

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

Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 from 4-6 pm

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

Subject: Commission on Sustainability September 2009 General Meeting

In Attendance: (*Commissioners*) - Davis Bookhart, Cheryl Casciani, Lynn Heller, Brian Knight, Keith Losoya, Patrick McMahon, Sarah Norman, John Quinn, Jake Ruppert, Madeleine Shea, Ali Smith, Scot Spencer, Tom Stosur. (*Staff*) - Brett Buikema, Beth Strommen, Sarah Zaleski.

Topics addressed:

- Minutes from September 10, 2009 retreat were approved without amendment.
- Chair Report
 - Cheryl Casciani shed more clarity on the working relationship between the CoS and the BOS staff. She highlighted that the relationship is different from that of a non-profit board in that the staff reports to the Director of Planning and not the Commission.
- Staff Report
 - Beth Strommen shared her experiences at the Urban Sustainability Directors Conference in Chicago.
- Priorities Discussion
 - While it is acknowledged that all 29 goals in the Sustainability Plan are priorities, the CoS wants to prioritize a subset of these goals to focus its proactive engagement in the coming year.
 - To determine which goals to prioritize, the CoS completed a “voting” exercise where each Commissioner was asked to indicate their top five goals, based on feasibility, impact, and any other considerations they felt appropriate.
 - Fourteen of the 21 Commissioners responded to the voting request and the following six goals rose to the top:
 - RC Goal #1: Reduce Baltimore’s energy use by 15% by 2015 (with 7 votes)
 - GR Goal #2: Establish Baltimore as a leader in sustainable, local food systems (with 6 votes)
 - CL Goal #1: Eliminate litter throughout the City (with 5 votes)
 - GR Goal #1: Double Baltimore’s Tree Canopy by 2037 (with 5 votes)
 - EA Goal #1: Turn every school in Baltimore City into a green school (with 5 votes)
 - EA Goal #3: Raise the environmental awareness of the Baltimore community (with 5 votes)
 - These priorities will also be highlighted in the sustainability annual report.
 - After some discussion, the CoS decided to recognize the environmental awareness goal as a priority, but to incorporate it into the other five as opposed to viewing it as a separate actionable item.
 - As a next step, Commissioners volunteered to do a quick assessment of each of the priority goals to understand the status of the goals in terms of who is doing what on the strategies, potential metrics, availability of data, and potential roles the CoS could play. The following Commissioners volunteered for:
 - RC Goal #1: John Quinn, Davis Bookhart
 - GR Goal #2: Cheryl Casciani, Sarah Norman
 - CL Goal #1: Keith Losoya, Brian Knight

- GR Goal #1: Patrick McMahon, Jake Ruppert
 - EA Goal #1: Madeleine Shea, Ali Smith
- The findings of these quick assessments will be shared with the entire CoS at the October 27th meeting.
- Budgets
 - Tom Stosur gave an overview of the City's new outcomes budgeting process including the timeline for proposals and the chosen outcome areas.

To Dos:

- Sarah Zaleski to create and send out a template for the priority goal quick assessments.
- Commissioners who volunteered to help with certain goals to populate the template using whatever contacts and method they find most appropriate.

Upcoming Events:

- Next Commission on Sustainability General Meeting – Tuesday, October 27th, 4pm