

<p style="text-align:center">Baltimore Commission on Sustainability December 2013 Meeting Report</p>

Date: Tuesday, December 3, from 4-6 pm

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

Subject: Commission on Sustainability December 2013 General Meeting

In Attendance: (*Commissioners*) – Ted Atwood, Miriam Avins, Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Peter Doo, Fran Flanigan, Lynn Heller, Earl Johnson, Sharon Middleton, Cindy Parker, John Quinn, Tom Stosur. (*Staff*) – Alice Kennedy, Beth Strommen

Opening Remarks:

- Minutes from October 2013 are approved without amendment. Sharon moves, John seconds.

- Chair Report
 - There was a terrific level of participation at the retreat. Tour is fantastic, recommends others to take an opportunity if they missed it.
 - Sent out Julie G. notes
 - Monitor Sustainability Plan
 - Sentiment came up in thinking about how the Commission engages the public — communications framework, meeting locations, etc. — how might the Commission think about this aspect when working throughout the year.
 - Drafted possible ways to look at this; an outline.
 - How can Commission members commit?
 - We have the human power to do the things we want to do.
 - Welcome Laurie back to the Commission to talk about Transform Baltimore

Meeting Agenda:

1. Staff Report
2. Zoning Code Briefing
3. 2013 Working Group Reports (brief updates)
4. 2014 Work Plan Discussion
5. Next Steps & Follow-Up

Discussion:

- Staff Report
 - Abby: With Renee, Green Schools continues to be successful, thanks to Constellation
 - 46 Applications, another 9 incoming; expecting as many as 55 applications
 - Mark Cameron is leaving the Office of Sustainability and will be working with DPW's Stormwater Division
 - Floodplain regulation changes in ordinance meeting with City Council; going above and beyond what is federally required.
 - Success of DP3 to reach a lot of people. Met with Developers Working Group
 - Baltimore Agriculture Plan, Homegrown Baltimore, approved by Planning Commission on November 21, 2013.
 - CREATES
 - Baltimore Energy Challenge
 - Benchmarking and Philadelphia conference
 - School feasibility guides

- Zoning Code Briefing
 - Council bringing in an attorney to guide the Zoning Bill, starting the coming week.
 - Using time to bring everything up-to-date; 6-Month delay period. Operational pieces will be revised.
 - Miriam is helping with regulation regarding animals
 - Might have questions relating to alternative energy systems
 - Commissioner's posted on working groups. Work sessions might need commissioners.
 - Definition of "family"
 - Issue of aquaponics; definition of "light industrial"
 - Discussion of impervious surfaces and definitions
 - Ordinance process to change units in buildings
- 2013 Working Group Reports
 - Revisit 2013 priorities: Green Schools, Water, Health, CAP/Climate Committee
 - Green Schools: Brought on Joanna Pi Sunyer as Green Schools Coordinator
 - Bring together groups of stakeholders regarding new schools initiative
 - Education specs are complete
 - Design standards are finalized, influence a lot of sustainability factors
 - City schools more analysis for the challenge and get results in terms of health effects, money saved, etc.
 - MEHN produced a document as part of an effort to quantify the challenge
 - 10 Steps to Green Schools
 - Outline of the design process for schools
 - Recruit intern volunteer for documenting the benefits, hired and worked with Abby and Renee
 - Climate Committee, Lynn Heller
 - Happily overwhelmed by CIF and CREATES; feel that doing very well regarding short-term items.
 - Climate Committee would look more long-term. A lot of items go beyond 2020 GHG emissions
 - Meeting with Tommy Landers and David Brosch, push to increase Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) to 40%
 - Op-ed regarding liquefied natural gas plant
 - Letter, the Commission's voice, meeting that elevates this.
 - Participate in crossroads tour
 - Climate change communications
 - Water, Fran Flanigan
 - Planning Meeting January: Healthy Harbor Plan, stormwater, drinking water, greater appreciation for "water"
 - Focused on stormwater
 - Baltimore did a very good job in getting the fee together
 - 2014 will focus on general assembly; utility bill program
 - Cheryl C.: DPW team felt supported by CoS
 - Health, Cindy Parker
 - Rebecca Ruggles representing health as well as broader sustainability issues in schools.
 - Positive health impacts from sustainability issues
 - Well represented in DP3 and April Town Hall
 - Living Building Collaborative with AIA, involve more people and associations to educate a broader community
- 2014 Work Plan Discussion, Powerpoint Presentation
 - Raise awareness about two major issues: climate change and waste

- Continue in areas where we need to be responsive
- Communities want to talk about waste, a big issue in Baltimore
- Strategies: utilize two committees/working groups; identify a chair or leader for the waste working group (already have chairs for the climate committee sub-groups); charge groups with outlining a 2014 plan prior to the January 21st CoS Meeting
- Draft Work Plan ideas:
 - Identify issues; specify goals; identify roles of the CoS and other constituents, what's required of them; identify CoS value added; identify key partners; recommend suggested actions for the next year; and develop communication ideas and needs
- Communications strategy, draft ideas:
 - Implement communications strategy for climate work
 - Elevate commission & commissioner voices on priority and other issues
 - Develop ways to interact with people beyond the "choir"
- Communications Framework, an overall awareness campaign; backbone of other focused campaigns. Encompass all sustainability efforts.
 - Freestanding but integrated into all specific behavior change campaigns
 - Wave schedule tailors messages to specific seasons, events, times of year
 - Two key behavior change campaigns: (1) Preparation and (2) Energy
 - Use framework for all communication
 - Backbone of...
 - Climate Committee: Alice – Lynn, Howard Aylesworth, John Q., Ted, Anne, Karin Holland
 - Waste: Beth – Cheryl, John C., Fran, Earl, Gerrie O., Ed
- Commission provide assistance; acts as a messenger, or voice, for these campaigns. Various communication channels to be used (e.g. blogs, op-eds, meetings, etc.).
 - Be clear about the roles of the Office of Sustainability and the CoS
 - Possible channels: Commissioner blog; 20-minute call-in time on specific topic; more information available online; utilize channel 25 for meetings
 - Leveraging meetings: holding meetings in different neighborhoods around the city (avoid speaking just to the "choir").
 - Could aim for 3-4 meetings over 2014, including annual town hall in April.
 - Use meetings to focus only on two areas; combination of presentations from both local and outside work, both government and experts
 - Commissions need to play a role in meetings
- Comments
 - Fran: terrific plan. Use the CoS as a forum; know what others are doing and bring people together with a common message
 - Earl: Issue of "preaching to the choir" has also been understood but never before mentioned or addressed. Opportunity to reach more residents in rowhomes.
 - Cindy: To note, climate change is the biggest *waste* problem.
 - Potential to bring town hall meetings together under this message/idea
 - Sharon: A great way to bring information to the communities.

- General tasks at hand
 - Review template
 - Alice to turn this into a work plan
 - Meet with climate and waste committees
 - Fill out template
 - We are not in perpetual planning mode

Upcoming Events:

- Casino Master Plan Process Meeting, December 12th from 6:30-8:30; Westport Academy, 2401 Nevada Street
- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, January 21st, 4PM.