

Baltimore Commission on Sustainability
March 2010 Meeting Report

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

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

Subject: Commission on Sustainability March 2010 General Meeting

In Attendance: (*Commissioners*) - Davis Bookhart, Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Peter Doo, David Dunphy, Raymond Ehrlich, Lynn Heller, Brian Knight, Keith Losoya, Patrick McMahon, Ruth Ann Norton, John Quinn, Jake Ruppert, Madeleine Shea, Tonya Simmons, Ali Smith, Scot Spencer, Tom Stosur, Alyson Taylor, Mary Washington. (*Staff*) - Brett Buikema, Beth Strommen, Sarah Zaleski.

Topics addressed:

- Minutes from February, 2010 meeting are approved without amendment
- Chair Report
 - Cheryl Casciani reminded Commissioners about the financial disclosure forms that need to be returned by all CoS members to the Planning Department.
 - Cheryl also acknowledged the questions raised by multiple Commissioners about post-service employment restrictions. Tom Stosur volunteered to look into this further.
- Staff Report
 - Sarah Zaleski asked that Commissioners who did not get their picture taken for the CoS composite photos either email a photograph or come a few minutes early to the April CoS meeting to have their photograph taken.
 - Sarah shared copies of the consulting services RFP for Baltimore City's Climate Action Plan. Proposals are due on April 9th.
 - Sarah reminded Commissioners about the Regional Sustainability Summit scheduled for Monday, March 29th and encouraged member to attend.
 - Beth Strommen informed the CoS that the Transform Baltimore effort would be releasing the new draft zoning regulations in the next month. She requested that members of the CoS review the draft and offer their comments, especially as they regard to the zoning code's sustainability impacts.
 - Beth introduced Adam Macon of the "Think outside the bottle" campaign. The campaign encourages governments to move away from purchasing bottled water as a means of saving money, reducing environmental impact, and demonstrating trust in public drinking water systems. Currently the campaign is focusing on state government, and Adam requested that the CoS sign on to a letter to the Governor.
- Legislation
 - Beth briefed the CoS on the bag bill legislation. The bill was being advanced to 3rd reader with a number of amendments. The bill would create a hybrid voluntary/mandatory plastic bag program and would involve both the Office of Sustainability and the CoS in implementation. There were some concerns about staffing levels available to administer the bill's program.
 - Beth briefed the CoS on the Sustainability Fund bill which had advanced to 2nd reader. The Board of Estimates had voted against the bill and it appeared unlikely that the Mayor would sign it.

- Sarah briefed the CoS about the City Council hearing on trash in the Inner Harbor. The last in this series of hearings is scheduled for July 6th, shortly after DPW releases the findings of their bag impact study. Ray Ehrlich shared that Councilman Kraft is convening a small group to discuss potential recommendations which he will be participating in.
- Annual Report
 - Sarah opened the discussion about the Annual Report and asked for suggestions based on the members' readings of the draft report. The following suggestions were offered:
 1. Disclose upfront that not all the "metrics" were necessarily metrics, some were actually baselines. Rename the headings for this section.
 2. Address the big picture vision as well somewhere including the definition of sustainability.
 3. Include explanatory notes with each "metric" to help explain what the numbers represent.
 4. Acknowledge that the report may miss certain contributing partners and encourage people to report their projects on the website.
 5. Include mention of the CoS priority/focus goals in the executive summary.
- Report Release/Baltimore Green Week Event
 - The report will be release on April 19th. We will celebrate this work and our partners that evening with Baltimore Green Works. We will plan to invite all partners mentioned in the report and all those who provided information/data.
- Energy Sub-group Report Out
 - Davis Bookhart reported on the energy sub-group's efforts and recommendations. She offered the following areas that the CoS may help forward the energy reduction goal:
 1. Encourage the City government to develop a recognition program for "green champions".
 2. Work on City-wide procurement policies targeting energy efficiency.
 3. Work to have ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager scores displayed on all public buildings.
 4. Work to include HERS ratings on homes being sold.
 5. Facilitate dialogue around energy-efficient transportation.
 6. Help think about ways to overcome energy improvement financing.

Upcoming Events:

- Release of Annual Sustainability Report at Baltimore Green Week's City Day: Monday, April 19 (4:30)
- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, April 27, 4pm.