

Baltimore Commission on Sustainability
July 2014 Meeting Report

Date: Tuesday, July 15, 2014, from 6-8 pm

Location: McElderry Park

Subject: Commission on Sustainability July 2014 General Meeting

In Attendance: (*Commissioners*) – Miriam Avins, Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Dana Cooper, Fran Flanigan, Lynn Heller, Earl Johnson, Cindy Parker, Scot Spencer, Tom Stosur (*Staff*) – Alice Kennedy

Opening Remarks:

- Will Approve June and July Minutes at August meeting
- Chair Report
 - Thank you to Beth Myers Edwards
 - Commission has two focus areas litter and climate
 - Introductions

Discussion:

- Commission has been focusing on trash and litter issues this year
- Sustainability Plan Goal 1 Chapter 1 is to eliminate litter in the City
- Need to focus on what is going on in the City, and what people are already doing
- Litter and trash is a serious quality of life issue for the City.
- DPW is doing a good job and this is more to convene a series of conversations to bring people together and to see things from different angle
- One reason why we came to McElderry Park is that it is unnatural for 17 neighborhoods to come together to try and get something done.
- Fran:
 - Talking about trash for a number of months
 - 1st meeting was in greater Waverly and focused on telling us what you are doing in your neighborhood.
 - Will be going to the Westside and focus on recycling
 - We all know about Harris Creek Watershed and the work that was done here, so we wanted to get more insight in to that process
 - Commissioners are advisors and we are here to listen and condense information so that we can take it back to City government and try and influence what policy happens.
- Harris Creek Watershed Plan
 - Sadie was looking at houses in 100 block of N. Rose – didn't want to live there because of the trash and litter, but they rented the house because the house was great. She started to consistently call 311, and have conversations with neighbors.
 - Chesapeake Bay Trust funded to do the Harris Creek Watershed Plan
 - What are you doing in your neighborhoods?
 - 12 projects around trash, litter and stormwater management
 - Behavior Change is difficult to do – CBT grant focused some on that
 - Friends of Library Square had lots of ideas
 - 100 Rose getting much better but the 200, 300 and 400 blocks still have a huge problem
 - Robbyn Lewis –

- Engage people to take ownership of environment around them
- Got people to think they could make a difference for how their block and alleys look
- Important to coordinate across neighborhoods
- Questions:
 - What is working well in your community?
 - One of best things was environmental crimes unit or sanitation investigation unit
 - Recycling
 - Connection and relationship with inspector for your neighborhood
 - Roll offs and dumpsters
 - Ownership on each block
 - Young person education – younger than kindergarten
 - People mean well but in commercial areas they still throw trash
 - Problem is education
 - A lot of people think storm drain is for trash
 - Create a documentary to let people know what the system is
 - Its like fighting an uphill battle
 - Limitation to trash bags and getting trash to dump after clean ups
 - In Harris Creek neighbors connected to other neighbors make the concept of 17 neighborhoods connected by a watershed translatable beyond participants in watershed meetings
 - Who or what groups are helpful?
 - Living Classrooms
 - DPW
 - Civic works
 - US Army
 - Need to talk to people – educate them on the trash stream
 - Have noticed a difference with street sweeping
 - Develop relationships with neighbors need to also develop relationships with City of Baltimore
 - Conversations with kids
 - Certain areas of the City get preferential treatment
 - Landlords don't provide trash cans
 - Drugs and drug dealing contribute to the trash and litter
 - What do you do when things aren't working?
 - Take matters into own hands
 - Try to exhaust the resources
 - Tend to look at the process and what isn't working
 - Keep positive attitude
 - Try not to give up hope
 - Do it yourself
 - Come up with a new solution
 - What is one big idea?
 - Enact clean sweep
 - Every community had every tool to help themselves
 - Community service – guilty of whatever and don't have the money, then do service hours where you put the trash
 - City-wide litter campaign
 - Documentary and put it on TV

- Incentives to clean block
- Incentives for businesses
- Trash or treasure day
- Create peer-to-peer behavior change campaign modeled off of the energy challenge – get everyone in city working together

Upcoming Events:

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, August 19, 2014, 4PM.