

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

**Date:** Tuesday, February 22, 2011 from 4-6 pm

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

**Subject:** Commission on Sustainability February 2011 General Meeting

**In Attendance:** (*Commissioners*) –Ted Atwood, Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Peter Doo, Ray Ehrlich, Lynn Heller, Brian Knight, Keith Losoya, Patrick McMahon, Sharon Middleton, Ruth Ann Norton, John Quinn, Jake Ruppert, Scot Spencer, Tom Stosur, Alyson Taylor, Ed Whalen  
(*Staff*) - Beth Strommen, Alice Kennedy

Presenters: Beth Strommen, Alice Kennedy & Amy Gilder-Busatti

**Topics addressed:**

- Minutes from January 2010 meeting are approved with amendment
  - Amendment: Add Tom Stosur to “In Attendance”
  - Motion made by Ray Ehrlich, second by Ed Whalen
- Chair Report
  - Anyone can raise a topic for exploration, would need to assist with working on the issue. Example: Environmental Literacy
  - Received inquiries and suggestions from community and Commissioners about Mt. Vernon Trees, Grand Prix Trees and stormwater waivers for Wal-Mart. We will now have a standing “Legislative Items” agenda item.
  - Need additional money for City Schools Sustainability Challenge. Funding each school at \$850, but would like to get them to \$1000 each. Need an additional \$5500, if you would like to get involved, let Alice know.
  - Tonight’s Agenda: several presentations, but central discussion is to focus on the goals for the year. Idea came up in a conversation with Ruth Ann and thought that it was a good idea. We have not done anything like this before, we can try it out and see how it works.
  - Cheryl will miss the March meeting. Peter doo will chair the meeting.
- Staff Report
  - Green Jobs Coalition will be working with CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy). \$60,000 grant received from the Federal Government around green economy and green jobs.
  - Updated non-tidal and tidal flood insurance maps and required code amendments. These updates are part of standard re-evaluations done by FEMA periodically to assure the accuracy of the maps and the risks associated with flooding.
  - Received a grant to update Baltimore’s existing ‘All Hazard Mitigation Plan’ and, with approved FEMA funding, development of a more comprehensive All-Hazard Mitigation Plan to address changes in our flood maps.
  - Introduction of Susan Carroll, new Program Coordinator for Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge
  - Annual Report – coming along. Will be looking for assistance on Biodiversity goal, transportation, and green jobs. Also, will be asking Commissioners to assist with the “Steps You Can Take” section of Report. What would we like citizens to do to assist with achieving goals.
  - Food Circulator Map created

- Farmer's Market Assessment – creating a “How to Guide” for creating new market.
- First City Government to fund a Food Policy Director Position
- Presentations
  - Goals Discussion – Beth Strommen and Alice Kennedy
    - 7 “Immediate Plan Content Goals”
      - Climate Action Plan
      - Community energy Savers Grant
      - Urban Farm Land Leased
      - Baltimore Schools Sustainability Challenge
      - Commercial Energy Challenge
      - Landscape Manual
      - “Green Your Home” Guide
    - 4 “Longer Term Plan Goals”
      - Food advocate
      - Food Circulator
      - Apply for Grant to Research Code Red Days
      - City Office “Green Certification” Program
    - Policy Items
      - Plastic Bag Program
      - Water Quality and MS4 permit
      - Energy Policy (i.e. net metering)
      - Transform Baltimore
      - Critical Area Management Plan Update
      - Modification of Forest Conservation Program
      - Tree Preservation Rules/Policies
    - Operations
      - Communications Plan
      - Metrics
    - Discussion and Suggestions
      - Add Schools Composting Grant to Immediate Goals
      - GHFI Staff available to assist with “Green Your Home Guide”
      - Change Metric for Urban Farm Land leased to “10 acres leased”
      - Scot – People related goals. Translate to human investment. Screen for “people, planet, prosperity” on each project.
      - Lynn – where are we and how do we leverage our influence?
      - Ruth Ann – political vision for Baltimore, Aspiration & Accomplishment, how do you want to move forward
      - Engagement of entire city
      - Add Business certification and guidelines, not just City government program
      - If looking to shift policy, strong Legislative Committee will be needed
      - Will need assistance authoring green column and op-ed pieces
      - Will revise and send out
  - Landscape Manual – Amy Gilder-Busatti, Baltimore Office of Sustainability
    - Introduction
      - Purpose & Goals
      - Process

- Applicability/Review/Enforcement
- Site Conditions Overview
- Relation to Sustainability Goals
- Purpose
  - Promote high quality landscape design yet provide flexibility to allow designs to meet the needs of the particular project site
  - Provide a balance between its built and natural environments
- Goals
  - Improve and increase the city's environmental quality.
  - Preserve and enhance the city's character and sense of place.
  - Foster the economic vitality of the city's neighborhoods and commercial districts.
  - Provide a clear process for the design, review, and approval of landscape plans within the City of Baltimore's development review process.
- Process
  - Development of Draft
  - City Review
  - Advisory Committee Review
  - Draft Revision (current)
  - Public Presentation
  - Final Revision
  - Planning Board approval
  - City Council approval (with zoning code)
- Applicability/Review/Enforcement
  - Approved by City Council, administered by Planning Commission
  - Triggered by SPRC & SWM (5,000 sq. ft.)
  - Plans submitted and approved at SPRC & permit application
  - Enforced as part of the zoning code
- Site Conditions & Standards Overview
  - Tree Preservation/Relation to Forest Conservation
  - Coordination with Stormwater Management
  - Street Trees/Medians
  - Open Space & Promenade
  - Parking Lot landscaping & Other Screening (Automotive uses, storage, etc)
  - Standards for recommended species, planting, soils, maintenance & irrigation
- Relation to Sustainability Goals
  - Goal – Double city tree canopy
  - Goal – Ecology and Biodiversity
  - Goal – Swimmable/Fishable Waters
  - Goal – Resource Conservation
- Next Steps
  - Revised draft & public meeting invitation (March 1)
  - Public Meeting (March 15)

**Upcoming Events:**

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, March 22, 2011, 4 PM at 417 East Fayette Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor