Sustainability Commission

May 16, 2017

Chair Welcome

Overview of Town Hall on April 18th

A little history:

March 25, 2008 - First Sustainability Commission meeting (not public)

May 27, 2008 - First public meeting was packed: standing room only. 9 years to the day.

Eight Commissioners have served the entire time, five of whom are rotating off after tonight: Cheryl, Peter Doo, Lynn Heller, Scot Spenser and Mary Washington.

Standing ovation for Cheryl and the 4 original members leaving.

June Party for current, resigning and new Commissioners at Miriam Avin’s home

Tuesday June 20, 2017 current commission to meet and greet new commission

Thank you to Cheryl for being such a strong leader of this Commission and helping to craft it from scratch; a champion for communities, for schools, arts and culture, sustainability. Strategic thinking, leader, strong and productive path…Cheryl takes on the daunting and makes it manageable.

Beth – we started from zero, even debating the word ‘sustainability,’ how do we do a plan? Cheryl has been incredible important in the creation of the office.

Alice – Hired 6 years ago as Executive Director of the Baltimore Energy Challenge and it changed the course of my life. We’ve made it all up anyway so I realized I can do whatever I want. 6 years of BEC and the Office. We could make up things – what is S in Baltimore, how can we make the most of our dollars, the ability to think broadly, have different voices at the table, disagreeing…stepping back…and coming together. Thank you to all the Commissioners –you have been mentors and have done great work for the City of Baltimore.

Inez – Cheryl asks, listens and she responds.

Mary Washington – As for the Commission, we were building at as we were flying it. It wasn’t prescriptive we could create it. The ideas that percolated here are now programs out in Baltimore, working. The fact that the Office is addressing equity is very important.

Scot – Hats off to Cheryl for running a dynamic, thoughtful and strategic ship. Part of the work of Sustainability is growing the next generation of leadership. I am very glad we are working on equity. I am a believe in the power and approach of equity not only because it’s good and right because it offers an approach to an economic solution

Ryan – Cheryl is a real boss! She gets things done. I’ve been her 5 minutes as a Commissioner but in my short time, Cheryl was immediately in my corner as a supporter. I took the Baltimore Energy Challenge. I wrote a recommendation for a BoS intern to be a youth commissioner. Grateful for the equity lens. Presentation of Resolution from the City of Baltimore.

Plan Update

Alice – Solar low income – over 10,000 units weatherized in Bore since 2009. Using them for solar installations on rooftops, pulling in private capital to make this work. It is also a jobs creator – anticipate over 100 jobs and training over 200 people.

Andrea Calderon, Office of Sustainability, Youth Sustainability Coordinator.

* Mercedes and Claire are keynote speakers at MAO conference this week.
* Rescheduled GreenScape – Annual Celebration for Green Teams , Green Healthy Smart Challenge- to be May 31st from at Rowing Center in Middlebranch Park
* National Wildlife Federation working with 10 schools in partnership with Bluewater Baltimore and BCPSS. Funding to receive teacher training and create school yard gardens

Andy Cook, Office of Sustainability, Made in Baltimore

* Website madeinbaltimore.org
* Become a member and get listed on website and retailer map and directory
* Looking for makers who have job creation capacity and whose products are replicable
* Becoming a Made in Baltimore is free
* Central location for all businesses making products here in town
* Goal is to send people to the company’s website
* Creating jobs in light manufacturing in Baltimore
  + Industrial sewing pilot training
  + Series of business development workshops monthly, free and open to public

Alice Huang, Office of Sustainability, Food Access Planner

* Pilot for Resident Food Equity Advisors – monthly for 6 months
  + 16 residents from all council districts
  + Look at policies/programs and getting resident perspective
  + Are they active community members so they will share what they are learning? There are a range of people some are very involved in their communities.
* Summer Meals Program
  + Good Food Procurement – emphasizing nutrition, local workforce, sustainability
  + Recycling at each site
  + Demonstration project this summer to offer a 3rd meal – supper – at recreation centers
  + Fridays at the Fire Stations – drop in site for lunch (they do not need to be participating in any program)
  + Police Department – Sunday lunch at Western District
  + Sunday morning breakfast and lunch at the new farmer’s market at OpenWorks.
* Johns Hopkins Center for Livable Future
  + Surveyed over 800 stores and gave them a score. We will have new food environment maps this summer. And, they will also be specific to Council District.

Dante Swinton – Energy Justice

* Pilot project in Westport: Awaiting possible funding from Abell to conduct Divert Baltimore. 40 homes to weigh trash weekly , 2 months to introduce free recycling, attach education campaign about not recycling/trash – simple access and education would increase participation in recycling Then, incenvitze communities to remove things from their waste stream.
* September Conference with SWANA Solid Waste Association in late Sept – WasteCon. Cities to visit landfills, WTE, talk about environmental injustice - incorporate the environmental impacts of the waste facilities, push the city to talk about it. They should know about the biggest polluter in the city. Annual Nox emissions. Dante to forward link to conference.
* Working on a Clean Air Ordinance with Councilman Reslinger and the Health Dept which would require Wheelabrator and East Coast Energy (medical?) to clean up the plants. City Council may introduce and Clean Air ordinance.

Scot Spenser- Pittsburgh – Design and Urban Mobility Conference – autonomous vehicles will be populating city streets starting in 5 years. How do you use these to create value in cities? – empty parking garages/spot; 17 million jobs lost by people who drive for a living. Equity conversation.

Bike to Work Day on Friday May 19th

City Council Hearing:

* Increasing fines for parking in bus stops and bus lanes being heard:
* Wednesday June 14th at 1:00 PM
* Land Use and Transportation Committee Hearing. 6,000 fines given out by cars parked in bus stops. It impacts safety and efficiency.
* Fees from $75 to a proposed $250

Green Network Plan meetings Monday May 22nd and Thursday, May 25th.

Looking at vacancy and abandonment and transform them to improve quality of life for residents and attract investments

New Assistant Director at the Planning Department for Equity, Communications and Engagement starting July 2017.

The Department has an active Equity Committee

We hosted mandatory Equity Training at the Planning Department

No June Commission Meeting