

**Baltimore Commission on Sustainability**  
**May 28, 2013 Meeting Report**

**Date: Tuesday May 28, 2013 from 4-5 pm**

**Location: 1400 W Cold Spring Ln, Baltimore, MD 21209**

**Subject: Commission on Sustainability May 2013 General Meeting**

In Attendance: (Commissioners) – Ted Atwood, Davis Bookhart, Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Peter Doo, Lynn Heller, Earl Johnson, Ruth Ann Norton, Gerie Okwesa, Cindy Parker, John Quinn, Tom Stosur, Mary Washington, Ed Whalen

(Staff) - Beth Strommen, Alice Kennedy, Kristin Baja

Meeting called to order: 4:07 pm

Topics addressed:

- Minutes approved April 24, 2013 meeting. Ruth Ann moves and Davis seconds.
- Chair Report
  - 5 slots left on the Healthy Harbor Discovery Tour aboard the Snow Goose
  - Received a \$100,000 Town Creek Grant that will support climate work, and
  - communications
  - Annual debrief with the Mayor's Office of Legislative Affairs, Mary Washington's
  - perspective on events in Annapolis, and school construction bill information from
  - ACLU
- Staff Report
  - Beth went to Chicago for a USDN meeting regarding social and environmental justice.
  - Kresge supporting
  - Energy Office received a grant from MEA – will be presenting to Commission in June
  - Alice introduces Kelley Ray, the new Director of the Baltimore Energy Challenge
  - Tom introduced Theo Ngongong new Assistant Director of Planning Department
- Annapolis Legislative Briefing – Mayor's Office of Legislative Affairs, Janelle Mummey
  - Mary Pat Fannon apologizes that she can't be here
  - It was successful year for the City in Annapolis
  - New casino, jobs bills making it so that people could be hired
  - Sadly the illegal dumping bill passed the house but failed in the Senate
  - Ground Rent Bill passed
  - Residential Parking – very controversial
  - Good budget year for the City – most important was the school construction bill
  - More in depth information available in the Mayor's report on the 2013 legislating session
  - Also more information online at State website
  - Part K is the Natural Resources and Environmental Report
- Annapolis Environmental Legislative Briefing - Delegate Mary Washington
  - Janelle Mummey is great staff to work with
  - There is good news and bad news The Community Greening Act, or Bag Bill did not pass
  - Bottle Bill did not pass – strong lobby against the bill
  - Ruth Ann Norton asked about Ireland's bag bill – if a country can ban bags, can't we?

- Mary = we need education.
  - Was close to moratorium on fracking
  - Agriculture Certainty bill – Mary voted no, need to watch
  - 10 year exemption to protect water quality, allows anyone to be anonymous
  - Number of people concerned about it
  - Moderate Environmental bills
  - Energy Efficiency fully funded
  - Program Open Space – 8 million cut
  - Transportation infrastructure passed
  - Off Shore Wind passed
  - Pesticide Reporting assed but changed to working group
  - Cheryl asks if bag and bottle bill will come back next year
  - Mary – doesn't know, conversations over summer
  - Ruth Ann Norton – lead paint update – they killed bills that would have repealed lead paint laws
  - Mary stated that if anyone is interested in looking at bills for next session to let her know
- School Construction Bill – ACLU
    - They are local heroes for the school construction bill
    - Wrote study several years ago that lifted up school construction and the poor condition of school facilities in Baltimore.
    - Huge collaborative effort
    - Mayor personally involved
    - Everyone was rowing in the same direction this year
    - Construct 50 or more new or fully renovated schools over 7 years
    - Use 3rd party entity to manage
    - The proposal grew out of models from around the country – Buffalo, Greenville
    - Financing Plan – blend of research and is specific for Baltimore City
    - Funds repayed over 30 years
    - \$60 million every year to pay down debt service
    - City, State and Schools equally vested: “20-20-20” million each per year
    - New State revenue stream from lottery
    - Use of Maryland Stadium Authority as third party entity
    - Leverages close to \$1 billion
    - MOU
    - Requires 4 party MOU by October 1<sup>st</sup>
    - Stadium Authority, City Schools, City and State Interagency Committee on School Construction
      - Governs procedures, roles and responsibilities
      - Financing and Construction
        - Maryland Stadium Authority
          - Issues revenue bonds; limited to \$1.1 billion
          - Acts as fiscal agent of all funds
          - Issuances approved by Board of Public Works
        - Phase 1 over next 7 years
          - MSA builds new schools, appox. 15
          - City Schools does full renovations of approx 35-40 schools
          - School board controls changes in 10 year plan

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, June 25, 2013, 4 PM