

Environment and Energy Conservation Commission

Draft

Summary of March 28, 2016 Meeting
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Azalea Conference Room

Members Present: Scott Dicke, Greg Miller, John Seymour, Sarah Meservey, Christine Ng, Irwin Kim, Mike Hanna, Claire O'Dea, Patrick Kenney, Kari Klaus

Members Absent: Noor Khalidi, Alex Sanders, Gabriel Thoumi,

Guests:

Staff Present: Adam Segel-Moss (DES), Christian Dorsey (County Board)

1. Public comment

No public comment

2. Christian Dorsey

Mr. Dorsey met with the Commission. He expressed that he is very pleased to be assigned to the Commission and he had a personal preference to be involved with E2C2. Christian expressed that he is here to support the Commission regarding current issues and those that will come down the road.

The Commission members introduced themselves individually to include their Civic Association, duration on the board, professional work, and other germane topics. During the round robin, several topics came up such as LEED and community benefits, parks, water, the Community Energy Plan, and lighting.

Mr. Dorsey noted that he was very pleased with the diversity of Commission members on the Committee. This includes diversity in the form of resident civic associations covered, professional interests, and general diversity such as age, gender, and ethnicity.

Scott Dicke gave a cursory overview of the E2C2 and how they operate. He noted the monthly meetings, email listserv, and the work that happens between meetings so that the Commission can use the meeting times wisely to take action on specific topics

Mr. Dicke also noted that the Commission has a watch list of important items. The Commission follows topics and continues to try to find the right time and place to advocate for Commission interests during those myriad processes.

The majority of what is visible comes to the Board in the form of letters from the Commission. Mr. Dorsey noted that if at any point effort becomes too difficult to manage, let him know. Scott noted that the Commission can't cover all projects and topics and therefore needs to prioritize.

Mike Hanna noted that the Commission covers the PFRC. They cover all of those projects. He noted that the Commission is pretty good about covering task forces or working groups. There are probably things falling through the cracks, but with the number of people we have compared to the number of ongoing projects, the Commission does very well.

Christine Ng noted that the PFRC members understand the E2C2 concerns and that the planning commission members are generally voicing the issues that the Commission would raise.

Scott noted that there are a few ongoing issues that the Commission is focused on. They include the EA 4.4 process, Land Acquisitions, and Community Energy Plan implementation.

There are a large number of projects that never go through an EA process. Those might not be subject to an EA based on criteria but the environmental impacts may be significant and the project would not be subject to review by E2C2.

Adam gave an update on the EA 4.4 process revision. He noted that staff and Commission members have met. The Commission has been very thoughtful with feedback and ideas to tweak the checklist. At this point staff is discussing a comprehensive ["engagement strategy", Adam?] that could lead to full revision of the current process and associated documents. This would allow for all stakeholders to provide input to a new EA process that works for everyone with consistent application.

Mr. Dorsey asked where approval stood to get the process underway. Adam noted that the DES Director is aware of this. Staff will give an update at the next Commission meeting to provide a more specific update on the status staff discussions and a possible rewrite of the EA process.

Land Acquisition is something that the Commission has been watching for years. There was some money opportunistically included. The Commission would like to see the pace of acquisition increase.

Christian noted that the Civic Federation set a goal of 3 acres a year for the next 10 years. The County only picked up only a few parcels in the past year. Christian applauds the concept of annual targets, but finds them unrealistic given how land acquisition works. He feels that a long term strategy is key and that when large parcels become available, the Board won't pass up an opportunity. The possibility of air rights over I-66 has also come up. This could provide a very large amount of space for recreational or County purposes.

Christian thanked the Commission for their input and work over the years. He looks forward to working closely with the Commission.

3. Budget

The Commission discussed the budget and made minor tweaks to the letter that was circulated. There was a motion to approve as amended. Seconded. Approved unanimously.

4. Meeting Summary Review – December 2015

Approved as amended.

5. Old/New Business

Christine aggregated comments and feedback into the updated Principles of Open Space Design document. The Commission discussed this document and how to use it. It was suggested that some of these things are already part of a Parks process but that a conversation with Parks project managers may be a useful step. Greg suggested that some of the opening text for the Lighting White Paper may be useful to use in the POSD document. The Commission agreed to amend that language to clarify how the document may be used to communicate the E2C2's stance on Open Space Design. A motion was made to approve the document. It was approved unanimously as amended.

The Commission asked for more clarification on the EA process revision. Rich Dooley and Joan Kelsch will be present at the 4/25 meeting to give an update, discuss process, and provide a timeline.

Kari Klaus noted that the Met Park project is ongoing across from Costco. She noted that there is a public easement and input is being solicited on the park design. Kari and the Commission discussed that additional open space would be helpful at this site and to provide feedback individually.

Greg Miller noted that the lighting paper is finalized. He noted that distribution needs to be determined and could be discussed more at the next meeting.

Christine gave an update on the Stratford project. She noted that the majority of the PFRC was against the access road to Old Dominion Drive and the BLPC is in favor of the access road. The PFRC expressed a preference for a fire access road only. She noted that an EA may come in April or May.

Scott noted that another item to discuss is a vice chair role. Scott noted that Christian would need to formally create this position but that it could be helpful to provide redundancy and great depth on the Commission. It could also help with succession planning.

John Seymour noted that the Williamsburg Lighting project is moving forward with the EA. He noted that there is still a huge gap between the sports field users and the neighbors.

Adam brought up Fire Station 8 and Erik Rasmussen's inquiry. The Commission suggested that he put Erik in contact with Alex Sanders to discuss further.