

Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board Meeting
 Robinson Nature Center - Columbia, MD
 January 11, 2018
 7pm-9pm

Attendees

Matt Hoover	OCS
Beth Decker	Safe Skies MD
Carolyn Parsa	Safe Skies MD
Ed Wilson	ESB
Jim Caldwell	OCS
Mark Southerland	ESB
Nancy McAllister	ESB
Athena Verghis	Public
Sonia He	ESB
Chris Tsien	ESB
Tom Paxton	ESB
Georgia Eacker	ESB
Olivia Farrow	ESB
Ann Strozyk	ESB
Chein-Chi Chang	ESB
Antony Justin	Howard Hughes

Summary

7:05 PM – Mark Southerland began the meeting and had everyone introduce themselves.

7:13 PM – Antony Justin from Howard Hughes, began his presentation about the Bird Friendly Study that he completed. He was not aware of the issue until he spoke to Mark few months ago.

He gave a background of the construction happening in Columbia. The downtown Columbia plan was passed in 2010. Currently there is construction happening near the Merriweather area, in downtown Columbia. The areas that are currently under development are Whole Foods, Metropolitan, One Merriweather, Two Merriweather, m.flats and TEN.M. All buildings are required to be LEED certified.

Some things to factor in when assessing risk of building bird collisions are the volume of glass, the amount of light that escapes, the reflection of the glass, transparencies and the passage effect. He mentioned the 2x4 rule which is that birds will avoid flying through spaces that are 2 inches high or less and 4 inches wide or less. Geometry is more important than density and stripes on glass is more effective than dots, when trying to prevent bird collisions. He passed around samples of bird safe glass.

The first step of the plan, going forward, is to have people go out in the mornings to try and spot any dead birds around, so they can verify there is an issue. The second step is to become more educated on the bird collision issue and the third step is trying to leverage bird safe buildings.

7:55 PM – Sonia advised the board of her Native Plant Passport challenge. The Native Passport challenge objective is to promote planting of native plants. She gave out samples of the passports that residents can fill out to track, while buying plants and planting them. Planting a minimum of ten native plants will get a participant a coupon sheet for various nurseries and garden supply stores. The passport must be submitted by June 30, 2018 to receive the coupon sheet. For a copy of the passport, please visit https://www.cleanwaterhoward.com/sites/default/files/native_plant_passport.pdf.

8:03 PM – Ed started his presentation on the Exelon/Constellation BHQ Move Pre- and Post-Occupancy Transportation Data. When the company was deciding on a new location, the goal was to stay in Maryland.

Some of the challenges with the new Harbor East location is there is a lot of construction around that area, it is on a peninsula and they are trying to convey 1500 employees down one road. He displayed a chart with the Exelon existing and target data for various transportation options. It included data for driving alone, carpooling, walking/biking, transit, Harbor Connector, Taxicab/other, work at home, commuter bus/vanpool, Canton Harbor Connector and West Park Shuttle.

Exelon's main commuter options are the Park and Shuttle, walk/park and then ride the Harbor Connector, walk, bike, transit, and carpool/vanpool. The Park and Shuttle is from the Horseshoe Casino to Harbor East/Harbor Point and takes about twenty minutes. The Harbor Connector runs every fifteen minutes and is 7 ½ minutes each way. The new Express Bus Route targets Columbia residents.

A post move survey was displayed that showed employees had a high flexibility of hours. Key results show that 68.7% of employees drive alone, always. 7% use the water taxi, which was one of the only increases from the 2015 survey. 1% carpooled, 6% walked, 5% biked, and less than 1% used the Point East Shuttle. It also had an increase of 0% to 5.39% of employees that telecommuted, but the initial survey was only completed with the employees in the building. The results of the data showed that, even with the many cheaper options provided, most employees still choose to drive into work.

8:18 PM – It was announced that Christine Conn would keep track of legislative issues. Mark gave an announcement of the Environmental Summit which will be held in Annapolis on January 18. Some of the key proposals that will be covered are forest conservation, clean energy jobs, a partial styrofoam ban, and transparency at the Public Service Commission. Christine plans on attending and having a report for the next ESB meeting.

8:23 PM – Director's Report was provided by Jim Caldwell.

- Howard Eco Works
 - working in the Ellicott City Watershed
 - Completing raingarden maintenance for the County

- Won Baywide award for Ellicott City Stormwater staircase
 - The award money is going to be used for signs at the staircase
- Greenfest
 - Where: Howard County Community College
 - Date: April 21, 2017
 - Time: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- GIN
 - Trying to get people to understand ecosystem services and habitat connectivity
 - Presentation for Sierra Club upcoming
 - The presentation will be given to the County Executive and his staff
 - The goal is to educate the county first before implementing programs
- Roving Radish
 - Won statewide MACO award
 - First year average kits a week were 120 and currently at 300 a week
 - Began with 5 drop off locations and now has 10.
 - 20k first year spent on local produce and now it is 75k
- Budget issues
 - Because income tax returns are less
 - Residents are holding off on capital gains
 - Hiring freeze in the county
 - Energy Manager position should still be filled
 - Budget meeting scheduled with facilities to push savings with energy
- Stormwater
 - Howard County's MS 4 permit is completed in December 2019
 - Howard County will need about 200 acres more of impervious treated
 - Projected to be about 10% short of goal
 - New permits for PG County and Baltimore County permit completed in December 2018
 - They are significantly short of their goal.
- Rockburn Park School Site
 - Off the table
 - Hearing on School 13 is coming up
- IVM
 - Julie working on pollinator raingardens
 - Hope to develop a public land IVM program modeled after BGE program
- Road Salt
 - Recognized as an issue for water quality
 - Well contamination has been documented
 - Highways testing new equipment to better manage use

8:45 PM – Mark went around the room to see if anyone else had any updates. Georgia advised that the award committee is going to resume. Sonia announced that she will be attending Duke University and will study Environmental Science.

8:50 PM – Meeting adjourned.