

## **Environment and Energy Conservation Commission** Draft

Summary of October 28, 2019 Meeting  
2100 Clarendon Blvd, 311 Conference Room

Members Present: Mike Mesmer, Joan McIntyre, Claire O’Dea, Carol Rakatansky, Jonathan Morgenstein, John Bloom, Mike Hanna, Timothy Effio, Charles Girard

Members Absent: Shawn Norton, Gabriel Thoumi, Teresa Leonardo

Staff Present: Adam Segel-Moss (DES),

### **1. Public Comment**

Audrey Clement provided public comment and also submitted those comments in written form which are attached at the end of these minutes. Ms. Clement’s comments were focused on the possible widening of NOVA trails and the action that is before the Board to support NOVA funding. Ms. Clement asked that the E2C2 push the Board to defer this item at a minimum, and asked that broader environmental evaluations be taken.

### **2. Amazon Follow-Up Questions and Next Steps**

The Commission discussed questions that were drafted between the October and November E2C2 meeting. These questions were drafted in response to a presentation by Amazon regarding their Met Park HQ2 development.

The Commission discussed several questions, formatting, and made amendments to the questions. The following questions were approved to send to Amazon for more detailed responses.

- *Please describe the current plan and progress toward achieving Zero Carbon certification.*
- *Is Amazon confirming that 100% of the renewable energy will be new additional solar or wind in Virginia? If not, can you provide more information on the location and forms of renewable energy under consideration?*
- *Can you refer us to Amazon’s policy regarding siting of its renewable energy projects, particularly as it relates to reduction and mitigation of the impact on other environmental resources such as forests?*
- *What steps could raise the Project’s energy performance from the currently estimated 23.5% above the ASHRAE 2010 baseline to 25% or above? For example, can the energy performance of the building be improved on the lower floors by reducing the high percentage of glass and increasing insulation? Is this under consideration?*
- *Can you confirm that all heating and cooling, for both air and water, will be electric? Can Amazon’s cafeterias be made all-electric? Can restaurant tenants be selected and incentivized to eliminate or minimize gas usage?*

- *Has the viability of battery and fuel cell-based emergency backup systems been fully explored?*
- *Providing operable windows in office buildings is unusual in this climate. Is there data from comparable buildings on the likely impact on energy performance?*
- *Can Amazon purchase renewable energy for these buildings beginning closer to the date of occupancy rather than by 2030? Is this under consideration?*
- *Will the carbon cost of building materials be offset?*
- *We appreciate the incentives Amazon will provide for commuting by mass transit. For those employees who drive to work, will there be incentives to use electric vehicles? Will the company's own local fleet be electric?*

The Commission discussed how engagement by the Commission on HQ2 has evolved and their expectation to be involved more deeply from the onset of future Amazon developments such as Penn Place.

### **3. SPRC and PFRC Engagement and Broader Strategy**

The Commission discussed Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) and the Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) engagement. The E2C2 Chair and other members have spoken with Planning Commission members which have welcomed expertise and engagement from E2C2.

Mike Mesmer has drafted a spreadsheet to help track SPRC and PFRC projects as well as Commissioner engagement on each. E2C2 discussed having, at a minimum, one commissioner attend the first initial SPRC and PFRC meeting per project. Further engagement on projects will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

### **4. W&OD Widening Discussion**

The Commission discussed an impending Board resolution in support NOVA Parks' submission to seek funding for widening of the W&OD trail for separated bike and pedestrian lanes, and for other improvements.

Bernie Berne and Audrey Clement asked the E2C2 to advise the Board to deny support or asking for a delay to evaluate the environmental impacts associated with the project. Mr. Berne, Ms. Clement, and the Commission discussed the timing of the Board resolution. They discussed that a delay in approving this resolution may come at the expense of the project completely. They also discussed that approving the resolution may result in a project that can't be stopped, even if the increased impervious paving along with tree removal in natural riparian areas are too great.

The Commission agreed to provide public comment at the upcoming Board meeting. They would like to see an environmental assessment before the project moves forward. At a minimum E2C2 would like the assessment to include a tree inventory for removal, replanting, the amount of impervious area proposed, and planned stormwater mitigation.

### **5. Biophilic Cities**

David Howell give a presentation on Biophilic Cities. The Commission discussed the possibility of Board action on a resolution to formally become a Biophilic City. E2C2 also discussed how the passing of a resolution is only the starting point. Action needs to be taken on an ongoing basis to ensure that Biophilic principles are applied to projects, budget decisions, and much more.

A motion was made and approved unanimously to join Biophilic Cities and to ask the Board to pass an associated resolution.

## **6. Old / New Business**

John Bloom provided an update from the recent Energy Committee meeting. He noted that staff gave a 101 on the AIRE program. The EC is focused on the Community Energy Plan Implementation Framework.

Timothy Effio attended the first Vision Zero stakeholder group meeting. The group is working to eliminate fatalities related to bike, cars, and pedestrians. This was the first introductory meeting and more will follow.

Claire attended the Career Center Working Group meeting. She noted that they worked on a Lego exercise to help understand and balance the issue related to the site. Claire also noted that the Neighborhood Conservation review group met. The group is in the final data gathering stages and will start the evaluation phase going forward. Recommendations to the Board will happen thereafter.

Teresa Leonardo attended the Urban Forestry Meeting. She noted discussion on the tree distribution program and how notable trees are defined.

Mike Hanna attended the Bike Committee meeting. He reported back that the County is in the final phase to complete a policy on shared mobility devices by the end of the year. This is required in order for Arlington to have control over the issue. If an ordinance isn't passed by the end of the year then Arlington will be required to follow whatever guidelines are set by Richmond.