

**Baltimore Commission on Sustainability
October 2013 Meeting Report**

Date: Tuesday, October 15, from 4-6 pm

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

Subject: Commission on Sustainability October 2013 General Meeting

In Attendance: (*Commissioners*) – Miriam Avins, Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Peter Doo, Fran Flanagan, Lynn Heller, Earl Johnson, Sharon Middleton, Cindy Parker, John Quinn, Ed Whalen. (*Staff*) – Alice Kennedy

Opening Remarks:

- Minutes from September, 2013 are approved without amendment. John C. moves, Ed seconds.
- Chair Report
 - Email early tomorrow morning—link to Survey Monkey
 - Julie, facilitator
 - Walk through the sustainability plan, really have gone distance in freeing up work
 - Feels like a good moment to pause and look at work—office, commission—who does what moving forward?
 - Retreat schedule—tours of plant; 2 hour optional section, who can participate?
 - Eat at noon-12:30
 - Appreciate attention to detail
 - November 13th, that is November commission meeting; December 3rd is posted on website
 - 2014: Every 3rd Tuesday of the month

Meeting Agenda:

1. Staff Report
2. Genuine Progress Indicators, John Talberth, Ph. D.
3. Abby talks about Urban Agriculture Plan
4. Climate Committee

Discussion:

- 1. Staff Report
 - 10, yes; 1 abstains—City Council Resolution and Hearing
 - CREATES Hearing: October 23rd, Coordinating Resources to Effectively Align and Transform Energy Services FOR the purpose of requesting that representatives from the agencies leading up the City's expanded energy assistance efforts through the CREATES program appear before the Council to discuss CREATES and the new opportunities it will provide in Baltimore.
- 2. Genuine Progress Indicators (GPI), John Talberth, Ph. D.
 - GPI 101—all about economic transformation; GDP → GPI
 - Is Climate Action Plan boosting GPI?
 - Strategies
 - How each will have an impact on Baltimore
 - Questions:
 - Peter: Issue of benefit, 2 issues:

- First, run into this when we do a green building, it's difficult to provide any statistics. Curious to know, you have a dollar amount associated with benefits—How do you do that?
- Inequality as an indicator, a proxy for a lot of other factors
 - John T.: Community—aggregated further based on measures of race and income
 - John T.: Move toward budgeted
- John T.: Brilliant insight—closing the inequality divide, genuineprogress.net
 - What if analysis moved income distribution upward? Implementation choices have impacts on inequality levels, overview of how inequality can be alleviated or raised
 - What is the incidence of the GPI/ who are the winners and losers?
 - How far to go to put meat or flesh on the GPI?
 - GPI doesn't account for race directly
- Lynn: GPI in general—excited about the concept. Sales and marketing tool for the CAP
 - Fracking:
 - Gov. O'Malley is a fan of GPI. As anything been done to evaluate GPI against fracking?
- John T.: Did a Gross State Product analysis of fracking—underscores why the need for additional analysis is strong.
 - They are doing GPI of state Climate Action Plan
 - Cost Benefits of renewable energy: Wind v. Incineration v. Solar
 - You can ask:
 - What effect does policy have on GPI analysis?
 - Where does GPI look for ways to apply with MS4 approach?
 - There are a lot of ways that GPI can put meat on analysis issues
- Earl: refine down to community level, could us this tool to decide where resources are allocated?
 - John T.: In theory, yes.
- Cheryl: People considering all the time on how economic decisions affect people. This is a more complete way to do so.
- Miriam: actual value for biodiversity? How do you monetize that?
 - John T.: It can't do everything. It doesn't measure biodiversity. But a better economic measure of things to which we can reasonably assign value.
- Fran: Sounds like this is pretty subjective. Would they get different measures if different people were sitting around the table in different cities?
 - John T.: GPI has been around for 20 years, structure is vetted.
- Could we do a Healthy Harbor Plan?
 - John T.: Yes
 - MD Department of Planning is very excited about proliferating use of GPI.
- Tom: very intriguing. Would have a lot more to learn in order to calculate crime in Baltimore. Cancer treatment not included, doesn't follow that? How is that not in GPI?
 - John T.: A lot of health situations are created by economic issues. GPI only distinguishes costs v. benefits. Interaction between 26 variables.
- Peter: Think this is a really important step. There are a number of books recrafting this.

- Sandtown-Winchester—City attempted to address a whole host of issues at once. At the end of the day, we can speculate what will the GPI really do?
 - John T.: Measurable level of analysis of the well being through neighborhoods in the City.
 - Cheryl: will send relevant links to places where people can learn about this.
 - (questions from the audience)
 - Bloomberg School of Public Health: Does this framework balance for business profit, is it balanced in framework beyond the bigger picture. How would companies fit in terms of profit?
 - John T.: GPI takes a macro-economic lens; Genuine value added. Business to quantify value to GPI at local or state level. Way for businesses to use this and include in sustainability reports. Next stop tomorrow: UMD School of Business.
 - Greg, Brooklyn Curtis Bay: Benjamin Franklin students working to confront situation of Energy Answers incinerator. Facing major issue questions about equity and human rights. Students have concluded that the project should not continue. Curious about immediate next steps—about GPI related to Energy Answers to specific context now. Students wanted to be at meeting tonight.
 - John T.: GPI Analysis would flag this type of issue. What is qualifying renewable energy source? Where located? Local air pollution is precisely the type of tool.
 - Stuart: gratifying to see the CoS grappling with tools and concepts. The point isn't to dethrone GDP but to enthrone GPI, to have a conversation; the ways leadership manifests itself in a City that's grappling with policy and practices to be as sustainable as a city can be
 - Cheryl: Encourages Cindy to think about students; knowing what we know, it would be interesting to work with Cindy and her students.
 - For Baltimore to announce different ways to look at this. Who will influence decision making.
- 3. Urban Agriculture Plan, Abby Cocke
 - Plan approved by the Mayor's Office
 - Mayor's name for the program: Homegrown Baltimore: Grow Local, Buy Local, Eat Local
 - Public comment period 9/30/13-10/25/13
 - Key Recommendations:
 - Land: Offer solutions for increased land security to a relevant range of growers
 - Water: Ensure Maximum water access for growers by streamlining the process and preserving water supply lines
 - Soil: Build rich, safe urban soils through increased access to equipment, compost and local soil testing
 - Capital: Leverage Local and Regional Resources to help growers
 - Support: Streamline operations, regulations and staffing to support growers
 - Plan Approved with amendments, verbal amendments to #10
 - Scot moves, Sharon seconds
 - John: will the plan come back to the CoS?
 - Additional options; take out "large scale" in #13. Scot accepts as friendly amendment.
 - 13: yes
- 4. Climate Committee

- Climate Committee to assist the Office of Sustainability in monitoring and implementing the strategies
- Progress made thus far on:
 - Energy Savings and Supply
 - ESS1: ESS1.D, ESS1.F, ESS1.G, ESS1.H, ESS1.I
 - ESS2: ESS2.B, ESS2.C
 - ESS3: ESS3.A
 - ESS4: ESS4.B
 - All Energy Savings and Supply Activities
 - Land Use & Transportation
 - LUT4: LUT4.A, LUT4.B, LUT4.C
 - LUT6: LUT6.A
 - Growing a Green City
 - GGC1: GGC1.A, GGC1.B
 - GGC2: GGC2.A, GGC2.B, GGC2.C
 - GGC3: GGC3.A
 - Activities: Water appliance upgrades for new commercial; water appliance upgrades for commercial retrofits
- 2014 Goals
 - Energy Performance:
 - ESS1.A
 - ESS1.B
 - ESS1.Ca
 - ESS1.Cb
 - Renewable Energy
 - ESS2

Upcoming Events:

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, December 3, 2013, 4PM.
- Send City Council Hearing information
- Early morning retreat email, need responses quickly
- Planning Commission date for Urban Agriculture Plan