

**Baltimore Commission on Sustainability**  
**May 22, 2012 Meeting Report**

**Date:** Tuesday May 22, 2012 from 4-6 pm

**Location:** Department of Planning Boardroom, 417 E. Fayette St. 8<sup>th</sup> Floor

**Subject:** Commission on Sustainability May 2012 General Meeting

**In Attendance:** (*Commissioners*) – Ted Atwood, Davis Bookhart, Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Peter Doo, Lynn Heller, Sharon Middleton, Tom Stosur, Mary Washington, Ed Whalen  
(*Staff*) - Beth Strommen, Alice Kennedy, Abby Cocke, Jamie Nash

**Meeting called to order:** 4:08 pm

**Topics addressed:**

- Minutes approved April 24, 2012 meeting. Sharon Middleton moves and Mary Washington seconds.
- Chair Report
  - City Schools Sustainability Challenge Celebration is Thursday May 24<sup>th</sup> at the Aquarium
  - June 26<sup>th</sup> meeting will take place from 6-8 pm at the Highlandtown Healthy Living Center, 3700 Fleet Street. This will be the Climate Action Plan Town Hall meeting.
  - Mary Pat Fannon is here with us this evening, Senior Policy Advisor on Legislative Issues
- Staff Report
  - Past Saturday Presentation to AIA (Beth, Peter Doo, Kim Schafer, & Katy Byrne) on Baltimore Green Building Standards
  - City Growing Green Initiative – kick off internal meeting with Tom Stosur, Director Foxx, Commissioner Graziano, and Kim Clarke. High level, talk in more detail in how to do this, set criteria, set goals of agencies
    - Looking at ½ dozen pilot sites
    - Case studies
  - Working with US Forest Service & American Plywood Association on a Carbon Challenge design competition for building. Looking at sites in Baltimore, it would be low carbon, close to net zero building, house AmeriCorps members and be an education site
  - Project for Public Spaces in town last week working with Holly transforming Hollins & Lexington Markets into healthy spaces. 15 stakeholders Lexington short term renovations
  - 30-40 stakeholders Hollins, larger group also includes American Communities Trust
- Legislative Update – Mary Pat Fannon
- Mary Pat Fannon
  - Focus on a couple items and zoning and you did
    - Bay Restoration
    - Stormwater
    - Delegate Stein's Bill

- Spend a lot of time on Public Safety and Education
- A lot of time spent in Appropriations Committee
  - Teacher Revisions were a big hit
- Budget Highlights
  - Gaming
    - 2.99% of gross gaming revenue is rent
    - City is the landlord
    - Heavily involved in
  - Spent \$16.8 million picking up illegally dumped trash
  - Planning worked hard on Bond Authorization
  - Gas tax – big supporters, promoting red line, mass transit
- Stormwater Management
  - Exempt state properties
  - Re-calculation of number being done
  - 1/3 of property not taxable
  - 4% state owned – better
- Bay Restoration Fund
  - Waste water treatment plants huge recipients
  - Not tremendously involved in wind
  - septic big deals but not for us
  - next year will be big bag bill year
    - cc – would want to talk about bag bill
    - MPF – put efforts most bang for buck
- Program Open Space
  - Used as capital money
  - Operating money? Could be used to keep pools and rec. open
  - 1.5 million piece goes for state park. Set as a floor to only piece capitol or operating
- Cheryl Casciani notes & introduces Dana Cooper
  - SB614 HB987 Stormwater
  - A lot of discussion in working group. Decided to focus local but when it became clear no local movement, then what to do – focus on state
  - Different for a commission to be at the table
  - MPF: Helpful to us to have commission come and say please
  - CC: could speak to community organize avoid this.
- Dana
  - Thank you for help
  - Appreciates CoS support
  - Applies to phrase / MS4 permits only
    - MD
    - Baltimore County
    - PG
    - Howard
    - Mont

- AA
  - Baltimore City
- Will county have to pay?
  - Yes
  - Can blame on state!
- Have to be done by July 1 2013 – firm deadline
- Fee can be flat rate or graduated by impervious area must do a credit program: way to reduce fee by action
  - Wrinkle: credit program approved by MDE
    - MDE has no interest in approving these things
    - Worried about timing MDE review could take longer
  - Hardship Exemption Wrinkle – need to create more no destination for this.
  - Property City, State, Unity, County, Municipality
  - Hoping to work numbers as copasetic
- LH Port:
  - Federal Property not identified
    - Will probably get a “wait a second”
  - Good argument to wait
  - MDOT was going to kill last weekend –
- Andy with Clean Water Action
  - Del can water utility fee for state property
- Ted Atwood
  - Green Schools Program
    - \$25 million for crew
- Net metering law
  - Del Stein reached out to participate
  - Good to show up and get involved
- Need more participation
  - Testify
  - Help with analysis of bills
  - When else need from commission
- Mary Washington
  - special session
  - Big taxes to increase revenue
    - \$100,000 or above
    - \$150,000 or above
    - 125 or 185 - \$287 per year
  - Raise everyone across board on limit to those who could
  - Avoid regressive tax
  - Marine Gathering Permit
    - Attempt to keep River Keepers from protesting
  - Pamela Kelly Tremendous Tree Program
  - Bag Bill
    - Didn't fool anyone

- County by county strategy
  - Much more difficult than imagined
- Multifamily recycling
  - Senate bill 208 / House bill 1
  - Housing authority comply?
- Climate Action Plan Update
  - Moved forward with discussion of looking beyond 2020. How to meet reduction by 2020 and aspirational longer term goals beyond 2020.
  - Draft recommendations available for review before the Town Hall
- City Schools Sustainability Challenge Update – Abby Cocke & Josh Medina
  - **Baltimore Sustainability Plan Education & Awareness Goals:**
    - Turn every school in Baltimore City into a green school.
    - Ensure all city youth have access to environmental stewardship programs and information.
    - Raise the environmental awareness of the Baltimore community.
    - Expand access to informational resources on sustainability.
  - **MAEOE (Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education) and MDGS (Maryland Green Schools)**
    - Founded in 1985, MAEOE, a nonprofit educational association, serves thousands of community members with training programs, workshops, conferences, awards programs, networking opportunities, publications, and related materials and resources.
    - Began Maryland Green Schools Program in 1999
    - **What does it take to become a Green School?**
      - **Environmental Instruction** – across grade levels and in multiple subjects
      - **Staff Environmental Professional Development** – 10% formal, 50% informal
      - **School active in community and/or community active in school**
      - **Celebration**
    - **Best Management Practices** – 2 activities each in 4 of 7 categories
      - *Waste Reduction*
      - *Water Conservation/Water Pollution Prevention*
      - *Energy Conservation*

- *Healthy School Environment*
- *Structures for Environmental Learning*
- *Habitat Restoration*
- *Responsible Transportation*
- **Baltimore's Green Schools as of 2011**
  - Barclay School (Elementary/Middle): 1999, 2009
  - Bryn Mawr School (I): 1999, 2004, 2008
  - Catholic High School (I): 2009
  - Catonsville Educational Center at RICA: 2007
  - City Neighbors Charter School: 2011
  - Cross Country Elementary/Middle School: 2006, 2010
  - Curtis Bay Elementary School: 2011
  - Franklin Square Elementary/Middle School: 2010
  - Gilman Lower School (I): 2007
  - The Green School: 2009
  - Medfield Heights Elementary School: 2005, 2009
  - Mount Washington Elementary School: 2010
  - Roland Park Elementary/ Middle School: 2009
  - Roland Park Country School (I): 2003, 2007, 2011
  - Rosemont Elementary School: 2005, 2009
  - St. Casimir Catholic School (I): 2004, 2008
  - St Elizabeth School (I): 2011
  - Thomas Jefferson Elementary/ Middle School: 2009
  - Thomas Johnson Elementary/Middle School:2010
  - Waldorf School of Baltimore (I): 2010
  - WEB Dubois High School: 2006, 2011
- **How are we helping schools meet the requirements to become Maryland Green Schools?**

- Green School Assistant
- Green, Healthy, Smart Challenges
- **Green Schools Assistant**
  - One-year term of service, started in November 2012, sits at the Office of Sustainability
  - Administration and point of contact for Green, Healthy, Smart Challenges
  - Shares information on trainings, special events, resources, and other opportunities with contacts at 60+ schools
  - Develops opportunities for youth environmental leadership
  - Works with schools interested in achieving Maryland Green School certification
- **Youth Environmental Leadership**
  - Coordination of the Student Environmental Leadership Action Team (SELAT) of the Baltimore Green Schools Network – three meetings so far, one School Board presentation planned
  - Organized two trips for Baltimore youth this summer, one to New York City and one to Boston, for Outdoor Nation Summits
  - Planning for Greenscape 2012, a for-youth-by-youth environmental celebration
- **The Green, Healthy, Smart Challenges offer small grants of \$1,000 to kick-start environmental youth leadership projects**
  - 2012:
    - Sustainability Challenge – 49 Schools
    - Energy Challenge – 9 Schools
    - Healthy Food Challenge – 11 Schools
- **History of the Challenge...**
  - Began in 2010 as the Sustainability Challenge with 16 participating schools
  - Grew in 2011 with 37 schools and incorporated energy component with Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge support
  - Expanded in 2012 to three separate grants, energy and sustainability challenges open to all public schools, healthy food challenge open to USDA fruit and vegetable school
- **Friendship Academy of Science and Technology – “FAST Learning Garden”**
  - Students planted a container garden with support of community members

- Attended Community Greening Resource Network workshop to hone horticultural skills
- Created energy conservation and recycling posters with help from the Baltimore Energy Challenge
- **Middle Alternative Program at Lombard – “Go Green MAPAL Initiative”**
  - Teachers created an environmental topics elective
  - Students participated in regular trash clean up days on school grounds
  - Collected reusable materials to be used in art classes
  - Started vermi-composting containers with help from Great Kids Farm
  - Students planted vegetables and flowers in school garden
  - Participated in a power down day and received classroom lessons from Baltimore Energy Challenge
- **Baltimore Rising Star Academy – “Paquin Little School Butterfly Garden”**
  - Students planted a flower garden to attract butterflies and other pollinators
  - Irvine Nature Center taught students how to educate pre-schoolers using newly established garden
  - Field trip to Great Kids Farm; farm supplied school with worm bin
- **Furman L. Templeton Prep. Academy – “Student Ownership of a Recycling Program” and “Healthy Living”**
  - Creation of a student led recycling “green team”
  - Peer to peer education on recycling/waste disposal
  - Field trip to Baltimore RESCO plant
  - Healthy Foods Challenge: Field trips to supermarket and partnership with Great Kids Farm
  - Purchase of nutrition education literature
- **Guilford Elementary/Middle – “Guilford Garden and Recycling Program”**
  - Students directly involved with edible gardening initiative on school grounds including raised beds and indoor gardening
  - Garden produce used for community/school snacks and meals
  - Field trip to Great kids Farm
  - Recycling presentation courtesy of DPW
  - Creation of a student led recycling “green team”

- **BEC Energy Component Results**
  - 3 School Assemblies
  - 7 Classroom Lessons
  - Provided 21 schools with Green Tips
  - Assisted 1 PowerDown Day
  - Presented 2 schools with Energy Usage Data
  - Gave out 4500 Light Switch Decals
  - Worked with more than 400 students
  
- **Impacts & Measurements**
  - **Exposing schools to new environmental activities** – 49 projects funded, 20+ gardens created, 275+ recycling bins distributed, 11 composting projects started, 10+ field trips, 7 outdoor classrooms created, 2 chicken coops built, etc.
  - **Giving students opportunities to become environmental leaders and advocates** – 300+ students in Green Teams, 13 students in SELAT
  - **Disseminating information about other opportunities for training, resources, etc.** – 25+ e-blasts to project coordinators
  - **Building the school’s capacity to apply for Maryland Green School status** – 5 schools applied, 3 schools certified
  
- **2012 MDGS Applicants**
  - Baltimore Montessori
  - The Green Street Academy
  - Bluford Drew Jemison STEM Academy East
  - Highlandtown 215
  - Benjamin Franklin High
  
- **2012 MDGS Applicants**
  - **Baltimore Montessori** ☺
  - **The Green Street Academy** ☺
  - Bluford Drew Jemison STEM Academy East
  - **Highlandtown 215** ☺
  - Benjamin Franklin High

Schools that did not certify receive notes and are encouraged to re-apply the following year

- **Plans for 2012/2013**
  - Expand City Schools Sustainability Challenge to fund 75 schools
  - Target 8 schools to apply for MDGS, with a minimum of 6 certifying
  - Greenscape 2012 – educational environmental celebration for and by students
  - Work with City Schools to encourage the creation of a permanent Green Schools Coordinator position
- **Climate Action Plan - Lynn Heller**
  - CAP: Dates upcoming meeting
  - June 12<sup>th</sup> : Advisory Committee to review recommendations
  - June 26<sup>th</sup>: Town Hall
  - July 24<sup>th</sup>: Final
  - Climate Committee of Sustainability Commission
  - Howard Aylesworth: CAP good pan, basic goal reduce growth in our GHG emissions by 2020
    - 2050-2060 flat line growth scientific reports
    - Lit → 14 degree temp rise would average.
  - Suggesting – begin discussion, have further mitigation or adaptation, if we don't reduce how will we have a healthier, safe, livable city
  - CoS – most important thing is no implement CAP but also think about how to address further impact
  - CAP figures assume full implementation of SP
  - CC – talk in July CAP will play large role return in more substantive ways spending then in the bill
    - Davis
      - Recommendations?
      - July 12<sup>th</sup> meeting opportunity
      - Send to commissioners before Town Hall
      - Schedule session on implementation of environmental literacy
      - Food update
- Meeting adjourned: 6:03 pm

**Upcoming Events:**

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, June 26th 2012, 6 PM at 3700 Fleet Street, 21224