

**FAIRFAX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

DATE: Wednesday, April 10, 2013
TIME: 7:15 P.M.
PLACE: Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce Street, Annandale, VA

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)	Frank Divita (Braddock)
Larry Zaragoza (Vice Chairman, Mt. Vernon)	George Lamb (At-Large)
Jeff Allcroft (Springfield)	Talia Schmitt (Student Member)
Frank Crandall (Dranesville)	Glen White (Mason)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)	Michael Sanio (Hunter Mill)
Johna Gagnon (Lee)	Rich Weisman (Sully)
Robert McLaren (At-Large)	

STAFF

Kambiz Agazi	Noel Kaplan
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GUESTS

Chris Caperton	Chris Lohmann
Dave Molchany	Eleanor Quigley

Telecommunications Plan Amendment

Issues Addressed:

- A proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment to revise Plan guidance regarding mobile and land-based telecommunication services.
- Concerns identified about the amendment by the Fairfax County Tree Commission, most notably whether the emphasis on mitigating visual impacts of telecommunication facilities may cause applicants to seek wooded areas for location of telecommunication facilities rather than open areas.
- Staff proposal to revise the proposed Plan text to clarify that the intent is to not “adversely impact sensitive resources or cause fragmentation of forested communities”

and to provide clarification of text regarding avoidance of areas of environmental sensitivity.

- Process for approval of telecommunication facilities and the relationship of this process to a Tree Commission recommendation for Special Exception approval for the siting of telecommunication facilities on public lands (a Zoning Ordinance amendment, rather than a Plan amendment, would be needed to implement this recommendation).
- Financial benefits of location of telecommunication facilities on public lands.
- The roles of the Fairfax County Park Authority and Urban Forest Management Division in reviews of telecommunication facility proposals.
- The potential for use of smaller antenna systems (e.g., distributive antenna systems, or DAS) that can blend in better with existing buildings.
- Areas in the Mount Vernon District that do not have cellular phone service, and the lack of a legal requirement for telecommunications companies to provide coverage.
- Need for the county to review each telecommunication facility proposal on its own merits rather than promoting/facilitating DAS over other technologies.
- Need for communications between communities and carriers.
- Radiofrequency emissions—potential impacts and regulation by the Federal Communications Commission.
- Community outreach efforts.

Motions Made:

None.

Follow-up actions:

None.

County staff coordination on energy issues

Issues Addressed:

- Overview provided by David Molchany of energy initiatives and coordination being pursued through the county's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Coordinating Committee (EECCC)—review of information presented in two handouts, including:
 - Background on the history of EECCC.
 - The county's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant.
 - Greenhouse gas emissions inventories—county government and community-wide.
 - Energy information on the county website.
 - Energy Action Fairfax and related outreach videos.
 - Coordination with the Economic Development Authority in encouraging green businesses to locate in the county.

- Coordination with the MITRE Corporation, per a proffer commitment, on the preparation of reports addressing electric vehicle charging and building energy technologies.
- Chairman Bulova's Private Sector Energy Task Force and Energy Alliance concept.
- An Environmental Improvement Plan project selection process.
- Hiring of an energy manager in the Facilities Management Department (FMD).
- FMD energy efficiency efforts (e.g., LED lighting and bright paint in the Government Center garage; motion-sensing light switches in the garage).
- Participation in regional efforts through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee—addressing Cool Counties and Cool Cities concepts at the regional level.
- Relationship between the concept of an energy coordinator position and the county's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Coordinating Committee, along with an energy core team—David Molchany stated that this interagency approach is doing what a separate energy coordinator would have done if such a position had been established; he noted that Susan Hafeli is providing much of this role.
- Electric vehicles and emissions associated with electrical generating facilities; benefits of overnight charging on the use of base loads already being generated.
- Environmental education—in particular, an upcoming “Green Day” at Woodson High School.

Motions Made:

None.

Follow-up actions:

- Kambiz Agazi was asked to provide electronic copies of the two handouts to all members.

Consideration of correspondence to the Board of Supervisors regarding transit-oriented development design and connectivity to transit stations

Issues Addressed:

- Per the discussion at the March 2013 meeting, consideration of a draft memorandum that had been prepared by George Lamb regarding transit-oriented design and connectivity to transit stations.
- Guidance from George Lamb on two alternative draft memos that had been prepared, with the second alternative including broader urban design guidance than the first alternative, which focuses more on urban transportation design standards.
- George Lamb was asked to co-sign the memo along with Stella Koch.

Motions Made:

- George Lamb moved to approve Alternative 1. Larry Zaragoza seconded the motion. The motion was amended (accepted by both George Lamb and Larry Zaragoza) to revise both the first and last paragraphs, with specific text to be circulated to all members present for the vote prior to transmittal to ensure consistency with the motion.

Record of the vote:

- The motion as revised was approved by a unanimous vote.

Follow-up actions:

- Noel Kaplan will circulate a revised memorandum to all members present for the vote in order to ensure that the memorandum will be consistent with the motion.
- George Lamb requested that future EQAC discussions focus more broadly on urban design issues. George Lamb and Michael Sanio agreed to articulate a series of questions for this broader discussion.

Review of issues identified for EQAC discussion

Issues Addressed:

- Follow-up from the March 2013 discussion of issues identified for EQAC discussion; circulation of a revised list applying the Annual Report chapter structure. Additions of issues to the list.
- Review of meeting agendas for future meetings

Motions Made:

None.

Follow-up actions:

- Meeting agendas to be set per this discussion.

2013 Annual Report on the Environment

Issues Addressed:

- The Annual Report timeline, chapter author assignments, information request list and information request prototype e-mail. Consensus was reached on all items, with a recognition that chapter authors need to review the information request list and provide

any changes to Noel Kaplan. Noel Kaplan asked that EQAC members not request any information that will not ultimately be used for the report.

Motions Made:

None.

Follow-up actions:

- Chapter authors to provide any revisions to the information request list to Noel Kaplan by April 26. Noel Kaplan to transmit information requests to agencies/organizations.

Approval of meeting minutes

Issues Addressed:

- Approval of the March 13, 2013 minutes.

Motions Made:

- Larry Zaragoza moved approval as submitted. George Lamb seconded the motion.

Record of the vote:

- The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Follow-up actions:

- Per standard procedure, Noel Kaplan will post the approved minutes on the EQAC website and advise the offices of members of the Board of Supervisors of the availability of the minutes, along with the major March agenda items.

Chairman's items

Issues Addressed:

- Stella Koch's budget testimony for the upcoming public hearing on the FY 2014 budget. EQAC accepted this testimony by consensus.
- Outreach to EQAC by the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services inviting EQAC to participate on interviews for two management-level solid waste staff positions.

Motions Made:

None.

Follow-up actions:

- Stella will present the budget testimony as discussed.
- Jeff Allcroft agreed to represent EQAC on the interview panels for the two solid waste positions.

Council member items

Issues Addressed:

- George Lamb: A recent land use committee discussion of the green energy triangle concept at which opposition was expressed; the opposition related to a desire to see land used for athletic fields.
- Larry Zaragoza: Follow-up discussion regarding radiation levels associated with radiofrequency emissions—people should understand the radiofrequency levels associated with towers—this information should be readily available to the public. Information from Fairfax County Public Schools measurements should be shared.

Motions Made:

None.

Follow-up actions:

- Larry Zaragoza agreed to pass a note along to Chris Caperton, with a copy to David Molchany, asking to get the RF emissions data posted.

Staff items

Issues Addressed:

- Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee meeting on May 7.
- Planning Commission Environment Committee meetings on May 2 and May 9—presentations from electric vehicle supply equipment suppliers.
- Need for volunteers for minutes.
- Congratulations to Stella Koch for her Community Champion Award.

Motions Made:

None.

Follow-up actions:

None.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 P.M.