Beattie

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04p.m.

FY2026 Attendance

Member	Sept 15, 2025	Oct 20, 2025	Nov 17, 2025	Dec 15, 2025	Jan 26, 2026	Feb 23, 2026	Mar 19, 2026	Apr 20, 2026	TBD (Retreat)	May 18, 2026	Jun 15, 2026	TOTALS
Dan Beattie	PR	P	P	P	P	P	PR	P				100%
Eldon Boes	P	P	P	P	P	PR	PR	P				100%
Benjamin Cuddy	E	E	N	N	N	N	N	N				100%
Jennifer Debias	P	P	P	P	P	PR	PR	E				100%
Jordon Eccles	E	E	N	N	N	P	PR	P				100%
Charlie Garlow	P	P	P	P	P	P	PR	PR				100%
Kathie Hoekstra	P	P	P	PR	E	E	N	N				100%
David Hole	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P				100%
Perrin Krisko	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P				100%
Philip Mobilia	P	P	P	P	P	PR	PR	P				100%
Marta Schantz	P	P	P	P	P	P	PR	P				100%
Rick Schneider	N	N	P	E	P	P	E	P				100%
Julia Slayden	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P				100%
Yanique Revers	P	P	P	P	E	E	PR	P				

DRAFT