

**Baltimore Commission on Sustainability  
July 24, 2012 Meeting Report**

**Date:** Tuesday July 24, 2012 from 4-6 pm

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

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

**In Attendance:** (*Commissioners*) – Ted Atwood, Davis Bookhart, Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Peter Doo, Ray Ehrlich, Lynn Heller, Brian Knight, Jake Ruppert, Scot Spencer, Tom Stosur, 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. Scot Spencer moves and Peter Doo seconds.
- Chair Report
  - Introduction of new Commission members. They still need to be sworn in, and formally approved by City Council, but have gone through nomination hearing process
    - Earl Johnson
    - Geraldine Okwesa
    - Miriam Avins
    - Fran Flanigan
    - Cindy Parker
  - Thanking members that will be finishing their terms of service:
    - Jake Ruppert
    - Brian Knight
    - Keith Losoya
    - Alyson Taylor
    - Patrick McMahon
  - New members who were present introduced themselves
    - Cindy Parker: preventive medicine physician. Health is dependent on environment
    - Earl Johnson: social enterprise, Come Home Baltimore, veterans group 6<sup>th</sup> Branch
    - Fran Flanigan: water quality work, MD Prot Administration, Sustainable Port
    - Miriam Avins: not present but noted that she is ED of Baltimore Green Space
    - Geraldine Okwesa: not present but noted that she is resident of Reservoir Hill and an educator in City Schools
  - Alice, Beth & Cheryl: working on communications plan for office and commission. Contract with Celeste Amato to do work. Cheryl states that she believes Baltimore is doing great innovative work on a number of sustainability fronts. Looking to be much more intentional about highlighting and moving ideas. Would anyone else like to be on communications team? Scot replies yes
  - Meet once before August with a small group to go over work plan
- Staff Report

- Adaptation Plan is starting to kick off. Hired an Adaptation Planner who will be starting in October
  - Farms making progress, 3 of them moving quickly. 1<sup>st</sup> in Sandtown Winchester, 2<sup>nd</sup> Pearlman Place, 3<sup>rd</sup> Johnston Square
  - 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
  - Customer Investment Fund – hearing on August 7<sup>th</sup>. \$59 million proposal to PSC, Alice working on behalf of Energy Challenge with Ken Strong (Weatherization), Ted Atwood (DGS), and Greg Sileo (DHR), as well as team members to develop proposal. Hoping that hearing with PSC goes well. Not sure how PSC will make decisions or determinations.
  - July 8<sup>th</sup> BOPA launched EBT use at Baltimore Farmers Market. 40 participating vendors, 10 more coming on board
  - US Conference of Mayor’s meeting in Orlando
  - Field trip to Philadelphia – Shop Rite stores and innovative ways to bring food stores to urban areas.
- Polystyrene Legislation Discussion – Dana Cooper, DPW; Lynn M. Dyer, President, Foodservice Packaging Institute; J. Michael Martinez, Regional Manager, Government & Environmental Affairs, Dart Container Corporation
    - Dana Cooper, DPW
      - DPW has not filed an official position
      - In last year, through partnership with DART started polystyrene recycling at Sisson Street location
      - Newly minted program
      - Sustainability Plan goal for fishable and swimmable waterways enforced by a TMDL (total max daily load), by EPA. Trash TMDL imminent, and require Baltimore City implementation plan to remove trash from our waterways.
      - Every measure to reduce trash in waterways
      - Intent of bill – unconvinced that banning a specific product will get to the goal of reducing trash in waterways
    - Lynn M. Dyer
      - Represents the whole value chain of food packaging
      - Foodservice Packaging Institute [www.fpi.org](http://www.fpi.org)
      - To identify a solution, you must first understand a problem.
      - The proposed solution: Ordinance 12-0104 (Introduced 6/25/12) – “*prohibiting foodservice establishments from using certain polystyrene products*”
      - What is the problem? Litter in Baltimore’s streets and the Inner Harbor?
      - Is this an effective solution for this problem?
      - According to a 2009 study by Keep America Beautiful...
      - 51 billion pieces of litter on U.S. roadways, waterways and public spaces
      - Keep America Beautiful’s *Littering Behavior in America* (2009)
        - Fast Food Packaging 5.3% of
- 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