

Climate Change, Energy, and Environment Commission (C2E2)

Summary of December 19, 2022

Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Joan McIntyre (Chair), Carrie Thompson (Vice Chair), Cindy Lewin, John Bloom, Stephen D'Alessio, Eric Gibbs, Joshua Griset, Kevin Vincent, Majdi Shomali

Staff Present: Rebecca Moser (DES), Demetra McBride (DES), Richard Dooley (DES)

Members Absent: Mark Greenwood, Shawn Norton, Gilbert Campbell, Jonathan Morgenstein, Mikaila Milton, Tim Effio

Guests: Bernard Berne, Mary Glass, Judy Collins, Connor Pace, Matthew Hogan

1. Introductions & Public Comment

Bernard Berne made public comments about potential improvements to the south section of the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) and the Mount Vernon Trail (National Park Service). The National Park Service (NPS) is presently conducting a public comment period for the scoping process for a planned environmental assessment (EA). The EA will evaluate potential improvements to the section of the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) in Fairfax County and the entire Mount Vernon Trail, except for the section in old town Alexandria. The public comment period will end on January 4.

The proposed project will increase the width of the Mt Vernon Trail from 8-9 feet to at least 11 feet in Arlington, on Columbia Island in D.C., and in northern Alexandria. The new width will be at least 10 feet in Fairfax County. In some places, the project may create separate pedestrian and bicycle trails whose combined widths will be larger. The scoping process will enable participants to propose measures that will help mitigate the adverse environmental impacts of the trail widening. These impacts include, among other things, the addition of impermeable surfaces in and near the Potomac River's Resource Protection Area (RPA) and the loss of tree canopy.

For information about the EA, the scoping process, and the procedures for submitting public comments, see <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=186&projectID=112569&documentID=124907> .

Mary Glass made public comments regarding Arlington's tree canopy. She thanked C2E2 for the Forestry and Natural Resources letter sent to the Board and commended the Commission for recognizing the wide variety of public services provided by Arlington's tree canopy and natural resources. Because the County took no action to update the obsolete tree canopy land cover assessment from 2016, private citizens funded a new one using 2021 data performed by a nationally recognized organization. Final numbers from a new tree canopy study will be provided next year, with a public meeting to discuss the results.

2. Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes were briefly reviewed and unanimously approved for October. November had inaccuracies in attendance. These will be reviewed and re-presented at the January meeting.

3. AIRE Team Energy Efficiency Programs – Demetra McBride (7:10 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.)

Except for the CCA (Community Choice Aggregation) Study, these programs have been developed as vehicles for applying for federal grants under the Infrastructure Act and the IRA (Inflation Reduction Act). Million-dollar funds will be used for CCA and public-use charging infrastructure on government sites. This does not cover the total 1 million dollars. More precise allocation of this fund will roll out in January 2023.

On Public EVSE Charging Stations:

- The County is pursuing contractors such as EV Go and ChargePoint for installation, in addition to Dominion programs. With EV Go and ChargePoint, the maintenance and operation service is poor. The County is hopeful that Dominion will own, operate, and maintain the infrastructure, and share data.

Barcroft Multi-Family Program Design

- County would like to do an audit of the over 1400 affordable housing units. It is the largest affordable housing community in Arlington, and the garden style buildings are fairly similar to each other. Hoping the developer-owner, Jiar Lynch, has already done an audit. Inside the Barcroft border, they own all the infrastructure for energy.
- Looking into energy efficiency upgrades given what they already have. EV charging, possibly solar. Hard to move on these before getting information and data first.

Residential Program Design

- Multi-jurisdictional regional discussion for about 6 months to do heat pump purchases. More volume equals better pricing. Shared outreach and educational resources on a regional basis, and administrative costs so it is less for each jurisdiction. Federal opportunities to tap into for residential programs. Geared towards low- to moderate income communities or property owners where they could qualify for certain single measure or additional incentive for bundled measures.
- Outsource a lot of the day-to-day costs for administrative work. Staff internally would be project managers supervising the project and meeting on a weekly or bi-weekly basis.

Residential Decision Support Tool

- Creating a decision support tool for modeling comprehensive energy efficiency upgrades. Rather than look at government buildings and use-life/life cycle, also look at comprehensive measures. Residential decision support tool is to look at different building vintages and construction in Arlington, e.g. bulk of residential development that goes back to the 1940s. Profile these and figure out what the most needed energy efficiency upgrades that make the biggest difference, with a 10% energy efficiency improvement as a baseline at a minimum. Alternative to individual audits.

Small Business Program

- Seeking federal funding for this program to pursue upgrades to small commercial businesses in districts e.g. Columbia Pike corridor.

Community Choice Aggregation

- City of Alexandria is interested. Arlington has been in discussions with them for a year now. Fast track and front load the legislative, regulatory, and legal analysis. Arlington needs to be very specific.

Priority Earmark – two main climate vulnerabilities in the region: inland flooding and extreme heat. Possibility under the Infrastructure Act, waiting for guidance manual, but an opportunity to work in these areas.

4. **2023 Priorities & Work Plan – C2E2 Leadership** (7:45 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.)

C2E2 prioritized the following as items that they will ensure that the County take action on:

- Accelerating Clean Energy Transitioning
- Environmental Justice
- Climate-Related Resilience
- Sustainable Development
- Community Engagement

Focus Areas Include:

- All of Government Approach
- Community Energy Plan Implementation
- Carbon Neutral Buildings
- EV Infrastructure and County Fleet
- Renewable Energy & Resiliency
- Local Control over Energy Sources
- Green Banks and Other Financial Mechanisms

- Transportation Services and Multi-Modal Options
- Infrastructure Readiness
- Zero Waste, Including Solid Waste Management
- Stormwater Management
- Biophilia

Commissioners agreed that this proposal for 2023 is on track.

Eric Gibbs posed a question to the Commission about prioritization – either a select few focus areas and put in more time and effort to these or view all the focus areas above as top priorities. A small group of Commissioners will review the document and provide comments.

5. **Missing Middle Discussion** (8:15 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.)

Joan McIntyre gave an update regarding Missing Middle. At the Planning Commission’s there were several propositions for changes and additions to the request to advertise, not specifically related to Missing Middle. More process and what goes into the request to advertise. If it is not in the request to advertise, then the Board will not consider. A number of recommendations were made to be added. Voted to drop an option that would allow up to 8 units on any property, regardless of what the size of the lot is. Weighed in on alternatives solutions to calculate lot coverage. Will not go to the County Board until January.

As of right now it is not the best use of time for the Commission to say different/otherwise from the position already taken. The Board is now expects to vote in March.

6. **Review Proposed 2023 Meeting Schedule** (8:30 p.m. – 8:40 p.m.)

The Commission reviewed the following meeting schedule. The schedule below is how the Commission will proceed with meetings moving forward in 2023.

January 23 rd , 2023	July 24 th , 2023
February 27 th , 2023 – All virtual	August – OFF
March 27 th , 2023	September 25 th , 2023 (push up a week)
April 24 th , 2023	October 23 rd , 2023
May 22 nd , 2023 – All virtual	November 20 th , 2023 – All virtual
June 26 th , 2023	December 18 th , 2023

At a legislative workshop with the County Board and legislators in the delegation, work is being done to amend the Electronics Meeting Bill for at least commissions. This would allow for more flexibility of hybrid and virtual meetings. This would hopefully give Commissioners, staff and the public greater flexibility when attending public meetings.

7. **Work Plan Updates & Comments** (8:40 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.)

John Bloom: In the last Energy Committee, APS staff came to discuss the new high school being built in Arlington. They are installing gas fired boilers, and not electric HVAC. This update surprised some of the Committee members.

Wakefield Manor had a public comment period. Stephen D’Alessio made comments. Certain things encouraging in the applicant materials, like bird-friendly windows, etc. but nothing in there related to zero carbon or environmental equity.

Carrie waiting to get answers to questions from the Solid Waste team about the Zero Solid Waste Master Plan. Couple of rounds of meetings related to prioritization. Discussions about what is actually practical and feasible in the near and medium term. Considerations related to phasing. A written response to the Commission to be available after the holidays.

EcoAction Arlington has a program on January 17th on reimagining waste management. Discussing with other municipalities and how they are tackling waste.

Meeting ended: 9:22 p.m.