

<p style="text-align: center;">Baltimore Commission on Sustainability May 2009 Meeting Report</p>
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Date: May 26, 2009

Location: Department of Planning, 417 E. Fayette Street, 8th floor

Time: 4:00 to 7:00 PM

In Attendance: (*Commissioners*) - Keith Losoya, Alyson Taylor, Peter Doo, Davis Bookhart, Lynn Heller, John Ruppert, John Quinn, Patrick McMahon, Ray Ehrlich, Ali Smith, Tom Stosur, Cheryl Casciani, Brian Knight, Sarah Norman, Scot Spencer, Tonya Simmons, John Ciekot, Councilman James Kraft. (*Staff*) - Beth Strommen, Sarah Zaleski, Brett Buikema, Elena DiPietro

Discussion

Council Bill #08-0055 – Sustainability Funds

Presentation from Elena DiPietro

- Current wording of the bill raises several issues including the illegality of earmarking funds and the wording in the legislation is too broad
- Suggested similar wording to the city's Affordable Housing Fund
- Recommended the phrase "related city program" should be removed

Other issues raised:

- It is illegal for the city to have a deficit
- Language needs more clarity as to what will be funded so that it does not end up being the only source of funding for the BOS
- Money saved via recommendations in the Plan should be tracked and utilized for other sustainability projects

Decision:

- Staff was asked to draft a memo stating that the Commission does not support the bill as written but would rather work on a policy that would track savings that result from sustainability plan initiatives.

Council Bill #08-0059 – Bottle Bill

Discussion:

- State bill to organize a task force to evaluate a statewide bottle bill was defeated
- DPW is concerned that if the plastic bottles do not make it into the single stream recycling that the City will lose money
- DPW is not in a position to fund or operate a collection and refund station
- This issue may be more appropriately handled at the state level rather than at the city level
- DPW would still want to be able to calculate the tonnage of waste diverted even if this bill went into effect
- Bill would give people incentive to pick up trash because the bottles have a cash value thus reducing litter
- Bill could encourage businesses to bring manufacturing and bottling back into the City

Vote on bill as written – 17 Commissioners Present

- In Favor - 9 (Heller, Simmons, Taylor, Quinn, Casciani, Kraft, Spencer, Losoya, Norman)
- Opposed – 6 (Ehrlich, McMahon, Knight, Stosur, Smith, Bookhart)
- Abstained – 2 (Doo, Ruppert)

Council Bill #09-0315 – Uplands

Discussion:

- Cheryl Casciani recommended that the Commission defer to the Planning Commission position since they had already voted on it
- John Quinn suggested “no position” due to the lack of time available to properly review the project, Commission agreed

Council Bill #08-0057 - High Performance Buildings

- Councilman Kraft requested that the Commission reconsider it’s position on this Bill
- The Commission agreed to form a sub-committee to evaluate the bill and propose specific amendments
- Sub-committee members are as follows:
 - Peter Doo
 - Davis Bookhart
 - John Ruppert
 - Tom Stosur
 - Councilman Kraft
- The sub-committee will present it’s report at the June Commission meeting

Next Steps

The agenda for the June Commission meeting will include Council Bill #08-0057 and establishment of criteria for determining priorities.