

Approved by EQAC November 29, 2010

EQAC minutes November 10, 2010

Present: Glen White (Mason), George Lamb (At-Large), Ned Foster (Springfield), Bob McLaren (At-Large), Marie Flanigan (Providence), Stella Koch (At-Large), Frank Crandall (Dranesville), Larry Zaragoza (Mt. Vernon), Johna Gagnon (Lee), Linda Burchfiel (At-Large)

Staff: Kambiz Agazi, Noel Kaplan

Guests: Heather Schinkel, Fairfax County Park Authority

Cindy Walsh, Fairfax County Park Authority

James Patteson, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services

Craig Carinci, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Stormwater

Fred Rose, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Stormwater

Assad Ayoubi, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Land Dev. Svs.

Bruce Nassimbeni, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, LDS

Not present: Frank Divita (Braddock), Kevin Sun (Student Member), Rich Weisman (Sully)

Meeting began 7:15 PM in Herrity Building Room 106

Presentation by Heather Schinkel and Cindy Walsh from FCPA on the agency budget

- Park Operations and Administration sustained the largest FCPA cuts in FY11—the Resource Management Division only had one cut (an Administrative Assistant).
- No cuts so far in FY12, worried about cuts in FY13.
- The Resource Management Division is supported in both the general fund and the revenue fund—currently, the Division is budgeted \$4.2 million from the General Fund and \$2.0 million from the revenue fund (roughly a 67/33% split).
- The agency-wide budget split is 70% funding from revenues and 30% funding from the General Fund. Ten years ago, it was just the opposite.
- County doesn't have capability to issue bonds for PA at this time

Presentation by Craig Carinci, Stormwater Planning, on Watershed Management Planning

- Regulatory drivers for the program noted, including the county's MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit.
- EPA found county's MS4 permit unacceptable, will probably ask for retrofits—a detailed overview from EPA is anticipated in late December.
- 300 watershed management plan policy recommendations from six watershed plans have been grouped into eight categories and consolidated—121 consolidated recommendations have been identified.
- Staff making matrix to determine priorities and agency review assignments.
- Staff to work with a stakeholder advisory group on this review.
- Implementation of policy recommendations to begin in 2012.
- Non-structural BMPs like reforestation, stream cleanups, rain barrels. Goal of educating and guiding community, letting them implement plan. Pilot stormwater program at Patton Terrace in McLean

Presentation by James Patteson, Director, DPWES, on the reorganization of DPWES-Land Development Services

- The existing and future structures of LDS were noted.
- LDS reorganizing in light of budget challenges and related staff cuts, a drop in workload, increasingly complex development projects, organizational structure issues and staff feedback.
- The reorganization will increase staffing flexibility within LDS and will provide for a more holistic, project management-based approach.

There was a good deal of discussion after the presentation regarding the county's geographic information system and its role in development review. Noel Kaplan was asked to contact GIS staff for a briefing and demonstration; later in the meeting, this discussion was requested for the January 12, 2011 meeting.

Public Hearing – Nov 29 at Government Center, remote site at the South County Center.

Changes to Minutes of Oct 13 – County Exec's discussion of FY12 budget – Noel Kaplan proposed the changes noted below, Bob McLaren moved to accept, Stella Koch seconded, and the minutes were approved by a unanimous vote, with abstentions from Johna Gagnon and Marie Flanagan.

- School Board expected to request employee raise, which would add \$70 million a year to the county budget, not \$100 million
- A possible new debris landfill was noted to be a "future" possible source of new revenue

Chairman's Items

- Stella Koch noted that David Ouderkirk has resigned from EQAC. EQAC needs a replacement as its representative on the Tree Commission.
- Stella Koch referenced a Coalition for Smarter Growth program on November 17.

Member's Items

- Frank Crandall raised concerns that the proposed revisions to the Tree Conservation Ordinance will result in a loss of tree canopy. After discussion, Stella Koch suggested that she be given the authority to review the proposed changes and to prepare comments raising concerns if it was her view that the proposed changes would result in a significant loss in tree cover. Conversely, she would not make any comments if the changes would not clearly result in a reduction in tree cover. Bob McLaren moved approval of that authority, and Larry Zaragoza seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Frank Crandall noted that he would be serving on the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance Exception Review Committee.
- After discussion regarding upcoming meetings of interest, Noel Kaplan was asked to prepare a calendar of meetings that may be of interest to EQAC members. Noel Kaplan agreed to keep and occasionally circulate a calendar but stressed that he could not keep track of all meetings. He asked EQAC members to contribute events to the calendar.

- Johna Gagnon noted a Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District website addressing a rain barrel program.
- Bob McLaren noted that he would miss the January meeting.

Staff Items

- Noel Kaplan noted upcoming meetings of the Planning Commission's Environment Committee on December 2 (discussion of green buildings and energy monitoring of buildings); January 13 (strawman draft of a Plan amendment updating the green building policy); and February 3 (follow-up discussion from an earlier presentation regarding stormwater management concepts).
- Noel Kaplan reviewed the agenda for upcoming meetings. It was agreed that the GIS briefing would be scheduled for January and that a briefing from county legislative staff would be scheduled in April.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55.