

Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board Meeting Minutes
 March 10, 2016
 7pm-9pm
 Robinson Nature Center, Columbia MD

Attendees	Association
Chris Tsien	ESB
Kelly Hensing	ESB
Phil Nichols	County Administration
Val Lazdins	DPZ
Jim Caldwell	OCS
Ned Tillman	ESB
Georgia Eacker	ESB
Chein-Chi Chang	ESB
Mark Southerland	ESB
John Dove	ESB
Tom Paxton	ESB
Vicky Cutroneo	Public
Ed Wilson	ESB
Catherine Strawley	ESB
Bill Mahoney	OCS

7:00 – Board Chair, Ned Tillman, initiated a round of introductions for the benefit of recent board additions Chris Tsien and Kelly Hensing.

Ned then introduced Val Lazdins, the new Director of DPZ, and asked Val to introduce himself further and discuss idea of what sustainability means. Val has a background in landscape architecture and redevelopment, and has worked for a number of consulting firms around the country, as well as most recently being the Chief of Research and Special Projects for Montgomery County. Val explained that he has been learning the unique characteristics of Howard County over the past 8 months, he described some of the current priorities of DPZ, and some of the policies and regulations that are likely to be reviewed by him and his staff.

Board member Chris Tsien asked how far along the Complete Streets initiative is. It is awaiting approval as part of the Bicycle Masterplan that is up for adoption by the County Council.

7:45 – The ESB discussed Councilman Ball’s proposed resolution “requesting that the Environmental Sustainability Board review the various reports commissioned by the Howard County Public School System pertaining to mold at Howard County Public Schools.” (Previous text, in quotes, was taken from the HC County Council website.

<https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olis/PrintSummary.aspx?LegislationID=1642>)

The Board determined that it cannot adequately review the reports in question because the Board does not have the necessary technical expertise in the field of air quality, particularly as it relates to mold. The

Board discussed whether there was an appropriate way for the Board to be involved in this process; such as by helping to create a task force to review the reports, however no decision was made as no official vote was taken. Chair Ned Tillman will contact Councilman Ball to express the view of the Board.

8:15 – Ned asked the group to come up with challenges/goals for Columbia since it is about to have it's 50th anniversary. Jim Caldwell recommended having representatives from CA come to our next meeting to see if they already have similar plans and how ESB might support those plans.

8:20 - Catherine Strawley announced that the Howard Environmental Club had just held an educational event based around composting and that the Science National Honors Society wants speakers for an event they are having on March 21st.

8:25 - Ed Wilson reported on the Energy Task Force. The group has broken into subcommittees which will begin working on their various tasks.

8:30 - Bill Mahoney reported to the Board about the Administrations recent meeting regarding compliance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act. At least one Board Member will have to take a training on the Act.

8:35 - Jim Caldwell gave the Director's report, covering the following information:

- The Roving Radish is getting a second truck, two new stops, and moving from 150 up to 200 meals a week.
- James Zoller of OCS is developing a Food Hub so that local farmers can source their produce to local restaurants. There will also be a certification program so farmers can prove that their produce is local.
- The legislation to repeal the Watershed Protection Fee was voted down
- Councilman Weinstein has proposed a resolution to cap the fee at 20% of a commercial property owner's overall property tax. The cap would change to 15% next year, 10% the next, and 5% the next but staying at 5% from then on. The resolution also includes a provision for 100% fee forgiveness for commercial properties that control 100% of their impervious surface.
- OCS is soon to award one or two contracts for the CleanScapes Community Program. The program is specifically for the Northern Little Patuxent Subwatershed. The County will fund 75% of each rain garden and the landowners will pay the remaining 25% for 50 gardens in the subwatershed.
- The 20 minute clean-up will be April 22nd this year.
- GreenFest will be at HCC on April 16th.
- The Ellicott City Partnership's Green Streets Committee will be removing English Ivy along Ellicott Mills Drive on April 11th, and encourages ESB board members or their contacts to come participate.