

<p style="text-align: center;">Baltimore Commission on Sustainability January 2014 Meeting Report</p>

Date: Tuesday, January 21, from 4-6 pm

Location: Conference Call (inclement weather)

Subject: Commission on Sustainability January 2014 General Meeting

In Attendance: (*Commissioners*) –Miriam Avins, Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Dana Cooper, Lynn Heller, Sharon Middleton, Ruth Ann Norton, Cindy Parker, John Quinn, Tom Stosur. (*Staff*) – Kristin Baja, Megan Griffith, Alice Kennedy, Beth Strommen

Opening Remarks:

- Minutes from December, 2013, are approved without amendment. Ruth Ann moves, Sharon seconds.

- Chair Report
 - We'll hear reports from the Climate Committee and Waste Working Group. Primary 2014 focus
 - Dana and DPW keep briefed on stormwater and fee if it comes up again.
 - Alice walk through Annual Report, volunteers to help with Annual Meeting

Meeting Agenda:

1. Staff Report
2. Reports from the 2 Working Groups
3. Item 3

Discussion:

- Staff Report
 - Beth: Bag Bill legislation — fee
 - Voted out of committee
 - Accepted all CoS recommendations
 - Reduced fee to 10 cents
 - Instead of retailer 2 cent retainer, 3 cent retainer
 - CVS actually testified in favor of the bill
 - Beth will share a link to the Bag Bill
 - July 1, 2014; funds will go into a general fund
 - Rec & Parks will get money
 - BOS will have no role in implementation
 - USGBC-MD Leadership Award
 - STAR Communities
- Agenda Item #1: Reports from the 2 Working Groups
 - Waste Working Group : Dana and Fran co-chair, with Cheryl, John C. Geri, Ed, Earl, K.H., Anne D.
 - Specific areas of focus: LITTER, an enormous issue and something that's connected to most everything else
 - 2014 goals
 - elevate knowledge of CoS in the community
 - Take litter related goals in SP and how they are doing
 - Convey a consistent anti-litter message across the city

- Commission: work on Stormwater fee, tied to trash
 - Roles of CoS: really good at convening, make connection and share best practices, be a messenger for consistent outreach
- Value-added—rise about (frag?); what’s working, what isn’t
- Partners: DPW, very enthusiastic; Climate Committee; Healthy Harbor; Neighborhood Group; Benefits Districts; Industry; City Council
- Possible Actions: convening, a lot of smart people around Baltimore are working on trash issue. Bring together to listen to what people are doing and elevate knowledge.
- Communication:
 - Social Media — viral videos
 - Op Eds
 - Commission Newsletter
- 2014: Who should we be talking to? What are other people doing?
- Discussion:
 - Fran: complemented the report
 - John C.: agreed. Look at how litter connects to people
 - Sharon M.: had an idea speaking of trash, recycling—maybe since there is a pilot program being started in 2 areas of the city —6 months, 12 months— Greater Mondawmin and Bel Air Edison Pilot trash programs. Getting two kinds of containers; containers with sensors. A pilot to iron out the kinks before it goes city-wide.
 - Connect to keep up to date on the program.
 - Cheryl: specific pilot DPW; we can better advocate if we have better information. How is it working? What do residents think?
 - Have meetings in our office, possibly in conjunction with DPW.
 - John C.: other city departments might want to get involved. Rec and Parks might want to be involved due to park cleanliness.
 - Fran: figure out some guideline of a comprehensive approach for the City— what will it take to clean up Baltimore, the entire city?
 - Cheryl-Ed W.: convey commission’s messages, communications plan more detailed, a lot of ideas.
 - Focus of their next meeting will be communications.
 - Public Question:
 - Measuring success of comprehensive waste program. On Open Baltimore, improve the fine rate by X, not same role of Office
 - Cheryl: BOS is not a data gatherer, not about what metrics will be. This year we are trying to gather information and add to the list what we want to find out, from whom.
 - Lynn: convening meetings to find out what else everyone is doing. Do you have a time frame?
 - Dana: not set a timeframe yet, get together in a pretty short order.
 - Cheryl: not just doing just to talk; we want to see what’s working.
 - Report in February will have meetings, where to focus.
- Agenda Item #2 : Climate Report
 - Climate Committee: Lynn; Howard, Ed K., Karin. H.
 - 3 Parts:
 - Renewables/RPS State Community Renewables
 - Benchmarking
 - Addition of DP3 reflections, raise awareness and educate; adaptation and preparedness, mitigation
 - 3 Actions:

- Assistance with reporting GHG emissions
- Education and Support, Kristin
 - Re: CRS and Flood Legislation
- Support Rec & Parks Tree Canopy Ordinance
- 2014 Goals:
 - Community RPS
 - Community Renewables passed
 - RPS passed
 - Identify distributed renewable energy project by the end of 2014
 - Convening meetings, work with Alice, Anne Draddy
 - Benchmarking
 - Draft legislation for benchmarking
 - Education and adaptation, preparedness
- Floodplain: FEMA updated maps
 - Floodplain Ordinance
 - FEMA has to require people to buy flood insurance. Tied to the city's ability to request emergency funds, adopted as per FEMA
 - Incorporate standardized process and adapting recommended strategies
 - Good news: when FEMA updated the maps they reduced a number of properties that fell in the floodplain.
 - This designation is only according to FEMA
 - CRS is a program to get certification to reduce everyone's flood insurance
- Introducing 2 DP3 items:
 - Freeboard
 - 138 pages of legislation was older than zoning ordinance. Cleaned it up and made it more extensive
 - Regulated to the 500 year floodplain
- Questions:
 - Lynn: clarification, yellow (Green) map, 100% increase; the pink (purple) line: can purchase at a 75% reduction
 - 500 year area with development standards as 100 year
 - Must be adopted by City, April 2 Mayor
 - John C.: Who suffers if goes as proposed?
 - Met with BDW
 - Developers have no problem
 - Only downside is folks in the floodplain can't be removed
 - Tom: rising of rates is a national phenomenon
 - Fran: Is there an argument for us not to be covered by the federal program?
 - If we only listened to FEMA we would be in trouble
 - Lynn: Federal regulation doesn't take climate change into account.
 - Beth: looks at 500 year line, already build buildings to the standard
 - Support legislation as proposed, supporting FEMA, regulate to the 500 year, becoming a CRS community, 2 foot freeboard
 - Lynn: Assuming 500 year is what we propose
 - HAZUS
 - Fran motions, Miriam seconds. 10 in favor (Cheryl, Fran, Miriam, Sharon, John Q, Tom, John, Earl, Ruth Ann, Fran), 3 abstain
 - Public input:
 - Are the proposed maps available online?
 - They are on the Planning Department website

Upcoming Events:

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, February 18th, 4PM.
- Volunteers for Annual Meeting
- Revised Bag Bill
- USGBG Maryland