

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Baltimore Commission on Sustainability Meeting Report</b></p>
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**Date:** April 28, 2009

**Location:** Department of Planning

**Subject:** Review of Sustainability Legislation

**Attendance:** *Commissioners:* Keith Losoya, Alyson Taylor, John Quinn, Lynn Heller, Brian Knight, John Ruppert, John Ciekot, Ali Smith, Sarah Norman, Davis Bookhart, Cheryl Casciani, Patrick McMahon, Tom Stosur *By Phone:* Ruth Ann Norton, Ray Ehrlich, Scot Spencer. *Staff:* Beth Strommen, Sarah Zaleski, Brett Buikema. *Guest Presenter:* Rebecca Ruggles.

Discussion:

1. Prioritization of Goals – Presented by Rebecca Ruggles
  - a. Working Group met to create a criteria to evaluate goals
  - b. Developed three criteria:
    - i. Geography
    - ii. Urgency
    - iii. People, Planet, Prosperity
  - c. Group requested that time at the next Commission meeting be devoted to this
  - d. Sarah Zaleski to post the questions that arose from this discussion
2. Summary of Legislative Review Process – Presented by Cheryl Casciani
  - a. Bills are referred to BOS staff
  - b. Staff will draft memo to summarize bill
  - c. Commission can choose to hold information sessions
  - d. CoS will render an opinion by consensus
  - e. Voting cannot be done online
  - f. Staff will draft the memo to City Council based in the CoS opinions
3. Bag Bill Info Session Report Out
  - a. The Commission strongly supports the use of reusable bags over disposable bags, regardless of the material with which the disposable bags are made.
  - b. The Commission requests that the paper bag surcharge bill and the plastic bag surcharge bill be combined so that the 25 cents surcharge applies to both.
  - c. The Commission would like to encourage partnerships with retailers and other private and public sector entities to raise consumer awareness surrounding reusable bags.
4. Bag Bill Discussion

- a. Request from John Quinn that the memo to City Council include language about the added benefit of reduced litter clean up costs in addition to the revenue generated by a surcharge
  - b. Request from Lynn Heller that language be added that requests a portion of the funds from the surcharge should go to a fund which would support sustainability initiatives ( a “green” fund)
  - c. Consensus was reached for the recommendations from the info session to be incorporated into the memo to City Council
    - i. Vote: 14/14 in favor of drafting a memo with this language
  - d. Consensus was reached over the recommendation to request a portion of the funds generated go into a sustainability fund
    - i. Vote: 13/14 in favor of including this recommendation  
1/14 abstaining (Alyson Taylor)  
(Ruth Ann Norton left meeting and did not vote)
5. Council Bill 08-0057 Property Tax Credits – High-Performance Buildings
- a. Presentation of Councilman Kraft’s four proposed amendments
  - b. Consensus was reached over the support of amendments one and four with a recommendation that a work group be formed with representatives from BOS, HCD, and Councilman Kraft to evaluate regulations, etc
    - i. Vote: 12/13 in favor  
1/13 abstaining (Scot Spencer)
  - c. Alyson Taylor requested a tax credit information session
6. Council Bill 08-0058 Property Tax Credits – Energy Devices
- a. Status report of the bill was given by Beth Strommen
    - i. City Council did not accept the BOS memo regarding this bill
    - ii. Bill will probably be voted out of committee at the next hearing
    - iii. Beth Strommen requested permission to write a recommendation memo to City Council asking that a work group be put together to evaluate and incentivize energy devices (request to work with City Council), BOS agreed
7. Council Bill 09-0323 Tax Credit – Conservation Land
- a. Summary of legislation given by Beth Strommen
  - b. Vote 12/13 approve of the legislation as is  
1/13 abstaining (Scot Spencer)
  - c. Request was made to invite Miriam Avins to speak about this legislation at the next meeting

### **Next Steps and Upcoming Events**

Next Commission on Sustainability meeting is May 26, 2009. The Bottle Bill and Green Fund legislation will be voted on at that meeting.