

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

Date: Tuesday, March 18, from 4-6 pm

Location: 29th Street Community Center, 300 E. 29th Street

Subject: Commission on Sustainability March 2014 General Meeting

In Attendance: (*Commissioners*) –Miriam Avins, John Ceikot, Dana Cooper, Peter Doo, Fran Flanigan, Earl Johnson, Geraldine Okwesa, Cindy Parker, John Quinn, Tom Stosur, Ed Whalen. (*Staff*) – Alice Kennedy, Beth Strommen

Opening Remarks:

- Minutes from January 2014 and February 2014 passed. Dana Cooper 1st, John Ciekot 2nd
- Chair Report
 - Fran Flanigan Welcomes everyone
 - Baltimore has a trash and litter problem. The Commission has a Trash and Litter Workgroup, bringing people together to find out what is working, ideas for what can be done.
 - Commissioner Introductions

Discussion:

- **Staff Report**
 - April 22nd will be the Annual Sustainability Town Hall Event – “Make a Plan. Build a Kit. Help Each Other.”
 - American Brewery Building N. Gay Street
 - Report is coming along
- **Sustainability Plan History**
 - Sustainability Plan has 7 chapters, 29 goals, 131 strategies
 - Beth gives background:
 - Sustainability all about balance
 - Triple bottom line
 - 3 legged stool = people, planet prosperity or communities, environment, economy
 - Trash is not good for the community
 - Beth shows the “Batal Plan” from 1979 – Baltimore against trash and litte = 5 year plan
 - This is a tough nut to crack
 - Not enough focus on what has been working
 - Fran: looking at a strategy that starts at everyone’s house and works its way up to City Hall
 - Commission spending a year looking for strategies that work
 - Banning products may not be the answer
 - Future trash Talk meeting will happen, goal is to move around the City
 - Alice asks how people found out about the meeting
- Lauren Poor – Presentations
 - Highlandtown 237
 - Painted storm drains
 - Made a chant

- Talked about how to recycle
- Questions:
 - How do your parents feel about it? Are they involved?
 - Other people and [parents cleaned up and help
 - Parents allow us to do this work
 - My mom tells my brother to put the recycling outside
 - When we walk and see people through bags in the street, my parents are more aware about the litter
 - When we see people litter we try and tell them not to litter – we painted the storm drains to help make them notice
 - Do you have recycling at your school?
 - Yes we have them in every class and empty them every week
 - Why do you keep doing this?
 - Help the world stay clean
 - Help Baltimore
 - Don't want to eat the crabs that eat the litter
 - What role does the teacher play?
 - Try to keep up with the kids
 - Administration support
 - You painted storm drains – does it look cleaner around the area?
 - Yes it looks cleaner
 - Idea was to send message to people
 - Which entity picks up the recycling from the school?
 - City DPW
- Gerie Okwesa - Reservoir Hill
 - How would you like to move into a neighborhood where top floor neighbors through trash and diapers out the window? Or neighbor dumps food out the front door?
 - Moved into the neighborhood, began attending community meetings
 - 1st thing decided to do what bring in 10 trees from forestry and help plant trees
 - Before that would also sweep the entire block every Saturday and Sunday mornings
 - Soon kids would come out and help and she would give them drinks and snack
 - Before long they were eager to help sweep
 - Garden Club 0 went from 3-5 kids, to 10-12 kids
 - Kids would come and she would “indoctrinate” them about picking up litter, not littering and keeping neighborhood clean
 - The 700 block of Newington has gone from “blight to bling!”
 - Questions:
 - What about the neighbor dumping food?
 - Got to know her, but then she moved
 - I put out fliers found Baltimore logo and said that there was a fine for littering
- Dale Hargrave – Greenmount West
 - 16 blocks
 - Illegal dumping
 - Biggest thing is educating people
 - Clean up had huge diversion rate –
 - Furniture
 - Eelectronic recycling

- Scrap Metal
- Mattresses
- Comprehensive way to look at the trash to keep it out of the waste stream
- This isn't easy Have to get the younger people to help educated us
- Problems with people using the public street cans as personal trash cans
- Did fliers, door knocking, and meeting with property owners
- Constant reminder to people what needs to happen
- Smile works first
- Best clean up was the only thing in dumpster was wood products because we didn't have access to a chipper
- Got a grant to hire local artists to paint the facades and boards of the vacant homes – change the attitudes about people's blocks
- Storm drain painting encourages youth to get involved
- Need more trash cans in the community
- Questions:
 - Public Trash cans – when people use them, how do you keep up with that?
 - Signs made, strategic places, door knocking, targeted message – educate and make people accountable
 - Idea is to come with a flower the first time, hammer the next
 - Try to get a specialized lid on the can
- General Comments
 - City should create an environment where trash management is done in a loving and compassionate way
 - Trash Ethics
 - Trash is a very serious problem
 - City mandate for lidded trash cans that are picked up
 - Schools – teach kids starting in kindergarten how to treat trash
 - Should be a recycling code to pressure to recycle
 - A lot more should be done if you don't adhere to the sanitation code
 - Enforce the code for real
 - Thought only 15 people would be here – pleasantly surprised there are more.
 - Plague of black plastic bags form liquor stores
 - Tenants aren't properly educated
 - Landlords aren't providing information
 - Target specific problem properties
 - Plug in between the communities and the City agencies
 - Personal relationships to be built
 - Get courage to say something
 - A lot give the City a bad rap, but City is doing a lot

Upcoming Events:

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, April; 22nd, 5:30 p.m. at the American Brewery Building, 1701 N. Gay Street