

**Baltimore Commission on Sustainability  
January 2010 Meeting Report**

**Date:** Tuesday, January 26th, 2010 from 4-6 pm

**Location:** Department of Planning Boardroom, 417 E. Fayette St.

**Subject:** Commission on Sustainability January 2010 General Meeting

**In Attendance:** (*Commissioners*) - Davis Bookhart, Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Peter Doo, Raymond Ehrlich, Lynn Heller, Brian Knight, Patrick McMahon, Ruth Ann Norton, Ali Smith, Scot Spencer, Tom Stosur, Scot Spencer. (*Staff*) - Brett Buikema, Beth Strommen, Sarah Zaleski.

**Topics addressed:**

- Minutes from December, 2009 meeting approved without amendment.
- Chair Report
  - Cheryl Casciani reported on the meeting she and the Office of Sustainability staff had with incoming Mayor, Stephanie Rawlings-Blake.
  - Cheryl then touched on the recent article in the Baltimore Sun involving woodchip driveways and pervious surfaces.
- Staff Report
  - Sarah Zaleski introduced the Office of Sustainability website to be launched the first week in February. Capabilities include a “Success Stories” mechanism for entities to self-report their work at furthering the goals of the Sustainability Plan which will help inventory projects and initiatives in Baltimore to include in the Annual Report. We need help in getting the word out about the site and encouraging people to report their projects. Suggestion was made to send out an announcement one of the Mayor’s Blasts.
  - Lorraine Doo is helping the Office of Sustainability determine, collect data for, and track metrics for the Sustainability Plan goals. Metrics will be used both on the website and in the Annual Report.
- Presentations
  - Bill Stack gave a presentation on the evolution of stormwater management in Baltimore, including information on Maryland’s new stormwater requirements and the City’s proposed regulations to fulfill this mandate. The CoS requested that Bill return to report on the progress of stormwater management offset projects.
  - Anne Draddy gave a presentation on TreeBaltimore including in-depth data on tree count projections, costs, and rationale for the adjustment of the doubling goal. The CoS volunteered to help with TreeBaltimore.
  - Both presentations were posted on the Office of Sustainability website ([www.baltimoresustainability.org](http://www.baltimoresustainability.org)) under the “Resources” tab.
- Legislation
  - City Council Bill #08-0055 – Charter Amendment: Sustainability Funds  
Councilman Kraft presented his proposed amendments to the bill. In order to broaden the eligible uses of the funds, the CoS suggested changing the word “administering” in Article 1. §11. A(1) to “supporting”, which Councilman Kraft agreed to. The CoS decided, by consensus, to support the bill with the verbiage change.
  - City Council Bill #10-0434 – Stormwater Management

The CoS reached consensus to support the unique proposed language for the Baltimore City Stormwater Ordinance for three primary reasons. First, the City version maintains the larger vision of smart growth and cleaning the Bay by acknowledging unique jurisdictional differences in land use and development patterns. Second, allowing greater flexibility in the application of environmental site design into neighborhoods supports the principles of sustainability by improving public health, supporting neighborhood revitalization, and increasing the economic diversity of greening improvements where they are most needed. And finally, watershed-based applications of environmental site design will also support the most economical application of water quality improvements without lowering overall standards and improvements. In addition, the CoS decided to write a letter in support of Baltimore City's proposed stormwater ordinance to the State.

- City Council Bill #10-0436 – Bmore Streets for People Program – Establishment  
The CoS reached consensus to support the bill. In addition, the CoS wants to ensure that attention to economic diversity is given when establishing the Advisory Board membership and making subsequent decisions.
- Other Business
  - Sarah Zaleski discussed plans for the first Annual Sustainability Report. The report is slated for release in April, in conjunction with Baltimore Green Week. In order to meet this deadline, the CoS will need to approve the Report at their March 2010 meeting.
  - John Ciekot briefed the CoS on initial discussions around an event during Baltimore Green Week to accompany the Report release. The recommendation was made to leverage this event to announce specific, actionable steps that members of the Baltimore community can take to help further the goals of the Sustainability Plan.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- Energy Goal Group Buildings Meeting: Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 5-7pm at Johns Hopkins.
- Energy Goal Group Transportation Meeting: Monday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 5-7pm at Planning Department
- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, February 23rd, 4pm.