Sustainability Commission Meeting

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

417 East Fayette Street, 8th Floor

4:00-6:00 PM

**Minutes**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of November Minutes – no quorum
3. Updates
   * 3 Commissioners will be sworn in tomorrow
     + Delegate Regina Boyce
     + Mia Blom (Visit Baltimore)
     + Nicolette Louissaint (Healthcare Ready

* We have 2 openings remaining
  + Nature in The City
  + Economy

1. Lisa McNeilly – Updates
   * Gov Hogan to propose removing waste to energy as a renewable. Today Governor Hogan announced more details of his clean energy plan, the Clean and Renewable Energy Standard. This is his response to the Clean Energy Jobs Act, which passed this April in a form that effectively increases subsidies for trash incineration.
   * Transportation Climate Initiative - DRAFT FRAMEWORK / New York Times article
2. Anne Update
3. We now have facebook events for the Commission meetings, so please share them with your networks.
   * 21st c schools – Commissioners are invited to attendL **SATURDAY, January 4, 2020 10:00am-12:00 pm**

The 21st Century School Buildings Program will be hosting a combined Ribbon Cutting Celebration for Bay-Brook Elementary/Middle, Calvin M. Rodwell Elementary/Middle, and John Ruhrah Elementary/Middle at Bay-Brook Elementary/Middle School.

This event will include guest speakers, including principals and students from each of the schools, ribbon cutting photo opportunities, and tours of the modernized Bay-Brook Building.

Street parking will be available. Carpooling is recommended.

**OPEN HOUSES at John Ruhrah and Calvin M. Rodwell, 1:00-3:00pm**

**This will be an opportunity for communities to tour the buildings.**

**The inclement weather date for this event will be Saturday, January 11, 2020 10:00 am-12:00 pm**

[**https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ribbon-cutting-celebration-for-bay-brook-calvin-m-rodwell-john-ruhrah-schools-tickets-84616447071**](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ribbon-cutting-celebration-for-bay-brook-calvin-m-rodwell-john-ruhrah-schools-tickets-84616447071)

1. Commissioner to share their work and its relationship to the 2019 plan – Councilman Ryan Dorsey
   * Legislative process – raising ideas, building collective awareness, influence policy. What change can we effect?
     + Learning what you can’t do and who can do that. What are the limitations of legislative work. Doing what you can. Clear on what your role is as a legislator and doing everything you can with the leg power you have. Shifting power – would the leg be better served by putting power in other people’s hands.
     + BOE – lopsided power structure. Outsized power to the Mayor –and the outsized power of the City Council President one of the strongest mayor systems in the country
     + General Assembly of MD power
     + City has only the power that is given to us by the State of MD
       - If we want to change, we often have to ask the state to enable us to make the change
       - Or stop prohibiting us from doing this at the local level
       - It’s important to do what we can, big and little things
         * Complete Streets legislation
         * Framework for the IG office
         * Little things

DOT can have the power to do curb cuts

Repealing bad laws i.e. Misdemeanor to play in the street i.e. roads, sidewalks, alleys, medians.

Two people riding on one bike

* + - * + Important to shift power and do what we can do within our limits.

1. Reading of Big Audacious Commitments
   * Lisa
   * Tracey
   * Avis

Speakers

1. Owen Silverman, Maryland Green Party: A New Deal for ME: A New Path Forward.
   * 1. <http://www.mdgreens.org/mdgnd>

Social just, nonviolence,

Framework Plan 1 grass roots democracy – establish a truer democracy.

Framework Plank 2: Social and Racial Justice

Framework Plank 3: Nonviolence – demilitarize and invest in community controlled public safety

Framework Plank 4: Ecological Wisdom – increase community wealth through greater equity

What is most important? Keep asking legislators: when are we going to get to 100% renewable?

1. Healthy Green Maryland Constitutional Amendment – Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin and Rev Dell Hinton <https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/ipc/pages/1728/attachments/original/1548260875/Interfaith_Faith_Cover_Letter_GA.pdf?1548260875>

Right of all Marylanders to live in a healthy, healthful environment> There is nothing in our constitution to protect us for aggregious encroachments to a healthy environment. It will create an inputs to enforce current laws and create new laws. Constitution gives us rights. Environmental health is not a privilege but a right for all. Strengthen our

4 articles

JHU source: 200 sources of standing pollution in South Baltimore. By themselves they meet the requirements but cumulatively ….

What can we do: Sign on to support the Healthy Green Amendment and Endorse a city resolution that supports the amendment. [www.mdgreenamendment.org](http://www.mdgreenamendment.org) Tell Nina to talk to Mary Pat and Reisinger.

What is the vision for defining the “state’s natural resources”? Built on PA’s constitutional amendment (1970’s) Natural resources owned by the public and in Montana – all natural resources governed by permit.

Why is PA a model? They are fracking, pollution is coming downstream to MD. The amendment was dormant and resurrected because of fracking.

1. Maryland League Conservation Voters, Ben Alexandro <http://www.mdlcv.org/>

* MLCV 2019 Scorecard – send link
* 100% Zero emission busses by 2030
* TCI – public transit funding (build up MTA $2M shortfall) ($1B shortfall on current maintenance and a $1B shortfall to expand and improve service)
* Enforcement Ombudsman (new position at AG to enforce legislation MDE, DNR etc)
* GHG Reduction Act Reform – passed 2016. Updating the Act.
* Banning chlorpyrifos pesticides
* Carbon cost collection with rebates for low income residents.
  + Fee at point of sale of high carbon intensive goods and rebates for low income residents for high carbon purchases. Incentive to not purchase carbon intensive products. Raise money for education.
* Renewable portfolio standard clean up – i.e. incinerating trash from Tier 1 credits
* Coal phase out – 6 coal plants in MD. ¾ of our energy is from coal
* Building code and regulations – encourage carbon neutral construction and renovation, changing zoning near transit
* Solar siting – responsible siting i.e. prevent cutting down of forest
* Fossil fuel infrastructure – putting a moratorium on fossil fuel infrastructure
  + Upcoming educational community meeting to learn about how they have power and how they can use their power to stop gas stations
  + Is there an opportunity to require all new gas stations conditional use by ordinance
* Protecting oysters – plan to sustainability harvest oysters. Will be working to override the Governor’s veto

Bill numbers are not available yet. Ben will send bill numbers when they are assigned.

League of Conservation Voters have a hot list every week. Every environmental bill they are following and their recommendation on voting. Get us on the list serve.

Reparations – a way to operationalize equity. Can we discuss this further?

1. Discussion: What legislation would Commissioners like to support and why
2. Updates from Transportation/Landuse Committee
   1. January meeting. History of Transportation through a racial equity lens, current state and some future thoughts.

Focus on bills that have a large impact on the Sustainability Plan including 1. equity, 2. transportation and 3. waste in the bills. We should also support the Healthy Green Amendment. The Envornmental nonprofits have their top 4: Bag ban, chlorifyphros, RPS incineration and oysters

Upcoming Commission Meetings:

January 15, 2019 Sustainability Commission meeting

417 East Fayette Street, 8th Floor

TOPIC: Transportation/Landuse Committee

February 19, 2020 Sustainability Commission meeting:

OFFSITE location

TOPIC: Baltimore as an Ecosystem