



Minutes

EPC MONTHLY MEETING

May 15, 2023

Virtual Only

[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Attendance

EPC Members (13)	Status	Staff
Dan Beattie	P	Melissa Atwood, T&ES
Eldon Boes	P	
Alexander Clark	P	
Benjamin Cuddy	P	
Jennifer Debias	E	
Cynthia Elliott	P	
Oleksandr Faryga	P	Guests
Kathie Hoekstra, Chair	P	Scott Barstow
Anna Marino	P	
Michael Olex, Vice-Chair	P	
Theresa Romanosky	A	
Marta Schantz	E	
James Vandeputte	E	

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

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Kathie Hoekstra called meeting to order, identified that one public attendee and EPC members know each other, and therefore, introductions were not necessary.

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Administrative Items

a) Meeting Minutes

Vote on April 17, 2023 meeting minutes for approval. **Motion:** Mr. Dan Beattie; **Second:** Mr. Mike Olex; **Vote:** Unanimous approval.

b) Reports from Commissioners

- Open Space Steering Committee (Mr. Mike Olex): Reviewed all three action items/tasks and approved documents that were preliminarily approved in the past, with minor edits. This groups work is likely done. Next steps are for Planning Commission review, public review, and then City Council.
- Transportation Commission (Mr. Oleksandr Faryga): Commission invited to Potomac Yard Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Friday, May 19, 2023. EPC members also invited.
- Waterfront Commission (Mr. Eldon Boes): Last meeting was devoted to plans for new dock for tall ship providence. Next meeting is Tuesday, 5/16/23.

c) Annual Elections

Chair Hoekstra is interested in continuing as Chair for EPC but needs nomination. Mr. Olex is willing to continue as Vice-Chair or defer to another interested member. Send nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair to Secretary. Elections are by public voting. Secret ballots are not allowed per open meeting rules.

4. Finalize Retreat Decisions

EPC Retreat Key Themes and Next Steps: reviewed document prepared by Chair Hoekstra addressing priorities for buildings, communications, climate lens, upcoming meeting topics, budget letter, education topics, legislative, and upcoming important dates. Additional discussion on topics below:

Buildings:

- Discussed most effective path for EPC to address need for Green Building Policy updates, to include discussions with City staff or Council, a letter to Council, or a letter to the editor. EPC voted on accepting the three-step plan to break the deadlock on the letter to Council and proceeding through steps as needed based on response: (1) Chair Hoekstra will talk to City Manager, (2) Chair Hoekstra will have a conversation with a City Council member, (3) Go public with a Letter to the Editor.
 - **Motion:** Mr. Mike Olex; **Second:** Mr. Oleksandr Faryga; **Vote:** unanimous approval.
- Chair Hoekstra will share article about multi-family shared solar program.

Communications:

- Media: Possible letter for submittal to the Zebra on the topic of IRA Incentives, with reference to the website Chair Hoekstra shared that identifies what is available to individuals. Ms. Cynthia Elliott will draft an article for submittal by 5/22/23.
- Compare ALX to other Jurisdictions: Based on article shared at retreat about how to change behavior, social pressure leads change. EPC members assigned/selected

jurisdictions that can be compared to Alexandria related to what are they doing with new buildings, existing buildings, and associated metrics used for accountability. Information will be compiled in tabular form and provided to Council to see how Alexandria compares. Chair Hoekstra will send directions to everyone with exactly what to ask/look for during discussions. Consider: (1) What will be different when we do X? and (2) How do we hold ourselves accountable?

- Seek out and collect climate stories: possibly ask Zebra or other entities to seek out stories where EPC can create short videos with good news stories.

Budget Letter:

- Ms. Cynthia Elliott will send list of example questions from Montgomery County for discussion and possibly have EPC write letter for consideration.

Crosswalk for FY24: cross walk of focus areas from EPC, Office of Climate Action (OCA) last year, and Climate Officers initiatives from presentation during retreat. Focus areas: Incentives; Environmental Justice; Education, Capacity Building and Outreach; Disclosure, Monitoring and Recognition; Demonstration; and Policy, Procedures and Advocacy.

- Zoning for Housing/ Housing for All: Consider having a guest speaker educate the EPC on this in June.
- Mr. Alexander Clark provided information that in Europe more units are permitted than in the US because Europe mandate only one staircase (vs. 2) in many tall buildings - thus that staircase part of each floor can be used for another unit. United States requires 2 staircases for evacuation during fires and other events.

EPC Draft FY2024 Calendar: moved November, December, and January meetings to avoid holidays.

- Consider finding out date of ALX Dog Walk in spring 2024 to avoid conflict.
- Avoid spring break.

5. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Eldon Boes; **Second:** Mr. Oleksandr Faryga; **Vote:** unanimous approval.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

FY2023 Attendance

Member	Sep 19, 2022	Oct 17, 2022	Nov 21, 2022	Dec 19, 2022	Jan 10, 2023	Jan 23, 2023	Jan 30, 2023	Feb 27, 2023	March 20, 2023	Apr 17, 2023	May 06, 2023	May 15, 2023	TOTALS
Eldon Boes	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	100.0%
Kathie Hoekstra	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	100.0%
Marta Schantz	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	75.0%
Jennifer Debias	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	83.3%
Benjamin Cuddy	P	P	E	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	75.0%
Michael Olex	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	91.7%
Cynthia Elliott	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	A	P	P	P	83.3%
Oleksandr Faryga	P	P	A	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	P	75.0%
Dan Beattie	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	91.7%
Theresa Romanosky			P	P	E	P	P	P	A	P	P	A	70.0%
Alexander Clark	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	91.7%
James Vandeputte									P	P	P	E	75.0%
Anna Marino										P	P	P	100.0%