

# Environment and Energy Conservation Commission

## Draft

Summary of December 14, 2015 Meeting  
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Azalea Conference Room

Members Present: Scott Dicke, Claire O'Dea, Mike Hanna, Christine Ng, Patrick Kenney, Gabriel Thoumi, Greg Miller, John Seymour, Irwin Kim

Members Absent: Noor Khalidi, Alex Sanders, Sarah Meservey, Kari Klaus,

Guests:

Staff Present: Adam Segel-Moss (DES)

### 1. **Public comment**

None

### 2. **Williamsburg Lighting**

The Commission discussed the status of the Williamsburg Lighting Working Group and the timing of an EA. Scot noted that the Commission has had similar experiences in other projects where timing of an EA is uncertain, but the EA and project came to a point.

EA timing really depends on there being a proposed project. APS projects have used these earlier in the project, at Commission request, while other projects use them after projects are decided (e.g. Neighborhood Conservation, Parks). With Williamsburg lighting, it is expected that the Working Group will make the large decisions. The EA notes that the 'do nothing' option should be considered and detailed. It was noted that there is a perception that the EA is just a rubber stamp on the process which doesn't result in measurably better projects. There is concern that the Williamsburg Lighting Working Group won't take into effect the possible health effects of LED lights or other associated lighting impacts.

Claire noted that there could be a first phase and second phase for an EA. The first phase could provide a summary of a possible project even if it hasn't been decided upon. She noted that the Commission is exploring this as part of a revised and updated EA process.

Mike Hanna noted that the reading the regulation is correct. Until a project is agreed upon and has some definition moving forward, then an EA would be drafted. An EA process in parallel to a working group could undermine the Working Group efforts.

Mike suggestions that the main issue for the Commission is that the lights may have negative environmental and energy impacts. Should there be no lighting on fields in the County? No, that isn't the Commissions' perspective. Mike noted that the context isn't available for this project and for lit fields in general; the context of not lighting this field as compared to what. Lights will be needed somewhere else, presumably. The helpful information would be insights on other locations that may be less residentially located.

Arlington is a small and growing sports-loving population. The limited field space is a continuing and growing issue. The use for this site is expected to be very high.

Greg asked if it would be helpful for him to feed information to John Seymour. Greg noted the draft lighting position paper that is being reviewed by the E2C2 may be helpful for the Working Group. The paper notes best practices and the most stringent lighting standards. John agreed to review and provide it to the Working Group once approved by the Commission.

Scott Dicke noted that it sounds like folks are looking for John to be an expert on EAs and direct when it should run. Folks could create an email chain with folks interested in getting an EA drafted for the possible lighting project. This would include anyone that is interested in being involved in an EA review as well as create more transparency with APS and DPR about the expectation of an EA. John agreed and will work on aggregating Work Group members and APS on one email chain that notes timing of an EA.

### **3. Bike Element – Master Transportation**

Mike noted that the Transportation Commission (TC) is working on a letter regarding a bike element. The TC is pushing to ask for additional funding to be set aside to help fund this study.

Mike used the Washington Boulevard bike path as an example where environmental impact and transit needs conflicted and would have benefited from a Plan. This would have helped the Commission and the community evaluate overall needs.

Mike offered to draft a letter and circulate it within the Commission prior to the next meeting. Mike Hanna made a motion to support the Transportation Commission support for funding for Master Transportation Plan Bike Element Study.

The motion passed and was approved unanimously.

The Commission will review and vote on the letter in January 2016.

### **4. Annual Report**

The Commission reviewed and approved the annual report.

### **5. Meeting Summary Review – Month 2015**

Approved unanimously as amended.

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

Mike Hanna noted that the Berkley project is alive and should be tracked. It has impacts that don't align with the Four Mile Run Master Plan.

Christine noted that the Pedestrian Advisory Committee is lobbying for budget funding. She noted significantly funding for planning that is needed for LEE highway, project redesigning, the Ballston Metro station for transit and other elements. Christine noted that starting next year, there will be a Four Mile Run Crescent Planning Study.

Wilson School PFRC has been delayed. The school hasn't been able to move forward at this point.

Greg Miller is continuing to draft a lighting position paper. The Commission will hear this item at the January meeting. The position paper is expected to be a living document that would help inform the Commission's position for current and future projects.