

Baltimore Commission on Sustainability
August 24, 2010 Meeting Report

Date: Tuesday, August 24, 2010 from 4-6 pm

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

Subject: Commission on Sustainability August 2010 General Meeting

In Attendance: (*Commissioners*) - Cheryl Casciani, Peter Doo, Ray Ehrlich, Lynn Heller, Brian Knight, Keith Losoya, Patrick McMahon, John Quinn, Jake Ruppert, Alyson Taylor, (*Staff*) - Beth Strommen, Alice Kennedy

Presenters: Raymond Ehrlich, Laurie Feinberg

Topics addressed:

- Minutes from July 2010 meeting are approved without amendment
 - Motion made by John Quinn, second by Patrick McMahon
- Chair Report
 - Notes on Agenda: Presentation by John Ciekot and Tyler Brown from Real Food Farms moved to September agenda, Ruth Ann Norton presentation on Green and Healthy Homes Initiative also moved to September agenda.
- Staff Report
 - The Office of Sustainability - Sustainability Coordinator position advertised on Green Dream Jobs, Idealist.org and Baltimore City website. Don't know how many applications came in, closing date for position was August 20, 2010. End of October or early November is the projection to have position filled.
 - Green Building Standards – Mayor approved, officially a go. Planning a press event and working on press release. All information is on BOS website.
 - Climate Action Plan – AECOM is finalizing scope of work, budget and timeline. Will need to be processed, moved through legal department for contract and Board of Estimates.
 - Community Energy Saver Grants – all award letters have gone out and moving forward. Next workshop is October 13, 2010, next deadline is December 8, 2010.
 - The Plastic Bag Work Reduction – close to the computer program being up and running. All of the information is on the BOS website. We should tell people to go there for information. Not enforcing the bill until the computer program is up and running. The poster is finished. www.baltimoresustainability.org on both sides of home page, information on the Plastic Bag Ordinance.
 - Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge – in expansion phase, finalizing the 12 new neighborhoods, if anyone has any suggestions please contact Alice. Some communities have lost interest over the summer for various reasons.
- Presentations
 - Councilman Kraft's Litter Committee – Ray Ehrlich
 - Resolution required Director of DPW and Cleaner Greener Coordinator to have hearings on trash in the inner harbor
 - Small committee was formed to look at actions to address trash in harbor
 - Committee formed smaller workgroups: Public Education and Outreach; Trash Removal; Enforcement and Penalties.

- May see proposed legislation based on what Committee comes up with.
 - Beth suggested looking at Cleaner Greener for outreach and education components.
 - Cheryl suggested looking at Keith's presentation on litter inventory.
 - Ray stated that they are looking at the watersheds and they know which ones contribute the most litter, using a game plan that Harris Creek Watershed has used.
 - Not targeting a typical type of litter – overall
 - Beth suggested new landscape architect to attend September meeting of the Litter Committee.
- Transform Baltimore – Laurie Feinberg and Staff
 - Transform Baltimore BOS Staff Report was distributed to Commissioners
 - Transform Baltimore Poster Handout
 - There is most likely something for every goal of the Sustainability Plan if a complete analysis of the code against the SP were to take place.
 - Want to be clear but not too detailed. Need to think in terms of physical areas, heights and projections. Ex: definition of a cool roof does not need to be addressed. Trees on a roof could be a projection
 - Wind Turbines: discussion around wanting to be flexible to allow for future technology. Beth will talk to the wind power installers to get information.
 - Point made by Lynn Heller for the Commission and Staff to look at the Zoning Code in a “forward thinking” manner. Need to be “visionary”
 - When reviewing new zoning code, need to be aware of preservation ordinances and other layers such as urban renewal plans that can affect code.
 - Believe that they have everything in new zoning code to replace all of the urban renewal plans. Some urban renewal plans are expiring.
 - Goal would be to have items to cut and paste for zoning code not a Sustainability Chapter because it permeates throughout the new code.
 - Laurie pointed out several places where the commission and staff could comment on. Examples: New business type to allow for composting and recycling. Parking and elimination of new surface lots, transportation.
 - Appropriate memos to be drafted delivery to Planning Commission. Once again, this would be a broader policy memo from the Sustainability Commission.
 - Any substantial text changes should be provided by mid September.
 - Earliest that the new zoning code would make it to City Council would be January, 2011.
- Legislation
 - City Council Bill 10-0488 – Planned Unit Development – 25th Street Station
 - July meeting spent time talking about memo, came up with a list of 9 items from the Sustainability Plan that we felt related to the development. In revised memo, staff shortened this list to 6.
 - Request by the Mayor's Office to revise memo due to procedural mistake.
 - Example: Do not want to legislate design, specific language regarding design of green wall in loading area. This would need to be a memo to the Planning Commission.
 - Policy should be looked at broadly on a city-wide level, and then appropriate memos should be submitted.
 - Gary Cole provided advice and agreed that memo should be drafted and presented to the Planning Commission.

- Beth will draft an appropriate policy memo to the Planning Commission before the next meeting.
- Discussion around bullet point 2: Pollution Prevention Goal 2: Improve Baltimore's air quality and eliminate Code Red days.
- Consensus was to eliminate bullet point 2 from revised memo and vote occurred to approve revised memo. Favor: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 2

Upcoming Events:

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, September 28, 2010, 4 PM at 417 East Fayette Street, 8th Floor