

Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board Meeting
Robinson Nature Center – Columbia, MD
April 12, 2018
7pm-9pm

Attendees

Kim Drake	MD Assoc. for Environmental Outdoor Education
Beth Decker	MAEOE & Safe Skies
Carolyn Parsa	Sierra Club & Safe Skies
Jeremy Scharfenberg	Columbia Association
Mark Southerland	ESB
Georgia Eacker	ESB
Sonie He	ESB
Jim Caldwell	OCS
Olivia Farrow	ESB
Ann Strozyk	ESB
Kelly Hensing	ESB
Chien-Chi Chang	ESB
Athena Verghis	Howard County Resident
Nancy McAllister	ESB
Kelly Kesler	Howard County Health Dept.

Minutes

7:05 PM – Mark Southerland started the meeting and had everyone from around the room introduce themselves.

7:07 PM – Kelly Kesler, the Director of the Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition (HCLHIC), started her presentation on “Building Capacity for Health Equity and Sustainability in Howard County.”

The vision of the HCLHIC is that all residents of Howard County will have access to healthcare and health outcomes will be equitable for all. The mission of the Coalition is to achieve health equity and reduce health disparities in Howard County. The values are evidence based, all stakeholders to have a voice, to be inclusive for Howard County’s diverse community, to have collaboration and to be transparent.

She displayed a slide that had the Howard County population, which is 317,233. The demographics of Howard County are 13.1% aged 65 and over, 58.4% White, 19.1% Black or African American, 18.3% Asian, 19.9% Foreign Born Persons and 6.6% Hispanic or Latino. Other statistics given were, 95.3% High School Graduate or higher, 4.5% without insurance, 17,962 Veterans and 24.1% households with language other than English spoken at home. They use this data to break down and determine where and what their programs areas should be.

HCLHIC Priorities areas for the 2018 – 2020 Action Plan are

- **Access to Care:** Reduce Emergency Department visits for diabetes, hypertension, and asthma in Howard County and increase the number of Howard County children and adults who access dental care annually.
- **Behavioral Health:** Reduce Emergency Department visits related to mental health conditions and addiction-related conditions; and reduce suicide rates in Howard County.
- **Healthy Aging:** Reduce Alzheimer's and dementia-related emergencies and reduce fall-related deaths in Howard County
- **Healthy Weight:** Reduce obesity in Howard County.

Public Health initiatives they are involved with are Healthy Beverage/Snack Education from an environmental perspective such as reusable packaging and reduction in waste. Point of Decision Campaign; support for community government/business participation and infrastructure which is trying to make physical activity the norm. The Opioid Epidemic with education on Naloxone, stress management, participation in Maryland Health First Aid, education about alternative pain management and coping techniques. For more information, you can visit their website [here](#).

7:51 PM – Jeremy Scharfenberg, the Energy Manager for the Columbia Association (CA), started his presentation. Their energy management program launched in 2012. Their goal is to engage in all aspects of CA operations, to reduce energy and to engage the community on energy issues.

They have completed more than 40 LED lighting retrofit projects throughout their portfolio. The lighting retrofits included 2000 new fixtures. The benefits are better light quality and a significant cost saving, which annually exceeds \$100,000.

They have also completed major mechanical upgrades, which involved replacing aged HVACs and boiler units. They utilized ENERGY STAR equipment as the basis of their design. The benefit is reduced maintenance and operating cost, along with an improved member experience.

An advance energy project they completed was installing an energy recovery system with a combined heat and power cogeneration unit (CHP). It has reduced maintenance and operating cost, improved HVAC performance and is energy efficient, with a significant cost savings.

Renewable Energy is received from the Nixon Solar Farm which generates 25% of their power and wind Renewable Energy Certificates (REC) are purchased for the remaining 75% of power. They have on-site solar photovoltaic (PV) generation at River Hill, the Amherst House, Dorsey Search, and the Long Reach Tennis Club.

Other energy program activities they have are six electric vehicle charging stations, they support the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program and have facilitated over 100 energy audits.

They have received national and local recognition for their projects. Some of them include, being recognized by BGE and featured in a BGE customer spotlight for their combined heat and power unit.

They were recognized by the US EPA and received Energy Star Partner awards in 2014, 2015 and 2018. They also received the Green Power Leadership Award from the US EPA. They were recognized by the US DOE for the Better Buildings Challenge Goal Achiever in 2018.

They will be launching a Climate Change and Sustainability Advisory Committee this summer. Their mission will be to engage and educate the community, advise on clean energy programming, promote resilience and sustainability. They will be a liaison for the Columbia Association's Energy Manager and their primary focus will be on climate change, but will also include environmental sustainability issues, such as waste, recycling and light pollution.

8:35 PM – The Award Committee gave an update. They are going to award a teacher who is exceling in environmental efforts. It will be available for Howard County public and private school teachers. They have a private donor for the award. They will have a draft of the award for the May meeting.

8:40 PM – Mark Southerland advised that there will be a fieldtrip for June's meeting. Matt Hoover will send out a doodle poll to find out the best time and date to go on the fieldtrip. In May, there will be a presenter on Micro Plastics and Susan Garber is coming in to speak about the Savage land development.

8:43 PM – A vote for the March meeting minutes took place. There was a motion by Ann Strozyk and it was seconded by Kelly Hensing. The minutes received unanimous approval from the board members in attendance.

8:45 PM – Mark Southerland reviewed the Annual Report Draft to the board. There was motion by Kelly Hensing and it was seconded by Ann Strozyk to approve the report. The Annual Report received unanimous approval from the board members that were in attendance.

9:01 PM – The Director's Report was given by Jim Caldwell.

The 20 Minute Clean Up took place today, 4/12/18. He went out with some Howard County employees and the County Executive to clean up an area behind a Rite Aid located off of Route 40.

On 4/21/18 GreenFest will be held at the Community College. Julie Costantino, from the Office of Community Sustainability, will be doing a Pollinators presentation and Bill Mahoney, from the Office of Community Sustainability, will be giving a Green Infrastructure Network presentation.

The new season of the Roving Radish will start back up on April 30.

The HoCo Farms website, which features Howard County farms, is now up and running ([Link](#)).

Jim advised about the HoCo Fresh campaign, which is going to be a program that restaurants who buy from local farmers can participate in. It will allow them to place a gold, silver or bronze sticker, based on the amount of local food they purchase, on the front of their restaurant. ([more info](#)).

The Energy Manager job posting closes on 4/16/18.

The Nixon Farm Project Pilot Agreement has been completed.

The state of Maryland is going over options to use the Volkswagen settlement money and one idea is to put in more electric vehicle charging stations.

The Live Green Howard website is in the process of being updated, along with a new logo that is being created for it too.

Jim is now the Chair of the Patuxent Watershed Board. Counties represented by the board are Prince George's County, Montgomery County and Howard County. They are looking to do a pilot study in the Triadelphia Reservoir, located in the Patuxent Watershed, to better manage snow salt.

9:08 PM – Meeting Adjourned.