



Minutes

EPC MONTHLY MEETING

June 27, 2022
City Hall, Conference Room 2000

[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

7:30 – 9:30 PM

Attendance

EPC Members (11)	Status	Staff
Eldon Boes	PR	Khoa Tran, T&ES
Edith Cecchini, Secretary	P	Jessica Lassetter, T&ES
Alexander Clark	P	Jesse Maines, T&ES
Jennifer Debias	P	Camille Liebnitzky, T&ES
Cynthia Elliott	PR	Murphy Ng, DPI
Oleksandr Faryga	P	Guests (Partial List)
Nicole Heckman	PR	Troy Biggs, Wood Environmental
Kathie Hoekstra, Chair	P	Fran Vogel, Strawberry Hill Civic Association
Michael Olex, Vice-Chair	P	Jeanne Jacob, Seminary Ridge Civic Association
Brendan Owens	PR	Rod Simmons (Virtual)
Marta Schantz	A	Erin Winograd (Virtual)
		Larry Kocot (Virtual)
Status: 6 In-Person; 4 Remote		Samantha Ahdoot (Virtual)
		Joe Sestak

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

FY2022 Environmental Policy Commission Attendance Summary															
Member's Name	2021							2022							% Attendance
	30-Aug	20-Sep	25-Sep	18-Oct	20-Oct	15-Nov	13-Dec	24-Jan	28-Feb	21-Mar	18-Apr	16-May	21-May	27-Jun	
Michael Bahleda	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	N	86%
Eldon Boes	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Edith Cecchini	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Alexander Clark	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Cynthia Elliott	N	N	N	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Oleksandr Faryga	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	P	E	P	P	A	E	P	86%
Nicole Heckman	N	N	N	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	P	100%
Kathie Hoekstra	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Jennifer Debias	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	E	P	P	A	P	86%
Michael Olex	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	100%
Brendan Owens	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	100%
William Pugh	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	N	79%
Marta Schantz	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	P	A	93%

1. Public Comments

Samantha Ahdoot asked the Commissioners to sign a petition related to noise from gas-powered leaf blowers.

2. Administrative Items

a. Meeting Minutes

Both April 18 and May 16 meeting minutes were approved..

b. Annual Report

All members approved the annual report with one minor edit.

c. Elections

The following Commissioners were elected to serve for fiscal year 2023 by all members; no other nominations were received:

- Kathie Hoekstra, Chair
- Michael Olex, Vice-Chair
- Edith Cecchini, Secretary

d. Fiscal Year 2023 Calendar

All members approved the FY 2023 draft calendar that details the Commission's meeting dates

e. Committee Reports

Eldon Boes discussed the Waterfront Commission and a presentation on City's efforts in cleaning the Coal Tar site located on Potomac River. The Commission discussed having an informational meeting on this topic in the fall, unless the legal action is resolved by then.

Kathie Hoekstra discussed what came out of the Transportation Commission including the approval of the Long Range Transportation Plan and the upcoming Metro shut down.

f. Focus Areas

Several Commissioners indicated their preference for their "focus areas" as discussed during the annual retreat. They are as follows: Nicole Heckman will focus on outreach; Alexander Clark will focus on buildings (primary) and transportation (back up); Oleksandr Faryga agreed to serve as the EPC Representative to the Transportation Commission (*this requires Action by City Staff – completed*); and Cynthia Elliott did not select a particular interest but is willing to focus on a topic when there's a need.

3. Review of City Budget and Timelines

Commission members discussed learning more about the budget process; in general, as well as how the City plans to incorporate a “climate lense” into the process. It was suggested that a future meeting include a presentation on “Budget 101” for Commission members.

a. Budget Letter

The Commission discussed a draft letter to the City Council and City Manager pertaining to \$1.85 million for funding activities to address the climate crisis. The letter was approved unanimously with one typo noted and fixed.

4. Presentation: Forensic Analysis: What Happened Downstream at Strawberry Run

City staff from T&ES Stormwater Management introduced the presentation by Wood Environmental. The purpose of the presentation was to discuss the failure of the stream restoration at the “downstream” portion of Strawberry Run as directed by City Council in April 2021. This is relevant to the “paused” stream restoration effort for the “upstream” portion of Strawberry Run and for consideration of other restoration efforts. The full analysis is available on the [City’s website](#).

Joe Sestak, an Alexandria citizen, responded to the consultant’s presentation with facts and views contrary to some of those of the consultant. Commissioners asked questions and the Chair indicated that all this information would be used during the IEN facilitated discussions on alternatives to Natural Channel Design that City Council directed City Staff and engaged citizens try and reach following the April 2021 Council meeting.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. and the next meeting will be held September 19.