

**Environment and Energy Conservation Commission**  
Draft

Summary of September 9, 2019 Meeting  
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Azalea Conference Room

Members Present: John Bloom, Jonathan Morgenstein, Charles Girard, Teresa Leonardo, Carol Rakatansky, Claire O'Dea, Mike Hanna

Members Absent: Mike Mesmer, Shawn Norton, Gabriel Thoumi

Staff Present: Adam Segel-Moss (DES), Demetra McBride (DES)

**1. Public Comment**

none

**2. Community Energy Plan (CEP) Update and Possible Amazon HQ2 Letter**

The Commission discussed the status of the CEP prior to Board action on September 21, 2019.

The Commission deemed a CEP letter unnecessary due to previous letters. Various commissioners noted that the Board has been listening and responsive to community and Commission input. There are few live issues remaining as the CEP moves to the Board for action. Electric Vehicles (EVs) as it relates to the fleet is has been one issue that the Commission expects the Board to discuss.

John Bloom noted the changes to the CEP prior to adoption include:

- The “wedge chart” was updated to show how each piece of the wedge is forecasted to get us to getting to carbon neutral by 2050. Attached is the updated chart I showed at this morning’s EC meeting.
- Text was added to the CEP to showcase urban heat island effect issues, the roles trees & the tree canopy play in helping us reach CEP goals, and to note linkages between the CEP and the MTP, GLUP and the Public Spaces Master Plan, i.e., other Comp Plan elements
- Policy 4.3 regarding the electrification of the County fleet was updated to state, “Policy 4.3. By 2022, produce a blueprint (strategy) that describes what it would take to transition the County fleet away from vehicles with internal combustion engines. This strategy will address influences and factors including (but not limited to): the diversity of the County fleet; electric vehicle availability for County needs; capital cost; charging infrastructure needs; vehicle operating and maintenance costs; and the overall economics of vehicle ownership.”

- A new Policy 5.5 was added: “Policy 5.5: Design and build new and renovated County facilities to achieve energy efficiency targets consistent with Arlington County Government’s Facility Sustainability Policy for New Construction and Major Renovation.”
- A draft CEP Implementation Framework was included, providing Strategy titles for each CEP Goal & Policy. The next step is to populate a CEP Implementation Framework Strategy template for each Strategy, thus providing more detail on each Strategy; that effort is slated to begin once the CB adopts changes to the CEP, creating the 2019 CEP. We anticipate the expansion of each a CEP Implementation Framework Strategy will take us into 2020.
  - The CEP Implementation Framework has a Strategy to develop a reporting template to provide to the CB on a regular basis showing CEP implementation progress.

John noted that several Board members are interested in EVs, a plan to develop further EV adoption as well as infrastructure for electrification. A plan is being discussed for development by 2022.

Demetra McBride noted that market, technology, and infrastructure will be included in a 2022 report and upcoming EV blueprint. Jonathan asked what a ‘blueprint’ will include.

Demetra noted that the market report and blueprint will include:

- EV literature review
- Assessment of County fleet by vehicle type
- Analysis of payback for EV fleet upgrades
- EV charging siting as well as possible policy proposals

Charles noted that County leadership is important on this topic. He noted that County vehicles are very visible in the community and can help move people to action. Charles noted that the County has an explicit role in EV infrastructure implementation and acceleration of EV adoption.

The commission made a motion to pursue:

- Every opportunity to accelerate EV blueprint delivery
- Near-term feasibility steps to transition the County fleet to EVs
- Regular reporting on EV transition to provide interim updates

<<The motion passed unanimously>>

At present the Commission is unclear how many vehicles are in the County and APS fleet, when they entered the fleet, how many are EVs, mileage, cost, payback for current EVs, and how decisions are made to increase EVs in the fleet.

### 3. Amazon Letter Discussion

The Commission discussed the status of the HQ2 Project – Met Park 6/7/8. Mike Hanna attended the most recent Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) meeting on HQ2.

Mike spoke to the SPRC chair and noted that this is the first Site Plan project that will come in after the new CEP is adopted. He expressed that E2C2 is very interested in participating in the process to support expressed community and Board interest in sustainability-related issues.

John Bloom volunteered to attend the SPRC meetings to liaise between E2C2 and SPRC on this project.

The Commission decided not to move forward with an additional letter at this time. They are still gathering information as the project evolves and will weigh in through the SPRC process. The next SPRC meeting for the HQ2 project will be on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

The Commission continues to discuss having Amazon representatives attend as well as writing a letter to the Board on this topic.

#### **4. Amazon Letter – Re: Conceptual**

A letter was discussed as something that share community interests.

Shawn noted that it would be helpful to invite Amazon representatives for a discussion. The Commission discussed both writing a letter and inviting Amazon.

Commissioners will try to coordinate Amazon attendance to discuss HQ2 design in July, provide input, and consider a letter to the Board on the topic thereafter.

#### **5. Old / New Business**

Claire noted that the most recent Neighborhood Conservation meeting was cancelled but upcoming meetings are planned. They are currently going through data to understand the program and projects over time.

Residents that are championing biophilic cities are meeting with Board members. This is likely moving toward an official designation and Board action.

Mike Hanna attended the most recent Bike Committee meeting. He noted discussion on traffic signal timing and a joint meeting with the Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Mike also noted that a micro mobility study of scooters and other shared devices are underway by Ritch Viola.

John Bloom noted that the CEP update is coming to a close. It has been a long process, and many are pleased with staff and the outcomes. No surprises are

expected at the upcoming Board action. John also noted an upcoming rally outside the County offices at noon on 9/21, the day of Board action on the CEP.

Demetra McBride gave an update on the flash microburst that caused widespread flooding in Arlington in July. She noted that mapped flooding and depth was done by staff based on reports. Demetra detailed that these flooding maps overlaid very clearly with known capacity issues and infrastructure needs. Demetra expressed that much funding will be needed to address these issues. The community has been very vocal and she expects this will be raised in the CIP and upcoming budget.

Mike M. attended the Gulf Branch stream restoration public meeting. There are several areas that need mitigation and there are competing tributaries. There is a meeting on July 17 for public input.

John Bloom noted that the County received a \$10 million grant from Boeing for Long Bridge Park. The funds are apparently focused on reducing operating and maintenance costs. John wondered if there is any chance that energy improvements that reduce O&M costs could be considered. Demetra noted that the operations and capital budgets don't overlap.