

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

**Date:** Tuesday, September 24, 2013 from 4-6 pm

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

**Subject:** Commission on Sustainability September 2013 General Meeting

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

**Topics addressed:**

- Minutes from August, 2013 are approved without amendment. Ed moves, Peter seconds.
- Staff Report
  - Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN)- Social Equity. Alice and Beth attended
    - Maryland Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) is a part of this
    - How to incorporate social equity into all existing programs
  - FEMA Floodmaps, benchmarking
  - The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) #12
- Kristin Baja- Disaster Preparedness and Planning Project (DP3) Final Presentation
  - Reviews definition of hazard mitigation and climate adaptation; notes the hazards facing Baltimore City
  - Reviews public process: community engagement, outreach, workshops, other
  - Details planning process: Risk assessment (hazard identification, vulnerability assessment, impacts assessment, plan development)
  - Credits Advisory Committee
  - Plan Outline:
    - Introduction
    - Mitigation and Adaptation
    - Hazard Identification
    - Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
    - Strategies and Actions
    - Implementation Guidelines
    - Appendices
  - Plan Vision: Baltimore will be a city whose daily activities reflect a commitment shared by government, business, and citizens to reduce or eliminate impacts from current and future natural hazards.
  - Sectors (with individual sub-sectors); Infrastructure, Buildings, Natural Systems, Public Services.
  - Notes suggested amendments
  - Letter of Support: received—BGE, AIA; anticipated—National Aquarium, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Emergency Management Agency
  - To be approved by Planning Commission on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, approved by FEMA and NOAA in October
  - Questions:
    - Tom asks if an/the HIA is included in the Plan

- More in-depth now that working with BCHD; specific natural systems, tree canopy, high urban heat island, and community specific health recommendations. The HIA will be in the appendix, with the subject of health incorporated throughout the plan. Through a health department grant, they are doing the work.
  - Mary moves to adopt with the suggested amendments, John seconds. 13 votes to adopt.
- Green, Healthy, Smart Challenge (GHSC)
  - Reviews school participation and grant awards since 2010. Total of 90 schools (out of 195 in the BCPSS system) with a total of 186 grants.
    - 2,523 student Green Team members
    - 322 Junior Energy Captains
    - 74,470 teachers, students, parents, and community members reached
  - Details specific project types and their outcomes
  - Clean Water Schools and Communities
  - Energy Hub Schools
  - Green, Healthy, Smart Challenge 2014 applications due by 10/31/13 for Energy projects; 11/29/13 for Sustainability projects ([www.baltimoresustainability.org/ghsc](http://www.baltimoresustainability.org/ghsc))
  - Project success shows increase in average test scores
  - 21 Baltimore City public schools certified as Green Schools as of May 2013
    - 5 newly certified in 2013 (31% increase)
  - 31 Schools that received GHSC grants in 2013 expressed interest in becoming Maryland Green Schools
  - Student Environmental Leadership Action Team (SELAT)
  - Success Stories
  - Questions/Discussion:
    - Lynn asks what the CoS can do to help.
      - Peter notes that the Stadium Authority, BCPSS, and the City of Baltimore are all trying to figure out what they should be doing.
      - Tom: MOU posted online on the schools websites—school board first actor on approval, then to the City Board of Estimates, then to the Maryland Stadium Authority. IAC. State Board of Public Works on October 16, 2013.
    - Peter notes that the education specifications have been written, approved by school board. Design standards are being created
      - Energy standards meetings
        - Engineer, Karen Anderson, Peter and Chris Parts, Baltimore City School Construction
      - State of Maryland and Baltimore City
        - Energy code adoption of IEC 2012 is stringent
        - Conversation was whether code was enough, how to follow
        - Green Building Standards to follow
        - Energy Code was past current version of LEED
      - Architects are starting on Year 1 Feasibility Studies
    - Lynn Heller mentions DC schools, have done a lot with renewable energy and energy champion. If not DC, any other consultations or committees?
      - Peter answers, a number of good people and experts currently working on this.
    - Tom: 16 specific components of MOU financing, procedures at IAC, capital projects, board issue, institutionalizing City input into all of the projects. All will come to UDARP for design review, forest conservation, critical area, floodplain review.

- Coordinating Committee in MOU staffed, geared by Planning Department. Place for feasibility studies, make links for community resources; maximize use of new and other facilities—libraries, rec centers, senior centers. Coordinate with housing redevelopment projects. New schools should fit into whole community
  - Lynn, thinking ahead to the retreat and the CoS \$1 billion grant, finds it odd that the CoS wouldn't offer any unsolicited input.
    - For the record, CoS is fully in support of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Design Standards
  - Send link to MOU
  - Fran notes anxiety of a gigantic job requiring much expertise that is not present
    - Peter adds, communities don't know potential in terms of such buildings
  - Some people may feel it is forced upon them rather than centered on them.
    - Challenge: how to help communities understand what the possibilities are without assuming they don't know anything.
    - What sort of ambassador-like program would be frame around this? Presented to whom?
  - Lynn: community meetings happening now for first year schools?
    - Peter confirms; feasibility study now.
    - Abby provides a list for first year community schools. This was sent to green team leaders and it is up to them what they will do as it is their school.
  - Sharon sees opportunity to present at community meetings to talk about this
  - Abby is impressed with professional organizations (i.e. USBGC, AIA), and how they've stepped up, help spread the word
    - USGBG: 10 ways to create healthy, green schools
  - Beth mentions translating guiding principles; community can speak on principles and architects can run with it.
  - Lynn reminds CoS that Peter asked for community involvement ideas
- Waste to Wealth (W2W)
    - Beth: Bloomberg proposal; City had to pick one proposal, Waste to Wealth (W2W) made it into the top three; however, another proposal was selected but the City has provided support for the program.
    - Active management of three major waste streams: (1) Demolition waste; (2) Wood Waste/Biomass; and (3) Food waste.
    - Support flow of materials for markets: evaluate and understand; support markets
    - Support movement: sorting yards, places where materials will be sorted, processed, and distributed to end markets
    - Rebuild communities with Community Greening Centers: "Neighborhood facilities that link existing community greening networks to a much needed source of free/low cost materials for vacant lot adoption and revitalization."
      - This is a unique twist; it is not market-related. Want communities to adopt sites; communities need supplies to green things and W2W can control/direct some of those materials
    - Progress:
      - Evaluate and Understand Waste Streams:
        - Wood/Biomass – US Forest Service, DGS Study of City waste tonnage
        - Building Demolition Material –Partnership with Humanim, HCD
        - Consultant – Life Cycle Analysis

- The Mayor was so interested that she had given seed money to the program to hire Scott Kauffmann to help.
- Redesign Government Systems and Policies
  - Building Demolition Material – HCD Pilot Project, completed some bid specification changes.
  - Wood/biomass – partnering with US Forest Service, NEMWDA.
- Pilot 50 buildings to Humanim to deconstruct.
- Next Steps:
  - Scott is going to compile a database of all the materials—have one concise and clean database—list sites where these materials may be sent and costs associated.
    - Create a list of sites for project related facilities, including sites for composting, sorting and distribution yards and Community Greening Centers.
    - Comprehensive database of existing waste streams using City information sources and national averages.
- Final Product: Comprehensive Waste to Wealth Implementation Strategy document that provides specific recommendations regarding:
  - Costs of Waste to Wealth program;
  - Proposed phasing of implementation of program elements;
  - Funding sources;
- Questions/Discussion:
  - This is very Baltimore-specific
  - Miriam: the benefits of getting rid of waste, benefit resource extraction
  - Peter: trees have a life span, they will come down one way or another, maintain the trees.
  - Lynn: over the next year, what can the CoS do? What is its role?
    - Beth: Community Greening Centers

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Next Commission on Sustainability Meeting: Tuesday, October 15th, 4pm.
- Will link to MOU