

Rockville Environment Commission

Draft Minutes of Thursday, October 6, 2022

WebEx Meeting

7-8pm: Environment Commission joined the Climate Solutions talk on “Electrify Everything”

8-9pm Environment Commission Business meeting, below

Meeting Attendance

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

City Staff: Amanda Campbell, Staff Liaison; Erica Shingara, Chief, Environmental Management Division (EMD)

Councilmembers: Councilmember Monique Ashton

Meeting Commencement: Chair Reed convened the meeting at 8:07 p.m. and welcomed attendees.

Approval of Agenda and Prior Meeting Minutes: The agenda was approved with no changes. Prior meeting minutes for June and July were approved with no changes.

Community Forum: Sasha Mushegian introduced herself.

Chair Report

- Thank you to those who attended the Volunteer Appreciation event and thank you to all who contribute their service to the City.
- The Commission approved an additional amount of approximately \$160 for salt testing supplies for the Watershed Committee citizen science initiative.

Climate Action Plan Progress Update

- Staff presented several new Climate Action Plan webpages including What You Can Do and a progress page. Commission members discussed including a map of solar or of building benchmarking, showing progress more clearly towards greenhouse gas reduction goals, and more visual highlights.
- Staff presented a list of topics and tasks for the Commission’s work plan for Fiscal Year 2023. The list can evolve as new topics arise.
- Staff shared that the Electric Vehicle Readiness plan is honing a webpage, developing a survey and a map to post later this fall. An open house will be planning in November or December.

Committee Reports

Energy Committee: EC is discussing Climate Action Plan metrics that would reflect outcomes such as kWh saved on low-moderate income buildings or number of families helped per year. The plan to bring back some options in upcoming Commission meetings.

Climate Action Committee: CLAC is discussing other citizen science participation options such as urban heat island.

Watershed Committee: A stream clean-up event is scheduled for this weekend. The committee is interested in exploring how to include salt testing data on the City webpage.

Staff Report (Note: Climate Action Plan Action ID noted in parentheses for each project)

- The Tree Give-Away program on September 24 was highly popular and all 200 trees were distributed to 200 homes.
- The Compost Drop-Off program and the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program are planning to launch in the fall of 2022.
- The City is expecting approximately \$149,887 in a formula program, the Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grants, from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and is awaiting guidance on the timeline or requirements.
- The City is still recruiting for a Sustainability Program Manager who will focus on programs involving the City's building portfolio, fleet, infrastructure, and other assets.
- SWM grants: City awarded \$2 million in grants for stream restoration from MD DNR. The City is also working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on plan scope for the Flood Resiliency Master Plan as part of a 50 percent cost-share program (C-20, C-21, M-11, M-13).
- Rainscapes: Opened for applications on July 1 with increased funding (C-17)
- City Hall energy efficiency (M-01): The City is awaiting grant reimbursement for 2nd floor upgrades. The contractor is scheduled to conduct a lighting inventory of the Senior Center this week in preparation for next year's grant application.
- Staff continues to work with Pepco to install electric vehicle charging stations. Sites include Thomas Farm Community Center, Mattie Stepanek Park, and rights-of-way near City Hall, Fallsgrove and Twinbrook Quarter (C-11).
- Staff coordinated with the vendor serving the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) discounted radon testing program and was able to purchase 50 radon test kits for distribution to residents who wish to participate during January's radon awareness month. with distributing free radon testing kits and information on radon through community centers and events.

Future Outreach Events (C-09, C-13, C-05, C-17, C-25)

- Climate Solutions Talks: Oct. 6 (Electrification), Nov. 3 (Waste)
- Potomac Watershed Stream Clean-ups – Saturday, October 8

New Business: None.

Adjourn: Chair Reed adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.