

# Rockville Environment Commission

## Draft Minutes of Thursday, July 1, 2021

WebEx Meeting

### Meeting Attendance

Commissioner	Present	Commissioner	Present
Hande Apaydin	X	Clark Reed, Chair	X
Scott Fazekas	X	Monica Saavoss	X
Justus Getty	X	Pavitra Srinivasan	X
Susan Koester	X	Ted Stauderman	
William McClain	X		

**City Staff:** Amanda Campbell, Staff Liaison; Erica Shingara, Chief, Environmental Management Division

**Guests:** Will Ollison

**Meeting Commencement:** Chair Reed convened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. and welcomed attendees.

**Approval of Agenda and Prior Meeting Minutes:** The agenda was approved with no changes. Prior meeting minutes were approved with a change to the comprehensive master plan update noting that Ted Stauderman and Pavitra Srinivasan were empowered to draft written and verbal testimony to reflect the Environment Commission's feedback.

**Community Forum:** Will Ollison shared that he is participating in a work group that is examining the potential for geothermal on residential properties.

### **Chair Report**

Chair Reed thanked members for signing up for tabling timeslots at the Farmer's market for the Solar Co-op. There are already 181 people joining the co-op in Maryland.

Montgomery County, working with COG, anticipates launching an electric vehicle buyers cooperative purchase this fall and winter to coincide with the winter buying peak. Chair Reed asked if the city was looking into streetlight chargers. The Pepco stations being installed are all on-street, regular chargers although the city has asked Pepco about the potential for integrating chargers with streetlights.

### **Comprehensive Master Plan Comments and Climate Action Plan – July 22 Preview and Planning**

The Commission reviewed the written comments on the Comprehensive Master Plan, making a few changes to the targets and metrics description and adding a reference to the Massachusetts Climate Resilience Design Standards. With the changes, the comments were approved unanimously for submission.

The Commission discussed the cost benefit analysis results from the consultant and the draft climate action plan actions list. Members shared that an 85% participation rate for Montgomery County aggregate power purchase is a reasonable assumption. The aggregate power program would not be put in place until 2024. Staff shared the overall focus of the July 22 Draft Climate Action Plan Update and encouraged all to participate and share the event widely.

### **Rockville Environment Commission Accomplishments and Fall Format**

The Environment Commission was invited to present an annual report to the Mayor and Council this fall. November 8 or November 22 are possible dates.

The consensus was to wait and see what the public health situation is closer to September before deciding on meeting in person or online in the fall.

### **Committee Reports**

Climate Action Committee: The Climate Action Committee discussed natural gas infrastructure and electrification.

Energy Committee: The Energy Committee is working on the solar co-op outreach and planning for the electric vehicle purchasing cooperative expected to be open in 2021. The committee is working on several white papers in the coming months on net zero energy and electric leaf blowers and landscaping equipment. The committee discussed the Building Energy Performance Standards and supports it.

Watersheds: no report.

### **Staff Report**

#### **Project Updates**

- Help the city envision RedGate's future. Register and join the conversation: <https://engagerockville.com/redgate-park>
- Sustainable Maryland Re-Certification was submitted June 17, 2021
- Juneteenth clean-up was successful with a total of 27 volunteers at Lincoln Park/Mt Calvary and Welsh Park sites collecting 24 bags of trash.
- Montgomery County's final Climate Action Plan was released June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- New DMV climate partners website including Rockville: <https://climatepartners.org/>

#### **Outreach Campaigns and Events**

- Solar and EV charger Co-op Info Session July 15, 12-1pm. 2021 Co-op closes August 31.
- Draft Climate Action Plan Update Thursday, July 22, 7-8:30pm
- August 22 – tour of Clark Reed net zero home for Commission members

#### **The Mayor and Council**

- June 14: EV charger license and maintenance agreement for Pepco to install six on-street locations was authorized

### **Commissioner Corner**

Justus Getty shared his insights on increasing renewable energy production and improving outreach and education. Pepco's standard offer service is about 5.8% renewably sourced. Solar and renewable energy should be easier to set up and access. Many aspects of the current

options can be confusing, including community solar, rooftop solar, carbon offsets, and community choice aggregation. Supporting federal clean energy standards, the next version of the MD Climate Solutions Act and expanding solar in the agricultural reserve will help increase availability of renewable energy locally.

**New Business:** No new business.

**Adjourn:** Chair Reed adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.