

Approved by EQAC, April 10, 2013

**FAIRFAX COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES**

DATE: Wednesday, March 13, 2013
TIME: 5:00 P.M.
PLACE: 232 Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway,
Fairfax, VA

MEMBERS PRESENT

Stella Koch (Chairman, At-Large)	Johna Gagnon (Lee)
Larry Zaragoza (Vice Chairman, Mt. Vernon)	George Lamb (At-Large)
Jeff Allcroft (Springfield)	Robert McLaren (At-Large)
Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)	Michael Sanio (Hunter Mill)
Frank Crandall (Dranesville)	Talia Schmitt (Student Member)
	Rich Weisman (Sully)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Frank Divita (Braddock)	Glen White (Mason)
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STAFF

Kambiz Agazi	Noel Kaplan
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GUESTS

Garrick Augustus	Billy O'Donnell
Randy Bartlett	James Patteson
Paul Davis	Charles Smith
Marianne Gardner	Robert Soltess
Barbara Hardy	Whitney Stohr
Susan Hafeli	Charlie Strunk
Heidi Merkel	Chris Wells
Dave Molchany	Leonard Wolfenstein
Kevin Munroe	

The meeting convened at 5:00 P.M.

Joint meeting with Fairfax County's Environmental Coordinating Committee

Matters discussed:

Dave Molchany introduced Garrick Augustus as the Energy Manager with the Department of Facilities Management. All others at the meeting introduced themselves.

Transit-oriented development design and connectivity to transit stations—Discussion with the Fairfax County Departments of Transportation and Planning and Zoning

- Background from Noel Kaplan on EQAC's request for this discussion and the specific questions EQAC members developed for the discussion
- The approved development project at the Wiehle Avenue Metrorail station
 - Trails, sidewalks and pedestrian connections
 - Design challenges associated with pedestrian access to the station
 - Development of a grid of streets in what is now a large block
 - Design of Reston Station Boulevard as a four-lane facility with shared bicycle use
 - Anticipated character of vehicle traffic
 - Road capacity concerns and intersection improvements associated with the approved application
 - Parking as it relates to the rail station and to Zoning Ordinance requirements
 - Transportation Demand Management efforts
 - Bicycle-related facilities, including a bike room with storage capacity, "fix-it" stations and benches
- Need for integration of design with rail stations
- Potential for revision of parking requirements prior to design of the Phase 2 rail stations
- Bus route planning near the new Metrorail stations
- Desire for innovative design approaches near Metrorail stations to avoid getting auto-oriented results
- Comprehensive Plan guidance for transit-oriented development with pedestrian orientation
- Development by the Virginia Department of Transportation of specific urban design standards for roads in transit areas

Discussion of the County Executive's proposed FY 2014 budget

- Presentation from Dave Molchany, Deputy County Executive, of the advertised budget plan
- Highlights of the proposed FY 2014 budget
- Multi-year budget process to allow for better evaluations of longer-term budget implications of decisions on the FY 2014 budget
- Further analysis to occur in several areas, including long-term funding needs for the stormwater management program
- Anticipated budget shortfalls for FY 2014 and FY 2015
- Uncertainties associated with federal budget sequestration
- Reductions associated with the last several years of slow growth

- Considerations that informed the development of the proposed FY 2014 budget
- Structural budget issues associated with the use of one-time funds for recurring budget needs, and efforts to reduce such commitments
- The purpose and use of “rainy day” funding and carryover funding
- The current county work force (just under 12,000) and challenges associated with the age of the work force (with 25% eligible for retirement by December 2015)
- The “STRIVE” (Sustainable Training, Resources and Incentives for Valued Employees) effort to address sustainable compensation, performance management and succession planning

Discussion of the FY 2014 Environmental Improvement Program project selection process

- Presentation from Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County Environmental Coordinator, on the EIP project selection process
- Review of the EIP projects proposed in the FY 2014 budget
- Review of the process through which project proposals were requested, reviewed and prioritized
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant projects
- History of EIP project funding through FY 2013
- Benefits of the more rigorous EIP project selection process relating to budget decisions

Wetland restoration project at Huntley Meadows Park

- Presentation from Kevin Munroe, Manager, Huntley Meadows Park
- Overview of Huntley Meadows Park and its history
- Overview of the restoration project and associated public outreach, professional research and staff and volunteer efforts
- Review of the factors causing the need for the project
- Review of the project’s guiding principles, strategies and anticipated outcomes
- Anticipated extent of disturbance for the project
- Management for the wildlife community as opposed to species-specific management
- Project time line
- Factors affecting Huntley Meadows, including beavers and stormwater runoff from adjacent/upstream development
- Implications of the recent derecho and Superstorm Sandy—project design to withstand such storms

Motions made:

- None.

Follow-up actions:

- The next joint meeting was confirmed for Wednesday, July 10, 2013.

Development of EQAC budget testimony for the FY 2014 county budget

Matters discussed:

- The advertised FY 2014 budget and a desire for EQAC to develop testimony for presentation at the Board of Supervisors' public hearing on the budget
- A desire to prepare testimony similar to that for the FY 2013 budget
- The lack of funding identified for air quality outreach, and the relationship of air quality outreach to the energy-related outreach efforts proposed for funding
- \$23,500 identified in the advertised budget for unspecified environmental initiatives

Motions made:

- Stella Koch moved that EQAC support funding for the proposed EIP projects along with a ½ cent increase in the Stormwater Service District rate, recognizing that such a rate increase will not be possible for the FY 201 budget. Larry Zaragoza seconded the motion.

Record of the vote:

- Approval by unanimous vote, with no abstentions

Follow-up actions:

- Stella Koch agreed to draft budget testimony per the approved motion and to provide the draft to Noel Kaplan. Noel will circulate the draft to all members present at the vote to ensure that they agree that Stella's draft is consistent with the motion. Stella will present the testimony at the public hearing on the budget.

Review of issues identified for EQAC discussion and development of agendas for future EQAC meetings

Matters discussed:

- A comprehensive list of issues identified for EQAC discussion/follow-up prepared by Noel Kaplan, including items from the annual public hearing, items from the presentation of the Annual Report on the Environment and items identified at EQAC meetings
- Addition of items to the list regarding the solid waste management program (results from the Request for Expressions of Interest) and the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (its change in leadership and direction)
- A request from Stella Koch for Annual Report chapter authors to review the list and suggest additions to Noel Kaplan (if/where applicable)
- Updates on issues relating to the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Litter Enforcement Month and Regional Litter Education Campaign
- Updates on the issue of green building expectations for hotels in Tysons Corner

Motions made:

- None

Follow-up actions:

- Noel Kaplan agreed to restructure the list of issues and to suggest logical groupings of issues; EQAC agreed to reconsider the list of issues at its April 10 meeting.
- EQAC agreed to schedule, for the May meeting, an update on the development of the Park Authority's Natural Resource Management Plan.

Appointment of a student member application review committee

Matters discussed:

- The need for a committee of at least three EQAC members to review all student member applications and select, for an EQAC vote in June, a preferred and alternate candidate for the July 2013-June 2014 student member

Motions made:

- None

Follow-up actions:

- Talia Schmitt was absent from this discussion but was appointed to serve on the committee. Rich Weisman and Larry Zaragoza agreed to serve on the committee as well.
- The committee will report back to EQAC at the June meeting.

Approval of the minutes of the February 13, 2013 EQAC meeting

Matters discussed:

- Approval of the draft minutes of the February 13 meeting, with one correction identified by Noel Kaplan

Motions made:

- Rich Weisman moved approval of the minutes as corrected. Bob McLaren seconded the motion.

Record of the vote:

- Approval by unanimous vote, with no abstentions

Follow-up actions:

- Per standard practice, the approved minutes will be posted to the EQAC website with an e-mail notification to Board member offices.

Chairman's Items

Transit-oriented development design and connectivity to transit stations

Matters discussed:

- The discussion at the earlier joint meeting regarding transit-oriented development design and connectivity to transit stations
- A desire by EQAC members to follow-up on this discussion by preparing a letter or resolution to the Board of Supervisors
- The need to include a discussion of parking standards within the letter/resolution
- Agreement to invite staff back in a few months for a follow-up discussion

Motions made:

- None

Follow-up actions:

- George Lamb agreed to draft a letter or resolution to address the concerns that were discussed at the joint meeting. He agreed to provide a draft for staff review, in advance of EQAC's review, in order to ensure factual accuracy.
- EQAC agreed to consider approval of the letter/resolution at the April 10 meeting.

Comprehensive Plan amendment proposal addressing telecommunications towers

Matters discussed:

- A proposed Plan amendment addressing telecommunications facilities
- A letter to the Planning Commission from the Tree Commission raising concerns about possible implications of the proposed amendment to trees
- A request from a Tree Commissioner to Noel Kaplan for consideration of the Tree Commission's concerns by EQAC
- Pressures to increase the density of cell tower networks and related concerns regarding how/where new towers will be sited

Motions made:

- None

Follow-up actions:

- Noel Kaplan was asked to invite appropriate staff from the Department of Planning and Zoning to the April 10 EQAC meeting to provide EQAC with a brief overview of what is being proposed and to address the concerns identified by the Tree Commission.

Council Member Items

Matters discussed:

- The Green Day environmental fair on April 26 at Woodson High School (Talia Schmitt)

Motions made:

- None

Follow-up actions:

- None

Staff Items

Matters discussed:

- Upcoming meetings of the Planning Commission Environment Committee

Motions made:

- None

Follow-up actions:

- None

Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.