

Rockville Environment Commission
Draft Minutes of Thursday, December 4, 2025
Virtual, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Meeting Attendance

Commissioner	Present	Commissioner	Present
Jen Hawse	X	Pavitra Srinivasan	
Deborah Landau	X	Summer White	X
Cindy McCabe		Vacancy	
William McClain, Chair	X	Vacancy	
Clark Reed	X		

City Staff: Amanda Campbell, Staff Liaison

Guests: Max Sanborn

Meeting Commencement, Welcome Attendees: Chair McClain convened the meeting at 7:03 pm and welcomed attendees.

Approval of Agenda and Prior Meeting Minutes: The agenda was approved with the change of postponing the Green Bank agenda item to a future meeting. October meeting minutes were approved with one minor change and November meeting minutes was approved with no changes.

Community Forum – Max Sanborn introduced himself.

Chair Report

- Plastic Bag Ban adopted
- 2026 Maryland General Assembly legislative priorities – members mentioned a potential veto override of the ReNew Act which would study the costs of climate change in Maryland. Members also discussed a potential bill to facilitate solar access for residents of multi-family buildings.
- Staff reminded members of the legislative process. The Environment Commission is advised to choose a few priority bills to recommend support to the Mayor and Council for maximum impact. Many hundreds of bills may be introduced in a flurry and then are funneled down, revised and sometimes combined. The Commission, staff, and City advisors track the level of support of key Rockville-relevant proposals and whether bills are expected to pass or if they could benefit from additional support. Commission members are welcome to provide comments on any bills as individuals. The Commission needs a vote to recommend that the Mayor and Council provide testimony to support, to oppose, or for example, to support with amendments. The Commission may provide an email or a few bullet points to describe the bills environmental benefits to Rockville. Sometimes timelines are compressed given the need for Mayor and Council to meet and approve of testimony. All involved do our best to stay on top of the hearing schedule as bills evolve to support priority bills.
- Chair McClain reminded members to provide feedback on the new city website

Mayor and Council Report

As Councilmember Van Grack could not attend, he shared via email that the Discussion and Possible Adoption of Proposed Amendments to Green Building Regulations is scheduled for the Mayor & Council Meeting on December 15th.

Environmental Excellence Awards

The Commission considered the current awards categories or criteria and decided as a group that the awards were acceptable and effective in their current form. Members discussed outreach to schools, the Chamber of Commerce, green building owners, and businesses to solicit nominations. Mr. Reed shared the EPA Energy Star database as one potential starting point.

Committee Reports

- **Energy Committee:** The Energy Committee discussed scoping out neighborhoods with gas caps to test in sidewalks and those without. The spreadsheet indicates some of the intersections that have been scoped out.
- **Watersheds Committee:** The Watershed Committee discussed the salt data collection and what the data shows, whether it may indicate better salt application approaches over time, and how it could be used or displayed. Staff shared that the City is installing new telematics that can track salt application from City trucks over time, that staff participated in additional training and that the City is using brine more frequently to minimize the amount of salt needed for safety and clearing transportation routes.
- **Climate Action Committee:** CLAC reviewed the Bird City certification requirements and recommended City participation, which will be introduced under New Business. The group held a social meetup in Town Center. The next meeting is December 9.

Staff Updates

- Reviewed 2026 Commission and Committee Schedule
- Results Rockville has expanded dashboards to track progress with Mayor and Council initiatives and plans: <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/services/results-rockville/>
- The last two City buildings to undergo LED lighting upgrades are planned to be implemented in the first or second quarter of 2026.
- EV chargers at the Recreation Services building and 6 Taft Court are still awaiting approval by procurement.
- The Solar RFP for Lincoln Park Community Center closes soon.
- EMD saved the City over \$300,000 from overbilling that was refunded by Pepco.
- Electrify DMV received a grant to help with education and outreach to residents to electrify and improve energy efficiency in their homes. They have resources on their webpage including a vetted home contractor list: <https://electrifydc.org/>. Another Healthy Homes Fair is planned in March, 2026.
- Mayor and Council accepted a grant for RedGate park that requires that the park remain parkland.

Events

- December 15: Mayor & Council - Green Building Codes

New Business: Summer White raised the topic of Bird City certification. The Climate Action Committee considered the program and recommended that the Commission support City participation and allocate the \$200 application fee from its budget. The benefits of the program include educational materials, more attention to bird habitat, and providing a way to show the City's commitment to environmental

education and engage the public in positive and constructive environmental activities especially given broader threats to environmental protection.

Deborah Landau inquired about the City's approach to reducing salt on roads, and how to handle cases in which a private property contractor overuses salt, such as near NIH where a thick coating covers sidewalks. Staff responded that for salt piles in City streets, residents should report it to the City and larger piles can be cleaned up. Private property is trickier. Some residents have had success reaching out to the property manager or providing salt application recommendation materials.

Members discussed a volunteer's suggestion of environmental outreach events related to the 250th anniversary of the United States of America in the theme of a declaration of independence from pollution or something similar. The City plans to integrate environmental outreach in many of its public events throughout the year.

Adjourn: Chair McClain adjourned the meeting at 8:57pm.