

City of Alexandria, Virginia

20
4-13-04

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 7, 2004

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER *PS*

SUBJECT: ORDINANCE TO REVISE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ALEXANDRIA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY COMMISSION

ISSUE: Ordinance to revise the membership of the Environmental Policy Commission (EPC).

RECOMMENDATION: That Council pass the ordinance on first reading and schedule it for public hearing, second reading, and final passage on April 17 (Attachment 1).

DISCUSSION: Kenyon Larsen, Chair of the Environmental Policy Commission, has requested that the membership of the EPC be reduced from 15 to 13 and that the membership categories be broadened to ensure that all of the positions are filled in a timely manner (Attachment 2). The reconfigured 13 member EPC will have five members from the fields of environmental sciences (as opposed to six designated positions for various disciplines in the environmental sciences and field of engineering), five citizen members (no change in this category), one member from the field of urban planning (no change), a student member (no change), and one member with experience in federal or state environmental statues, regulations and procedures (previously required a lawyer with this experience). Designated positions for a member from the field of intergovernmental relations and the Chamber of Commerce are deleted.

It is the EPC's desire that all of the current members on the Commission, which number 13 (there are two vacancies), remain in the EPC membership under this new configuration until their current terms expire, and then be eligible for reappointment even though they may not meet the eligibility requirements for any of the then vacant positions. To meet this desire, the City Attorney has added a provision to the ordinance which allows incumbents to remain on the EPC and to be reappointed to the Commission in lieu of filling one of the designated positions. Council may wish to consider adding an additional position to address this potential problem.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Ordinance
2. March 24, 2004 letter to Phil Sunderland from Kenyon Larsen

STAFF: Rose Williams Boyd, Executive Secretary for Boards and Commission



City of Alexandria, Virginia

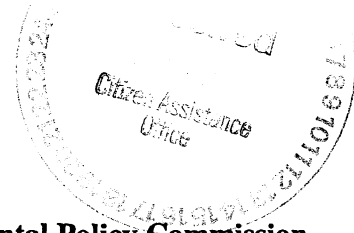
Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission



March 24, 2004

*P. O. Box 178
Alexandria, Virginia 22313*

Phil Sunderland
City Manager
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314



Subject: Changing Member Composition of the Environmental Policy Commission

Dear Mr. Sunderland:

As you are aware, Alexandria's Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) is having difficulty filling some of its very narrowly defined positions. In addition, our ability to make decisions is sometimes hindered by our size (15 members). In an effort to find ways to improve our efficiency, we recommend that the EPC Charter be changed to modify existing position roles and to reduce the number of members from 15 to 13.

EPC members and T&ES staff support this change and agree that this will make the EPC more effective. I have also discussed this with Rob Krupicka and he supports the reduction in membership. We currently have two vacancies (one Engineer member and one member designated by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce). We suggest that these positions not be filled and that the existing member's roles be revised to fit this new structure. Here is our recommendation on the composition of a 13-member EPC:

- 5 Members from the field of environmental sciences (e.g., environmental/sanitary engineering, ecology, geology, botany, hydrology, chemistry)
- 5 Citizen-at-large members
- 1 Member from the field of urban planning
- 1 Student attending high school in the City of Alexandria
- 1 Member with experience in federal or state environmental statutes, regulations and procedures (preferably an attorney)

Please feel free to contact me at (703) 284-9469 or kenyon_larsen@sra.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kenyon A. Larsen
Chair, Environmental Policy Commission

cc: City Council Members
Rose Boyd, Office of Citizen Assistance
Rich Baier, Director, T&ES
Environmental Policy Commission Members

Introduction and first reading:	4/13/2004
Public hearing:	4/17/2004
Second reading and enactment:	4/17/2004

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE

Title

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 2-4-110 (CREATION, COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION) of Article M (ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY COMMISSION) of Chapter 4 (COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS), Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT), of The Code of the City of Alexandria, 1981, as amended..

Summary

The proposed ordinance reduces the number of members on the Environmental Policy Commission from 15 to 13, and restructures the categories of member qualifications for the Commission. The appointments and terms of existing members are not affected by these changes, and existing members remain eligible for reappointment.

Sponsor

Environmental Policy Commission

Staff

Richard J. Baier, Director, Transportation and Environmental Services
Rose Boyd, Executive Secretary, Boards and Commissions
Ignacio B. Pessoa, City Attorney

Authority

§ 3.04(g), Alexandria City Charter

Estimated Costs of Implementation

None

Attachments in Addition to Proposed Ordinance and its Attachments (if any)

None

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 2-4-110 (CREATION, COMPOSITION AND ORGANIZATION) of Article M (ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY COMMISSION) of Chapter 4 (COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS), Title 2 (GENERAL GOVERNMENT), of The Code of the City of Alexandria, 1981, as amended.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Section 2-4-110 of The Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2-4-110 Creation, composition and organization.

- (a) There is hereby established a standing commission known as the Environmental Policy Commission.
- (b) The commission shall consist of ~~15~~ 13 members to be appointed by the city council. The composition of the commission shall be as follows:
 - (1) one ~~lawyer~~ member with experience in federal or state environmental statutes, regulations and procedures (preferably an attorney);
 - (2) ~~one member from the field of sanitary engineering;~~
 - (3) ~~one member from the field of engineering;~~
 - (4) ~~one member from the field of intergovernmental relations;~~
 - (5)(2) one member from the field of urban planning;
 - (6) ~~one member from the field of ecology;~~
 - (7)(3) ~~two~~ five members from the field of environmental sciences (e.g., environmental/sanitary engineering, ecology, geology, botany, hydrology, chemistry);
 - (8) ~~one member designated by the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce;~~
 - (9)(4) one student attending high school in the City of Alexandria; and
 - (10)(5) five citizens-at-large members.

- (c) Members of the commission shall be appointed in the manner prescribed in title 2, chapter 4, article A of this code; ~~provided, that a member who is the representative of an organization shall be nominated by the organization and confirmed by city council.~~ The members shall serve for a term of two years; provided, (1) ~~that a member who is the representative of an organization shall cease to be a member at such time as such member shall cease to be a member in good standing of the organization for which such member serves as representative;~~ and (2) that the high school student member shall cease to be a member upon graduation.

Section 2. That this ordinance shall become effective upon the date and at the time of its final passage; provided, however, that this ordinance shall not affect the current appointment or current term of any member serving on the Environmental Policy Commission on the effective date hereof, and, provided further, that any member serving on the Environmental Policy Commission on the effective date hereof shall, upon the expiration of his or her term, be eligible for reappointment to one or more additional terms on the Commission, notwithstanding any other requirement of this ordinance.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE
Mayor

Introduction: 4/13/2004
First Reading: 4/13/2004
Publication:
Public Hearing:
Second Reading:
Final Passage: