



Climate Change & Sustainability Advisory Committee

Subject	Monthly CCSAC Meeting		
Date, Time, Location	12/11/19, 7:00 p.m. Long Reach Tennis Club		
Facilitator	Tim Lattimer, Chair	Scribe	Kim Drake, Rachel Matney

AGENDA OR **MINUTES**

Tim Lattimer, Rachel Matney, Sara Via, Julian Levy, Bob Marrietta, Michael Cornell, Roberto Martin, Chiara D'Amore

CA Representative: Jeremy Scharfenberg, Ginny Thomas

Visitors: Jessica Bellah, CA; Cliff Wright, HoCo NAACP; Joel Hurwitz

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

Approved

2. Resident Speak Out (10 mins)

Joel Hurwitz – is Columbia exempt from the new forest conservation act? No mitigation requirement. Since the bill was to repeal and reenact, does that restart the date of non-exempt land?

CA has it's own set of rules, zoning for open space. So county codes can apply to Columbia. New Town zoning has it's own regulations that are just different than county.

We've asked CA to look into this and get back to us. What is CA doing about trees.

3. CA Staff & Board Liaison Update (5) mins

Energy star equipment going in. Still working on more solar at LR Tennis. Energy start partner.

CA board agenda will now look at MD State legislation (in addition to county) – Ginny would like to be advised about state legislation that CA should support to not.

4. Old Business (5 mins)

A. Approval of Nov. 14, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Approved with 1 edit of spacing

5. New Business (30 mins)

A. Coordination on Local Development Issues
CA Planning & Community Affairs - Jessica Bellah

1. CA Planning & Community Affairs office – 2 employees – primary liaison with other stakeholders around Howard County. Monitor legislation. Look at zoning. Create a monthly development tracker. Feasibility studies – active transportation.
2. “Minibus/Tram” right of ways: (See MAP below) 36% of New Town has to be open space. Right-a-ways aren’t credited open space. CA has hundreds of easements on this right of way. The CA pathway system is part of this. It is close to people’s backyards. They are 30 feet wide. Minibus/tram idea is from the 1960’s. There was a feasibility study on a proposed bridge near Oakland mills ~2012. So since there are paths, there may not be space for a tram. The idea is to alleviate traffic. Building a tram would be expensive. We could increase current bus transit. Ultimate goal to have autonomous vehicles. Should focus be on active transportation on CA paths. Village based circulating transit would be helpful. Need bus out to River Hill. Use the shoulder for transit? Bruce from HoCo Gov’t – are also doing transportation work, might want to discuss these ideas with them. County is starting Complete Street. HoCo Transportation forum. Infrastructure may fall behind development.

Action: Sustainability subcommittee to look into this with CA Planning staff and decide if this is feasible to pursue. This will get us filled in on the information gaps.

B. Update on Climate Vulnerability Assessment & Collaboration Opportunity
HoCo NAACP Environmental Justice - Cliff Wright

1. Some of this committee met with some CA staff to start discussion on Climate vulnerability study.
 - a. HoCo NAACP – has a grant to do work on climate resilience and community engagement.
2. Cliff: Have spoken with Tim about the CA climate vulnerability assessment. What do we need to deal with the coming climate. Are we ready for something like a category 5 hurricane? Are we prepared? NAACP is elevating climate concerns. The grant is to look at resiliency and adaptability. To engage stakeholders, community

groups and cooperate on this. Current plans don't anticipate what's on the horizon. Cliff has experience getting people together to discuss difficult issues. Howard county is a great community to do this.

- a. What activities/product would come out of this NAACP grant?
 - i. Community engagement
 1. Town halls, community education etc.
 2. Work with CA villages
 - ii. Look at vulnerable community
 1. No cars – use public transportation, elderly, socioeconomic vulnerable
 - iii. Collaboration with other organization, groups etc.
 1. Laser focus on key issues
 - b. Maryland commission on environmental justice and sustainability communities – check this out
 - c. How to prepare the people, make them aware, their contribution to causing the problem or what is going to happen to them, how to prepare for it.
 - i. Provide concrete things people can do
 - ii. Neighbors need to know their neighbors so they can check on each other, help each other
 - iii. Cliff: people aren't aware of their ability, their power to make a difference. Make their voices matter.
3. Form a task force? – members of this committee and other partners, like NAACP. The visual of us doing this may engage the whole county and provide a model.
- a. Risk assessment will help us prioritize needs like emergency preparedness, education etc.
 - b. Scope needs to include the people of the community. How are they at risk?
 - c. Further follow up - community action needs that they set up themselves
 - d. Ginny – idea: what are the risks in the villages, start with one village. So we can bring a plan to the people.
 - i. **ACTION**: Outreach to a village, then create a plan
 1. Have neighborhoods “compete”
 2. So the community feels that it ‘owns’ the plan
 3. Be sure they understand climate change will affect them
 - e. **ACTION**: get a copy of the grant from Cliff to read



Climate Change & Sustainability Advisory Committee

C. Other Sub-Committee Updates

- a. Sara applied for a HoCo innovation grant to do trial meadows, grass alternatives etc. Using OSC track.
- b. Climate collaboration steering committee meeting Mon. Dec. 16, 5pm

6. Action Item Recap (5 mins)

7. Announcements / Look Ahead (5 mins)

MDE – RRGAs plan – public input –

Rebuild Maryland: Climate Action Summit

Saturday, December 14•9:00am – 4:00pm, College Park

MD Legislative Summit – Sunday Dec. 15, 10am – UMBC

Green Drinks -Brewers Art Dec. 18 5:30 – Brewers Art

HoCo ESB – Environmental legislative breakfast – Jan. 7

HCC Greenfest April 4.

8. Adjourn /Next Meeting – Jan. 8, 2020, 7:00 p.m. LR Tennis Center

Jessica.Bellah@ColumbiaAssociation.org, 410-715-3166

