

<p style="text-align: center;">Baltimore Commission on Sustainability February 2014 Meeting Report</p>
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Date: Tuesday, February 18, from 4-6 pm

Location: Department of Planning Boardroom, 417 E. Fayette St.

Subject: Commission on Sustainability February 2014 General Meeting

In Attendance: (*Commissioners*) –Miriam Avins, Cheryl Casciani, Dana Cooper, Fran Flanigan, Lynn Heller, Earl Johnson, Sharon Middleton, Geraldine Okwesa, Tom Stosur, Ed Whalen. (*Staff*) – Alice Kennedy, Beth Strommen

Opening Remarks:

- Minutes from January 2014 are will be reviewed in March 2014.
- Chair Report
 - Ali Smith resigns from the Commission.
 - There are 3 vacancies, need to move forward. In Alice and Beth’s hands.
 - Fran: how does that work? Do you need more names?
 - Beth: Yes, please add more names.
 - Lynn: Health suggestion? Contact Cindy Parker
 - March meeting at 5:30 PM
 - 29th Street Community Center
 - Waste Group first meeting in community setting
 - Will hear more about this later
 - This is following through with something that the Commission expressed interest in during the retreat.
 - April Town Hall, April 22nd
 - Evening and community location
 - Talked at the retreat about more robust communication
 - Meeting this Friday at 11:00 a.m. at the Baltimore Community Foundation
 - Anyone else interested, let Cheryl know

Meeting Agenda:

1. Staff Report
2. 2014 Priority Area Updates
3. Communications
4. Annual Meeting, April 22
5. Legislation

Discussion:

- Staff Report
 - Growing Green landing in May, Mayor mention State of the City
 - Funding available
 - Beth, Alice, and Kristin went to New York City
 - Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, etc.
 - FEMA Flood mapping
 - Larger Resiliency issues
 - A lot of issues FEMA mapping—not consistent, inaccuracies
 - Open Meetings Law

- Need volunteer to take the training
 - Earl volunteered
 - Tom to send to everyone
- Alice:
 - Alice and Kristin attended STAR Leadership Training. Comprehensive metrics
 - Annual Report is coming along
- 2014 Priority Updates
 - Waste, Fran Flanigan
 - Find out what's working in Baltimore; what's working elsewhere
 - Heated debate styrofoam—not a strategy but needs a framework first
 - Think of CoS role—talked about convening litter summit year from now; see how neighborhood outreach goes.
 - Report with Mayor, City Council
 - March 18th planned
 - Waterfront Partnership trash on dashboard—Harbor clean
 - Lauren Poor—Blue Water Baltimore coming to next meeting
 - 29th Street Community
 - Next meeting at BCF
 - Planning February 27th meeting, 10:30 a.m.
 - Val, Bureau Head of Solid Waste, really excited that we're focusing on litter
 - Director Al Foxx retired, replaced by Rudy Chow
 - Different feel/content covered by Cos than DPW
 - Adam—in tandem with Blue Water Baltimore organization, a lot of alignment and willingness from DPW. Installed corner cans, city concerned corner becomes dumping site
 - Partnered to give educational materials
 - Volunteers Clean Captains survey can report problems
 - Chose cans with design
 - Some cases they will take the lid off
 - Healthy Homes Initiative now has 2 co-chairs—Mike Henkin, Rudy Chow—led publically and privately. Rudy is excited
 - As Fran said, voted no on polystyrene. Start by listening, not assuming that we know.
 - Sharon Middleton is an advocate for apprenticeship
 - Government employee goes through apprenticeship, unionized program through AFSCME
 - Mentioned how low wage government employees need incentive to take on additional duties to make more money
 - DPW has the most in the apprenticeship program
 - State has apprenticeship department Baltimore City registered with the state.
 - State is giving additional money and assistance to Baltimore City training standards
 - New things connected to litter/trash
 - Pilot economically viable workforce implications
 - Climate, Howard Aylesworth
 - a. Choosing to be optimistic, community renewables
 - b. 2014 Draft Legislation Benchmarking
 - c. Adaptation/Preparedness, Karin working with Kristin
 - Howard is also doing trees

- Added on Growing Green City, Trees
 - Real with comprehensive Urban Forestry Plan. President of Rec & Parks advisory board
 - Understanding the overlap and what's involved in the process
 - Look at city ordinance, tree canopy plan is outdated, how can it be updated.
 - Cheryl: nice that we are back to trees as part of the Climate Action Plan
- Communications
 - Every meeting reserve some time for priority areas; another think talked about at the retreat was to uptick our communication
 - Alice and Beth hang out National Leaders
 - Haven't exercised leadership voice
 - Alice and Kristin presentation to statewide group—share the way the City's gone about doing this.
 - Framework:
 - Part of the Maryland Climate Communications Consortium
 - Brainstorm about best way to communicate climate
 - Developed a survey and data
 - Identified with Consortium and aligned with state climate communication efforts.
 - Three most important elements: Health, safety, economic vitality
 - Issue—Climate change is real, it's happening, and it's human caused
 - Identified audiences, channels, frequency
 - Builds upon what's being done at the State level, ready for climate
 - Overall awareness campaign; behavior changes
 - Structure in place for anything in Office of Sustainability framework, all communications
 - Energy and renewables campaign to launch in fall of 2014
 - Implementation in phases; block-by-block approach
- Annual Meeting
 - Community outreach
 - Communications; changing the way we do outreach
- Legislation
 - Stormwater Fee, Dana Cooper
 - Election year, relatively new “tax”
 - “Buyer's remorse” legislators
 - Several bills introduced to replace it entirely
 - Couple of bills exempt specific conditions
 - Big press from religious organizations, Archdiocese. Uniform fees charged to non-profits generally and to religious properties
 - We did a good job in working through religious institutions
 - Anne Arundel charges all non-profits \$1.00
 - Don't think it will get replaced, optimistic it will be left alone.
 - Community Renewables
 - Both bills propose pilot program
 - Slightly scaled back program
 - Full blown community renewables law
 - Wouldn't pass right now
 - 3-year pilot
 - Sets cap on total amount of community renewable

- Doesn't tackle tricky questions
 - Has yet to be determined
 - What's utility required to do even if all people are generating their own power?
- Bag Bill
 - Introduced by Brandon Scott
 - After hearing had momentum, charge a 10 cent fee per plastic bag
 - 3 cents would go back to small businesses
 - Missing outreach and education, have to go out to the people
 - Trash Free Maryland

Upcoming Events:

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, March 18th, 5:30 p.m. at the