

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

Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2014, from 4-6 pm

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

Subject: Commission on Sustainability May 2014 General Meeting

In Attendance: (*Commissioners*) –Miriam Avins, Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Dana Cooper, Fran Flanagan, Earl Johnson, Geraldine Okwesha, Mary Washington, Ed Whalen. (*Staff*) – Alice Kennedy, Beth Strommen

Opening Remarks:

- Minutes from April 2014 are approved without amendment. Ed Whalen moves, Mary Washington seconds.

- Chair Report
 - GreenScape
 - Forecast out meeting plan
 - June/July: Harris Creek 246
 - August: Climate/Heat
 - September: Recycling
 - October: Energy Awareness Program
 - November: Waste Pilot Programs
 - Thank you for March and April Commissions

Meeting Agenda:

1. Staff Report
2. Priority Update: Waste
3. Priority Update: Climate
4. Growing Green Initiative

Discussion:

- Staff Report
 - CAV: Community Assistance Visit; audit floodplain management program. Review permits with FEMA
 - FEMA regulates to 100 year, Baltimore regulates to 500 year
 - Over-the-Counter Permits: 2700 in floodplain, not including larger permits
 - City is allowed to be more restrictive
 - Mill No. 1 was flood-proofed, fared well in store
 - CRS: In the first stage of CRS rating. This will lower flood rates
 - Casino Area Master Plan
 - CREATES
 - Benchmarking
 - GreenScape
- Priority Updates: Waste
 - March, 65-70 people attended 1st effort focusing on waste and litter
 - Stories worked well and were great
 - Having planning meetings
 - Many others are also concerned about waste/litter

- Bag bill: what can we be doing together?
- Plan: a few more outreach meetings
- Communications:
 - Op Ed by Gerie & Earl
- **Valentina Ukwuoma**, Bureau Head DPW Solid Waste: perception is that the government is coming to clean it
 - 311 System—people think they can call and we'll come, but it's a \$22 million dollar program
 - Take back your neighborhood; that money could be used for other things (e.g. rec centers)
- Gerie asked, my block is now a nice block; contacted by landlords about renters; with an official Commission/Baltimore City ID, I could be an ambassador
- State Solid Waste Management Plan (COMAR— 26.03.03); State Regulations, Solid Waste Management Plan Regulations, 2013-2023
 - Just recently got a response to edits; given only strict changes that need to be in the plan
 - Intent: provide accurate description of solid waste management program, can't stray because it's regulated; not a visioning document or plan
 - Address changing needs in City of Baltimore ; will need to modify existing laws and regulations
 - Three goal areas: 1) maintaining and enhancing an efficient and user-friendly solid waste management program; 2) continually improve cleanliness of Baltimore; 3) advance efforts in waste reduction and recycling
 - Working with four different divisions
 - Document outline:
 - Executive Summary
 - Introduction
 - Ch. 1: Goals and Regulatory Settings
 - Ch. 2: Population, Zoning, Land Use Plans
 - Ch. 3: Waste Generation, Collection, & Disposal
 - Ch. 4: Assessment
 - Ch. 5: Plan of Action
 - Appendices
 - Summary:
 - Continue to use integrated waste management program
 - DPW proven track record of increasing efficiency of solid waste operations
 - Recycling within Baltimore is expanding in both residential and commercial sectors
 - Individual responsibility for clean neighborhoods is on the rise, due to cooperative public/private endeavors and the efforts of the Sanitation Enforcement Section
 - Baltimore has adequate disposal capacity for the next ten years
- Lucky jurisdiction: waste to energy, recycling, 200 acres Quarantine Road landfill— expansion 2050 capacity.
- Drive to 35, new mandate by state
 - Mandated to reduce waste by recycling 35%
 - Incentivize recycling businesses
 - Commercial recycling for mom & pop stores— free collection
- Composting:

- No viable composting program in the City of Baltimore
 - Capital intensive program
 - Waste to wealth, private sector is doing it
 - Eventually be able to contract to private haulers
- Comment: private sector moves at their pace, not at that of the city
- Zero Waste: document from MDE outlining vision from state, 2040
 - Asking city and county to comment on the plan
 - Working to put our joint recommendations with Northeast Waste Management Authority
 - Look at state Zero Waste Plan
- Mark: trash TMDL
- Priority Update: Climate
 - Town Hall: well attended, introduced Turtle, provided emergency supply kits and emergency plans for attendees, kids area, released 2013 Annual Report
 - Lynn:
 - Volunteers for little commission meetings needed
 - Ed Kirk metrics for CAP
 - Low-Income Solar
 - Trees—tree ordinance, Howard
 - Tree Ordinance
 - 2 ordinances being reviewed:
 - Street tree ordinance
 - Forest conservation Ordinance
 - When new transfer takes place, have to go back and redo the Forest Conservation Plan, other plans and programs
 - Trees deserve big orange sign—focus on their health
 - Have a reactive plan for communications
 - Shout out to Governor O’Malley, veto wind project delay
 - John Quinn: major RGGI spread, energy efficiency
 - EPA apply GHG reduction requirements to new cars; Clean Air Act, if something is a pollutant, we must regulate it
 - June 2nd, Draft rule, existing power plants
 - Fed. Propose new regulations or give to state
 - State Plan 2016, all existing power plants
 - RGG 80 m 300 million—big pool of money
 - Big push for energy efficiency
- Growing Green Initiative
 - Make “green” part of comprehensive strategy for rebuilding Baltimore
 - Vacant properties in ‘distressed’ neighborhoods; V2V works well but not in ‘distressed’ areas
 - Challenges associated with vacant properties
 - Over next 10 years, 4,000 structures will be demolished; use strategically planned demolition with creative greening techniques
 - Elements of GGI
 - Improving city policies and processes to support greening as buildings are demoed
 - Develop vacant lot maintenance strategy
 - Develop and support public/private partnerships
 - Using investment and partnerships to leverage resources
 - Use Green Pattern Book to guide strategies
 - Eight green “patterns” for re-using vacant land

- Growing Green Design Competition
 - Over 200 lots preselected with HCD; alternative sites may be submitted
 - Competition deadline: August 1th
 - Finalists notified: Early September
 - Awards event: Mid September
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- Mark: DPW can provide money under legislation to non-profits
- John Q.: What is the CBT's role?
 - Managing the competition process
- 200 lots selected
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Upcoming Events:

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, June 17, 2014, 4PM.