

**Baltimore Commission on Sustainability**  
**June 28, 2011 Meeting Report**

**Date:** Tuesday, June 28, 2011 from 4-6 pm

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

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

**In Attendance:** (*Commissioners*) – Davis Bookhart, Cheryl Casciani, Peter Doo, Lynn Heller, Brian Knight, Keith Losoya, Patrick McMahon, Sharon Middleton, John Quinn, Jake Ruppert, Tom Stosur, Mary Washington, Ed Whalen  
(*Staff*) - Beth Strommen, Alice Kennedy

Members of Maryland General Assembly in attendance: Senator Verna Jones-Rodwell, Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Delegate Mary Washington, Delegate Keiffer Mitchell, Delegate Cheryl Glenn, Delegate Luke Clippinger, Delegate Barbara Robinson, Delegate Melvin Stukes, Delegate Dana Stein, Delegate Steve Lafferty, Delegate Jon Cardin, Delegate Dan Morhaim, M.D.

**Topics addressed:**

- Minutes approved May 2011 meeting. Ed moves and Lynn seconds.
- Chair Report
  - Welcome
  - Introductions
  - Thank members of the General Assembly for attending. The Commission on Sustainability has several areas where we may choose to have a more visible role in terms of legislation.
  - The Commission hasn't had a legislative agenda up to this point. We have written letters of support for certain bills and have been active in supporting our advocacy partners who take the lead.
  - The Commission will be discussing at the July meeting what areas will be main priority focus areas in terms of legislation.
- Staff Report
  - Climate Action Plan – final stages of contract review. Planning to launch first Advisory Task Force meeting in September.
  - The Baltimore Business Energy Challenge, a project of the Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge - will launch in the next couple of weeks. We are working with Main Streets and will focus outreach on these 10 areas.
  - Green Infrastructure – we have a Mayoral Fellow who is with us helping to pull together information for a green infrastructure plan.
  - Urban RFQ – review process complete, now in process of meeting with everyone and determining next steps. Formal announcement to come, not releasing final names at this point.
  - Food Policy Initiative – watch a short video that was produced for the U.S. Conference of Mayors. It does a great job of highlighting the work that Holly is doing around food in the City and Sustainability Plan Goal #2: Establish Baltimore as a leader in sustainable food systems.
- Overview of City's Sustainability Program
  - Overview of Commission - Cheryl
  - Overview of Office - Beth
  - Overview of Sustainability Plan – Alice

- Legislative review
  - Delegate Mary Washington
    - Believes there are so many opportunities for collaboration. The Commission does a great job connecting advocates and creating a forum to move agendas forward.
    - Look at the Commission as a resource. Great things are happening. Can share information. We (general assembly members) hear a lot from the advocates, the Commission can help answer questions. What is good about this bill? What can we do? Does it impact the goals of the City's Sustainability Plan?
  - Senator Verna Jones-Rodwell
    - Commends the work the Commission is doing
    - Some projects that have been done: trails and watershed in West Baltimore.
    - Vacant Lots: a place to build around this opportunity.
    - Cheerleader for Baltimore, Commission has her complete support.
  - Delegate Maggie McIntosh, Chair Environmental Matters Committee
    - Thank you for inviting us.
    - List of accomplishments
      - 1992 – went through comprehensive planning process for State. Updated water resources element and critically sensitive areas.
      - 2009 – Smart, Green and Growing
      - 2010 – Sustainable Communities
      - 2011 – Plan Maryland, Green Maryland Act
      - 2009 – Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act
      - 2008 – Farm to School Program
      - 2007 – Clean Cars Act
      - 2010 – Chesapeake Conservation Corps
      - Water quality – big area for more work
      - Task Force on Sustainable Growth & Wastewater Disposal: major work over the next few months.
      - Stormwater & retrofit – how to pay in future
      - Flush Fee/Tax
  - Delegate Dan Morhaim, M.D.
    - Electronic recycling
    - Looking at hospitals footprint – excellent to work with and consistent
    - Purchasing practices – government as a large purchaser can shift economy
    - Solar – working with Pete Hammen, how to put on government
  - Delegate Dana Stein
    - Attending presentation on the 24<sup>th</sup>, was impressed
    - International Green Construction Code
    - Disposable Carryout Bag legislation
    - MD Clean Energy Center – created to provide support for clean energy companies – could have more work in Baltimore
    - MEA – Malcom Wolff incentives to businesses
    - Partner and willing to be loudspeaker
  - Delegate Cheryl Glenn
    - Echo Dana's comments

- Green Building Code
- Advocate for education. Concerned not enough vocational areas in schools. Green building offers an opportunity.
- Concerned about trash and pollution. Wants to be careful about impact on constituents especially in this economy. Impact on working men, women and families. We have to do something, but keep in mind equity and those who cannot afford. Happy to work on this.
- Cheryl Casciani – look at what did other cities do so that it doesn't negatively effect residents?
- Delegate Keiffer Mitchell
  - Thank you for the invitation
  - Great to see video
  - 44<sup>th</sup> is poorest district in the State. Biggest issue is jobs. Are focused is green jobs, but feels that concept of green jobs is not applicable to constituents in 44<sup>th</sup>.
  - Green jobs, middle skills component. HS diploma or 1-2 certificates.
  - Loan Assistance repayment Program for students who go with bio sciences, healthcare. Student loans repay \$5,000. Explore where funding source would come from
  - Construction jobs
  - Happy to report, along with Delegates Washington and Clippinger that they received 100% score from the League of Conservation Voters
- Delegate Steve Lafferty
  - Dimensions of what Environmental Matters Committee takes on
  - Land trusts and preservation
  - Bicycle Safety: 3 foot rule, permission to use shoulders. Most important is educating drivers.
  - Commends Commission's focus
  - Really rethink how land is used, foster jobs, encouraging people to live where resources are
  - Recycling Bills – apartment recycling. Very few recycling jurisdictions offer recycling at apartment complexes. How to increase recycling in multi-family Business recycling
  - 9<sup>th</sup> graders Project Citizen – look at a problem and how to solve. Styrofoam food trays. Benzene and styrene carcinogenics leeching in hot food.
  - Value in having citizen legislators
- Delegate Robinson
  - When thinking about sustainability, always about the Bay. And it isn't brought back to the district
  - Has had so many “ah-ha” moments and personalize all things needed in district.
  - Pimlico meeting – money used for sustainability?
  - We need jobs, we need training.
  - Guiding principle: second chance
  - Daughter spearheading garden
  - Have (Delegate Robinson) hook, line and sinker. Whatever she can do to help.
- Delegate Luke Clippinger
  - 46<sup>th</sup> District everything that touches Patapsco inside of City. Get to see what happens when empty bottles are thrown into storm drain. Working with neighborhood associations to install trash catchers on stormdrains.
  - On Judiciary Committee and can talk about bike safety. Drivers who drive recklessly results in death of cyclist or pedestrian. Didn't have a way of pursuing criminal negligence to prosecute.

- Economy of scale – solar on a whole block. Solar TIF district? Could help lower cost of living in City. Ways to figure out lowering other costs to offset.
- Delegate Melvin Stukes
  - Investigator for MTA
  - Looking for substantial things to change in 44<sup>th</sup>.
  - Realize the importance of sustainability
  - Never enough money to help youth. Ask for volunteer payroll deduction go into fund youth jobs.
  - Working together works for all people
- Councilwoman Middleton
  - Thank you Delegates for being here. I am honored to be a part of the hardest working Commission.
  - Mayor very supportive, as well as Council
  - Hope to continue work in future on issues
  - Please continue to spread word throughout the State on these issues and Baltimore
  - Please call my office for help.
- Comments
  - Ed Whalen – great season for growing
  - Brian Knight – would like to look more at apartment recycling
  - Peter Doo – Express appreciation for all that elected officials do. Think some way to formalize dialogue between Commission and General Assembly members.
  - Mary Washington – thrilled and happy when two worlds come together. Maybe a briefing after each session
  - Commission to join GA members for City Delegation meeting in Annapolis.
  - Council President Jack Young's Office – very excited about Commission and work it is doing. Congratulations to all delegates. Would like to come down and lobby for green projects.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, July 26, 2011, 4 PM at 417 East Fayette Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor