

Baltimore Commission on Sustainability
June 25, 2013 Meeting Report

Date: Tuesday June 25, 2013 from 4-6 pm

Location: 417 E. Fayette Street, 8th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202

Subject: Commission on Sustainability June 2013 General Meeting

In Attendance: (Commissioners) – Ted Atwood, Miriam Avins, Davis Bookhart, Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Dana Cooper, Peter Doo, Fran Flanigan, Earl Johnson, Sharon Middleton, Gerie Okwesa, Cindy Parker, John Quinn, Tom Stosur, Mary Washington, Ed Whalen

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

Meeting called to order: 4:03 pm

Topics addressed:

- Minutes approved May 28, 2013 meeting. Ed moves and John seconds.
- Chair Report
 - Congratulations to Lynn Heller, new position at Abell Foundation
 - Cheryl appointed to the School Board
 - Davis is moving to Hong Kong
 - Ray is now at Dunkin Brands
 - Would like to thank both for their work and commitment
 - Fall Schedule – will combine Nov/Dec into one meeting
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- Staff Report
 - DP3 – moving right along, next to last Advisory Committee meeting Friday, evaluating and approving actions. It will then be posted for public review and changes. Town Hall will be July 30th, 6-8 pm at War Memorial
 - Permission from Mayor’s Office to move forward Waste to Wealth forward. Three components – demo process/deconstruction, urban forest, wood waste
 - Parking will be paid for Commissioners starting in July. Park in garage at corner of Holliday and Fayette. Bring your ticket, and Alice will give you pre-paid ticket to leave garage
- GreenScape Video – New Lens created video that was shown at GreenScape
- School Construction Ambassadors
 - Peter Doo suggested Sustainability Ambassador Program for school construction. The vision is for whenever a meeting is convened to have someone in attendance that will be knowledgeable on sustainability principle issues.
 - Mary Washington Suggested a document that would detail what investments are happening in Baltimore, and to have this as a document
 - Rebecca Ruggles and Allison Rich stepped forward to put the paper together. “School Greening in Baltimore City: the investment and its value”
 - Over \$2.5 million in grants and outside services have been donated
 - 60% of City Schools have actively benefitted
 - Over a 2-3 year period, 600 greening projects or programs have enhanced City Schools curricula

- Waste – Valentina Ukwuoma, Bureau Chief Solid Waste
 - A few members of the Commission were able to get together with Val to get information regarding the Waste enterprise
 - BoS supports the enterprise because it puts everything front and center – people don't know the cost of their behavior.
 - Look at a proposed definition relevant to Baltimore
 - How will DPW propose a program?
 - Comment from Councilwoman Middleton – Val is the heartbeat of solid waste – takes new ideas and runs with it. Open to suggestions and improvements
 - Comments from Director Ukwuoma
 - Idea of the enterprise – basically charging for costs and services related to solid waste
 - Why the recommendation to pull out of general funds? Solid waste is not just service oriented – also a capital cost and better accounted for to look at the whole cost
 - Primary fee is residential
 - Enterprise will even out system where everyone pays into the system
 - Model is being built
 - Charter mandates mixed refuse – need to add recycling, disposal, graffiti removal, bulk trash
 - Responsibility for solid waste has grown
 - Property tax is high – but compared to other counties who charge separately for solid waste collection – it is not an equal comparison
 - Question – where other cities have adopted - is there less waste? There are different models, system user fee. Don't know the reduction, depends on counties and the system user fees
 - Question – Will it be a social enterprise? City will be responsible for pick up
 - Question – City trucks, city employees – all City? Yes, all City solid waste employees. No plan to reduce workforce or privatize. Whole goal is user fee for collection
 - Comment from Ray – nothing to do with services – it really is an accounting issue. Not just throwing it into the general fund. Gives ability to see costs and incomes, make smart financial decisions.
 - Comment from Ed – could be a public relations issue, exemptions are inherently unfair. Everyone pays into the system
 - In Montgomery County – State buildings pay into the system. Everyone pays
 - It is about efficiency and services, and changing the accounting model
 - Question from Gerie – how will fee be assessed for rentals? Owner of the building
 - Mary – think it is a good program. Something to look at for the economic sustainability of the City. Where we can be honest and straight forwards, more flexibility with this model
 - John C – true full cost accounting is challenging – has its own complicating factors. What about vacant lots?
 - Street cleaning is part of the cost of residential services, illegal dumping
 - We want to account for every penny spent on solid waste services
 - Ray reiterates – not a solid waste issue – accounting issue.
- Legislation
 - City Council Bill #13-0241 Plastic and Paper Bag Surcharge
 - This is the same bill
 - Modified record keeping
 - Staff talked with Councilman Scott

- Miriam – impression that fee had gone down – not still at \$.25
 - Mary – exemption for low income & senior citizens should be considered
 - Ed – everyone needs to be on board to cause change in behavior
 - Davis – unsolicited advertisements thrown into yards, phonebooks come in bags
 - What about hefty fee for unsolicited bags or trash?
 - Mary – would need separate legislation for that
 - Gerie – why offer plastic bags at all?
 - Cheryl – last time looked at the full life cycle more dramatic effect of fee in changing behavior
 - Mary offers amendment to response to recommend lowering the fee :not more than \$.10 (ten cents)
 - 12 yes
 - 1 no
 - 1 abstain
- Stormwater update
 - Cleanwaterbaltimore.org
 - Posting everything related to stormwater there
 - Gradually putting more and more information up
 - Make it a one stop shop
- Energy Office – proposed policies
 - Energy Office received a grant from Maryland Energy Administration to assist in implementing three new policies
 - Reduce City government electric energy use 15% by 2015 using 2010 as the baseline.
 - This new policy falls in line with the Baltimore Sustainability Plan which calls for the reduction of Baltimore’s energy use by 15% by 2015 and the Maryland Empower goal which is also 15% by 2015.
 - The Sustainability Plan also calls:
 - ‘to improve the energy efficiency of existing homes and buildings’ (RC, Strategy B)
 - for an ‘increase in energy conservation by residents, City government, businesses and institutions.’ (RC, Strategy E)
 - The Baltimore Climate Action Plan, under Energy Savings and Supply, Strategy 1, states, ‘Reduce energy consumption of existing buildings.’ This is not limited to city government buildings. Specifically it states:
 - ‘benchmark and disclose energy performance and improvements for city-owned’ (and all buildings) (ESS 1.B) (The Energy Office will be inputting city building data into Energy Star Portfolio as a means to benchmark and disclose building performance)
 - ‘require energy audits (ESS 1.C.a) and retro-commissioning (ESS 1.C.b.) for city-owned (and all buildings) over 10,000 square feet’. (audits have been conducted in all buildings where retrofits have occurred and the Energy Office plans to continue this practice. Retrocommissioning occurs at our largest use buildings)

- ‘retrofit Baltimore’s street lights for more efficient energy usage’ (ESS 1.G) (Currently, 11,000 conversions are complete, and the next 30,000 are being negotiated).
- ‘promote efficient community energy districts’ (CHP is an example). (ESS Strategy 4)
- ‘encourage co-generation installation for replacing inefficient boiler plants’
- This new City policy specifically calls for the reduction of city government electric energy use. The same goal from the Sustainability Plan will be used:
- but the baseline year will be 2010 instead of 2008, making this policy more challenging since much work was completed in city buildings between 2006 and 2010.
- by setting this new policy, Baltimore City government will be leading by example.
- The Energy Office has completed audits and energy efficiency retrofits in our major office buildings, all fire stations and the Convention Center. We partnered with DOT to complete Phase 1 of switching street lights to LED and will continue with a second phase. We partnered with BEC to conduct a pilot employee energy challenge and have plans to install submeters in large buildings and continue our partnership to educate employees. We have both plans and funds to build combined heat and power plants (CHP) and are working with Exelon, as part of the merger agreement, to carry out their commitment to install 10 MW of solar in Baltimore.
- **Renewable Energy Policy**
 - Increase City government renewable energy 20% by 2022 using 2010 as a baseline.
 - The Baltimore Sustainability Plan, under the Resource Conservation Chapter in Strategy C states, ‘increase renewable energy generation in Baltimore City’ and ‘Baltimore should strive to increase both small and large scale renewable energy sources to a... capacity of 50MW by 2020. This language is not limited to City government.
 - The Baltimore Climate Action Plan, in the Energy Savings and Supply Chapter, Strategy 2, states, ‘Promote generation of renewable energy.’
 - Currently the City has 1 MW of solar and 2 MW of digester gas to help power the Back River Wastewater Treatment Plant. Additionally, BRESCO, the waste to energy plant –(incinerated trash is a renewable energy source in Maryland), will begin delivering 10 MW of electricity to the City this summer.
- **Petroleum Reduction Policy**
 - Reduce petroleum consumption by the City Fleet 20% by 2017 using 2012 as a baseline.
 - The Baltimore Sustainability Plan, under Pollution Prevention, Strategy C, calls for ‘exploration for more efficient fleet conversion’ and states, ‘ 50% of the fleet vehicles be in the top 10% of efficiency in their weight class by 2015’.
 - The Climate Action Plan, under Land Use and Transportation, Strategy 5, calls to ‘increase efficiency in City fleet’ and ‘support alternative fuel infrastructure and encourage adoption of alternative fuel vehicles’ (LUT 6.A)

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that for every year the age of a fleet is reduced a 6% savings in fuel use is realized. The City's new leasing structure, being implemented in fiscal year 2014, is based on a more conservative, 5%, savings per year of reduction in Fleet age. The commitment by the City to lease \$30 million of vehicles a year for the next three years will result in a 4-year reduction in the age of the Fleet by the end of 2018. This will result in a 20% reduction in City fuel use. Additionally, the Energy Office is accessing the conversion of larger vehicles to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and smaller vehicles to electric, which if successful, would result in an additional 10-15% reduction.
- Question from Davis – fuel – gas not diesel? Looking at changing load packers – largest diesel user in the City. Change to CNG
- Fran – are you challenging yourself?
- Cheryl – these align with plans we officially adopted.
- 14 votes to adopt energy office policies

Meeting Adjourned: 6:00 pm

Upcoming Events:

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, July 23, 2013, 4 PM