

Environment and Energy Conservation Commission
Draft

Summary of November 14, 2016 Meeting
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Azalea Conference Room

Members Present: Scott Dicke, Mike Hanna, Adanna Woodson, John Seymour, Sarah Mesurvey, Christine Ng, Alex Sanders, Claire O'Dea, Irwin Kim

Members Absent: Gabriel Thoumi

Guests: Erin O'Grady

Staff Present: Joan Kelsch (DES), Rich Dooley (DES), Shani Kruljac (DES)

1. Public comment

Erin O'Grady provided public comment regarding stormwater rules and regulations in Arlington. Specifically, she asked for information regarding downspouts and rain gardens. Staff connected her to the County Stormwater resources.

2. Street Light Working Group

Larry Marcus provided an update on the County's strategy for street lights and a Working Group process. He asked the Commission to select a commissioner to serve on the Street Light Working Group.

Mr. Marcus noted that guiding principles are under development. They include safety, sustainability, smart technology, dark sky compliance, and color and brightness appropriate for commercial or residential zones.

The goal is to balance cost effectiveness, maintenance, and places available for inventory stockpiling. Mr. Marcus noted that two thirds of lights are owned by Dominion Virginia Power and only one third is owned by the County. Of the County lights, nearly all have been switched to LED technology. The County continues to explore options to take control of or retrofit Dominion lights.

Mr. Marcus described efforts to fix known streetlighting issues, including George Mason Drive near the hospital and Rosslyn. He estimates that they will need 18 months to catch up with repairs.

The current street lights are 5,500 Kelvin (K), or blue/white. The County is exploring options that may place less blue/white color lights in residential neighborhoods. Lights of 3,000-4,000K, or yellow to warm, are being discussed for residential.

John Seymour volunteered to serve as the representative. Scott Dicke volunteered as an alternate.

John asked if the County has tried 3,000K or 4,000K lights yet. Larry noted that the County is ready to try and pilot different lights but hasn't yet. He looks forward to input and conversations to move forward with the community. The timeline is to start testing in Spring 2017.

Scott brought up the white paper previously drafted by the Commission as a useful tool during this process.

3. Columbia Pike Recycling Center Move to Trades

Shani Kruljac provided an update to the Commission on the Recycling Center move to Trades Center as well as a history of County recycling centers. Ms. Kruljac noted that there is one recycling center in northern Arlington at Quincy Park and one in southern Arlington currently on Columbia Pike at Four Mile Run.

The County feels it is critical to maintain these centers to serve the small business community. County regulations require that small businesses recycle and this provides a method to comply without needing to contract with a hauler.

The County has seen significant illegal dumping issues by residents and contractors at the Columbia Pike recycling center site. (No known issues at the Quincy Park location.) Attempts to curb illegal dumping have been unsuccessful. The County explored moving the recycling center to other rent-free locations, similar to the current location. The only site identified that would allow oversight to mitigate illegal dumping is at the Trades Center. The proposed location is between bus parking and County offices.

Shani noted that this Use Permit is planned for the December Board meeting. The permit will be for 3 years. The County will continue to search for a permanent location, maybe integrating the recycling center into a park.

Christine asked if safety would be an issue given the bus and heavy vehicle travel. Shani noted that safety hasn't been an issue and other residents access mulch and other services at this site. Buses are being relocated to another lot, which will free up space for the recycling center and reduce traffic from buses.

Mike asked if this will reduce tonnage of recycling given the location and reduced hours/days. The current location is accessible 24/7 but new location will be subject to the Trades Center hours. Shani noted that they will provide signage and have metrics going forward, but not retrospectively.

Scott asked if staff was looking for support. Shani noted that if the Commission is supportive, a letter would be welcome. The Commission will not meet in time to write and approve a letter in advance of the December 10 Board meeting. The Commission voted unanimously in support of the move. The E2C2 support will be noted in the Board Report.

4. Charter review and discussion

Joan Kelsch provided background and an update on the Charter review and update. She noted that the commissions are being requested to standardize the language. Staff converted the E2C2 charter into the template. That template was circulated and discussed. Joan went over all combined edits.

The Commission discussed and made edits. The E2C2 agreed to move it forward to Board member Dorsey for review and approval.

5. Subcommittee discussion

Rich Dooley provided an update on the Community Energy Plan Implementation Review Committee (CEPIRC) and possible next steps to transition from CEPIRC to an E2C2 Energy Committee. CEPRIC evolved from the Community Energy and Sustainability Task Force and Community Energy Advisory Group that helped create Arlington's energy policy, and

has served as a continuation to assist in Community Energy Plan (CEP) implementation. Staff thinks the proposed E2C2 Energy Committee will be an effective way for the community to continue assisting in CEP implementation.

Alex asked what the goal of the group would be. Rich noted that it could be a place to have a dialogue about energy issues and be a group that helps spread the word on implementation initiatives that are in progress.

This group could provide valuable feedback on community and County Operations Energy Plan implementation efforts. The group's meetings could provide a place to discuss issues, current events, and conduct outreach to the community. Alex asked where the gaps are. Rich noted that professionals, e.g., enviro-energy consultants, people focused on economics, retired people, and people with a personal passion about energy, are involved already. He noted less success in engaging with people who aren't already aware of the CEP. The group's meetings and Energy Meet-ups will give people opportunities to connect.

Christine noted that the Committee sounds like it is more geared toward education and outreach. It seems like an interface between staff and the residents to push information out to the public. Rich agreed and noted that it would also provide a forum for more substantive issues that need to be reviewed, as the Solid Waste Subcommittee does for waste and recycling issues.

Claire noted that the energy subcommittee sounds most similar to the Arlington Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG). That groups discusses progress, interest-focused meetings, and potential action.

Rich agreed and noted that the goal is for the group to be a partner with County staff and to work with them to continue CEP implementation, community education, and next steps. This body could be a way to achieve goals. Key roles include being a sounding board of opportunities.

One of the other key goals is to stay apprised of progress on performance metrics, relay such information to E2C2, and be a part of annual budget and Capital Improvement Plan discussions. Staff would be a liaison to provide feedback from the Energy Committee to the County Manager.

Mike Hanna noted that one of the strengths of the CEP creation were the stakeholder groups, e.g., the energy utilities, businesses, and citizen interest groups. Rich noted that staff is regularly connected to those stakeholders. The goal is to keep the make-up of the Energy Committee flexible and dynamic in order to meet the changing needs of staff and the community.

Alex asked how often the group would meet. Scott noted that the amount and timing of each hasn't been determined.

Alex noted concern of serious outreach components. He doesn't feel that it would set the group up for success. If it is to advise the Board or CMO then it has real opportunity.

Joan noted that the Solid Waste Committee is a similar model. They would meet, discuss, and advise the E2C2.

6. Old/New Business

Irwin provided an update on the Four Mile Run Valley planning study. He noted the upcoming visioning meeting. He asked that those interested bring their ideas. Christine noted that most people don't have 5 hours to attend a meeting and provide update. How do you get a true look at the community and what their needs are if you can't get users there?

Mike Hanna noted an update for the Bike Element of the Master transportation plan – they are forming an advisory committee. The E2C2 is not an identified core member, but rather a second tier member.

Patrick Kenney noted that the residential parking working group is looking at reduced parking ratios.

Christine noted that Ally Henry, currently working for Walk Arlington, will have her position made into a full time position. Lauren Hassle is now filling the safe routes to school position. There is discussion about making walking more visible and celebrated.

Scott thanked staff for discussing the possible energy subcommittee. He agreed to circulate the draft mission and possible subcommittee framework discussed.