

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
c/o Department of Environmental Services
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 705
Arlington, VA 22201

January 28, 2019

TO: Christian Dorsey, Chair, Arlington County Board
FROM: Mike Hanna, Chair, Environment and Energy Conservation Commission
SUBJECT: Environment and Energy Conservation Commission 2018 Annual Report

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
2018 ANNUAL REPORT

The Commission appreciates the opportunity to present a review of its 2018 activities and actions.

The Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (E2C2) bade farewell to several dedicated Commissioners this year: Christine Ng, James O'Connell, and Virginia Castro. The Commission thanks these members for their service and commitment. The Board appointed six new Commissioners in 2018: Charles Girard, Julie Hughes, Xuan Nguyen, Colleen Orr, and Carol Rakatansky. The following other members served on the Commission: Michael Mesmer (Chair), John Bloom, Kimberly Fedinatz, Mike Hanna, Sarah Meservey, Claire O'Dea, Jessica Skerritt, John Seymour, and Gabriel Thoumi.

In 2018, E2C2 worked on several issues in the County and participated in numerous task forces and working groups with other commissions and citizens' groups. Commissioners educated themselves on a number of environmental issues relevant to Arlington now and in the future. The Commission continues to seek opportunities to improve communications with County Staff and Arlington Public Schools. The Energy Subcommittee, formed in 2017, remained focused on implementation of the Community Energy Plan (CEP) and provided input to the recent CEP update process.

The other advisory groups with which E2C2 worked most actively are the Urban Forestry Commission, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and several task forces, including the Career Center Working Group, Four Mile Run Valley Working Group, Public Spaces Master Plan Update Advisory Committee, Streetlights Working Group, Bike Element (of the Transportation Master Plan) Working Group, and the Residential Parking Working Group. Finally, the Commission continued its tradition of hosting a public comment period at the beginning of each meeting. Many residents provided valuable comments on a variety of issues throughout the year.

The Commissioners wish to thank all County staff who provided information and support to E2C2 in 2018. Staff members regularly attend E2C2 meetings, providing detailed reports and offering assistance in a timely manner. We are grateful to all staff who offered their time and expertise to the Commission this year.

Major issues addressed by the Commission during the year include the following:

Green Building and County Energy

- The Commission heard a presentation on the Community Energy Plan update, including scope and process.
- The Commission discussed recommendations from the Energy Committee to amend the Community Energy Plan.
- E2C2 heard an update on the Green Building Incentive Density Program and associated building performance.
- The Commission heard a presentation from the Citizens Climate Lobby regarding a carbon fee and dividend resolution. The Commission discussed a possible letter in 2019.

Solid Waste Issues

- The Commission's Solid Waste Committee was chaired by Kimberly Fedinatz. Ms. Fedinatz took over the role when Michael Mesmer assumed the E2C2 Chair role.
- The Commission heard updates on the County's Zero Waste Goal, curbside composting, and other waste-related updates.

Environmental Assessments

- The Commission and staff continued to work toward an updated Administrative Regulation 4.4 (Environmental Assessment process).
- Two Environmental Assessments were brought before the Commission for review (Reed School and Long Bridge Park).

Stormwater and Water Treatment

- Mike Hanna served on the Four Mile Run Joint Task Force.
- John Seymour served on Water Pollution Control Plant Solids Master Plan Stakeholder Committee
- The Commission heard an update from DES staff regarding the snow melting operation at Bluemont Park.
- The Commission heard an update on the WPCB Solids Master Plan.

Open Space and Natural Resource Issues

- The Commission heard an update on the POPS process and next steps for finalizing the report.
- Claire O'Dea served on the Public Spaces Master Plan Update Advisory Committee.
- Claire O'Dea, Sarah Meservey, and Gabriel Thoumi served on the Natural Resource Joint Advisory Group, along with members of the Urban Forestry and Park and Recreation Commissions to oversee implementation of the Natural Resources Management Plan.
- E2C2 engaged in multiple projects and advocated for the preservation and continued acquisition of open and natural space.

- The Commission heard a presentation on Biophilic Cities.

Legislative and Fiscal Issues

- E2C2 provided comments to the Board regarding the County Manager’s proposed and final FY2019 budget. The Commission emphasized that up-front investments made in energy, water, and solid waste budgets have resulted in lower operating costs for the County (over \$1M annually in avoided cost through energy conservation programs alone) and led to significant progress toward long-term sustainability goals. The Commission urged the County to focus attention and resources on energy, water, and open space issues.
- E2C2 provided comments to the Board regarding legislative agenda items for 2018.
- The Commission wrote a letter providing several suggestions on the topics of Energy & Climate Legislation, Stormwater, Land Conservation, Invasive Species, Multi-Modal Transportation, and Recycling.

Transportation Issues

The Commission heard an update on the Bike Element of the Master Transportation Plan.

In other actions, the Commission:

- Met with Board Member Erik Gutshall
- Met with DES Director Greg Emanuel.
- Met with OSEM Bureau Chief Demetra McBride
- Discussed the Career Center Working Group (CCWG) process and updates
- Discussed solar for the Long Bridge Aquatics Center.
- Discussed the MWCOG Environmental Justice (EJ) Toolkit
- Heard an update on the Public Art Master Plan and provided feedback to staff regarding the new sustainability element in the draft Plan.
- Heard an update on the Four Mile Run Master Plan
- Discussed the MWCOG Air Quality Report and ways to improve air quality in Arlington.
- Reviewed and updated the Work Plan on various occasions as Commissioners joined and cycled off of E2C2.

The Commission wrote 9 letters to the Board regarding:

- Legislative Priorities
- E2C2 Workplan
- E2C2 2017 Annual Report
- Reed School EA
- Career Center Working Group
- Solids Master Plan Update
- Four Mile Run Valley Policy Framework
- MWCOG Environmental Justice Toolkit
- Bluemont Snow Melting

Commissioners were members or active liaisons with the following groups and task forces:

- E2C2 Energy Subcommittee
- Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group

- Solid Waste Committee
- Public Facilities Review Commission
- Public Spaces Master Plan Update Advisory Committee (POPS)
- Four Mile Run Valley Working Group
- Long Bridge Park Advisory Committee
- Transportation Master Plan – Bike Element Working Group
- Solids Master Plan Working Group
- Williamsburg Lighting Working Group
- Site Plan Review Committee of the Planning Commission
- Chesapeake Bay Ordinance Review Committee
- Urban Forestry Commission
- Bicycle Advisory Committee
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Metropolitan Washington Council of Government Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues while continuing the Commission's work and taking on new environment and energy issues that face Arlington in 2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Michael Hanna". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Hanna, Chair
Environment and Energy Conservation Commission