

Baltimore Commission on Sustainability
January 24, 2012 Meeting Report

Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2012 from 4-6 pm

Location: Department of Planning Boardroom, 417 E. Fayette St. 8th Floor

Subject: Commission on Sustainability January 2012 General Meeting

In Attendance: (*Commissioners*) – Ted Atwood, Davis Bookhart, Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Dana Cooper, Peter Doo, Ray Ehrlich, Lynn Heller, Brian Knight, Keith Losoya, Sharon Middleton, John Quinn, Jake Ruppert, Scot Spencer, Tom Stosur,
(*Staff*) - Beth Strommen, Alice Kennedy, Abby Cocke, Jamie Nash, Holly Freishtat

Meeting called to order: 4:06 pm

Topics addressed:

- Minutes approved December 20th meeting. Scot moves and Lynn seconds.
- Chair Report
 - Welcome
 - Follow up to last meeting – Conversation on Mayor’s goal of attracting 10,000 families to city. Had a “Sustainable 10,000” discussion with Tom, Peter, Alice and Cheryl. Looking to pull together a brief memo to the Mayor. Might partner with other people and host conversation about some issues. Such as “Why don’t we do \$1 houses again?” Give a public space for conversation - not advocate for or against
 - Priority Areas
 - Stormwater issue
 - Briefed on water issues for the last one and a half years
 - More detail tonight
 - We had Delegate Stein come and discuss Community Solar
 - Ted Atwood will talk about the City’s solar initiatives
 - Climate Action
- Staff Report
 - Grants: working on Urban Waters and an EPA grant for a toolbox pattern book to use for vacant land. Visioning process, advice, and guidelines. This will be useful as we look at tearing down properties and the Growing Green Initiative
 - Apply funding to standardize system for community and urban farmers dealing with Brownfields in a rational manner and low costs. Use to guide and educate the public
 - Growing Green Initiative: white paper was submitted to the Mayor’s Office. Distributed to all Department Heads for review. There is a trip planned to Philadelphia with city agencies to meet with Philadelphia to talk about their green infrastructure program
 - USGBC Wintergreen Event this Thursday
 - Financial Disclosures – distributed to Commissioners. Notary will be available before February meeting to notarize disclosures.
 - Holly Freishtat:
 - Updated Food desert map 1 in 4 people live in a food desert in Baltimore.
 - Mayor launched Food Policy Task Force US Conference of Mayors and is co-chairing with Boston
 - Farm Bill – Baltimore City received \$1 billion over the last 5 years from the Farm Bill. Op-ed in Baltimore Sun regarding the bill. SNAP benefits

- BCC – interviewing new grocery stores
- JFX Farmers Market will accept SNAP benefits
- Urban Agriculture Policy Plan

- Stormwater – Marcia Collins & Kim Burgess DPW
 - What is wrong with current method?
 - Largest pipe system 18” to 10’ pipes and tunnels
 - No sustainable funding source
 - Not able to do upkeep and maintenance
 - Not able to meet MDE permits. Impacted development plans not reviewed quick enough and fast enough
 - Examples: Central Ave and Race street have been closed for 3 years
 - Property damage to homes, vehicles
 - Phenomenal amount of rain in 2010 – historic times
 - MS4 Permit – 1 every 5 years from EPA through MDE. Allows to have stormwater management, public education, detection and elimination
 - Over 50% of pipes over 50 years old. \$2 billion to replace infrastructure pipe for pipe
 - Permit Compliance
 - Looking at a fee
 - Allow to increase staff
 - Public outreach & education strong part of MS4 permit. This is a big component. Not just feel good
 - Over 400 stormwater fees/utilities in US – how to make ours equitable and sustainable
 - Impervious area as base for fee
 - Residents charged based on property lot size
 - All others based on calculations of sq. ft of impervious surface
 - Any surface area not allowing rain to infiltrate – roof, concrete, gravel
 - Calculate fee ERU – Equivalent Residential Unit
 - 800 sq feet of impervious area
 - How billed? See on water bill
 - Parking lots will now get stormwater fee bill
 - Fee charged directly aligned with service provided
 - Senior discount and allow for appeal
 - Appeal process: 30 days appeal process evidence of dispute initial appeal directly to DPW
 - Questions
 - Keith: new technology of permeable surfaces and pavement okay? Yes – onsite treatment and BMPS
 - Howard Aylesworth: green roofs, stormwater disconnects included? Yes
 - Scot Spencer: Years ago bill for redoing alley wanted a greener alley but couldn’t be done. Could that be done in a different way now? Blue Alleys program, pilot with DPW, Blue Water Baltimore & DOT permeable with under drain system. Other aspects from green book. Comb through to ensure compatibility with goals
 - Cheryl: other agencies mandated to make improvements while doing other projects? DOT street trees, emphasis on tree infiltration, reuse crushed concrete
 - Sharon Middleton: In committee hearings, always talking about surface parking lots – what kind of acceptable treatment on parking lots? We

reached out to Philadelphia, New York to get BMPs on this. Learn from other cities what techniques and treatments work best

- Scot Spencer: Average income of residents taken into account? Yes, affordability analysis done. 2009 phone survey: affordability what are you willing to pay for water quality and service? \$10 per month answer – looking at \$12 per quarter
- Jake Ruppert – city owned and non-profit properties charged? Yes – everyone charged. Rain comes down and falls everywhere.
- Brian Knight: fee goes into general fund? No, create a utility by City ballot vote in fall. This adds another layer of protections.
- Ted Atwood, Director Department of General Services
 - City Solar
 - Site at Back river treatment
 - Offsetting cheapest cost power the city has
 - It will be up and running ready to start in 2 months
 - Couple of other sites other projects – power on rooftops of schools, other buildings
 - Negotiating deal 30 MWS specific City of Baltimore – already negotiated terms with Exelon. After 15 years ownership transfers from Exelon to Baltimore
 - More parties interested in reasonable terms
 - Lynn Heller: how does this fit in ideal world? Reduce CO2 – return coal fire plants to gas
 - Pieces of bigger puzzle 100 MW of solar
 - Possibility for wind at Patapsco
 - Tax credits? 30% cost of project
 - 2/3 revenue from SRECs
 - City installed 30 electric vehicle chargers in 9 parking garages
- Climate Action Plan – Lynn Heller
 - Is meeting of Advisory Committee went well
 - Draft plan by June
 - All meetings open to the public
 - AECOM is the consultant
 - Working groups have been meeting – Building Energy Use, Land Use & Transportation, Adaptation, Water, Waste & Green Infrastructure
 - A lot from Commission meetings feed the CAP process
- Legislation
 - Community Solar bill to be introduced
 - Will have several City Council bills to vote on at next meeting
- Meeting adjourned: 6:07 pm

Upcoming Events:

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 4 PM at 417 East Fayette Street, 8th Floor