**Sustainability Commission Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 15, 2020**

**417 East Fayette Street, 8th Floor**

**4:00-6:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Attendees:** Miriam Avins, Rebbecca Bakre, Mia Bloom, The Honorable Ryan Dorsey, Lisa Ferretto, Michael Furbish, Nicolette Louissaint, Avis Ransom, Inez Robb, Greg Sawtell, Kurt Sommer, Ben Zaitchik

1. Welcome and Introductions
	* Minutes for the November and December meetings were approved.
2. Co-Chair and Staff Updates
	* Two new Commissioners, Mia Bloom and Nicolette Louissaint, were introduced.
	* There are still two open positions on the Commission, and applications can be sent to Anne Draddy.
	* The draft Legislative Priorities document was discussed and approved as a ‘priority list’. It will be shared with the Mayor’s Office of Government Relations, and the Commission expects to start sharing support for bills in the near future.
	* The Office of Sustainability inaugural newsletter was sent out today.
3. Reading of Big Audacious Commitments: Michael Furbish, Rebbecca Bakre, and Inez Robb
4. Commissioner to share their work in relationship to the 2019 plan
	* Nicolette Louissaint shared about her work as President of HealthCare Ready, which “strengthen[s] healthcare supply chains through collaboration with public health and private sectors by addressing pressing issues before, during, and after disasters.”
5. Transportation/Land Use Subcommittee
	* Introduction – Ben Zaitchik: Transportation is a main theme of the 2019 Sustainability Plan and one of two Commission priorities. The relevant issues are urgent, long-lasting, and sometime difficult.
	* History of Transportation – Eli Pousson, Baltimore Heritage: **Slides will be posted online.** The presentation highlighted the intentionality of transportation policies and investments in Baltimore throughout the city’s history: these decisions often had unintended consequences, but many of the consequences that we view as undesirable (rapid auto corridors, racial segregation, etc.) were very much intended.
	* Community Perspectives on Transportation – Avis Ransom Sustainability Commissioner: A community perspective, but not speaking for the community. Building on the history of black/brown people being denied equal access to transportation, and a challenge to the Commission to change the patterns and trajectory of discrimination and inequity. Also, an emphasis on the Red Line as a game changing intervention that does not have to be abandoned. Federal funds have been lost and the State has spent their contribution in other ways, but this doesn’t mean that we can’t find a way to fulfil a vision that will bring significant benefit to the city.
	* Transportation Supportive Land Use Policy – Ryan Dorsey, Sustainability Commissioner and Councilmember: A discussion of how to use legislative power to affect change and highlight how parking policies can stand in the way of a more equitable City. The presentation also highlighted a number of common sense policies that could be implemented to improve community orientation of our transportation infrastructure—for example, eliminating the archaic ordinance that prohibits ball playing in the street. **Post Parking Benefits document?**
	* Transportation Climate Initiative - Chris Hoagland, Economist, Maryland Department of the Environment: Brief overview of the TCI program and how it will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, provide health benefits, and generate revenues for the state. The draft program is out for public comment through February 28th (<https://www.transportationandclimate.org/main-menu/tcis-regional-policy-design-process-2019>) **Slides will be posted online.**
	* Discussion of City priorities & Public Comment: Four members of the public shared comments. This included comments by a member of the Johns Hopkins University community who presented on a proposal to encourage JHU employees to use public transit by eliminating parking subsidies and providing MTA passes instead. This has strong synergy with potential policy initiatives for City employees noted by Councilman Dorsey. Further discussion was tabled.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

February 19, 2020, 5:00 pm --7:00 pm

TOPIC: Nature/Baltimore as an Ecosystem

 Central Branch Enoch Pratt Library

400 Cathedral Street, 2nd floor

March 18, 2020, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

TOPIC: Waste & Recycling

417 East Fayette Street, 8th Floor

**Annual Open House**

TENTATIVE DATE: April 23, 2020, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Shake & Bake Fun Family Center

1601 Pennsylvania Avenue