

Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board Meeting
Robinson Nature Center – Columbia, MD
September 12, 2019
7pm-9pm

Attendees

Joshua Feldmark	Office of Community Sustainability (OCS)
Chris Tsien	Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB)
John Dove	ESB
Bill Tong	Bioma
David Balakirsky	Bioma
Amber Butler	ESB
Olivia Farrow	ESB
Ann Strozyk	ESB
Georgia Eacker	ESB
Mark Southerland	Guest
Kim Drake	CA Climate Change & Sustainability Committee
Drew Budelis	Versar – Natural Resources Team Columbia
Chein-Chi Chang	ESB
Matthew Hoover	OCS

Minutes

7:18 PM – Olivia Farrow began the meeting and had everyone introduce themselves.

1.) Bioma Project – Bill Tong & David Balakirsky

Bill Tong and David Balakirsky gave a presentation on the Bioma Project. The program was created to bring ecology to schools and to teach students about their local ecosystem.

A few of their projects are Ecosystem in the Classroom, Virtual Reality Workshops and a Youth Fishing Program. For Ecosystem in the Classroom they install tanks in a classroom that simulate a local ecosystem. They have installed over twenty tanks in Maryland and Washington DC schools.

One of their goals is to create a youth eco-board. Their idea is to give kids a voice in the community and advancing students environmental work outside of the school. More information regarding the Bioma Project can be found [here](#).

2.) Meeting Minutes Vote – May 9, 2019 & June 13, 2019

John Dove motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes, and Ann Strozyk seconded the motion. All members in attendance approved the Minutes.

3.) Board Meeting Frequency

The board discussed the frequency of meetings and decided they will typically have them monthly. The meeting times and location will be posted on the Howard County ESB website.

4.) Discussion of Board format

The Board decided that the general format will remain the same. The Board also discussed holding some meetings at different locations within the county and a suggestion was made to have some of the meetings in County libraries.

5.) Directors Report – Office of Community Sustainability: Joshua Feldmark

Joshua Feldmark advised that the pollinator event was a success. 110 people and two TV outlets attended the pollinator event. He also reviewed the Pesticide Policy with the board.

6.) Committee time to plan/discuss

The list of the committees and members of each were announced. The members in each committee gathered together to discuss the projects they are working on. The committees provided updates to the Board.

8:43 PM – The meeting was adjourned.