

Climate Change & Sustainability Advisory Committee

<b>Subject</b>	Monthly CCSAC Meeting		
<b>Date, Time, Location</b>	01/09/19, 7:00 p.m. Long Reach Tennis Club		
<b>Facilitator</b>	Tim Lattimer, Chair	<b>Scribe</b>	Kim Drake

**AGENDA**      OR       **MINUTES**

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Attendees: Tim Lattimer, Jeff Williams, Kim Drake, Sara Via, Mike Cornell, Luke Wisniewski, John Klein, Chiara D'Amore, Julian Levy, Katherine McCarter, Rachel Matney, Tracey Manning, Bob Marietta, Ginny Thomas, Jeremy Scharfenberg, Caitlin ? -HCC Intern

**1. Call to Order**

7:02

**2. Approval of Agenda**

All approve Agenda

**3. Resident Speak Out**

None present

**4. Old Business**

- A. Approval of December 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes (Draft Attached)
- B. Election of CCSAC Secretary (or Co-Secretaries)
  - a. Sara nominates Kim & Rachel as Co-secretaries, Chiara 2nds, all approve

**5. New Business**

- A. Engagement with HoCo Environmental Sustainability Board  
(with special guest, Dr. Mark Southerland, ESB Chair)

Tim reviewed for Dr. Southerland the CCSAC's purpose, activities, and organization, noting that it is focused on making useful recommendations for the CA board on sustainability, climate action, and possible legislation.

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Dr. Southerland discussed the ESB's Annual report : The primary responsibility of the Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB) is to advise the County Executive and County Council on matters related to environmental sustainability. Each year the ESB produces an annual report that summarizes its activities and suggests priorities for the future. This year the ESB also revisited the original topics considered by the ESB and proposed a way forward.

Dr. Southerland said that former County Executive Ken Ulman originally created a Commission on the Environment and Sustainability, which recommended creation of the Environmental Sustainability Board. The Ulman Administration also created the county's Office of Environmental Sustainability, later named the Office of Community Sustainability by Ulman's successor, former County Executive Alan Kittleman. The Environmental Sustainability Board's 2007 formation also came out of a recommendation of the Commission on the Environment and Sustainability. The ESB is a smaller version of the Commission, maintaining the diverse membership. Consisting of 13 members, the ESB assists in the implementation of the county's environmental agenda, providing both advice and review. ESB members include experts in energy, air/water quality, environmental governance, community outreach and education, transit, green building, and environmental health. The ESB has 13 members, 1 student, and meets every 2nd Thursday of month. Members represent each of the 5 districts. ESB issues an annual report each April.

ESB has done work with green buildings, green fleet, lots of work on storm water, including a fee and incentives on rain gardens. It sees a need for more education of the community. It also promoted development of a Green Infrastructure Network (GIN) to map the best remaining natural habitats in the county, including forests and wetlands. The ESB has tried to promote the GIN and has also worked to install game cameras to show what good things happen in green infrastructure. The ESB sees very little undeveloped/unrestricted property left in the county.

The county's Energy task force last year got an Energy manager hired, Leah Miller.

ESB- has committees formed ad hoc. Stormwater workgroup, to assess stormwater management on private property. Businesses were part of the discussion. They were concerned with permitting. Not all ESB recommendations get acted on. County hasn't wanted to get involved in private property.

Current ESB committees are focused on a Bird-Sustainable building act for the county, which could add to the pilot credit for LEED certification. The ESB also has a sustainability award committee, called Green Apple, for teachers along with the Howard county Conservancy. The ESB's Plastics Committee is working with HCC on a "pass on plastic" effort.

The ESB's Annual report sought to prioritize recommendations around issues such as agriculture, water quality, air quality, health, energy, green buildings, open

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space & land preservation, forest conservation, education/outreach, and governance (e.g., suggesting the county create green teams or sub-cabinets around agriculture, energy, and perhaps climate).

CA's Board representative Ginny Thomas asked if CA could help with the county's efforts to find stormwater solutions. Dr. Southerland noted that the State highway Dept. works with counties, but also takes the credit for local stormwater projects.

Sara Via asked if the county could work with natural resource conservation services? Dr. Southerland noted that they could look for ways to incentivize conservation practices by private property owners.

Ginny Thomas observed that CA's village boards have covenants and that the ESB and CCSAC could encourage them to amend their covenants to incorporate environmental/sustainability. This would mean the developers would have to abide by the covenants (e.g., for redevelopment of Gateway and the Long Reach Village Center).

Tim Lattimer suggested that the ESB and CCSAC explore how they might work together to avoid duplication of efforts. For example, we could dovetail our work on a climate vulnerability assessment. If we do one for CA, then the county could also do one covering the broader scope of the county.

### **B. Sub-Committee Updates** **i. Community Engagement**

#### 1. CA Village board meetings

The CCSAC needs village manager, CA rep, and village director contact info to begin outreach. We should start with an email of introduction, then a phone call to get on their meeting agenda. We will request a specific amount of time we want (30-40mins) and ask the VBs to put a paragraph about why we're there so it goes on the public agenda. We may want to tailor the announcements to each village based on their key issues relevant to the CCSAC. We also want to make clear the relevance of climate and sustainability issues to the village and enlist the community's views about key issues that could help us in scoping a climate vulnerability study. We also want to avoid unduly raising expectations that the CCSAC has quick fixes to all problems.

Jeremy Scharfenberg suggested that just have 1 or 2 asks, e.g., does the VB's newsletter have an environmental tip? We also could do one community-wide listening session at a big place, e.g., Slayton House, with each village at a table. Perhaps in Fall 2019.

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Julian Levy noted the need for frequent 'touches' to each village so they hear from us often.

John Klein suggested we develop a survey with categories to elicit concerns and perhaps ask CA to send it out after we've been to all the villages.

We might also wish to create an ad hoc working group led by the community engagement sub committee that integrates the sustainability sub-committee

2. Climate Collaboration - we need to have a meeting to prepare for Earth day in March, with perhaps a focus on residential issues.

### **ii. Climate Mitigation & Adaptation**

1. Members of this committee are participating in the Maryland Climate Leadership Academy – Tim, Kim, Chiara, Bob, Sara
2. Luke Wiesnewsky is drafting writing a 2 pager about the IPCC, as well as about possible short term & long term goals on climate

### **iii. Sustainability**

1. The sub-committee researched the proposed state-level bill authorizing Howard County to place a fee on plastic bags. Several raised questions about potential unintended consequences. Others raised concern about the general language of the draft bill, suggesting a need more for more data and analysis before being able to determine if this will work. The group also suggested offering amendments to allow some flexibility in case the county wants to put an outright ban on plastic bags or create a deposit program where one can get money back for returning bags. Our focus should be on CA plastic use but we can also work with the county sustainability board on county wide plastic issues. We can explore the feasibility of banning plastics in CA.
2. Brookville property partners bought controlling shares of Columbia Mall

## **C. Possible Recommendations for CA Board on Pending Legislation**

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None at this time.

### **D. Other Business**

1. Jeremy Scharfenberg reported on installation of a 40KW solar facility at the Columbia Athletic Club, adding another electric vehicle to the fleet (a Leaf). He also reported that sport and fitness clubs have stopped using plastics and have begun using compostable plates, cups, cutlery, and paper straws in cafes.

Motion to adjourn: 9:12pm

**6. Next Meeting** – February 13, 2019, 7:00 p.m. Long Reach Tennis Center