

**Baltimore Commission on Sustainability
June 22, 2010 Meeting Report**

Date: Tuesday, June 22, 2010 from 4-6 pm

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

Subject: Commission on Sustainability June 2010 General Meeting

In Attendance: (*Commissioners*) - Davis Bookhart, Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Peter Doo, Lynn Heller, Brian Knight, Keith Losoya, Patrick McMahon, John Quinn, Jake Ruppert, Scot Spencer, Tom Stosur (*Staff*) - Beth Strommen, Brett Buikema

Presenters: Miriam Avins, Anthony Cataldo, Lisa Morris, Katie Lima, Katie Whelley, Jill Pardini

Attendees: Chessa Atkinson, Jesse Jaeger, Lorraine Doo, Geoff Stack

Topics addressed:

- Minutes from May 2010 meeting are approved without amendment
 - Motion made by John Quinn, second by Lynn Heller
- Chair Report
 - Baltimore Community Foundation intern, Ellen Halle, will be working to populate the Office of Sustainability website with success stories.
 - Chair and Staff had a meeting with City Council President, Jack Young and discussed several issues including water access for Community Managed Open Spaces and utilizing land within the City for Urban Agriculture.
 - The Mayor, Chair, and staff attended the Barclay Deconstruction event on 6-21-10
- Staff Report
 - Katie Lima was introduced as being new staff for the Community Energy Savers Grant Program. One million dollars is being awarded, so far there have been 69 applications submitted (42 for energy audits, 15 for upgrades and retrofits, and 10 focused on education and outreach). Tom Stosur noted the need to get this on the Mayors radar and work on getting press attention
 - Introduction of additional new OofS staff members: Jill Pardini - Mayoral Fellow focused on Urban Agriculture, Katie Whelley – Intern working on the plastic bag reduction program and greening the Baltimore Grand Prix
 - Brett Buikema will be assuming Sarah Zaleski's role as staff for the CoS while a replacement is sought. Beth Strommen will be covering her other responsibilities
 - Transform Baltimore, the Zoning Code Re-Write, has been released and there have been a series of public meetings to introduce the new code. Commissioners are encouraged to attend those meetings and log onto the website and register their comments.
 - The Baltimore Green School Network held a second planning meeting and finalized the work program for the Americorp VISTA Sustainability Partnerships Coordinator position which will be housed at City Schools starting in August.
 - OofS, DPW, and City Schools facility staff had a second meeting to continue to draft a plan to offer recycling to all Baltimore City Public Schools.

- **Legislation**
 - **Plastic Bag Reduction Program**
 - Plastic Bag sub-committee met
 - OofS had a messaging meeting with Celeste Amato from the Department of Public Works, her office will be helping to create signage
 - The enrollment survey will be available on the OofS website
 - DPW will be doing surveys of street trash to track if there is a reduction in plastic bags
 - John Ciekot – Need to know where bags are going when they are recycled so that they don't end up in the waste stream
 - Davis Bookhart – Program needs a one sentence message to clarify what it is. Katie Whelley will draft something
 - John Quinn made a motion to accept the recommendations of the sub-committee, John Ciekot seconds
 - Suggestion was made to have Ellen Halle look for reusable bag success stories for the OofS website
 - **25th Street Station**
 - Sub-committee met and Anthony Cataldo, Project Manager from the Department of Planning presented the project and answered questions
 - Sub-committee made the following recommendations:
 - First, more attention needs to be paid to the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists as opposed to just improving vehicle access to the site. Second, the CoS would like to see this project honor the community's request for inclusionary housing so as to meet the needs of all those seeking housing. Third, the CoS would like confirmation that adequate space for recycling collection and storage will be worked into the final site design. Fourth, the CoS would like the developers to consider the use of a green wall along the 24th Street section of the site to better conceal the parking garage. And lastly, the CoS encourages the developer to consider the social equity aspect of this project, especially the right to a living wage, when selecting vendors to occupy the site.
 - Patrick McMahon – This project seems to be an opportunity lost. More attention to existing transportation options and bike and pedestrian access should have been considered.
 - Scot Spencer – One significant issue is the distance from the existing MTA stops to the big box store and the ability of bus passengers to walk from the stops to the stores. Can the MTA locate a stop closer? Also concerned over the Transportation Study recommendations for a fifth lane on Howard St.
 - Davis Bookhart – Agrees with everything being said but is the City doing enough to support this project and guide it, i.e. asking for DOT changes? Perhaps it would be a good idea to convene a coalition of all local transportation systems and propose a collective plan.
 - Follow Up – Davis, Tom Stosur, and Patrick McMahon to strategize about enhancing transportation opportunities for this project. Staff to strengthen CoS memo to reflect transportation concerns.

- **Presentations**
 - **Preserving Community Managed Open Spaces presented by Miriam Avins**
 - <http://baltimoregreenspace.org/>
 - **Climate Action Plan presented by Beth Strommen**
 - **Consultant has been selected**
 - **There will be a Task Force convened**
 - **John Quinn suggested the Maryland Public Service Commission and MEA websites as sources of information and suggested the City piggyback onto the State process.**
 - **Litter Survey for Random Selection of Baltimore presented by Keith Losoya**
 - **Also noted that Ray Ehrlich is representing the CoS on Councilman Kraft's sub-committee focused on trash in the Harbor.**

Upcoming Events:

- **Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, July 27, 2010, 4 PM.**

