

## MINUTES

Advisory Commission on Environmental Quality (CEQ)

October 25, 2017, 7 PM

Jefferson Building, Chesapeake Room, **105** W. Chesapeake Avenue, Towson, MD 21204

CEQ meeting dates, membership information, and reports are available online

Here: [www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/ceq/index.html](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/ceq/index.html)

Present: Valerie Androutsopoulos, Linda Davis, Dan Doerfer, Glenn Elseroad, Brian Fath, Lois Jacobs, Andy Miller, Carol Newill, Chris Overcash, Brian Lindley, Kui Zhao, John Alexander.

Excused Absences: Brian Bernstein, Karen Wynn.

- I. The Commissioners were welcomed by the chair, Lois Jacobs. We are waiting for notice from the District 4 office to confirm the appointment of a CEQ representative.
- II. The minutes of the May 24 meeting were corrected and approved. This Short form is to be posted on the web-site. We also need to check back-files for any missing older drafts in 2016.
- III. Discuss “working draft” of September 27<sup>th</sup> minutes; working drafts will be used for CEQ member reference, and to catch up on missed meetings. A Shorter concise form will be used for official records and posting on our web-site; Lois will prepare a concise version for approval next month.
- IV. Fall Harvest Field Trip: this proposed activity was dependent on weather, harvest scheduling and short notice. The harvesting took place with no advance notice possible. Thanks to Glenn for trying to arrange this. We might be able to do this another time or have a presentation at a future meeting.
- V. Perlow Foundation “Art Installation” at Oregon Ridge Park – Linda  
Painted trees were the focus of a private group on public property to celebrate recovering Opioid addicts and raise money for awareness of a severe problem. It was agreed that the foundation does good work and had no malicious intent – but there was damage to trees and other negative impacts. People have contacted CEQ members to vent their sadness and anger over the defacement of a much loved Park.  
Linda prepared a Power Point presentation to explain the situation and discuss the unintended consequences of a poorly thought-out project that will negatively affect the health of trees and many other Park uses. There was no public input on this project: no naturalists or other experts were consulted and no advance notice give.  
What should be done: Compose a letter and/or report for the County Council and Executive to contain project background, CEQ’s concerns and recommendations. Our goals are to remediate the damage (if possible) and

prevent this from happening in the future.

VI. Urban Tree Canopy – Lois and Andy

1. J. Morgan Grove, USDA Forest Service and co-author of the City Trees article in the Baltimore Sun (9-6-17) will speak to the CEQ at our November Meeting.

We need to address the question of Coordination among County agencies on this issue.

2. Report done for Steve Lafferty – Carol

Carol's excellent 2015 Report was requested by delegate Steve Lafferty; he wished to improve the State Roadside Tree Law, and wanted input on how other states and municipalities protected their trees. A proposed amended law did not pass; changes have been made, and it will be resubmitted.

Who in County Government should get this report? Whoever takes over Don Outen's work should see this report, although EPS is now less focused on street trees and moving towards larger tree stands.

Carol: Despite Maryland's high living standard we are behind many jurisdictions on any vision of street tree management.

3. CEQ original Urban Street Tree Report (2/08)

Copies of this report were given to members. We can discuss this at the next meeting. Lois is attempting to track down 10 attachments to this report sent by Nell Strachan.

4. Tree Canopy Cover Report – no time to discuss at this meeting. Will try for November 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

VII. Recycling Update – if time permits – Dan, Karen Valerie

Thanks to Karen for information on 11/3 DMMP meeting ( Dredged Material Management Program).

VIII. Adjourned 8:42 PM

Next regular Meetings 7 PM:

- November 29, 2017
- January 24, 2018
- February 28, 2018
- March 28, 2018
- April 25, 2018