

# Rockville Environment Commission

## Draft Minutes of Thursday, July 9, 2026

Virtual 7:00pm – 9:00pm

### Meeting Attendance

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

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

**Guests:** Pia Iolster, Bethesda Green; Marla Yonamine; Spencer White, Sam Krakower, Christy Jin, Max Sanborn

**Meeting Commencement, Welcome Attendees:** Chair McClain convened the meeting at 7:10 pm and welcomed attendees.

**Approval of Agenda and Prior Meeting Minutes:** The agenda was approved with no changes. Prior meeting minutes were approved with a change to attendance.

**Community Forum:** Guests introduced themselves.

- Ms. Yonamine inquired about whether the beaver deciever was working and asked about rabies vaccines or medication for wildlife such as foxes. Staff responded that while there isn't such a program available currently, City Police have an animal control division that should be contacted for problems with wildlife.
- Ms. Jin shared that she's interested in environmental service to the City and applied to the Commission, having previously worked on energy issues in California and sustainability.
- Mr. Sanborn shared that he'd had an interview for the Commission with the Mayor.
- Mr. White shared that he studied Environmental Law and Policy and wildlife biology. He's interested in using his problem solving skills to help Rockville's environment.

### **Chair Report**

- Chair McClain and the Commission members thanked Ms. White for her service and wished her well as she's resigning later in the summer.
- Members checked in on the progress of the Farmer's Market and checked signups for the Farmer's Market to ensure coverage.

### **Green Business Certification**

Pia Iolster described the Montgomery County Green Business Certification and recognition program, which is sponsored by Montgomery County's and operated by Bethesda Green. The program is designed to support businesses and organizations that are just starting out and recognize others that have made progress. A wide variety of organizations can apply – offices, remote, landscaping, small business, etc. but must have a physical address in Montgomery County. To become certified, organizations complete

an application, pay a fee, and meet verification requirements. Once an initial assessment is completed, organizations already receive a bronze certification level. This helps organizations new to sustainability work get started. Once certified, organizations receive access to the Green Business certification logo, social media videos, are included in the Green Business Directory, and receive Ride-On Bus ads. Thus far in Rockville, Mas Panadas, the Montgomery County Green Bank, Extend Yoga, Nazareth Bonefacino, and AiR are certified. Fitzgerald car dealership and Zip Auto-Glass are getting started on their certifications.

The group discussed ways to promote the program, such as through the Commercial environmental newsletter.

### **Curbside Charging Standards and Guidance**

Staff is nearly ready to publish the Residential EV Curbside Right of Way Standards and Procedures. The 8-page document contains the specific requirements for placement and installation and a list of the steps and paperwork needed to obtain a permit. The guidance applies to pedestal chargers and sidewalk channel cord protector equipment. The City is beginning discussions on creating a separate permitting pathway for all types of EV charging to simplify the experience for applicants. This work is part of implementing the Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan. Staff asked for any additional questions or feedback.

Attendees asked about how long each step may take and what happens if a charger is no longer used or falls into disrepair. The process likely takes several weeks depending on how quickly the application requirements are completed and the complexity of the project. As the permit is recorded in the land records, the new owner will have access to the agreement so that the seller isn't required to remove the equipment before selling. The permit does not allow the property owner to reserve the space in front of their home. Applicants are advised to discuss the project with neighbors.

Members thanked staff for their work. After any changes, staff will post and share the final version.

### **REC Annual Report Preview and Priorities Discussion**

REC members discussed and revised the draft work plan document, attached below, with revisions incorporated.

### **Mayor and Council Report – none**

### **Committee Reports**

- **Energy Committee:** The Energy Committee did not meet.
- **Climate Action Committee:** Ms. White shared that Ms. Srinivasan agreed to be the liaison for CLAC after Ms. White departs. The following are ideas from CLAC's recent meetings:
  - o Converting lawns to gardens (Chuck Woollery can help), Wildlife corridors
  - o Firework safety concerns and air quality concerns: DC had code purple air quality, Someone set a field on fire in DC; A father died in house fire caused by discarded fireworks; Not Rockville, but we don't want this happening in Rockville
  - o Outreach: Post committee information in public spaces - Starbucks, library, grocery stores, Connect with Community Green Teams, Recruit from other related groups (bikes, weed warriors), Farmers market materials/tabling at other community events, Advertise at Thursday Salsa dancing in town square
  - o Ways to add expertise and diversity so this body reflects the diversity of Rockville, such as by reaching out to the Lincoln Park Civic Association, African American Health Program, and the Asian American Health Initiative to put this opportunity on their radar, as well as the contact for the Montgomery College Rockville Campus Environmental

Science and Policy program. Option to ask for suggestions from the Asian Pacific American Task Force and other related groups, Montgomery County Progressive Asian American Network, and the Latino Health Initiative.

- **Watersheds Committee:** No report.

### **Staff Updates**

#### **Program Updates**

- EV charging: 6 Taft Court chargers are in the permit process. Pepco replaced the City Hall chargers and both are now fully functional through the SWTCH app.
- Mayor and Council awarded the electric Senior Center Shuttle contract. Staff is coordinating procurement. The buses and fast chargers are anticipated to be delivered early 2027.
- Maryland public EV charger registration requirements went into effect July 1. Public level 2 and fast chargers will be charged \$75 annually and required to pass testing standards.
- The Pepco interconnection agreement and CPDS permit applications were approved for the LPCC Lincoln Park Rooftop Solar project. Staff is coordinating shipment and delivery of materials in July.
- The Chesapeake Bay Trust opened the FY27 Stormwater Outreach and Restoration Grant Program, with the City continuing as a funding partner. Staff supported the program launch by promoting the funding opportunity and an informational webinar on July 13.
- The Zoning Ordinance Re-Write was adopted at Mayor and Council meeting June 29.
- The Green Space Management Plan will hold a kick-off meeting in July to begin the plan development process.

#### **Dates**

- August: No Environment Commission or Mayor and Council meetings
- August 4: EMD outreach at National Night Out
- August 19: Switch Together registration closes
- September 27: Green Home Tour
- September 28: REC Annual Report slides due

**New Business:** No new business.

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

| Scheduled and ongoing projects           | Level of Effort | 1st Qtr.<br>July-Sept | 2nd Qtr.<br>Oct-Dec. | 3rd Qtr.<br>Jan-Mar | 4th Qtr.<br>Apr - June | Agenda Item  | Meeting month (if known) | Lead/Support                |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Policy Items                             |                 |                       |                      |                     |                        |              |                          |                             |
| REC priorities discussion/Annual Report* | Medium          |                       |                      |                     |                        | Discuss      | July, Sept               | All                         |
| Green Space Management Plan              | Medium          |                       |                      |                     |                        | Input        |                          | EMD                         |
| Flood Mitigation Plan                    | Low             |                       |                      |                     |                        | Input        | Oct                      | EMD                         |
| Maryland legislation                     | High            |                       |                      |                     |                        | Action       | Jan, Feb, Mar            | REC                         |
| Environmental Excellence Awards*         | High            |                       |                      |                     |                        | Action       | Feb, Mar                 | REC                         |
| CAP, EV Plan Annual Report Preview       | Low             |                       |                      |                     |                        | Input        | Feb                      | EMD                         |
| City Budget review and possible comment  | Medium          |                       |                      |                     |                        | TBD          | Mar/April                | REC/Committees              |
| Building Codes - 2024                    | Medium          |                       |                      |                     |                        | Input        |                          | EMD                         |
| Earth day declaration*                   | High            |                       |                      |                     |                        | M&C          | Mar                      | All                         |
| JEDI Strategy Plan                       |                 | TBD                   |                      |                     |                        | Input        |                          | City                        |
| East Rockville and 355 Small Area Plans  | Low             |                       |                      |                     |                        | Input        |                          | City                        |
| Outreach Projects                        |                 |                       |                      |                     |                        |              | Event Month(s)           |                             |
| Solar Co-op Campaign/Farmer's Market     | High            |                       |                      |                     |                        | Update       | Spring - fall            | REC/EMD                     |
| Lincoln Park Ribbon Cutting?             |                 |                       |                      |                     |                        |              | Sept                     | City/Energy                 |
| Bird City*                               | TBD             |                       |                      |                     |                        |              | Sept                     | Shannon/REC + Croydon Creek |
| Green Home Tour (EMD)                    |                 |                       |                      |                     |                        |              | Sept 27                  | EMD+Clark                   |
| Stream Clean-ups for Maryvale            | Medium          |                       |                      |                     |                        | Update       | Oct 3, 10                | All+Watersheds              |
| Salt testing                             | Medium          |                       |                      |                     |                        |              |                          | Watersheds                  |
| Methane Testing                          | Medium          |                       |                      |                     |                        |              |                          | Energy                      |
| Community Solar                          | TBD             |                       |                      |                     |                        |              |                          | All + Energy                |
| REC Budget for Outreach                  | Medium          |                       |                      |                     |                        | Action       | Spring                   | REC                         |
| Sustainable Maryland Re-certification    | High            |                       |                      |                     |                        | Input+Action |                          | EMD/REC                     |