

Baltimore Commission on Sustainability
February 2010 Meeting Report

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

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

Subject: Commission on Sustainability February 2010 General Meeting

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

Topics addressed:

- Minutes from January, 2010 meeting are 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. Beth Strommen will be setting up a meeting with new City Council President, Jack Young to discuss the Commission.
 - The Surdna Foundation invited The Baltimore Community Foundation and the Office of Sustainability were to apply for a renewal grant for \$100,000 to support the Baltimore Neighborhood Energy Challenge. The new proposal has been submitted. BNEC will have energy use data from the pilot round in late March and proposes to expand to 12 additional neighborhoods in its second year.
 - Cheryl asked for some hands on help from Commission members including
 - Attending City Council hearings on Sustainability issues
 - Utilizing priority goal groups to assist with event planning, inventory of activity, and outreach for stories for website
 - Assisting with website upkeep
 - Working with Anne Draddy about how to do an effective TreeBaltimore outreach campaign with few resources
 - In light of the focus goal voted on by the Commission, we will try to focus each meeting on at least one key priority issue – tonight is energy.
- Staff Report
 - Gloria Wayman explained the financial disclosure forms that are required to be completed and submitted by all Commission members. We will aim to have those in by the next Commission meeting on March 23rd.
 - Beth Strommen updated the CoS on the stormwater management ordinance negotiations between the City of Baltimore and the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE). MDE has accepted the City's proposed regulations. The Planning Commission will be hearing and voting on the regulations at their March 18th meeting. Beth will give the CoS an update at the March 23rd meeting.
 - Sarah Zaleski updated the CoS on the status of the Baltimore City Green Building Standards (BCGBS), which are still in the Law Department undergoing legal review. Once approved for form and legal sufficiency, the Mayor will be briefed on the BCGBS so that they can be officially adopted. In the meantime, covered projects are still required to show how they are being designed and built to LEED Silver level equivalency.

- Sarah shared news of the upcoming City Council hearings including:
 - March 4th 9am – Work session on bag issue
 - March 9th 9:30am – Sustainability Funds Charter Amendment hearing
 - March 9th 10am – Informational hearing on trash in the Inner Harbor
 - March 16th 9am – Bag surcharge hearing and vote
- Discussion of Annual Report and Event
 - Sarah Zaleski updated the CoS on the status of the Report. Report content will be shared and submitted for approval at the March 2010 CoS meeting. She is looking for assistance in collecting content for the report in the form of recent activities, partner organizations, and tips for helping in all 29 goals.
 - Sarah also discussed ideas for the Report release event to be held April 19, as part of Baltimore Green Week. We want to use the CoS's five goal groups to come up with one action in which people can be involved in the coming year to further the goals of the Sustainability Plan.
 - Ruth Ann Norton suggested that the CoS use the Annual Report release as an opportunity to brief the Mayor on a few suggestions for improving the sustainability of City operations.
- Metrics Discussion
 - Lorraine Doo presented her work on identifying and collecting data for Sustainability Plan metrics. On handouts she provided to CoS members, she identified areas where she could use input including Green Economy goals 1 and 2. CoS members were encouraged to send Lorraine suggestions on metrics
 - Scot Spencer suggested thinking of metrics in three different categories: 1) resource savings, 2) improved practice, and 3) citizen action/behavior change. Some of these measure the ends and some measure the means to the ends, but both could be valuable indicators of progress.
- Report Out on Energy Meetings
 - Lynn Heller shared that the energy goal sub-group had convened two meetings to brainstorm and discuss what strategic interventions the CoS could make in the next one to two years to help achieve the Sustainability Plan's energy use reduction goal. The ideas which stood out in regards to building energy use included financing strategies, City operations, and behavior change. The ideas which stood out in regards to transportation energy use included electric and alternatively fueled vehicles, City operations, and behavior change.
 - Lynn invited all CoS members to join the sub-group for another meeting (date TBD) to create action plans to move forward with these ideas. The action plans will be presented at the March 23rd CoS meeting.
- Bag Bill Discussion
 - Sarah Zaleski briefed the CoS on the recent bag bill hearings and research conducted on other cities' programs. Staff from the BOS and the Baltimore Community Foundation helped to pull together information on the bag programs in DC, LA, Austin, and Ontario. Sarah will forward this research to all members of the CoS.
 - The CoS members were encouraged to attend and participate in the March 4th working session on bag legislation to be held by the City Council.
- Planning Commission Checklist

- Beth Strommen gave background on the Planning Commission Impact Statement. It started as tool to report on predicted economic impacts of developments and projects going before the Planning Commission. The scope of the tool has recently been expanded to report on sustainability impacts as well.
- A recommendation was made to be more suggestive in the field which asks if other green certifications are planned. For instance, listing Green Globes, Enterprise Green Communities, Energy Star Homes, etc.

Upcoming Events:

- City Council work session on bag issue: March 4th, 9am
- City Council hearing on Sustainability Funds Charter Amendment: March 9th, 9:30am
- City Council informational hearing on trash in the Inner Harbor: March 9th, 10am
- City Council hearing on bag surcharge bill: March 16th, 9am
- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, March 23rd, 4pm.