

Meeting Summary

Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board

Robinson Nature Center – Columbia, MD

7-9 PM

December 8, 2016

Name	Affiliation
Chris Eatough	HoCo Office of Transportation
Phil Nichols	HoCo Administration
Jim Caldwell	OCS
Katie DiSalvo-Thronson	The Horizon Foundation
Chris Tsien	ESB
Victoria Krausmar-Plantholt	Brasher Design
Tom Paxton	ESB
Betsy Singer	ESB
Georgia Eacker	ESB
Ned Tillman	ESB
Elissa Reineck	OCS
Bill Mahoney	OCS
Kelly Hensing	ESB
Paul Lin	ESB (Student)
Matthew Hoover	OCS
Rizwan Siddiqi	Energy Task Force
Mark Southerland	ESB

Summary

7:05 pm

Board Chair Ned Tillman opened up the meeting and asked for a brief introduction from the people in attendance.

7:15 pm

Ned Tillman had a meeting with HCPSS's approach to indoor air quality and provided an update. A plan was set up for identifying problems and a beta test was started in two schools in August. The full roll out of the program began in October. Elissa Reineck of OCS was part of one of the walkthroughs with five additional participants. The walkthrough took two hours and was a very thorough process. The group looked for visible mold, water on tiles and any other moisture spots. They inspected every room in the school during the walk through.

7:25 pm

Chris Eatough from the Office of Transportation went over the draft of Howard County Complete Streets Policy. A team was created to draft a policy and create a manual. He gave a background of what complete streets are designed for. Some of the benefits are safety, providing transportation options, reducing emissions, improving public health, strengthen the local economy, reducing maintenance cost and increasing the quality of life. Their goal is to have a Howard County pedestrian, transit, and bike master plan. The deadline for the draft is 12/24/16. It is anticipated that the policy will be presented to the council by mid-2017.

8:05 pm

The Bikeway was presented by Katie from the Horizon Foundation which is a public health foundation in Howard County. The projection is to have 50 miles of road bike/pedestrian paths throughout the County. It was presented that The Bikeway would be good for health, the environment, and the economy. The goal of the Bikeway is to help and benefit everybody. A vote was taken by ESB to determine if they would support The Bikeway and it was determined that they would. A letter will be drafted by the ESB to be presented to the Council. A board member suggested that both the Bikeway and the Complete Streets Policy further consider the benefits of LEED in their designs and policy.

8:45 pm

A review of the Energy Task Force recommendations was provided by co-chair Rizwan Siddiqi. The final report will be sent to the County Exec, County Council and ESB and a meeting with Mr. Kittleman will be requested for January 2017. The task force is comprised of local energy experts who will advise the County on energy issues. There are 4 subcommittees, Energy Management and Efficiency, Workforce Development and Job Creation, Reliability and Resiliency, and Renewable Energy. The final report will contain recommendations in each category for the short, medium and long term. Mr. Siddiqi described the draft recommendations that will be highlighted in the task force report. ESB board members asked Mr. Siddiqi questions about a few of the items, particularly as how they related to LEED and to suggest clarifying the recommendation about job creation. Mr. Siddiqi agreed to take those points back to the task force. Overall, the recommendations were very well received. OCS staff will let ESB know when the report is available to the public.

9:05 pm

Jim provided the Director's report from the Office of Community Sustainability