Baltimore Commission on Sustainability

March 2017 Meeting Report

**Date:** Tuesday, March 21, 2017 from 4-6 pm

**Location**: Openworks, 1400 Greenmount Avenue

**Subject:** Commission on Sustainability General Meeting

**In Attendance:** (*Commissioners*) – Cheryl Casciani, Peter Doo, Michael Furbish, John Ciekot, Tom Stosur, Councilman Ryan Dorsey , Miriam Avins, Inez Robb, Earl Johnson, Lynn Heller, John Quinn, Gerri Owaska (*Staff*) – Anne Draddy

**Welcome:** Will Holman, Manager of Openworks– Introduction to space

**Opening Remarks:**

* Minutes from February were approved without amendment.
* Town Hall meeting, April 18th Humanim. 1701 Gay Street, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
* Financial Disclosure forms due from Commissioners
* New Mayor appoints all members of the Commission. Please email Anne, whether you wish to stay or not.
* Claire Wayner –Student Intern and leader of student advocacy ban. Team created a brand and a website: Baltimore Beyond Plastic. Organized students to attend rally in Annapolis and organized a rally in front of City Hall; Worked with City Council to pass referendum to support the state’s ban. Styrofoam puppet to people’s Climate March Saturday April 29th <https://peoplesclimate.org/>

**Staff Updates:**

* Sustainability Plan Update – Writing of the update is process. If you would like to review, please let Anne know.
* Planning Department is hosting mandatory Equity Training

**Chair Introduced Meeting**:

* Waste to Wealth: the groundwork has been laid over the last 7 years. We have done much and we have more work to do. We have more people to reach but we have a basis to build upon. We will be creating big audacious vision goals in the new plan.

**Presentations:**

**Andy Cook, Economic Sustainability Coordinator, Baltimore Office of Sustainability**

**DRAFT Baltimore Food Waste Strategy**

Goal: Create economic opportunity from the waste stream diversion.

Office of Sustainability, Waste to Wealth Report includes wood waste, deconstruction (neighborhood growth center – retail and educational outlet for greening and reuse – adopted by DPW who will create a business strategy) and food waste.

It is estimated that 130,000 tons year of food is wasted annually in Baltimore.

* September 2017 Office of Sustainability hosted A Food Waste Summit in partnership with the Institute for Local Self Reliance
  + 74 stakeholders
* Food Waste Hierarchy
* 4 working groups
  + Reduction and Recovery
  + Composting at Home and in the Community
  + School Food Waste K-12
  + Scalable Composting Infrastructure
* The Plan is in draft form and currently being written

**Shaun Preston, Manager, Camp Small, Department of Recreation and Parks, Forestry Division:**

**Camp Small**

* Collects 15,000 tons of wood waste annually through downed street and park trees, pruned trees
* Stores 3-6,000 tons of woodchips plus logs and brush.

**Camp Small Zero Waste Initiative**

* Innovation Loan from the City Budget Office used to hire manager and clean out the old wood and mulch. Loan repayment is from sales, savings and in-kind.
  + 6-7,000 cubic yards of compost
    - 2,000 yards sold
    - 700 yards distributed to city agencies
    - 2,000 allotted for tree plantings.
  + Sold 9,000 board feet of logs and there are interested buyers especially as they are sorted better and more space becomes available.
  + Large legacy piles of dirt
    - A company removed at no cost (instead of paying as they had done previously)
* Using wood from BGE clearing at Camp Small to build Cahill Recreation Center. Walnut, (7,000 board feet) ash and more

**Neil Seldman, Institute for Local Self Reliance**

**Why Should Baltimore Recycle More?**

Key recommendations on how the city can increase their recycling rate.

The unit pricing of trash should be like water and electricity. It would require an enterprise fund. City’s that implement these double their recycling rate in 12-18 months. 7,000 cities and towns use pay as you throw system or smart systems. For $20K the city could evaluate and gain technical assistant for the program.

There are dramatic changes in the cost of recycling. The value of metal has risen. Every thing the city recycles is avoided costs. Avoided costs are worth more than the materials on the market. The City takes ash from BRESCO that is a majority of the waste in the landfill, taking up a lot of space. The cost of keeping up the BRESCO plant is high and likely to become more expensive. Costs will be passed down.

C&D – recommend an ordinance – when you take down a building, you must put down a bond, when you show the city that 50% of your materials have been recycled, you get your money back. C&D is easier to recycle. It’s aggregated.

25,000 tons of recycling are sent to Elkridge MERF facility. It is an overscaled facility. Recommend processing on a smaller scale and in the city. Glass can and should be recovered. The City can work with industry to establish ordinances and programs to encourage reuse of waste – glass, batteries, computers. The city has constraints. It is complicated. But, it is possible and it is our future.

City’s Household Hazard Waste program takes CFL’s etc. The City pays to dispose of it properly. Electronic recycling problem is CRT glass. We must pay to dispose because of the lead in the glass. We must look at all the changing and global factors that impact the cost of recycling.

Toronto has a single pass system collection system. Trucks are compartmentalized as is household waste. One truck is used for all collections. Every week ½ the truck is food waste and ½ is trash. Recycling every 2 weeks.

Pay as You Throw (PAYT) – now they are called Smart Programs. People get upset about the thought of having to pay but it reduces 20-40% of your solid waste costs. Solid waste is a hidden cost in property taxes.

Right now: Save $34 a ton if we increase our recycling rate.

<https://ilsr.org/bike-powered-food-scrap-collection/>

<https://www.biocycle.net/>