

Draft
Rockville Environment Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, May 3, 2018

Black-Eyed Susan Room, City Hall,
111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland

Attendance

Commissioners Present: Chair John Becker, Sy Garte, Alicia Hosmer, Clark Reed, Monica Saavoss, Lea Rosenbohm, Steve Sprague and Fedon Vayanis

Commissioners Absent: Larissa Johnson

Council Liaison: Mark Pierzchala (absent)

City Staff: Erica Shingara

Guests: Angelica Valderrama

Meeting Commencement

The meeting convened at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Becker.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Becker requested item #11 (chair recommendation) be moved before item #6 and be in open session. Commissioner Sprague moved and Commissioner Reed seconded a motion to approve the May 3, 2018 agenda as amended. The motion passed (7-0). Commissioner Hosmer was absent for the vote.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Sprague moved and Commissioner Reed seconded a motion to approve the April 5, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion passed (6-0-1); Commissioner Vayanis abstained due to absence from the meeting. Commissioner Hosmer was absent for the vote.

Community Forum

No guests were present for forum.

Committee Reports:

- **Watershed:** Commissioner Garte reported that in lieu of the monthly committee meeting, members attended a stream walk and stream cleanup. On April 7, volunteers walked the Cabin John segment 11 from Hungerford pond through Tower Oaks. Stream walk photos are posted on the Commission's google drive. Volunteers cleaned up trash, took measurements on erosion, and noted stream conditions. On April 14, they hosted the Maryvale Stream Cleanup where approximately 24 volunteers collected 27 bags of trash.
- **Climate Action:** Commissioner Rosenbohm reported they had their first meeting in April to brainstorm an action plan. They reviewed the Commission's comments on COG's draft action plan and began discussing priorities. The committee is looking to prioritize 1 to 3 actions in each category. Staff suggested the committee review COG's final action plan and recent greenhouse gas emissions inventories to help guide priorities and stakeholder discussions. Volunteers also discussed monitoring other committees to identify cooperation opportunities, drafting a best practice document, and promoting the committee at HTH.

- **Energy:** Commissioner Reed reported the Ethics Commission provided a preliminary ruling on the crowd funding proposal and will vote on the written position in June. The written opinion may be available for the Commission to review in July. The committee also submitted write-ups for SMC actions.
- **Sustainability:** Commissioner Hosmer reported that members will be joining other committees.

Chair Recommendation

Commissioner Garte moved and Commissioner Hosmer seconded the motion to nominate John Becker to serve a one-year term as Chair. Commissioner Becker accepted the nomination. With no further nominations, Commissioner Hosmer moved and Commissioner Sprague seconded the motion to vote to elect the chair. The motion passed (7-0-1), Chair Becker abstained.

Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC)

Staff distributed an updated SMC action plan with status updates. Write-ups for most of the planned SMC action items were completed and staff thanked members for submitting materials. Write-ups are still pending for the solar co-op, electric vehicle and Community Wildlife Habitat. Staff noted that in-lieu of distributing paper copies of the 34 actions in the SMC application, all commissioners received an email from the SMC program that provides access to the online application to review all materials.

- **Action Item:** Volunteers and staff to complete write-ups for solar co-op, electric vehicle and Community Wildlife Habitat prior to the next meeting.
- **Action Item:** All Commissioners to review final action write-ups via the link to the online application and provide any comments or questions on final write-ups.
- **Action Item:** Commissioner Hosmer noted there was not any progress on the Mayors Monarch Pledge and requested it be placed on the agenda for the June meeting.
- **Action Item:** Final Commission approval of SMC application scheduled for the June meeting.

Hometown Holidays (HTH)

Chair Becker noted that he received an update from Special Events about the HTH booth. He is waiting for confirmation that the Commission will have one table on Saturday that will then be shared with the Human Rights Commission on Sunday. The Commission discussed HTH volunteer schedules on Saturday, May 26:

1. **Watershed (1 to 3:30 pm):** Steve Cardon, Alicia Hosmer and John Becker (setup)
 2. **Energy (3:30 to 5:30):** Clark Reed, Angelica Valderrama and Randy Gentry
 3. **Climate Action (5:30 to 8):** Monica Saavoss, Lea Rosenbohm and Sy Garte (cleanup)
- **Action Item:** Chair Becker volunteered to coordinate with staff and Special Events to clarify the table status and coordinate raffle tickets
 - **Action Item:** Commissioner Saavoss volunteered to coordinate volunteer interest forms and follow-up.
 - **Action Item:** Steve Cardon will transport materials for setup (pickup on Friday May 25) and Sy Garte will transport materials for cleanup (return items to City Hall the following week).
 - **Action Item:** Staff will check the inventory of supplies, restock items, and organize materials for pickup on Friday. Exhibits include rain barrel, watershed model, prize wheel, seeds, committee poster, and recycling poster.

Annual Report

Chair Becker distributed a draft annual report and presentation for a potential presentation to the Mayor and Council. The presentation is tentatively scheduled for July to provide additional time for Commission review and approval and the agenda process. He encouraged Commissioners and Committee members to plan to attend the presentation.

- **Action Item:** Commissioners should review and submit comments on the draft report for final approval in June.

Chair Report

Chair Becker provided the following updates:

- Commissioner Rosenbohm's term expires in September. Renewal interest forms are available online and should be submitted prior to term expiration.
- Reminded committees to submit budget requests.

Environment Management Division (EMD) Update

Staff reported on upcoming dates and invited Commissioners to attend:

- On April 24, the Maryland Public Service Commission hosted a public hearing on Pepco's proposed pilot microgrids in Montgomery County and Prince Georges County (including Rockville Town Center). There were concerns about ratepayer impacts and how the projects would be cost-effective based on reliability, grid infrastructure deferrals and resiliency.
- Maryland re-issued the NPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Phase II General Permit.

New Business

- Commissioner Reed moved and Commissioner Saavoss seconded the motion to purchase 7 copies of Ted Koppel's book "Lights Out" to share with the Mayor and Council, senior staff and commissioners. He noted the book addresses the vulnerabilities of the power grid, the significant impacts long term power outages would pose to communities, and potential resiliency measures. Commissioners discussed if the book was available at the library and if the procurement rules permitted the purchase. Pending staff research of library availability and procurement rules, the motion passed (8-0).
- Commissioners discussed budgeting to design portable presentation exhibits for tabling (topics could include Environment Commission, Energy, Watersheds, Climate Action, Recycling).
- Commissioners inquired about touring the Water Treatment Plant.
- Commissioner Sprague reported he attended a successful Arbor Day celebration at Fallsmead.

Adjourn

The Commission adjourned by acclamation at 9:15 p.m.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is tentatively scheduled on **Thursday, June 7, 2018 at 7:00 pm.**