

Held on-line and by phone through Webex
Meeting login info: ([Webex info](#))

May 13, 2021
7pm-9pm

Attendees

Natasha Shangold	Guest
Joel Hurewitz	Guest
Larry Liebesman	Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB)
Josh Feldmark	Office of Community Sustainability (OCS)
Richard Douchman	Indivisible Climate Action Team
Christine Conn	ESB
Kelly Hensing	ESB
Amber Butler	ESB
Mark Southerland	Guest
Brooke Abercrombie	ESB
Nancy McAllister	ESB
Ruth White	Howard County Climate Action Group
Carolyn Parsa	Sierra Club & Safe Skies MD
Kim Drake	Columbia Association Climate Change Committee
Liz Feighner	Guest
Matthew Hoover	OCS

Minutes

7:05 PM – Ms. Conn began the meeting and had everyone who was in attendance introduce themselves.

1.) Meeting Minutes: February 11, 2021 (Vote)

No changes or corrections. Mr. Liebesman motioned to approve, and Ms. Abercrombie seconded the motion. All members in attendance approved the minutes.

2.) Director's Report – Office of Community Sustainability: Josh Feldmark

Mr. Feldmark advised that the budget work session is tomorrow, May 14, and he will be in attendance. A couple OCS budget submissions are for an update to the Climate Action Plan and a submission for investing funds into the Green Infrastructure Network (GIN).

Howard County is applying for the LEED for Cities and Communities. It will probably be a six month to year long process and will coincide with the update to the Climate Action Plan.

Mr. Feldmark advised that the Solar Zoning Regulation Amendment (ZRA) was reviewed by the County Council. He reviewed the amendments with the Board.

Howard County was awarded a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant to triple the number of trees planted.

3.) Committee Updates/Committee Meet Up

Resilience Subcommittee – The committee continues to meet monthly and they have a meeting scheduled for next month. They are researching Howard County’s resiliency issues and challenges. They recently attended a national webinar that provided a lot of information. They are monitoring what is happening at a national level to see how it will affect Howard County. They are also tying in their research in with climate justice issues.

Environment Diversity Justice and Equity Group (EDJE) – They are interested in getting a better handle on various services and amenities provided to underserved communities. During their last meeting they discussed access to recycling and that not everyone in Howard County has the access to it.

Transportation Sub-committee – Work has begun on Saint John’s lane in Ellicott City. They put in a rain garden last year, but it had problems with the existing drain pipes that backed up and flooded some yards. They have fixed the issue with the drain pipes and are working on restructuring it to help with drainage issues in the neighborhood.

4.) Announcements

It was advised that funds generated from the Bag Fee must be spent on an environmental purpose and they are in the process of distributing most of the collected money for grants for environmental projects. They will also be using some funds generated from the bag fee on other projects and studies.

The Columbia Association is doing a vulnerability assessment for Wilde Lake. It is going to be a GIS modeling assessment with various scenarios that will lead to a web tool to map and visualize potential climate threats. They are going to invite members of CA and Michael T Baker International to attend a future meeting to explain the project.

Mr. Hurewitz – Wanted to make the Board aware of new North Columbia Fire Station and concerns some people have with the project.

Mr. Hurewitz – Advised the Board about the Street Tree Program and the average length of time it takes to remove a dead tree.

Ms. Conn was invited to join a citizen advisory committee to evaluate the environmental responses for the growth and development scenarios that are in the Howard County by Design plan. She will provide an update after they meet.

Indivisible Howard County will be having a general membership meeting this Sunday from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM. [Link](#)

The Secretary for the United States Department of Commerce is a big proponent of wind energy and is starting a project with The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that will begin in the North East area of the United States.

Meeting Adjourned 8:15PM.