

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Baltimore Commission on Sustainability</b> <b>August 27, 2013 Meeting Report</b></p>
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**Date:** Tuesday, August 27, 2013 from 4-6 pm

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

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

**In Attendance:** (*Commissioners*) –Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Fran Flanigan, Lynn Heller, , Gerie Okwesa, Scot Spencer, Ed Whalen, Mary Washington, Sharon Middleton, Dana Cooper

(*Staff*) - Alice Kennedy, Abby Cocke, Kristin Baja

**Meeting called to order:** 4:00 pm

**Topics addressed:**

- Minutes approved May 28, 2013 meeting. Dana moved, Fran seconds
- **Chair Report**
  - Extensive discussion at July meeting regarding polystyrene legislation
  - Asked staff to do follow up in briefing memo
    - Beth will walk through
    - At Conclusion will vote on polystyrene
  - Other Agendas --> DP3 briefing and Urban Agriculture Plan briefing; vote on both in September.
  - Lynn's request— Lynn will chair September meeting,
    - Update Peter and Abby on Green Schools
    - Beth Growing Green Initiative
    - Genuine Progress Indicators
  - October
    - Waste to Wealth
    - Priorities discussion
    - October 15<sup>th</sup> meeting change
  - November 13<sup>th</sup> Planning retreat
  - December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting—complete work-plan up for 2014
  - 2014 — change meeting schedule; 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month
- **Staff Report**
  - DP3 and Urban Agriculture Plan
  - DP3 Advisory Committee endorsed Draft document last Monday, now briefing CoS, out to public for comments
  - Growing Green Initiative
    - Using all types of green to stabilize communities in distress
    - Using green as economic development tool
    - Goal: Green Pattern Book out beta test fall—hopefully

- CIF
  
- **City Council Bill 12-0104**
  - Fishable and Swimmable—Goal
  - Language in bill limits food service establishments’ use of certain polystyrene foam
  - Circulated to commission
    - Water Wheel
    - Levy
    - Middle Branch Trash Study
  - Beth walk through briefing memo;
    - 4 key points:
      - Impacts on small businesses
        - Interviews with other cities indicated price goes down because the demand for other products increases; but unclear how much or how long it takes
        - Estimated 50 restaurants already using alternative products
      - Effects on reduction of floatable trash in the harbor
        - Baltimore trash skimmers pick up an average of 200 tons of trash per year—significant volume
        - Middle Branch 2006 Report: trash collected styrofoam waste 36% of trash at those sites.
        - Fort McHenry wetlands: foam accounted for the most trash collected, at 64% of total debris
        - Ban may have an impact
      - Impacts of polystyrene ban on trash/litter
        - San Francisco street litter audit—polystyrene to other products. Raw data found 2007 41% decrease in polystyrene litter.
        - Volume of other litter increased all around; hard to say why.
        - Data is not consistent enough to use in Baltimore.
      - Impacts of educational campaign
        - Texas campaign measured 34% reduction in visible litter
        - Litter measured adjacent to highways
        - All litter reduction campaigns hoping to have some data—not apples to apples
- Cheryl notes that this process began on August 14<sup>th</sup> 2012, almost a year ago to the day. Numerous discussions since.

- Scot moved
- Fran seconds
- All in favor of Bill 12-0104:
  - 4 support
  - 8 Against
  - 2 Abstain
- John: will commission be able to make a statement in terms of why we voted in one way?
  - Wednesday morning would use time to draft memo
  - John C.: In the big picture, a piecemeal approach without addressing the big issue
    - What do we believe and how do we behave in relation to those beliefs
    - Must address peoples beliefs and behavior
- Mary: Opportunity to study — not a study to delay the process — to examine what are the existing trash streams producing trash. Looking at more comprehensive approach and encourage process—all brought together, how might small businesses partner and be a part of the solution?
  - Might be specific ban items—needs to be part of larger process, makes sense of larger approach
- Scot: not about not wanting to reduce polystyrene trash, but about doing it in ways that are sustainable, the aim is to balance people, planet, prosperity
  - Two ways:
    - Low income communities, greater per person use in those areas
    - Small businesses, net neutral effect—trash reduction visible but not enough knowledge if it is absolute—are we getting real reduction in trash? Visible, yes. But all?
- Fran: Vote is not in favor of polystyrene (in fact, very much against); but need to support more comprehensive action
- Lynn: not an easy vote. people have littered all over the world. Supports behavior change, campaigns. Doesn't think it will make a difference. Polystyrene does not even decompose; paper and plastic do—take the point broader than that.
- Gerie: Thinks polystyrene needs to go. Kids throw it on the street. Rich or poor, it still goes on the street. Most comes from kids and corner stores. Campaign to target kids, make responsible for taking out trash. How teach young folks to not put litter on the street? If we take it out we're not dealing with it.

- Concludes work on this bill
- Public Comment: Mario, restaurant owner, no one talked about recycling; could adopt something like California recycling program.
  
- **Disaster Preparedness and Planning Project (DP3)**
  - Revisit: Hazard mitigation, adaptation,
  - preparedness + planning = Resilience
    - Coastal Storms : more severe
    - Floods: more extensive
    - Severe Thunderstorms: more severe
    - Wind: increase intensity
    - Winter Storms: less snow, more flooding
    - Extreme Heat/Drought: more severe and intense
    - Sea Level Rise: increased threat
    - Air Quality: lower quality and increase risk
  - Community Engagement
    - 5 Flood-related meetings
    - Map their own vulnerability
    - Cheryl: What neighborhoods?
      - Westport
      - Canton/Fells Point
      - Mt. Winans
      - Dickeyville
    - Heat: Sandtown Winchester and Oliver
      - Most people did not know what was available to them
    - EPA: Middle managers in the City, some of the outreach that has been done
    - The draft is posted on 2 websites
  - Plan:
    - DP3 Development Process
    - Risk Assessment
      - Hazard Identification
        - Hazard Identification
        - Review Historical Impacts
        - Conduct an Asset Inventory
      - Impacts Assessment
        - HAZUS Modeling
        - Integrate projected climate conditions
        - Identify weaknesses
      - Vulnerability Assessment

- Determine likelihood
  - Determine economic, social, legal & environmental consequence
- Plan Development
  - Vision, Goals, Strategies, Actions
  - Prioritization
  - Integration
  - Plan for implementation& monitoring
- Advisory Committee
  - Key stakeholders from all sectors
  - Five full committee meetings
  - Six subcommittee meetings
  - Plan endorsed unanimously on August 19, 2013
- Document Outline [It is significant, long; Requires many maps and charts]
  - Chapter 1: Introduction
  - Chapter 2: Mitigation and Adaptation
  - Chapter 3: Hazard Identification
  - Chapter 4: Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
  - Chapter 5: Strategies and Actions [bulk of the document]
  - Chapter 6: Implementation Guidelines
- Sectors and Sub-sectors
  - Infrastructure: Energy, Liquid Gas, Communication, Transportation, Waterfront, Wastewater, Stormwater, Solid Waste, Policy
  - Buildings: City Codes, Structural, Non-Structural
  - Natural Systems: Urban Parks & Forests, Water Supply and Management
  - Public Services: Emergency Preparedness & Response Health, Education & Outreach, Food System
- Additional Elements
  - Engineering Study focused on Fells Point waterfront
  - Health Impact Assessment on Urban Heat with the Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD)
  - Community Outreach and Collaboration
  - Historical Considerations
  - Hyperlinking to existing Plans
- Connection with CAP
  - **Infrastructure**
    - Increasing resiliency of the electricity system
    - Increasing energy conservation efforts

- Alternative modes of transportation
    - Debris management
    - **Buildings**
      - Strengthen city codes to integrate changes in climate
      - Improve resource conservation opportunities in buildings
    - **Natural Systems**
      - Increase and enhance the resilience and health of Baltimore's urban forest
      - Water Supply
    - **Public Services**
      - Integrate climate change and natural hazards planning into all City and community plans
  - Timeline
  - September 10<sup>th</sup>: Draft Document Posted Online
  - September 10<sup>th</sup>: Draft- Sustainability Commission
  - September 24<sup>th</sup>: Sustainability Commission
  - September 27<sup>th</sup>: Draft- Planning Commission
  - October 3<sup>rd</sup>: Planning Commission
  - October 2013-2014: Implementation
  - Scot: Infrastructure — transportation, different nodes
    - How would people get out of the City? Public Service?
    - Kristin: how we create roads and pedestrian and bicycle routes as well.
    - Capital Project—infrastructure
  - Dana: EPA famously silo organization, who was it that worked with DP3?
    - Conducted a workshop with them.
  - Mary: Building on prior question—infrastructure, buses and where and how people move
    - Public services: emergency preparedness and response
  - Gerie: how impact resiliency of electric grid of Baltimore?
    - BGE putting in new electric grid and boxes?
    - What are the recommendations in the plan?
  - John Q. Climate is going to put more pressures on systems. Smart grid and smart meters allow for two-way communication. Long-term upgrading infrastructure wherever we can. High level of regulatory pressure.
- **Home Grown Baltimore**
    - Ribbon cutting
    - Grow Local, Buy Local, Eat Local
    - Baltimore Sustainability Plan Goals:

- Cleanliness
- Education and Awareness
- Green Economy Goals
- Greening Goals
- Grow Local
- Plan development process—finished final edits and now at the Mayor’s Office
- Cheryl: Who has had input? Over course of time?
  - The people who aren’t as thrilled?
- Concept behind the plan asks what we can do to support Urban Agriculture.
- Important that the Commission understands context in which this lands.
- Complete understanding
- Plan structure
  - Executive Summary
  - I. Introduction: Purpose, Audience, Development
  - II. Background on Urban Agriculture: History, Benefits, Categories
  - III. Urban Agriculture Land Assessment
  - IV. Current Policy Context: Zoning, Hoophouses, Animal Husbandry, Aquaculture, Soil Contamination, Composting, Occupational Safety
  - Current Urban Agricultural Activities: Farms, Community Gardens, Youth Gardens, Home & Rooftop Gardens, Aquaculture/Aquaponics, Other
  - VI. Key Recommendations: Long-Term Vision, Implementation, Land, Water, Soil, Capital, Support
  - VII. Buy Local, Eat Local
  - VIII. Conclusion
  - Appendices: Acknowledgement to Contributors, Design Standards for Urban Farms, Zoning Code
- Recommendations
  - Land: Offer solutions for increased land security to a relevant range of growers:
    - Develop Automatic Notification of License Renewal
    - Streamline Community Managed Open Space Process
    - Incorporate Community Farms Into Existing Land Trust
    - Encourage Direct Land Purchasing
    - Improve Land Leasing Initiative
    - Strengthen Tenure of Adopt-a-Lot Program
    - Support Incentives for Gardens and Farms on Privately-Owned Vacant Land
  - Water: Ensure Maximum water access for growers by streamlining the process and preserving water supply lines:
    - Improve Payment Process for Water Access Program

- Develop Options for Winter Water Access
    - Provide Resource for Sites without a Water Meter Pit
    - Preserve Existing Water Infrastructure
  - Soil: Build rich, safe urban soils through increased access to equipment, compost and local soil testing:
    - Increase Equipment Availability
    - Develop Soil Standards
    - Provide Soil Testing
  - Capital: Leverage Local and Regional Resources to help growers:
    - Expand Funding Assistance
    - Support Garden Irrigation Fund
    - Agency Support: Streamline operations, regulations and staffing to support growers:
      - Designate DHCD Staff Position
      - Create Support Staff Position
      - Support Farm Incubator Development
      - Assess New Zoning Code's Permit Process
      - Animal Regulations
      - Explore Liability Insurance Options
- Related issues
  - New Animal Husbandry regulations currently out for public comment
  - Soil Safety Policy undergoing final internal review before public comment
  - Request for Qualifications for Urban Farmers to be released this fall
  - Transform Baltimore, w/ new use categories and standards for urban farms and community gardens, currently being reviewed by City Council
  - 2 sites totaling 3 acres leased out so far, 2 more sites totaling another 2 acres in negotiations
- Next Steps
  - Release for public comment
  - Revise based on comments
  - Submit final version to Commission on Sustainability for approval, make recommended changes and re-submit, if necessary
  - Submit final version to Planning Commission , make recommended changes and re-submit, if necessary
  - Publish approved plan
- Beth: overlap with Growing Green Initiative
- Ed: Once this land is leased, provisions in place if it doesn't pan out; steps taken right away to limit damage. Any obligations taken by participating in this?
  - Call 311
  - Site Plan Review Committee

- Fran: substantial investment, training for inspectors.
- Design Standards added in because of issues, a fine line.
- Scot: Soil protection, where in the assessment; determine lead.
- Abby: Site history assessment: lead, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, etc. Mitigation.
- Scot: V2V feed into this? Does the City have any responsibility?

**Meeting Adjourned: 5:40PM**