

Draft Agenda

Rockville Environment Commission

Thursday, April 1, 2021

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

WebEx Meeting number (access code): 132 570 0088 Meeting password: **Environment2021**

Link to Join meeting: <https://rockvillemd.webex.com/rockvillemd/j.php?MTID=m3b03f5fc95ff1fb39430dcc8cb3eea05>

Join audio through computer (link above) or by phone: **1-408-418-9388**

7:00	1. Convene, Welcome, Introductions 2. Agenda Review; Approval of prior meeting summary	<i>Chair Clark Reed</i>
7:05	3. Community Forum	<i>Guests</i>
7:10	4. Rockville 2040 Master Plan Approval Process The city's Principal Planner will discuss the process for approving the Comprehensive Plan. Commissioners consider action such as a letter of support for the plan.	<i>Clark Larson</i>
7:40	5. Mayor and Council Report	<i>Hon. Ashton</i>
7:50	6. Chair Report - Pesticide Law update - Solar Co-op outreach planning - REC Budget Allocation: Energy Summit, outreach materials or promotions	<i>Chair Reed</i>
8:10	7. Committee Reports - Watersheds Committee – April 10 Maryvale Clean-up - Energy Committee - Climate Action Committee	<i>Ted Stauderman</i> <i>Clark Reed</i> <i>Pavitra Srinivasan</i>
8:20	8. Sustainable Maryland – Equity Training Re-Cap and Application - Attendees share observations, questions, and resources from Equity Training - Members discuss drafting descriptions and narratives for the re-certification application due in June.	<i>Chair Reed,</i> <i>Pavitra</i> <i>Srinivasan,</i> <i>Amanda</i> <i>Campbell</i>
8:45	9. Staff Report Project Updates - <u>Climate Action Plan</u> – Staff will meet with the consultant and COG on the cost benefit analysis next week. Staff is working on the equity and resilience analysis. - <u>City Hall Energy Building Tune-Up</u> – The city met with the consultant and is initiating the project application process. - <u>Fleet Technical Assistance</u> – The city received the draft report and provided the consultant with feedback which they plan to incorporate in the final report. - <u>Solar and Microgrid Technical Assistance</u> – Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) sent the city an award agreement letter for technical assistance for this pilot program and it is being routed for signatures. - <u>EV charging stations</u> – The city and Pepco are analyzing additional potential charger locations including several on-street locations and may be able to bring stations for Mayor and Council approval by summer. - <u>Streetlights</u> – Staff is working on draft comments on the proposed Pepco-owned streetlight LED conversion in its Multi-Year plan.	

- Pepco Rebates – The city is applying for an energy efficient lighting rebate from Pepco to offset \$22,000 of energy efficient lighting upgrade costs at the Dogwood Park.
- Sustainable Maryland – Re-certification application is underway.
- City Hall Lighting Grant Application – City is waiting for grant awards to be announced.

Outreach Campaigns and Events

- Complete RedGate Survey: Survey direct link: <https://engagerockville.com/redgate-park> RedGate Park project page: <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/2311/RedGate-Park>
- Solar and EV charger Co-op 2021 launched today, April 1!
- Maryvale Stream Clean-up – April 10, 10am – Noon
- Many other Earth Month activities, virtual and in-person, are planned as listed in the Environment & Sustainability Newsletter and on the City Calendar.

The Mayor and Council

- 2040 Comprehensive Master Plan Virtual Public Hearing, April 12
- Pesticide Law – next steps
- Present the Environmental Excellence Awards at April 26th meeting.

8:55	10. New Business	<i>Chair Reed, All</i>
9:00	11. Next meeting date and Adjourn	<i>Chair Reed</i>

General information

The next Commission meeting will be May 3. The public is invited to attend (virtually). Link will be available on meeting agenda. For meeting materials: <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter/Environment-Commission-8>

Rockville Environment Commission

Draft Minutes of Thursday, April 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		Pavitra Srinivasan	X
Susan Koester	X	Ted Stauderman	
William McClain	X		

City Staff: Amanda Campbell, Staff Liaison; Clark Larson, Principal Planner

Guests: Jenna Lessans

Meeting Commencement: Chair Reed convened the meeting at 7:01p.m. and welcomed attendees.

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

Community Forum: Guests introduced themselves.

Rockville 2040 Master Plan Approval Process

Clark Larson stated that the Comprehensive Plan approval process includes a hearing scheduled for April 12 and a work session for the Mayor and Council with the Planning Commission on April 19. The close of comments may be as soon as April 23, but it may well be extended. The Mayor and Council have 150 days to take an action on the plan after its transmittal which was March 15. An action could be to adopt it, adopt with revisions, extend the comment period, or not adopt it, for example. The plan contains two components – the 10 citywide elements, which includes an environmental element, and the small area plans, projects, and studies. Public engagement began in 2015. The development of the plan has been an iterative process that the Environmental Commission contributed to by reviewing and commenting on the Environmental Element in detail. Some changes were incorporated, although the plan usually reduces the use of wording such as ‘shall’. The plan is overarching policy guidance that influences capital improvement plans, development review, and other departmental plans across the city.

Members discussed the Environment Commission feedback and comments on the plan which could include emphasizing microgrid development and water and electricity infrastructure resilience to help vital services remain operational especially during emergency circumstances.

Chair Report

Chair Reed thanked Will McClain and Scott Fazekas for their work in support of the Pesticide Law adoption. The panel presentation and discussion at the March 15 Mayor and Council meeting went smoothly. The city is likely to opt-in.

Chair Reed discussed outreach for the Solar Co-op and how the Environment Commissioners can all assist. The students who created the solar co-op video plan to update it for use this year. Commissioners can help spread the word. Commissioners agreed that tabling at the Farmer's Market would be beneficial and five members volunteered to do so. Following the equity discussion, below, members agreed that several of the Farmer's Market dates could be switched to community centers, neighborhood association meetings, or grocery stores to reach more diverse neighborhoods.

Chair Reed asked for input on spending the outreach budget. The Environment Commission unanimously agreed to spend \$250.00 on solar co-op outreach magnets.

Committee Reports

Climate Action Committee: CLAC discussed the Sustainable Maryland write-ups. Some committee members are also on the bicycle or pedestrian committees or members of Weed Warriors which will prove helpful. Chuck Woolery discussed his proposal of linking wildlife habitat.

Watersheds: No report.

Energy Committee: The energy committee discussed the potential for placing ground-mount solar on RedGate, potentially in areas of lower soil quality, and all energy committee members agreed. The energy committee also discussed the solar co-op.

Sustainable Maryland – Equity Training Re-Cap and Application

The Commission discussed the Sustainable Maryland re-certification process. Each section will require a shorter blurb and a longer narrative and will include several attachments such as agendas or reports. A draft should be developed before May to reach a June 30 submittal deadline. As Sustainable Maryland is updating their website, blurbs should be saved in Word and not copied into the website until after the website launches on May 1st.

Clark Reed, Pavitra Srinivasan, Chuck Woolery (on the CLAC) and Amanda Campbell attended the Sustainable Maryland Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion training on March 16. Trainers provided a very thorough overview of the history of environmental justice. Many programs are aimed at individuals and organizations that are seeking out environmental opportunities and these may fail to reach those who could benefit the most. Community engagement styles can involve anything from informing and consulting to collaborating and empowering. Empowering communities to help make decisions that affect them is an ideal to aim for even though it can be challenging. Some ideas shared included going to where people are instead of expecting that they will be able to come to your event, utilizing translators at zoom meetings, working with trusted leaders in the community, reaching children who can share opportunities with their families, and consider a community ambassador program.

Commission members discussed drafting a statement on equity and ways of engaging a broader set of Rockville residents such as by ensuring that the solar video contains diverse participants, engaging the Twinbrook weed warriors groups, or adopting an additional stream in another lower-income neighborhood. The Commission agreed to discuss the topic further at a future meeting.

Staff Report

Project Updates

- Climate Action Plan – Staff will meet with the consultant and COG on the cost benefit analysis next week. Staff is working on the equity and resilience analysis.
- City Hall Energy Building Tune-Up – The city met with the consultant and is initiating the project application process.
- Fleet Technical Assistance – The city received the draft report and provided the consultant with feedback which they plan to incorporate in the final report.
- Solar and Microgrid Technical Assistance – Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) sent the city an award agreement letter for technical assistance for this pilot program and it is being routed for signatures.
- EV charging stations – The city and Pepco are analyzing additional potential charger locations including several on-street locations and may be able to bring stations for Mayor and Council approval by summer.
- Streetlights – Staff is working on draft comments on the proposed Pepco-owned streetlight LED conversion in its Multi-Year plan.
- Pepco Rebates – The city is applying for an energy efficient lighting rebate from Pepco to offset \$22,000 of energy efficient lighting upgrade costs at the Dogwood Park.
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The Mayor and Council

- 2040 Comprehensive Master Plan Virtual Public Hearing, April 12
- Pesticide Law – next steps
- Present the Environmental Excellence Awards at April 26th meeting

New Business: No new business.

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

Draft Agenda
Rockville Environment Commission
Thursday, May 6, 2021

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

WebEx Meeting number (access code): 132 570 0088 Meeting password: **Environment2021**

Link to Join meeting: <https://rockvillemd.webex.com/rockvillemd/j.php?MTID=m3b03f5fc95ff1fb39430dcc8cb3eea05>

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	2. Agenda Review; Approval of prior meeting summary	
7:05	3. Community Forum	<i>Guests</i>
7:10	4. Mayor and Council Report	<i>Hon. Ashton</i>
7:20	5. Chair Report	<i>Chair Reed</i>
	- Environmental Awards and Pesticide Law at April 26th Mayor and Council meeting. - Solar Co-op outreach planning - Solar Co-op magnet design	
7:35	6. Committee Reports	
	- Energy Committee - Climate Action Committee - Watersheds Committee – Proposal for Citizen Science salt monitoring.	<i>Clark Reed</i> <i>Pavitra Srinivasan</i> <i>Ted Stauderman</i>
8:05	7. Rockville 2040 Master Plan	<i>All</i>
	Commissioners discuss feedback on the 2040 Master Plan.	
8:15	8. Sustainable Maryland Recertification	<i>All</i>
	- Members discuss drafting descriptions and narratives for the re-certification application due in June. - Proposed milestones: draft narratives completed by May 15; attachments uploaded by June 1; staff finalizing by June 15.	
8:45	9. Staff Report	
	Project Updates	
	- <u>Pepco Rebates</u> – The city applied for a Pepco rebate to offset \$13,240 of energy efficient lighting upgrade costs at the Dogwood Park. - <u>City Hall Lighting Grant Application</u> – The city was awarded up to \$35,000 from MEA to upgrade City Hall lighting. Staff is working on budget approval and next steps. - <u>Climate Action Plan</u> – Progress is being made on the Climate Action Plan in preparation for an August 2 briefing to the Mayor and Council. - <u>Intern</u> -- The city is in the process of reviewing applications for an intern to assist with the Climate Action Plan, Sustainable Maryland, and other projects. - <u>City Hall Energy Building Tune-Up</u> – The city met with the consultant and initiated the project application process. - <u>Fleet Technical Assistance</u> – Staff is developing a proposal for a near-term replacement plan for an initial set of a few dozen vehicles. A new city fleet manager will be hired soon. - <u>Solar and Microgrid Technical Assistance</u> – The city received Maryland Energy Administration (MEA)’s award agreement letter March 19 and it is awaiting the city manager’s signature pending internal discussions.	

- EV charging stations – The city and Pepco are analyzing additional potential charger locations including several on-street locations and may be able to bring stations for Mayor and Council approval by summer.
- Streetlights – The city is planning to submit comments on the proposed Pepco-owned streetlight LED conversion plan contingent upon Mayor and Council approval May 3.
- Metro Station Study – WMATA is conducting a study of the Rockville metro stations and is seeking input. Next visioning meeting is May 13, 6-7pm on zoom.

Outreach Campaigns and Events

- Solar and EV charger Co-op 2021 launched April 1. Eight Rockville sign-ups so far!
- Rockville Solar Co-op Info Session May 13, 6:30-8pm.
- [Saving Nature Now](#) children’s activity booklets available through Croydon Creek Nature Center.

The Mayor and Council

- Additional 2040 Comprehensive Master Plan hearing scheduled for June 14.
- August 2: Montgomery County’s proposed Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) and Rockville Climate Action Plan briefings.
- The Environment Commission will hear a presentation on the BEPS at June meeting.

8:55 10. New Business

Chair Reed, All

9:00 11. Next meeting date and Adjourn

Chair Reed

General information

The next Commission meeting will be June 1. The public is invited to attend (virtually). Link will be available on meeting agenda. For meeting materials: <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter/Environment-Commission-8>

Rockville Environment Commission

Draft Minutes of Thursday, May 6, 2021

Needs Review

WebEx Meeting

Meeting Attendance

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

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

Councilmembers: Monique Ashton

Guests: Will Ollison

Meeting Commencement: Chair Reed convened the meeting at 7:01p.m. and welcomed attendees.

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

Community Forum: Guests introduced themselves.

Chair Report

Chair Reed thanked everyone for their work on the Environmental Awards.

The next steps on the Pesticide Law is to work with the county on education and outreach, including information sessions, and outreach to homeowners' associations. The Commission can assist with sharing information.

The city is offering a city academy training May 18 to 27th.

Chair Reed asked members to sign up for timeslots to the Farmer's market as part of Solar Co-op outreach. The Commission will transport materials, but the city will provide a table and a tent. Chair Reed offered to bring solar panels to exhibit. The Commission discussed ways to reach out to low and moderate income communities at community centers or swimming pools.

Mayor and Council Report

Councilmember Ashton suggested reaching out to the Rockville Housing Enterprises and the Housing and Community Development staff to discuss outreach on solar for low and moderate income residents.

Councilmember Ashton thanked the group for their work to support the adoption of the Pesticide Law. She is following the city's progress on renewable energy development, fleet electrification, and energy audits, and mentioned the environmental element in the 2040 Master Plan. She suggested that the salt testing program could involve student education.

Committee Reports

Climate Action Committee: The Climate Action Committee discussed the 2040 Master Plan, developing Sustainable Maryland narratives, and the wildlife corridor project.

Energy Committee: The energy committee discussed the 2040 Master Plan and recent energy-related Maryland legislation.

Watersheds: The Watersheds Committee proposed that the Commission fund a citizen science program to test three Rockville streams for salt. The testing equipment would cost \$633. The monthly testing would help provide a baseline and would hopefully show progress over time. Testing could be potentially coordinated with the state. Several volunteers on the committee and in local watershed groups are interested in conducting the testing. Results would be compiled in an annual report. Private property owners are the main target of salt education and outreach and the information on water quality could be used in communications. The kits would test pH, turbidity, and chlorides. The proposal and budget request passed unanimously.

Rockville 2040 Master Plan

The Environment Commission discussed potential comments on the 2040 Master Plan. As the Commission and environmental staff provided extensive content and comments on the 2040 Master Plan drafts, most of the group's priorities – climate change, resiliency, green space protection, watersheds -- are already included in the plan albeit in more general language. The Climate Action Committee will share their comments. The Commission can consider submitting individual comments or a joint letter of support, if needed, at the June meeting.

Sustainable Maryland Recertification

The Commission discussed the Sustainable Maryland re-certification process. New actions on public art, historic preservation, and a few others will be added to the online platform. Actions will be labeled "Planned" while the documentation is finalized, and "completed" when the write-up and documentation is completed. Draft narratives would be appreciated by mid-May for staff to review.

Staff Report

Climate Action Plan – Progress is being made on the Climate Action Plan in preparation for an August 2 briefing to the Mayor and Council. Staff shared the initial greenhouse gas emissions projection tool developed by the contractor. The group discussed the following:

- finding creative ways to incentivize renewable energy and energy efficiency in commercial buildings
- expanding the number of green roofs in the city
- the effect of the community aggregate energy pilot in the county

- following the COVID relief funding for local governments and potential infrastructure bill funding for energy initiatives such as electric vehicles and chargers.
- opportunities and challenges for installing Pepco chargers and converting the city fleet.

Project Updates

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- Intern -- The city is in the process of reviewing applications for an intern to assist with the Climate Action Plan, Sustainable Maryland, and other projects.
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- Fleet Technical Assistance – Following receipt of the technical report, staff is developing a proposal for a near-term replacement plan for an initial set of a few dozen vehicles, including examining placement of chargers, training, and other challenges. A new city fleet manager will be hired soon.
- Solar and Microgrid Technical Assistance – The city received Maryland Energy Administration (MEA)'s award agreement letter March 19 and it is awaiting the city manager's signature pending internal discussions.
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- [Saving Nature Now](#) children's activity booklets available through Croydon Creek Nature Center.

The Mayor and Council

- Budget Hearing on May 10
- Additional 2040 Comprehensive Master Plan hearing scheduled for June 14.
- August 2: Rockville Climate Action Plan briefing. Montgomery County's proposed Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) will likely be shared with the Mayor and Council in memo form.
- June Environment Commission meeting: presentation on the BEPS and the Tree Conservation Ordinance.

New Business: No new business.

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