

**Baltimore Commission on Sustainability
November 22, 2011 Meeting Report**

Date: Tuesday, November 22, 2011 from 4-6 pm

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

Subject: Commission on Sustainability November 2011 General Meeting

In Attendance: (*Commissioners*) – Davis Bookhart, Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Peter Doo, Lynn Heller, Brian Knight, Patrick McMahon, Ruth Ann Norton, John Quinn, Jake Ruppert, Ali Smith, Scot Spencer, Tom Stosur, Mary Washington, Ed Whalen
(*Staff*) - Beth Strommen, Alice Kennedy, Abby Cocke

Topics addressed:

- Minutes approved October 2011 meeting. Ed moves and Tom seconds.
- Chair Report
 - Welcome
 - City Schools Sustainability Day – great event
 - Move December meeting to December 20th. Alice will post update to website
 - Sent last minute email regarding support letter that would provide additional funds for Ken Strong’s weatherization team. PSC is reviewing low income programs, and MD DHCD has proposal in to PSC that would have all low income weatherization work funds go through DHCD vs. a portion through DHCD and some through utility.
 - Became aware through GHHI Learning Network
 - This would have more money come into Baltimore after AARA stimulus funds are exhausted in March
 - John Quinn: Ruth Kiselewich feels that the BGE low income program works well. John will provide data regarding the program
 - Davis Bookhart: Why recommend DHCD as the sole provider?
 - Cheryl will go back, check on items, and send email if coming back for comment or support
 - Areas of Priority Interest – will spend time deciding on those tonight
 - LED lights – what is going on in the City with LEDs? We will hear from people tonight to talk to us about status.
- Staff Report
 - Green Infrastructure – Mayor has seen green infrastructure power point during a briefing with Tom. She is supportive and would like additional information
 - A white paper is being developed and will be delivered to Mayor’s Office by last week of January
 - Benefits
 - How to move forward.
 - Legislation: Land Conservation bill, 501c3 not exempt from property taxes, it is based on underlying zoning. Introduced at requests of land trusts to provide relief from property taxes. Won’t pass, but a solution is being worked through that won’t require legislation
 - All Boards & Commissions expire because of new appointments
 - Mayor’s Inaugural is December 6th

- Metrics: Committee has met. Reviewing on a chapter, goal and strategy basis. Partnership with BNIA being drafted for proposal. Recommendation is to institute minor changes to 2011 Report, and then do full overhaul once we have clear idea of metrics needs for CAP as well.
- Priority Discussion – Team reports
 - Energy
 - Jake, Alice, Ed Kirk, Anne Draddy
 - Narrowed down to three areas of focus.
 - Whatever we choose should be accomplishable within one year or setting the table for future events
 - Residential Tax Incentive based on Energy Efficiency
 - Amend current tax credits
 - New construction tax credit
 - Built purchased
 - Raising the bar and easily tracked
 - Assist in eliminating barriers to solar installations on schools & Gov't buildings
 - Vandalism
 - Stolen panels
 - Support of Community Solar legislation will support barriers regarding crossing property lines and financing. Will also support residential work
 - Educational efforts around solar installations
 - PV
 - Solar thermal
 - Cheryl: doesn't seem like these are not worth accomplishing
 - Jake: low hanging fruit
 - Davis: Net metering? Where does that stand?
 - Tom: Did you have a standard in mind?
 - Jake: HERS score from RESNET. HERS is integral to Energy Star program, 2006 energy code baseline 100 points, every point of efficiency
 - HERS will always stay HERS even if Energy Star changes in version 3.0
 - RAN: Who would you talk to?
 - Alice: Nick Mosby, Brandon Scott, Sharon Middleton, Jim Kraft, Bill Henry Mary Pat Clarke
 - Stormwater & Plastic Bags
 - Cheryl, Scot, Dana, Ray, Mary, Beth, Amy Gilder-Busatti, Ivor Quashie
 - PB fee Possibility & Stormwater Fee
 - Focused on legislation
 - PB @ state level
 - Recommendation is to focus on stormwater fee
 - Propose general support on Plastic Bags fee
 - Focus on stormwater fee in City Council
 - What is most helpful to DPW?
 - Presence at hearings and possible testimony
 - Use as a tactical strike force for lobbying
 - Increase presence at community meetings
 - 3 concrete suggestions
 - Communication/Op Ed/Education
 - Potential political challenge state vs. city legislation
 - What would happen if state increased flush tax before City passes SWF

- Would State act as a disincentive to City not to pass
- RAN: briefing with City Council, urge them to take action before State
- Ordinance with Law Department
- Check with Mary Pat Fannon, CBT, and others on political climate
- Marcia Collins & Celeste to brief Commission
- Tree Committee
 - Alice, Mary Washington, Abby, Davis, Sharon Middleton, Nina Beth Cardin
 - A lot of education
 - Step back and look at barriers to move forward
 - Each agency has a role
 - Priority focus
 - Help make sure “own house” is in order when it comes to tree
 - Conversation with each agency that is responsible and what their role is
 - Possibly suggest a moratorium on trees to get a handle on what is going on
 - Support changes to existing legislation, ensure common language & definitions across legislation
- Green Infrastructure
 - Still a moving target, a concept discussion focused on macro
 - Street tree, stormwater management, farms
 - Agreed that stormwater is foundation of GI
 - Group decided to focus on stormwater mitigation and supporting that
 - GI works best with stormwater mitigation banking aggregated
- LED Lights
 - Jamie Kendrick, Deputy Director Department of Transportation
 - Approximately 78,000 city street lights
 - City owns 7,000 outright
 - 43,000 city owns but BGE maintains
 - 27,000 BGE owns & maintains
 - 2.5 years trying to implement city-wide LED program
 - \$42-48 million we don't have, clearly not able to finance alone.
 - ESG as partner to design build finance maintain streetlights
 - Handful of things to make this work
 - Benefit: lower consumption, lower costs 40-70% in savings. Real money saved is in the maintenance.
 - 12 year warranty \$97 per pole per year
 - How to create system both parties perceive to be safe, and one that meets the city's needs
 - Have begun to change the 7,000 that the City owns
 - Wall is to change the 43,000
 - Ruth Ann Norton asked why?
 - Fuse panel. Street lights have fuse kit, way tariff is written in terms of disconnect.
 - Jake Ruppert: city spec to meet doesn't say fixture to be used is LED. How can system be made easier to know to ask about LED.
 - Period of transition, only certain fixture types and wattages approved by us & BGE.
 - Patrick: switched traffic signals to LED
 - Anne Draddy: ESG to talk to Parks to switch out lights to LED
 - Milton Branson, BGE

- Jamie covered issue fairly well. BGE plays a supporting role to City. Supported Councilwoman Clarke's legislation, except believed it was unreasonable to be able to make the change to LED by 2013. 2015 more realistic
- About the disconnect: cable goes back to substation, streetlights wired directly in to BGE distribution system
- Cheryl: Do you share Jamie's optimism in resolution?
- Milton: Yes – getting close
- Marwan: DGS City & ESG are willing to hire BGE as a sub?
- How to costs accrue? By tariff. Separate tariff, utility charge, generation, maintenance.
- BGE came back to DOT immediately to save money off the bat. 5-6 ways to have DOT & City save money on street lighting.
- Goal #2: Make Baltimore bicycle and pedestrian friendly
- Jerry Sutton, SavWatt
 - Baltimore based manufacturer of LED lighting
 - Assemble, quality control and shipping from Baltimore
 - Proprietary product is the EcoPole. Self contained, off the grid wind & solar powered.
 - 3 sample EcoPoles in parks in Baltimore
 - Approved supplier for BGE LED lighting rebates
 - Partnered with Humanim. 2/3 of workforce comes through Humanim. Saw as an opportunity to provide employment to those with significant barriers to employment. Focus on low income residents needing jobs
 - Looking for aggressive approach to companies to sell products, increase demand.
 - EcoPole approximately \$10,000
 - New waterproofing technology for all LED lightbulbs
- Next Steps & Follow Up
 - Energy Focus @ December 20 meeting Delegate Dana Stein
 - Stormwater: checking flush tax, community meetings, Celeste or Marcia to discuss
 - Trees: Mary & Davis letter, Ruth Ann to edit
 - Baltimore Metropolitan Council invitation to brief on HUD award

Upcoming Events:

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, December 20, 2011, 4 PM at 417 East Fayette Street, 8th Floor