

Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board Meeting
Robinson Nature Center – Columbia, MD
October 11, 2018
7pm-9pm

Attendees

Leah Miller	OCS
Antony Justin	Howard Hughes Corporation
Christopher Streb	Biohabitats
Carolyn Parsa	Safe Skies MD, Sierra Club
Mark Southerland	ESB
Athena Verghis	ESB
Jim Caldwell	OCS
Ann Strozyk	ESB
Nancy McAllister	ESB
Chris Tsien	ESB
Tom Paxton	ESB
Kelly Hensing	ESB
Kim Drake	CA Climate Change & Sustainability Committee
Ed Wilson	ESB
Matthew Hoover	OCS

Minutes

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

7:08 PM – It was announced that the Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB) is going to have a table at the Campus Sustainability Day, held at the Howard Community College, on 10/24/18. Nancy McAllister is going to be at the table from 10 am to 12 pm and Chris Tsien will be at the table from 12 pm to 3 pm.

7:10 PM – Christopher Streb and Antony Justin gave an update on Downtown Columbia. They have completed 90 acres of reforestation. They have a seven-year monitoring and maintenance agreement through the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Phase 1 will be completed by the third quarter of next year.

They showed videos of a stream before and after the restoration. They pulled out a lot of dirt and some of it was used for another restoration. The stream channel was raised about four feet throughout the project area. They have completed about 4200 linear feet of stream restoration and they have created over two acres of wetlands.

Antony gave an update on the bird collision monitoring that Howard Hughes' security has been completing in the mornings. They are tracking two buildings and he advised that none have been reported. So far, all the buildings have been built according to the conceptual designs. With the new

building designs, they are going to discuss bird building collisions and see if they can incorporate prevention into their designs.

7:45 PM – A discussion of Ellicott City flooding was started by Mark. The council voted to give 50 million over the next five years toward the flood mitigation plan. Howard EcoWorks received grants to go into the community to help educate them. On October 25, the county is going to present conceptual designs to the public at the Roger Carter Center.

8:06 PM – Minutes from the meeting of May 10, 2018. No addition or corrections. Mark Southerland called for the approval of the May 10, 2018 meeting minutes. Ed Wilson motioned to approve and Kelly Hensing seconded the motion. All members in attendance approved the minutes.

8:08 PM – Jim Caldwell introduced the new Energy Manager for Howard County, Leah Miller. She has lived in Howard County for six years. She worked for Montgomery County for two and half years before accepting her position with Howard County. Leah likes that Howard County has a Climate Action Plan and how it created a road map for what she is doing. She likes what the county has done so far and is excited to create more opportunities. She is starting to look at Howard County government buildings to see what type of savings can be done. She is scheduled to meet with the Department of Public Works to discuss LED street lights.

8:20 PM – Jim Caldwell gave the Director's Report

Jim advised that we have four approved solar farms. A concern in the agricultural community is how many solar farms will the county allow. Only 34%, or less of an agricultural property can be used for solar panels.

The County is considering using the old Cars Mills landfill for solar panels.

The Farm Academy at the County Fair was a success this year. They used passports that kids filled out, after they visited each farm.

The Office of Community Sustainability is going to start overseeing the Agricultural Land Preservation Board.

Roving Radish has sold over 900 kits from May to July. The Roving Radish kitchen is going to be expanded next year.

The Patrick Farm (Maple Dell) will probably be completed this week. The project started in 2014 and the restoration work on the farm started in June of this year. Water quality monitoring has been completed before and will continue five years after the project is completed. It will count as 80 acres towards Howard County's MS4 permit. The farm is located off Daisy Road and the stream restoration is being completed on Cattail Creek.

Bill Mahoney has continued his education outreach of the Green Infrastructure Network (GIN). He tailors his presentation for each group he presents it to. He is in contact with the Department of

Planning & Zoning and seeing if they can incorporate GIN into their designs. He is currently speaking with the US Forestry Service too.

The Office of Community Sustainability has a new website and logo. The goal was to make the site more visually pleasing and to remove unnecessary text. Elissa Reineck managed the process.

8:45 PM – Committee Updates

The Bird Building Collision Committee update was provided by Mark. The previous bill written didn't get passed. They are going to try to get the bill passed again with some updates and one of them is changing the name to "Sustainable Energy Efficient Bird Buildings." Safe Skies completed a project with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to retrofit the DNR building. They also completed a project at the Howard County Conservancy. Safe Skies is going put signs out at both buildings to help educate the public on bird building collisions and how to prevent them.

The Awards Committee update was given by Ann Strozyk. It is going to launch in February. It hasn't been voted on yet, but will be at an upcoming ESB meeting.

The Plastic Committee update was given by Ann Strozyk. They are working with Less Plastic Please. They are in the infant stages of the committee and are gathering ideas.

8:55 PM – Roundtable

Mark introduced Athena Verghis who is the new student representative for ESB. She is a junior at Marriot's Ridge High School.

The Maryland Association for Environmental & Outdoor Education (MAEOE) may attend a future ESB meeting to present on the Green Schools Program.

The Department of Planning and Zoning will attend a future meeting.

Scooters were brought up by Ed Wilson and he said they are everywhere in Baltimore City. Some concerns with scooters are safety issues, such as accidents and people not wearing helmets. They are recharged at night by people who receive credits for the scooter program. An app is used to verify the location of the scooters and how much power they have.

Mark mentioned contacting Clive Graham, from the Office of Transportation, to see if he would attend a future ESB meeting to talk about scooters.

9:02 PM – Meeting Adjourned. Mark moved to adjourn the meeting, Kelly Hensing seconded the motion and all other board member in attendance approved.