

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

Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2010 from 4-6 pm

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

Subject: Commission on Sustainability April 2010 General Meeting

In Attendance: (*Commissioners*) - Davis Bookhart, Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Peter Doo, Raymond Ehrlich, Lynn Heller, Keith Losoya, Patrick McMahon, Jake Ruppert, Ali Smith, Tom Stosur. (*Staff*) - Brett Buikema, Beth Strommen.

Topics addressed:

- Minutes from March, 2010 meeting were approved with one amendment; Davis presented the energy group recommendations, not Lynn.
- Chair Report
 - Cheryl Casciani commented on the success of both the press and thank you events on April 19th and thanked Ali Smith for helping to coordinate with Baltimore Green Works. The City's sustainability efforts received recent press coverage in both The Sun (Annual Report) and the Urbanite (Schools' Challenge).
 - Cheryl noted that the Mayor specifically mentioned the Sustainability Plan goals at the press conference for the Waterfront Partnership's Healthy Harbor Initiative.
 - Cheryl commented that the Annual Report was good and in line with the CoS's mandate to monitor the implementation of the Sustainability Plan. The release and distribution of the Report is also related to "Education and Awareness" chapter of the Plan including Goal #3: Raise the environmental awareness of the Baltimore community; and Goal #4: Expand access to informational resources on sustainability.
 - Cheryl announced that Councilwoman Middleton will now be serving on the CoS.
- Staff Report
 - Beth Strommen shared that she, Tom, and Sarah met with Kaliope Parthemos to discuss new appointments to the CoS.
 - Beth updated the CoS on the Climate Action Plan process. Twelve eligible teams submitted proposals of which six were selected for interview. Interviews will be held in May.
 - Brett Buikema updated the CoS on the Schools' Challenge.
- Ethic Discussion
 - Elana DiPetro was present to answer ethics questions concerning the CoS and potential conflicts of interest. Members of Boards and Commissions are considered public servants. Limitation on public servants in the City lasts two years after service. When rule kicks in on case by case basis: Is it the 'same matter'? Did the public servant 'significantly participate' in the 'matter'? Defining 'participation' is a key element. Will need to be handled on a case by case basis. Must consider what the CoS's authority is or will be as it relates to each pertinent matter.
 - The CoS will attempt to get some further clarity around concept of 'anything that is managed by the Office of Sustainability'. Because nearly every subject is covered in the Plan, does this mean commissioners can't ever work for City? Lynn Heller and

Davis Bookhart will develop questions and Beth will share with ethics board through Elena.

- Legislation
 - Beth Strommen gave an update on the stormwater management bills, which are related to Pollution Prevention Goal #3: Ensure that Baltimore water bodies are fishable and swimmable and Resource Conservation Goal #2: Reduce Baltimore's water use while supporting system maintenance. The City Council bill was voted out of committee and no additional guidance had been provided from the state. A few changes dealing with technical and clerical language were made. Both the 2nd and 3rd reader of the bill will occur on May 3rd in order to meet the State's deadline.
 - Beth reported that the Charter Amendment bill which would allow the creation of a Sustainability Fund was passed into law.
 - Beth also reported that the plastic bag reduction bill was also signed into law. Under this law, the CoS was charged with drafting rules and regulations. The BOS will work with the City's Health Department and Cleaner, Greener Baltimore on this effort. The challenge will be completing this in a way that doesn't add significant cost to the City or the covered businesses. Ray Ehrich, Keith Losoya, Brian Knight, and Cheryl Casciani volunteered to help.
 - The BMore Streets bill is proceeding to 2nd Reader. The only change in the legislation is that the City is not required to fund the cost of the street closures.
 - The CoS voted to support the Planning Commissions recommendation in favor of the Mount Vernon Mill PUD. Lynn Heller noted that it was helpful having the sustainability criteria articulated on the Project Impact Statement. Jake Ruppert commented that the checklist was not detailed enough. Cheryl asked if the Sustainability Plan be referenced in Planning Department's staff report similarly to how the Comprehensive Plan is referenced.

- Baltimore City Public Schools Cleaner, Greener, More Sustainable Challenge
 - Brett Buikema and Ali Smith introduced the teachers from Mergenthaler Vocational Technical Senior High School, Independence High School, Fort Worthington Elementary School, and Stadium School.

Upcoming Events:

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, May 25th, 4pm.