

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
c/o Department of Environmental Services
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 705
Arlington, VA 22201

January 4, 2016

TO: Libby Garvey Chair, Arlington County Board
FROM: Scott Dicke, Chair, Environment and Energy Conservation Commission
SUBJECT: Environment and Energy Conservation Commission 2015 Annual Report

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The Commission appreciates the opportunity to present a review of its 2015 activities and actions.

E2C2 bade farewell to several dedicated Commissioners this year: Terry Whitehead, Tara Zirker, and Eric Schneider. The Commission thanks these members for their service and commitment. The Board appointed four new Commissioners in 2015: Kari Klaus, Greg Miller, Irwin Kim, and John Seymour. The following members serve on the Commission: Scott Dicke (Chair), Mike Hanna, Noor Khalidi, Patrick Kinney, Kari Klaus, Sarah Meservey, Greg Miller, Christine Ng, Claire O’Dea, Alex Sanders, John Seymour, Irwin Kim, and Gabriel Thoumi.

In 2015, the Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (E2C2) worked on a number of issues in the County and participated in numerous task forces and working groups with other commissions and citizens groups. Commissioners educated themselves on a number of environmental issues relevant to Arlington now and in the future. The Commission continues to seek opportunities to improve communications with County Staff and Arlington Public Schools. These efforts paid off with the inclusion of E2C2 commissioners in several Public Facilities Review Committee meetings, and receipt of school project Environmental Assessments performed in compliance with Administrative Regulation 4.4.

Among the other advisory groups with which E2C2 worked most actively are the Urban Forestry Commission, the Park and Recreation Commission, and several task forces, including Envision Courthouse, Western Rosslyn Area Planning Study, and the Thomas Jefferson Park APS Planning effort. Finally, the Commission continued its tradition of hosting a public comment period at the beginning of each meeting. Many residents provided valuable comments on a variety of issues throughout the year.

The Commissioners also wish to thank all County staff who provided information and support to E2C2 in 2015. Staff members regularly attend E2C2 meetings, providing detailed reports and offering assistance in a timely manner. We are grateful to all staff who offered their time and

expertise to the Commission this year.

Major issues addressed by the Commission during the year include the following:

Green Building and County Energy

- E2C2 heard an update on the County Energy Plan and the County's next steps.
- Scott Dicke served on the Community Energy Plan Implementation Review Committee.

Solid Waste Issues

- The Commission's liaison to the County's Solid Waste Committee, chaired by Noor Khalidi, heard updates on the amendment to Chapter 10 (Garbage, Refuse, and Weeds) of the Code of Arlington County, Virginia - Article I, Section 10 - 8.A, relating to the Household Solid Waste Rate, reviewed information regarding a curbside composting program, and discussed a Zero Waste Resolution.
- E2C2 wrote two separate letters regarding solid waste issues that both noted positive environmental impacts and benefits to the County.
 - A letter of support for updated waste management plans and programs, including curbside composting
 - A letter of support for a Zero Waste resolution that noted the positive environmental impacts and benefits.

Environmental Assessments

- The Commission and staff continued to work toward an updated Administrative Regulation 4.4 (Environmental Assessment process).
- The Commission worked to revise and update the EA 4.4 checklist.
- One Environmental Assessment was brought before the Commission for review (Abingdon School)
- The Commission engaged in ongoing projects and provided updates on the progress of the WRAPS project, Envision Courthouse Project, and Thomas Jefferson School project as well as several school planning efforts including those for Stratford, Ashlawn, and the Williamsburg School lighting working group.

Stormwater

- Three members (Alex Sanders, Mike Hanna, and Christine Ng) served on the Four Mile Run Joint Task Force.
- The Commission heard presentations about the Four Mile Run planning process and the TMDL Action Plan. The Commission sent a letter of support regarding the TMDL Action Plan and encouraged the Board to adopt the plan as drafted.

Open Space and Natural Resource Issues

- Two members (Claire O'Dea, Alex Sanders) serve on the Public Spaces Master Plan Update Advisory Committee.
- E2C2 engaged in multiple projects and advocated for the preservation and continued acquisition of open and natural space.

Legislative and Fiscal Issues

- E2C2 provided comments to the Board regarding legislative agenda items for 2016.

- The Commission provided several suggestions to be pursued on the topics of Energy & Climate Legislation, Stormwater, Land Conservation, Invasive Species, Multi-Modal Transportation, and Recycling.

Transportation Issues

- The Commission met with members of the Bicycle Advisory Committee to improve future coordination and communication between the two groups.
- The Commission discussed the Master Transportation Plan and the associated Bike Element.

In other actions, the Commission:

- Met with Jay Fissette, County Board Liaison, Board member John Vihstadt, as well as Greg Emanuel, Director of the Department of Environmental Services, to discuss the County's environmental priorities.
- Heard updates on the Affordable Housing Master Plan and Implementation Framework. The Commission wrote a letter in support of the Plan and Framework
- Wrote a letter in opposition to hydraulic fracturing in the George Washington Forest or other areas that may impact Arlington's water or air quality.
- The Commission provided comments and letter to the Board regarding the budget process. The Commission iterated that wise, up-front investments made in energy, water, and solid waste budgets have resulted in lower operating costs for the County (over \$1M annually in avoided cost through energy conservation programs alone) and led to significant progress toward long term goals. The Commission urged continued focus and resources to focus on energy, water, and open space issues.
- Initiated a review of lighting issues, policies, and plans that affect Arlington County to develop a commission position on lighting in the County and guide future E2C2 efforts.

Commissioners were active liaisons with the following groups and task forces:

- Community Energy Plan Implementation Review Committee
- Public Spaces Master Plan Update Advisory Committee
- Western Rosslyn Area Planning Study
- Realize Rosslyn Planning Process
- Envision Courthouse Square
- Bicycle Advisory Committee
- Four Mile Run Joint Task Force
- Solid Waste Committee
- Site Plan Review Committee of the Planning Commission
- Urban Forestry Commission
- Chesapeake Bay Ordinance Review Committee
- Little Pimmit Run Advisory Group on Downstream Impacts
- Public Facilities Review Commission
- Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group
- Williamsburg Lighting Working Group
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Long Bridge Park Advisory Committee
- Stratford School Working Group

We look forward to continuing the Commission's work and taking on new environment and energy issues that face Arlington in 2016.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Dicke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "S" and a distinct "i" at the end.

Scott Dicke