



City of Annapolis
Office of Environmental Policy
160 Duke of Gloucester Street
Annapolis, MD 21401-2517

DNEP@annapolis.gov • 410-263-7946 • Fax 410-263-9158 • TDD use MD Relay or 711 • www.annapolis.gov

Annapolis Environmental Commission
VIRTUAL MEETING
June 3, 2020

The Annapolis Environmental Commission (AEC) held its regularly scheduled meeting as a virtual meeting on June 3, 2020. **Chair** Buchheister called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

Members Present: **Chair** Buchheister, **Vice-Chair** Giblin, Stephenson, O'Leary, Bohanan

Members Absent: Turgeon, Rowel, Murphy

Staff Present: J. Guild, R. Hodo

Guest Present: Jeremy Hanson, Alderman Savidge, Barbara Beelar

II. REGULAR BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMISSION

Chair Buchheister offered a statement of solidarity with the local African Americans within the community and others across the country who are protesting against racial injustice. She pledged to make the AEC more inclusive by increasing outreach to the African American community to solicit their ideas/issues and aspirations for the environment as well as act on them. Ms. Hodo had ideas about environmental issues with under-represented neighborhoods. **Chair** Buchheister also referred to a Capital article that highlighted the work of African American man who is doing gardening with the young children in the community. She also noted that the July meeting will be on the Zoom platform so suggested that members try it before the meeting.

Chair Buchheister invited Ms. Beelar who is part of the Nitty Gritty Committee to attend the meeting to speak regarding the diesel buses. Ms. Beelar explained that while living in Tacoma Park she sat on a bus committee and after much effort was able to get the big diesel buses replaced with a smaller gas option. Alderman Savidge asked Ms. Beelar to share any information she can on the small bus concept to which she agreed.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. May 13, 2020, Meeting Minutes

Ms. Stephenson moved to approve the May 13, 2020 meeting minutes as amended. **Vice-Chair** Giblin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 5-0.

III. DEVELOPMENT

A. Kiddie Academy

Chair Buchheister drafted and distributed the Kiddie Academy letter that was shared with the AEC who approved so it was sent to Mr. Tom Smith. The next step is the project will go forward to the Planning Commission for review. Ms. Guild added that Mr. Smith will make his recommendation at that time.

B. Critical Area – Interpretation of Impervious for Lot Coverage – Board of Appeals (BOA)

Ms. Bohanan explained that the BOA heard an application where a homeowner wanted to build an addition to their waterfront home. Their argument was that their existing wooden deck should already be considered an impervious surface because there is little/no water infiltration into the soil. She referred to the State law that says wood decking is not an impervious surface but the applicants are arguing that it is an impervious surface. She wrote a letter to the BOA stating that the City should follow the Critical Area Commission (CAC) law and not allow the appeal to be approved but the application was approved. She suggested that AEC should write a letter clarifying that the City should close loopholes in critical area laws.

Ms. Bohanan moved that the AEC expresses its opposition to the BOA granting of Variance #2020-001 and will draft a letter regarding the buffer of the critical area specifically the interpretation of impervious surface does not comply with the State law interpretation of impervious surface and lot coverage. The letter will be sent to the BOA, CAC, and Planning staff. Also, Ms. Bohanan will contact the CAC regarding this issue. **Chair** Buchheister seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote 5-0.

C. Providence Point (formerly Crystal Spring) – Stormwater/National Lutheran Easement

Chair Buchheister clarified that National Lutheran wants to have the ability to expand the senior facilities after 20 years to meet a community need so only want to put part of the land into a conservation easement for that period. She reviewed the conservation easement language distributed by Mr. Giblin and also received a call from Mr. Hyatt who indicated that the applicant wants to build up and not to increase the footprint of the structure. This will be discussed at the July meeting to allow the AEC to further review the amendments and language.

D. Public Works Building – Update

Ms. Stephenson shared the plan for the Public Works Maintenance Facilities with the AEC. Ms. Guild explained that the building will be located at 39 Hudson Street and the special exception application has not yet been submitted. A virtual public meeting on this project is scheduled for June 18th at 10:00 am and Ms. Stephenson plans to attend on behalf of the AEC. The construction is planned to begin in Spring 2022 and she confirmed with Ms. Patrick that 125% of the stormwater treatment will occur on the site as required. Public Works is working out the final pricing for silver and gold LEED to determine the level of LEED certification on the building. There will be a step-pool conveyance system as part of the stormwater treatment to be coordinated with the County. Ms. Stephenson agreed to schedule a subcommittee meeting with Ms. Patrick and Ms. McKeown to further discuss this project.

IV. LEGISLATION

1. Office of Environmental Policy Reorganization – Ordinance #O-20-20

Chair Buchheister asked if the AEC still has time to comment on Ordinance #O-20-20 that proposes to establish a new Deputy City Manager of Resilience and Sustainability position in the City Manager's office. Alderman Savidge said that there is still an opportunity to comment on this new position. He noted that the position will have more authority and management capacity to interface, direct staff to make sure all City Department resiliency efforts are coordinated. The proposal is to move the Environmental Program Coordinator along with the Deputy City Manager position as well as move the Arborist position to Planning and Zoning.

Vice-Chair Giblin moved that the AEC support having the Deputy City Manager position be in charge of the Creeks Cabinet as well as be the liaison for Planning and Zoning and Department of Public Works on an ad hoc basis. Ms. Bohanan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote 5-0.

2. Stormwater Fee – Public Works/Stantec Report

Alderman Savidge noted that the City will hold its first vote on the budget on Monday, June 8, 2020. He is working on a few amendments specifically the Watershed Restoration Fund to restructure the fee. He discussed the Truxtun Heights project that does not have a storm drain system and the proposal is to use the Watershed Restoration Fund to install a storm drain system. He expressed concern that pulling \$2.5M out of this project account could prevent funding from being available for other projects so he will recommend removing this project from that Watershed Restoration Fund and use the General Fund.

Ms. Bohanan moved that the AEC write a letter requesting that the City not use Watershed Restoration Funds for the Truxtun Heights storm drain gray infrastructure; restate the AEC priorities on using the fund for green infrastructure projects; the design should maximize the use of green infrastructure to increase pollution reduction, and support the use of the fund for green infrastructure. Mr. O'Leary seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 5-0.

V. COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING – TIMING FOR AEC INPUT

Chair Buchheister sorted a few sections of the input into goals and strategies that were shared at the meeting for review. She will send an email to **Vice-Chair** Giblin, Mr. O'Leary, Ms. Stephenson to schedule a meeting to discuss.

VI. OTHER ISSUES/UPDATES

1. Composting Proposal for Old City Landfill

Ms. Guild updated that the project was included as part of the capital project for FY2021 specifically \$600,000 for planning and design. Public Works believe that the planning and site component should be approved in this budget. She noted that the City will be sending yard waste, bio-solids generated by the e, from the Annapolis Water Reclamation to this site. The City is currently paying for disposal of these wastes so could save money as well as reduce carbon footprint along with reusing this vacant lot.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, Mr. O'Leary moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 pm. Ms. Stephenson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 5-0.

The next AEC meeting is July 9, 2020, at 7:00 pm as a virtual meeting.

Tami Hook, Recorder