

Meeting Summary

Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board

Robinson Nature Center – Columbia, MD

7-9 PM

January 12, 2017

Name	Affiliation
Christine Conn	Public
Mark Southerland	ESB
Nancy McAllister	Public
Ned Tillman	ESB
Olivia Farrow	ESB
Betsy Singer	ESB
Georgia Eacker	ESB
Ann Strozyk	Public
Rachel Beebe	OCS
Chris Tsien	ESB
Tom Paxton	ESB
Kelly Hensing	ESB
Chein-Chi Chang	ESB
Ann Draddy	Baltimore Office of Sustainability
Paul Lin	ESB (Student)
Matt Hoover	OCS

Summary

7:08 pm

Board Chair Ned Tillman opened up the meeting. An update on the prior student board member was given. He advised that three of the people in attendance will be new board members starting in February. Each person in attendance gave a brief background of themselves and their affiliation.

7:32 pm

An update of next month's meeting date of February 15th was given and it will be held from 7pm to 9pm. This date is on a Wednesday, which is different from the normal 2nd Thursday of the month.

7:35 pm

Ann Draddy from the Baltimore Office of Sustainability gave a background of her department and programs they are working on in Baltimore City. They are currently in the process of working on a re-

write of their sustainability plan. Their goal is to find out what the community wants from their programs and they have been doing this by sending out 125 ambassadors into the city to conduct surveys. They also are attending community meetings or any place groups are gathering so they can get as much information as possible. Their goal is to have their community outreach completed by spring. Their priority is to look at sustainability through an equity lens. A video was shown regarding Baltimore City Sustainability with an equity lens. An energy project Ann mentioned is retrofitting old buildings to make them more energy efficient. Ann also mentioned the success of the Water Wheel collection of debris from the harbor and they are in the process of getting another Water Wheel.

8:25 pm

A discussion on meeting frequency and time was started. It was decided that the meeting would remain monthly except for a meeting in the winter and summer months being taken off. A possible day and time change for the meetings was brought up too. An email is going to be sent out to have a vote on what day and time works best for the monthly meetings.

8:33 pm

It was proposed that a 3-4 month plan should be implemented for the meetings. It was suggested that the board pursue more pro-active ideas and work more with the County Council and community.

8:41 pm

Rachel Beebe from the Howard County OCS provided information on the Septic Reimbursement Program. The program is set up to give a \$100 rebate to residents for having their septic tanks pumped, which is approximately 40% of the average cost to pump a septic tank. It will help with the MS4 permit credit and is the most cost-effective known BMP for MS4 compliance. It could help Howard County reach almost 30% of 2019 impervious treatment goals. This program will benefit both the community and the environment. Residents may re-apply for the Septic Savers program every 3 to 5 years.

8:50 pm

Betsy made the group aware of the Forest Conservation Bill, Senate Bill 29, which was introduced into the senate on January 11th. In addition she mentioned the Styrofoam bill, senate bill 186. She stated more information can be obtained on www.mgaleg.maryland.gov

8:57 pm

Meeting adjourned.