

**Baltimore Commission on Sustainability
December 2009 Meeting Report**

Date: Tuesday, December 22th, 2009 from 4-7 pm

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

Subject: Commission on Sustainability December 2009 General Meeting

In Attendance: (*Commissioners*) - Davis Bookhart, Cheryl Casciani, John Ciekot, Raymond Ehrlich, Lynn Heller, Keith Losoya, Patrick McMahon, John Quinn (joined at 5:30), Jake Ruppert, Scot Spencer, Tom Stosur, Alyson Taylor, Mary Washington, Brian Knight, Ali Smith, Ruth Ann Norton (By phone). (*Staff*) - Brett Buikema.

Topics addressed:

- Minutes from November 24, 2009 meeting were approved without amendment
 - Motion made by Scot Spencer, seconded by Ruth Ann Norton
- Chair Report
 - Acknowledgment of the official congratulatory letter sent to the Baltimore City Public School's Cleaner, Greener, Sustainability Challenge by Cheryl Casciani on behalf of the full Commission
 - Announcement of Councilman Kraft's resignation from the Commission
 - Announcement of a possible new representative from DPW to replace Tonya Simmons
- Staff Report
 - Sustainability Challenge had it kickoff event on December 5th and the schools will be receiving the grant money in January to begin their projects
 - The OofS and partners have applied for \$30 million as part of the Retrofit Ramp Up Grant Program
 - The OofS is evaluating a RFP for a private consulting firm to help with the Baltimore Climate Action Plan, waiting on the Block Grant awards announcement in March
- Stormwater Briefing from Celeste Amato, DPW, Initiative for a Cleaner, Greener Baltimore (Copy of the presentation was requested)
 - Questions:
 - Could a stormwater utility be supported by an impervious surface fee? Initially the fee would be a flat rate, then other options would be considered
 - Can street drains be installed at an angle or screened to collect debris? Can result in flooding, City will be looking at enforcing gutter and storm drain cleaning
 - What is the City policy on public trash can placement? Based on pedestrian traffic, avoid residential areas due to abuse, can't pick up every public can everyday
 - Can DPW create a brochure detailing neighborhood maintenance/ homeowner responsibilities? BCF will be funding a small grant campaign to help educate residents similar to what it did with the shift to One Plus One
 - Is funding for stormwater projects being addressed regionally? The State has been briefed, but each jurisdiction will be addressing the issue differently
 - Should the infrastructure issues be separated from the trash issues? Litter causes many of the infrastructure issues, other cities have not separated the two
 - Aren't there already many laws that if enforced would help reduce litter? Yes, but many are tied up in issues with the code enforcement process
 - Will there be a media briefing? Yes
- Legislation

- Council Bill 09-0177R – Bmore Streets for People
 - Presentation done by Greg Cantori on how this works in Bogotá and Mike McQuestion on how a recent event in Roland Park was put together
 - Consensus was met to support as written with a Commission request to revisit this subject in 2010 with respect to how to support this project
- Council Bill 09-0175R – Information Hearing – Baltimore Police Department – Police and Cyclists
 - Consensus was met to support as written
- Council Bill 09-0176R – The Cyclist’s Bill of Rights
 - Consensus was met to support as written
- Council Bill 09-0429 – Required Parking for Bicycles
 - Nate Evans – stated that this follows New York City’s lead
 - This provides an opportunity to meet LEED requirements
 - There will be a technical hearing at Planning Commission
 - Zoning Code is being rewritten with consideration for bicyclists
 - Consensus was met to support as written but with a note to compare the language with the new Green Building Standards
- Council Bill 09-0430 – Transit and Traffic – Bike Lanes
 - Consensus was met to support as written
- Council Bill 09-0431 – City – Bike Safe Grates
 - Consensus was met to support as written
- Council Bill 09-0433 – Street and Transportation Projects – Complete Streets
 - Bill was not referred to the Sustainability Commission but Nate Evans wanted the Commission to be aware of it
- Council Bill 09-0427 – Planned Unit Development – Designation – Wylie Funeral Home
 - Consensus was met to defer to the Planning Commission decision
- Legislative Sub-Committee Report Out – Given by Ray Ehrlich
 - John Quinn – If a bill meets sustainability goals it should be supported by the Commission
 - Any time a City Council member expresses an interest in a sustainability related topic, the Commissioner should follow up with them and offer to help
 - Request was made to better utilize the CollectivX site to share information and have discussions about legislation
 - Keith Losoya – Perhaps each work group should focus on creating a piece of legislation and present it to the Commission in 2010 (Chair noted that Commissioners are welcome to do that at any time)
 - Lynn Heller – Energy Group is holding a brainstorming session in January (date ?)
 - Davis Bookhart – LSC should create categories of recommendations/ determine the degree of relevance of bills for the Commission

Next Meeting: January 26, 2010 Proposed Meeting Agenda

- Tree Baltimore presentation from Anne Draddy
- Community Plan (?)
- Website Update
- Legislation
- Sustainability Checklist Update