

Climate Change & Sustainability Advisory Committee

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| Subject | Monthly CC&SAC Meeting | | |
| Date, Time, Location | 04/10/19, 7:00 p.m. Long Reach Tennis Club | | |
| Facilitator | Tim Lattimer, Chair | Scribe | Kim Drake, Rachel Matney |

AGENDA OR **MINUTES**

Attendees: Tim Latimer, Luke Wisniewski, Rachel Matney, Kim Drake, Chiara D’Amore, Katherine McCarter, Bob Marietta, Julian Levy, Jeremy Scharfenberg, Ginny Thomas, Michael Cornell

1. Call to Order & Approval of Agenda (2 mins)

2. Resident Speak Out (10 mins)

N/A

3. Old Business (5 mins)

A. Approval of March 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes - Approved

4. CA Staff Update (10 mins)

- CA wins EPA’s “Energy Star” award! Awards ceremony on April 11, 2019. For engaging the community. 2nd award, another won in 2015.
- New fiscal year – planning focusing on Energy efficiency gains to be made on CA owned property ex. Slayton house – new roof, ready for solar, has a grey shingle roof, but when possible, they use white.
- Sara/Jeremy had a meeting with Nick M. (open space) – he is interested in Sara’s ideas about land use practices, natural grasslands and wants to work with the county on Natural and working lands challenge (maybe in some medians). He will identify some test plots (near lake Elkhorn) for low maintenance ground cover (micro-clover). Will also investigate different ground cover to reduce mowing and reduces emissions from lawn machines.
- There are some transitions happening in R&P and OCS in HoCo

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- Gov't. John Byrd from county executive's office.
- Could natural and working lands be part of scenic roads legislation? There is a scenic roads map.

5. New Business (45 mins)

A. Sub-Committee Updates

i. Sustainability

- Proposed conversation with Bridge Columbia Fred Gottemoeller. Thought is to bring in expertise to work on this cross-sectional concept of transportation, climate change and sustainability. Areas of Columbia that don't have sidewalks. Plan to talk to Fred and develop a position paper with recommendations to CA on how to maintain the Big S sustainability in Howard County.
- A good next step might be to have a conversation with Jane Dembner (active transportation report) who is working on transportation in CA. Also add to the discussion the county planner or Kathy Spain from Bridge Columbia and Greg Fitchet from Howard Hughes.
- Develop a position paper on how to maintain 'big S' sustainability on a bigger scale. Cross-cuts Climate change & transportation.
 - We should keep in mind the efforts being made in the region to come together and coordinate on issues of transportation and traffic. (AACO, MoCo, HoCo etc.) We may be able to integrate into existing processes surrounding this conversation.
 - This would be good to have as a separate engagement meeting outside of our monthly meetings.
 - Georgetown climate center (Adam Bradberry) regional GGH initiative – have scoping documents that may be of interest.
 - To summarize: Looking to catalyze engagement with relevant players to make sure we bring in the sustainability adequately integrates into the planning process
 - Incentives or packages for Ubers and Lyfts to be EVs.
 - CA has always been good at filling in gaps where they exist. If we are talking about transportation and thinking about the commitment to improving the quality of life – where are the gaps and opportunities for CA to step in and work to meet these needs (ex. River Hill no longer has a bus, CA

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having an 'on-demand' service, focusing on "The Last Mile").

"Guaranteed Ride Home"

- Find other meetings that are addressing this to attend.

Action/Plan: to develop a white paper to CA (maybe county), it will be a several month process, will add to our goals. Sustainability sub-committee to write a narrative summary for our 2020 goals

ii. Community Engagement

- Moving along with our Village Board meetings. Sara and John are at Town Center tonight. We have had two more meetings since our last CCSAC meeting – River Hill and Long reach, Boards have been receptive. Citizens have been engaged and receptive as well. We are making sure there are note takers for each meeting and will compile these to share. The meetings will be wrapped up by Mid-June and we will aim to have a report out for our July meeting.
 - One item that came out of the Long Reach center – the village center is in disrepair and it is a food desert.
 - EV Charging, Solar, Rain Gardens, Transportation.
 - Outreach and education on the ground space. Eco works (Biochar). Deep rooted lawns.
 - Another step is to look at the village covenants about getting rid of lawns – put into the report as a recommendation to CA to compare the covenants and engage the village boards, looking at if there are issues with allowing residents to change their lawn cover. Workshop on lawn maintenance (Partner with Master Gardeners?)
 - Jeremy: John McCoy worked with each village and they approved rain gardens for lawns. Strategy was to come to the VB with 10 different options for residents to choose from (lawn alternatives) that they would approve. Define management alternatives, Proof of concepts. Engage residents to petition the VBs to support this.
 - Initial observations from meetings thus far to foreshadow some of the ideas to the CA board to inform our recommendations.
- HoCo Climate Collaborative: We finalized the one pager on resident actions and sent around to the group. We will have it printed and available at GreenFest. We hope to disseminate it

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widely throughout the county via social media and our collaborators sharing it.

- Auto Show – public policy day. EV Test Track for drivers to test the electric vehicles. EPA Administrator Wheeler was in attendance.

Action: Send Tim/committee initial recommendations from our village meetings

iii.Climate Mitigation & Adaptation

- Clean Energy Jobs Act passed - going to the Governor's desk. If he vetoes, they need to special session to vote a new speaker of the house and at that meeting can also over ride vetoes.
- There was a bill to make nuclear energy into RPS didn't pass but will become a study – bc it's zero carbon.
- Transportation and Climate initiative is public and Earl Lewis MDOT will be involved.

B. FY20 CA Operational Goals – First Draft

First annual Recommended Operational Priorities (Draft Below).

CA Climate Change & Sustainability Advisory Committee Recommended CA Operational Priorities for FY2020

The Climate Change & Sustainability Advisory Committee (the Committee) in its role advising and supporting progressive environmental sustainability actions within CA operations makes the following goals for priorities in FY2020. These goals should be considered as priority focus areas recommended by the Committee to build upon existing energy and watershed management programming.

Goal: Reduce direct/indirect mobile fossil fuel consumption

Action 1) Implement strategies to reduce turf area mowed and frequency of cuts

Action 2) Prioritize deployment of battery powered turf management equipment such as trimmers, push mowers, and leaf blowers

Action 3) Examine vehicle idling practices and implement idling minimization strategies as needed

Goal: Enhance open space management practices to promote carbon

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sequestration, stormwater infiltration, and pollinator support

Action 1) Explore opportunities to collaborate with Howard County on its recent commitment to the Natural and Working Lands under the We Are Still In alliance

Action 2) Explore opportunities to promote unmowed native grass areas in open space

Action 3) Actively support and/or propagate perennial plant species in open space that support pollinator fauna such as bees and butterflies

Goal: Advance best practices in environmentally friendly procurement and waste management

Action 1) Continue efforts to eliminate single use plastics in lieu of compostable, reusable, or environmentally friendly alternatives

Action 2) Require the use of 100% post-consumer recycled content copy paper or seek to maximize such content with the balance being forest stewardship council (FSC) certified

Action 3) Examine waste collection and disposal practices to more effectively divert recyclable materials from the landfill waste stream

Discussion:

- Drive behind this was the thought that it would be advantageous for the CCSAC to make targeted recommendations to the CA for their operational priorities for FY2020. This would allow for CA Staff to have something to support their efforts moving forward on this. CCSAC reviewed the draft action step list.
- Discussion on Open Space/Landscaping:
 - Even if landscaping is outsourced, we will count it as our carbon emissions
 - Previously the board asked golf courses to reduce pesticides/herbicides use and encourage pollinator gardens – good for pets and humans
 - Talk w/Nick - CA has stopped using neonicinoids
 - Trade-offs – a tree grove, state couldn't spray for a beetle infestation.
 - Add education out there, get info in newsletter(s)

Action: By May 24 each subcommittee add what we want to recommend to CA, what is not covered (be concise – use draft as guide) to Jeremy.

a. FY20 Proposed Charge and recap of accomplishments

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- Committee needs to develop summary of what we have done thus far based on our charge and foreshadow what we want to do in the future (updated charge) and this would be a separate piece of initial recommendations to the board (Op Plans and VB recommendations).
- Charge doc from last July – proposed become the charge items to report out, and draft new charges for moving forward and third section to have the recommendations to the CA Board. By **April 24th** send input to group, and group take a first cut at the initial draft.
- Other pieces (main draft by May 1st) May be holes and pieces to fill in.
- Recommendations need to be clear who would be taking on what and what time frame (who, what, when etc.)
- Policy/Recommendations – if it isn't adopted by the board it does not become policy (voting 4th thurs of June on what is sent).
- CA Audit committee – independent and reports to the board. Opportunity to get them involved to make sure things that are being adopted into policy are being acted upon. (Level of compliance to adopted policy).
- When we present to the board we will need to make sure we have CCSAC members to talk on any questions.
- Board package timeline? End of MAY final.

Timeline:

May 8: We will review the draft at our meeting.

Mid-May: Finalize

Send to CA a week or more before June 13

June 13: CA board will review it

ACTION: By April 24th send input to group, and group take a first cut at the initial draft. By May 1 - drafts of new charges, what we did, what we want to do.

C. Inputs for CA Board Strategic Planning

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Currently in draft CA strategic plan

Environmental Stewardship:

CA will enhance its leadership role in environmental sustainability by preserving and maintaining existing pathways and Open Space and pioneering renewable energy as a way of addressing climate change. (define and renew commitment to green Open Space, energy conservation, climate change initiatives, flooding issues, etc.)

Suggested Revision/Expansion

Climate & Sustainability Leadership:

CA will enhance its leadership role on climate and sustainability. CA will do so by taking stronger actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to bolster Columbia's resiliency to climate impacts. CA will also be a leading example of a local community that maintains a high quality of life, prosperity, and public health by balancing environmental, social, and economic considerations in its planning and development. Specific actions include those outlined below.

Organizational

Senior Executive establish and empower a senior CA executive responsible primarily for advancing CA's climate & sustainability leadership. CA will lead by example and in its advocacy in the broader community.

Community Engagement - CA will boost its engagement with each Village and other community stakeholders to enhance public awareness and foster greater climate and sustainability action by individuals and organizations.

Partnerships - CA will partner with relevant state and county authorities, the private sector, and civil society organizations to strengthen environmental awareness and action.

Planning - CA will perform a baseline analysis of Columbia's current environmental conditions to serve as a benchmark against which to evaluate the effectiveness of future efforts.

Energy Use

CA will build on its prior award-winning successes by further reducing its own energy consumption and its use of clean energy. CA commits to sourcing 100% of its electricity from clean energy sources by 2030. CA will work with Village Boards and Howard County to modernize covenants and zoning regulations where necessary to promote greater access to clean energy sources.

Climate Risk Management

CA will conduct a Columbia-wide "climate vulnerability assessment" to identify key climate risks affecting public safety and CA facilities and properties. This assessment will also identify Columbia's most vulnerable populations (including low-income and traditionally marginalized communities). CA will partner with Howard County in its emergency preparedness planning and with other relevant entities to promote policies, programs, and investments aimed at reducing climate risks and strengthening Columbia's resiliency to adverse climate-related impacts.

Open Space

CA will be a state leader in managing its open space for climate resilience. To do so, CA will:

- Create a bold master plan for CA's open space that re-envision it as a place for recreation but even more so a focal point of creating community sustainability and resilience and shifts the paradigm from one of "open space" to concepts such as the "Columbia Community Park System" or the "Columbia Greenway."
- Preserve and maintain all open space using climate-friendly landscaping practices that minimize inputs and reduce the use of chemicals and pesticides.
- Install conservation practices that sequester carbon on some Open Space that is not used for playgrounds or playing fields and reduce the acreage of mowed lawn that is not used for recreation. This will have the double climate benefit of reducing emissions by limiting mowing and the use of lawn chemicals, while storing carbon that plants remove from the air. These practices include "pollinator meadows" (native grasses and flowering plants) and tree and shrub planting.
- Reduce stream erosion and flooding while sequestering carbon by installing woody or herbaceous riparian buffers along streams within Columbia.
- Educate citizens about the value of conservation practices that reduce carbon emissions, increase climate resilience and reduce flooding, while also providing habitat for birds and wildlife and increasing populations of beneficial insects and pollinators.
- Join Howard County as a partner in the U.S. Climate Alliance's Natural and Working Lands Challenge. <https://www.usclimatealliance.org/nwlands>.
- Promote community gardens as well as a central, weekly farmers market as a marquee community event.
- Enhance opportunities for civic engagement in open space (e.g., field

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trips, events, adopt a trail program, etc.), maintain natural play areas for children, develop interpretive trails around ecological (and social) features

Built Environment

CA will promote a safe, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Columbia by advocating proactively and robustly for greater integration of climate and sustainability considerations in land use planning and development affecting Columbia and its environs. CA will partner with Howard County in managing a “Green Infrastructure Network” and will promote green and grey infrastructure development that is sustainable and climate-resilient.

Transportation

CA will promote improved access to multi-modal public transportation and greater connectivity of public transportation between and among key nodes of Columbia. CA will support “complete streets” policies and programs that enhance the safety and accessibility of pedestrian and bicycle pathways. CA will support development policies and programs aimed at reducing demands on Columbia’s road systems.

Waste Management

CA will partner with Howard County and others to advance policies and programs that promote reduced volumes of waste, particularly non-biodegradable wastes (e.g., single use plastics) and organic wastes (e.g., food scraps) that contribute to climate change.

Discussion:

- CA board is going to work on goals this week, including our recommendations – after this, a consultant will send out a draft (we should get), then we can review and comment, then it will be addressed again in May by CA and it will be final for implementation next year.

6. Action Item Recap (5 mins)

Action items from March:

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- a. Idea: Prepare sustainability materials to include within packet for new residents (solar co-op, watershed, turf to trees program etc.)
- b. Idea: Invite CA WAC to join our meeting in the future.
- c. Jeremy to give Sara CA water bottles – suggestion to take these to the village boards for the members.

Action Items from April:

- a. Action: Sustainability sub-committee to write a narrative summary for our 2020 goals.
- b. Action: Community engagement subcommittee to send Tim/committee initial recommendations from our village meetings.
- c. Action for Committee Report to Board: By April 24 Each subcommittee add what we want to recommend to CA, what is not covered (be concise – use draft as guide) to Jeremy.
- d. Action: By May 1 - drafts of new charges, what we did, what we want to do.

7. Announcements / Look Ahead (5 mins)

Green fest happening on Saturday. April 13th Starts at 10AM.

Green Drinks is the 18th Frisco Tap House

8. Adjourn /Next Meeting – 8:47 adjourn

May 8, 2019, 7:00 p.m. LR Tennis Center