

Rockville Environment Commission

Draft Minutes of Wednesday, November 5, 2025

Part 1: Flood Resiliency Open House, Virtual, 6:30pm-7:30pm

Several members of the Environment Commission participated in the Flood Resiliency Open House and provided guidance for the flooding studies and the Flood Resiliency Plan while it is under development.

Part 2: Rockville Environment Commission Meeting, Virtual, 7:30pm – 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	X		

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

Elected Officials: Councilmember Van Grack

Meeting Commencement, Welcome Attendees: Chair McClain convened the meeting at 7:01 pm and welcomed attendees.

Approval of Agenda and Prior Meeting Minutes: The agenda was approved. Prior meeting minutes were not yet available.

Community Forum – none.

Chair Report

- Membership – remember to share with neighbors and any interested residents that there are two vacancies on the Commission and encourage those with interest and motivation to help work on a team and improve the environment to apply.
- Everyone should complete the City [Budget Priorities Survey](#) including other committee volunteers asap to weigh in on this year's budget.
- Thank you to all who attended the stream clean-ups and farmer's market outreach events.
- Staff shared that Recreation and Parks staff request that dates for the stream clean-ups for the year be provided in March to reserve the pavilion at Maryvale. The pavilion has become more popular and more groups are reserving it so the dates are needed to block it off in advance. No rental payment is needed (unless bathrooms need to be opened).
- The group agreed to consider some basic updates to the Environmental Excellence Awards at the December meeting.

Mayor and Council Report

Councilmember Van Grack shared that the Mayor and Council were considering the Plastic Bag legislation on November 10, 2025 and the green building codes December 15, 2025 and invited everyone to share their thoughts on these initiatives with Mayor and Council.

Committee Reports

- **Energy Committee:** The Energy Committee discussed the methane detection program and discussed the curbside charging policy progress. Clark Reed reviewed the draft curbside charging agreement and shared suggested changes with staff for simplification.
- **Watersheds Committee:** The Watershed Committee asked if the Environment Commission could fund a \$15 temperature probe. The Commission unanimously agreed.
- **Climate Action Committee:** CLAC reviewed the Bird City certification requirements and found the following:
 - o The City already does most of the requirements.
 - o One question was whether the City has an outdoor cat program (spay/neuter and release), since applicants with outdoor cat programs are not eligible for the highest tier of certification.
 - o The \$200 application fee supports the program
 - o 13 jurisdictions in Maryland are certified
 - o Some volunteers were interested in the program
 - o The City would need to adopt a resolution and incorporate migratory bird day in education and outreach

CLAC also asked about setting up compost drop-off at the Farmer's Market while it is open. Staff replied that a new separate contract would need to be developed since it's on County property and it's a temporary location.

Methane Detection Data and Program Next Steps

The group reviewed methane detection data and locations collected thus far -- and the next steps in detecting methane leaks from natural gas infrastructure caps in sidewalks in the City. A total of 174 testing sites have been completed. So far only one Grade 1 has been found and a handful of grade 2 detections. Most readings are Grade 3 or no leak. Mr. Reed suggested that members drive through different neighborhoods to identify whether caps are located in sidewalks or in the street, since the ones in the street are not accessible and not safe to test. Then if everyone can borrow the detector to measure methane with friends and neighbors in the locations with gas caps in sidewalks, that will help expand the program's reach. Then the Commission can begin outreach to HOAs and neighborhood associations to seek more volunteers in those areas.

- Requested changes to App: 1) Flip Grade 3 and 1 for methane levels to match technical guidance. 2) Include an option to enter a record for "no gas caps/nothing to test" to identify neighborhood areas that do not have any gas caps to test in the sidewalks.

Staff Updates

- The City launched a new, updated, re-organized webpage. Members and Committees are invited to review it and provide feedback especially on the Environment Commission page and any of the climate, environmental programs, and sustainability pages. The group requested buttons with links to join the Committees.
- The draft Curbside Right of Way Charging License and Maintenance Agreement is under review.

- Construction on four EV chargers at Recreation Services Building and five chargers at 6 Taft Court is waiting on Mayor and Council approval of a new contract with the City's electrical contractor.
- The City was awarded up to \$787,807 in value to install four DC fast charging stations at the Swim and Fitness Center through the Maryland Department of Transportation's National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program.
- LED lighting upgrades are nearly completed at Rothgeb Maintenance Facility and Croydon Creek Nature Center and upgrades are scheduled for Thomas Farm Community Center to occur in November.
- The City released the RFP for rooftop solar on Lincoln Park Community Center. Proposals are due January 7.
- The fourth compost drop-off station at Potomac Woods Park was launched November 1.
- Montgomery County's Community Choice Energy Program was advanced another step on October 21 when the County approved Bill 27-25 to develop details of the program. The proposed program will need to be approved by the Maryland Public Service Commission.
- Federal tax credits status

Expiring

- Consumer electric vehicle tax credits expired Sept. 30, 2025.
- Residential purchased solar tax credits must be in operation by Dec. 31, 2025.

Still Available

- Solar lease and commercial tax credits - in construction by June 30, 2026.
- Residential energy efficiency and electrification federal tax credits available for projects completed by Dec. 31, 2025.
- There are many sources of [City support](#) and [County and state support](#) for federal workers, contractors, and others in need.

New Business: No new business.

Adjourn: Chair McClain adjourned the meeting at 9:01pm.