**Baltimore Commission on Sustainability September 2017 Meeting**

**Date:** Tuesday, September 19, 2017, from 4-6 pm

**Location:** 417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore MD 21201

**Subject:** Commission on Sustainability September 2017 General Meeting

**In Attendance**: (Commissioners) – Miriam Avins (meeting chair), Avis Ransom, John Ciekot, Miriam Avins, Inez Robb, Michael Furbish, Earl Johnson, Councilman Ryan Dorsey.

**Chair Welcome**:

* Miriam Avins, Acting Chair, opened the meeting and asked the audience to introduce themselves

**Lisa McNeilly:**

* Lisa introduced herself as the new Sustainability Director
* Reappointments of Commission
* Staff Openings
* QECB

**Legislative Updates**:

Proposed City Council Crude Oil Train legislation

Jennifer Kunze, Clean Water Action, [jkunze@cleanwater.org](mailto:jkunze@cleanwater.org)

Taylor Smith-Hams, Chesapeake Climate Action, [taylor@chesapeakeclimate.org](mailto:taylor@chesapeakeclimate.org)

This is a climate change and a public safety issue. The extraction and transport of oil increases GHG emissions and impacts the safety of residents near rail lines. The focus is on limiting train crude oil traffic (no expansion) preventing existing train terminals from being adapted to become a terminal to ship crude. no expansion and no new terminal.

* Extraction began in 2011: the height of shipments was in 2014/2015.
* The last 1-2 years, oil price decreased; it isn’t as cost effective to extract crude oil from North Dakota but drilling may be increasing.
* Rail lines are federally operated.
* Accidents are under-reported.
* Howard Street tunnel is vulnerable.
* The list of chemicals is not readily available and lacks transparency.

Baltimore activists prevented one new train terminal from being built in 2014 in South Baltimore. Currently, Baltimore is not shipping explosive materials.

* City Council Bill to be introduced by Councilpersons Clarke, Reisinger and Middleton that defines crude oil terminals as a land use and then eliminates that land use.

Pros: economic activity to port and employs people (but the cost of derailment and loss of life outweighs potential tax payments to city).

Proposed Styrofoam Ban

Andrea Calderon, Office of Sustainability

Claire Wayner, Intern

Mercedes Thompson, Intern

<http://www.bmorebeyondplastic.org/>

Styrofoam is a public health and trash issue. It leaches carcinogenic chemicals into hot food and is toxic when manufactured and ends up in our streets, streams and the harbor.

* Statewide ban did not pass in 2017.
* Introduction of ban at City Council, Monday, Sept 11th by Councilman Bullock and 6 co-sponsors.
* Phase out food containers from food service facilities, movie theaters, egg cartons but no prepackaged trays with meat etc.
* Alternative materials – compostable make of paper and clam shell hard plastic which is recyclable.
* Enforcement of a ban would be done by existing Health Department inspectors.

Main Opposition: Styrofoam manufacturers and businesses who would pay more

**Sustainability Plan Update**

Plan will be released at April 2018 Town Hall meeting. Accepting comments until November 10th.

Austin Davis - Resident Survey update.

Complete Streets Bill is going to the City Council Land Use and Transportation Committee. The Planning Department will host an informational meeting in partnership with other agencies. Dates have not yet been set.

Councilman Dorsey [Ryan.dorsey@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Ryan.dorsey@baltimorecity.gov)

Shared and received comments on the Active Living section of the Plan Update.

Plan Update - Commissioners made a commitment to review by Friday October 6th

Avis - Transportation / Community Prepared

John - Energy

John C - Green Infrastructure

Earl - Neighbors and Safety

Ryan – Arts and Culture

Michael – Local Business

Thursday Nov 9th Fantastic Forest Forum – TED talk style updates. Strategize to make sure these areas are preserved. FREE and open to the public 9:00-2:00.

Electric Vehicles – John Quinn suggested to discuss at October meeting