

Baltimore Commission on Sustainability
November 23, 2010 Meeting Report

Date: Tuesday, November 23, 2010 from 4-6 pm

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

Subject: Commission on Sustainability November 2010 General Meeting

In Attendance: (*Commissioners*) – Ted Atwood, Davis Bookhart, Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Peter Doo, Ray Ehrlich, Brian Knight, Keith Losoya, Councilwoman Sharon Middleton, John Quinn, Jake Ruppert, Ali Smith, Scot Spencer, Tom Stosur, Mary Washington, Ed Whalen
(*Staff*) - Beth Strommen, Alice Kennedy

Presenters: Joanna Calabrese, Brad Heavner, Energy Answers

Topics addressed:

- Minutes from October 2010 meeting are approved without amendment
 - Motion made by Peter Doo, second by Scot Spencer
- Chair Report
 - October Water Discussion
 - Thought that it was a great discussion
 - Outlined the need for City to generate revenue stream
 - City would create utility to collect fee
 - Would like to get a sense from Commission about getting behind fees
 - Hiring a Community Organizer for water issues. There is no reason not to do education and outreach now, educate residents on what to do to mitigate.
- Staff Report
 - Have hired someone for the Sustainability Coordinator position, Alice Kennedy will start December 13, 2010.
 - Still looking to fill Brett Buikema's position.
 - Landscape Architect to work on Landscape Manual as part of new zoning code
 - Pushing back deadline for Community Energy Savers 2nd round to early 2011.
- Presentations
 - Johns Hopkins University Climate Showcase – Joanna Calabrese
 - Launched in June, EPA grant, partner with Baltimore City
 - Worked with 20 non-profit organizations this past summer
 - Working with 50-70 non-profit organizations over next 2 years to reduce energy and water use
 - Using team of Hopkins students to evaluate performance of non-profit buildings
 - Utilize Energy Star Portfolio
 - 50% of the non-profits also applied for the Community Energy Savers Grant
 - 12 received the free BGE lighting audits
 - 2 became CSA drop off points
 - 35 LCD monitors were donated by JHU to participating non-profits
 - Also looking at green office supply purchasing, as well as energy purchasing.

- Environment Maryland – Brad Heavner
 - Working on energy issues and policies in Maryland for 8 years.
 - Net metering law that passed last year was an extension of an existing law. Intent was to promote renewable energy.
 - Sparked by coop solar installation in Montgomery County
 - Model – get paid for excess energy produced, paid directly by utilities who would write a check.
 - Last minute amendments to the bill were added.
 - Comes down to how the dollar value of the excess energy is calculated and paid out.
 - Working group at Public Service Commission, how to enforce law and looking at who is getting paid and how much? Cap on how much you can get paid, aggregating various meters.
 - Public Service Commission is finalizing regulations and recommendations.
 - Bill needs to be fixed to go back to original intent. Senator Pinsky would fix it in a bill next year (2011).
 - Legislation looks like it is coming.
 - Bigger question: How much do we value dispersed on site generation all over the state?
 - Next steps: looks like there is enough momentum next legislative session. Although, can't 100% guarantee that they will fix this.

- Energy Answers
 - New type of energy power plant
 - Make sure there is enough of supply to meet demand
 - “Our resource recovery facilities utilize municipal solid waste (post-recycling) to generate clean, renewable energy for local communities.”
 - Proven experience with this at SEMASS Resource Recovery Facility and acts as a model for Fairfield site
 - Fairfield site addresses many issues: brownfield, recovery of land, land fill use reduction, GHG reductions, and overall emission reductions.
 - Will use 3.5 million gallons of grey water POTW (publically owned treatment works) per day use for cooling as well as rain water collected for cooling.
 - 80% burnt in boiler not incinerator; recover all metals out of the back end, produces a dry ash.
 - Low cost steam power that can be delivered to neighbor
 - Facility will generate its own power
 - 98% recovery of all materials instead of going to landfill
 - Annual basis 620,000 ton a year reduction of CO2
 - 800 jobs, 200 new permanent jobs and MOU with community, Baltimore City hiring, recruitment and training locally.

Upcoming Events:

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, December 28, 2010, 4 PM at 417 East Fayette Street, 8th Floor (this meeting was cancelled)
- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, January 25, 2011, 4 PM at 417 East Fayette Street, 8th Floor