**Baltimore Commission on Sustainability January 2017 Meeting Report**

**Date:** Tuesday, January 17, 2017, from 4-6 pm

**Location:** 417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore MD 21201

**Subject:** Commission on Sustainability January 2017 General Meeting

**In Attendance**: (Commissioners) – Cheryl Casciani, Inez Rob, Lynn Heller, Tom Stosur, Fran Flanigan, Earl Johnson, Miriam Avins, Avis Ransom, John Ciekot, Michael Furbish, John Quinn, Councilman Dorsey

* Sustainability Plan Update New Lens 7-minute Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeyQfnDWD28>

**Chair Report**

* With the new administration, all Commissioners should email Cheryl/Anne to let us know your intentions.
* Mayoral briefing scheduled– January 23rd
* Thank you for the quick response to legislative for RPS/Jobs bill

Avis volunteered to Chair February meeting (We will discuss: Complete Streets legislation to be introduced by Councilman Dorsey, March 20th)

Minutes approved from November 29, 2016 meeting

**Discussion:**

Sustainability Plan Update

* Engagement Process – Julie Gabrielli
  + 4 Key Areas
    - Acknowledging the disparities in Baltimore: using an equity lens to build capacity of residents
    - Giving people a chance to be heard and to contribute their insight and ideas
    - Matching the voice being heard to the demographic of the city.
    - Acting as a connector for dreams, complaints strategies.
* What We Did
  + Hire a consultant to conduct equity trainings in city government
  + Recruited and trained ambassadors on equity and sustainability
  + Held a series of collaborative sessions to design toolkit, practice interviews, strategize where to meet and talk with people.
  + Attended and listened at stakeholder meetings
* What We Learned
  + Recruitment process worked
  + Racial equity training was excellent - challenged people in deep ways
  + 90% of Lead Ambassadors were engaged and effective
  + Listening to concerns is great - when the city cares what people think
  + Having toolkits ready sooner would have been better.
  + Many ambassadors did not stay engaged
    - Life got in the way; emphasize interviewing friends/neighbors/family more; further training to outline expectations; more practice for interviewing; include the arts and get people involved in creative ways.
* It takes time.
* A process that is intentional and inclusive is the best process.
* Stakeholder Meetings – Odessa Neale
  + 22 meetings: A broad range of thoughts and experiences
  + 510 participants, 34% African American, 37% white/77% residents/ 24% homeowners
  + A Few Key Themes
    - Equity as defined by vulnerable populations such as young, elderly, disabled, convicted felons.
    - Must impact local government.
    - Must find more grassroots leaders, more participation
    - Identify key issues for legislative
    - Include regional partners
    - Transportation: access, walkability, bikeability
    - Housing: affordable, aging in place, generational living space, rental to owner transition.
    - Employment: increasing opportunities for felons and unskilled labor; strategies for wage discrimination; incentives for employees higher disadvantaged workers
* What We Are Doing Next
  + Ambient noise and light was added because we kept hearing it.
* Using data to go into more depth.
* How to continue using ambassadors/stakeholders?
* Drafting plan and will send out to others for review/input
* Every Story Counts – want to integrate stories
* Community led plan and implementation

Green Schools - Everything we do is with the goal of building student leadership.

* Sustainability Plan Goal: Turn Every School into a Green School
* 325 grants over 6 years impacting to over 70% of schools
* At the end of 2016-2017 over $500,000 grants distributed
* 2015-2016
  + 80 grants
  + 758 junior energy captains
  + 31 teachers receiving achievement
  + 31 MD Green Schools (17% of BCPSS)
  + 3 Interns at Office
* 2016-2017
  + Baltimore Energy Challenge in 17 schools this year
  + 33 applications for Sustainability Office Green Healthy grant
  + 4 Interns at Office, $10/hour
* Chesapeake Bay Trust Student of the Year Award – Intern, Claire Wayner
* South Baltimore Gateway Area – Funds from Casino
  + Hiring part/time staff through the Aquarium to carryout environmental education.

**Legislative Items**

* Baltimore Beyond Plastic – Styrofoam ban that Delegate. Lierman sponsoring in Annapolis.
  + Reduce plastic pollution /trash
  + Strengthening and empowering the youth voice

[www.bmorebeyondplastic.org](http://www.bmorebeyondplastic.org)

Follow them on facebook and instagram.

**Upcoming Events:** • Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, February 21, 2017, 417 E Fayette, 8th Floor, 4:00-6:00 pm