

MINUTES
Advisory Commission on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
February 28, 2018, 7 PM

Attendance: Valerie Androutsopoulos, Linda Davis, Lynda Eisenberg, Glenn Elseroad, Brian Fath, Lois Jacobs, Carol Newill, Chris Overcash, Rex Wright, Karen Wynn, Kui Zhao, Brian Lindley, .

Excused Absences: Brian Bernstein, Andy Miller.

Open Meeting

I. Welcome and Introductions/Remarks – Lois Jacobs, Chair

Dan Doerfer has resigned from the CEQ and will check with Councilwoman Bevins on replacement.

II. Discuss and Approve minutes of January 24th, 2018 meeting.

There was a clarification needed in the minutes about trees, Glen was to look into it. Minutes of 11/29: Andy Miller contacted Dr. Grove – not yet replied to clarification request.

Minutes approved by members present.

CEQ MEMBER ACTION – look for minutes for meetings of Jan to Sept 2016.

III. Painted Tree Report – Follow-up and next steps.

Kudos to Linda for leading the report.

Artists claim they did research on the trees, and that paint will eventually wear off. MICA was involved and other local artists; their understanding is that the installation didn't have an impact on the trees.

Next steps, speak to councilperson about this, with objective of getting bill passed that limits power of one person to have authority to approve such activities in the future.

Should not wait until after the election, but rather push for change now.

CEQ MEMBER ACTION – talk with your councilperson about the report to encourage bipartisan bill

IV. Letter from Mary Votta - Herbicides near Prettyboy Dam Reservoir – see attached. Lois should write back to Ms. Votta with the following: Your issue was discussed at our Feb meeting. The proper agency to provide feedback will be DEPS. If you

do not hear from them in a reasonable time, then feel free to contact CEQ again.
Also, suggest her to contact the County website:
www.baltimorecountymd.gov/iwant/report.html
Or go to business owners as part of a community neighborhood group.

- V. Hearing for Ten Year Solid Waste Plan – Hearing to review full plan will be Wednesday, 3/21/18, 6:30 to 8:30 PM, in the Council Chambers of Historic Courthouse, 400 Washington Avenue, Towson. Written Comments within 35 days of Hearing.

Single stream recycling results in low quality product that is being turned away (particularly paper). Recycling program should focus on producing materials that have useful value in the next stage of production.

Currently, only plastics #1&2 are sorted and made into pellets and reformed into food grade products. Most plastics are used for waste-to-energy

CEQ MEMBER ACTION – look at recommendations before next meeting, when we will formulate a group CEQ response, such as other waste reduction strategies: pay as you throw, plastic bag ban, promote organic waste recycling, ban on foam packaging (Baltimore City council will vote tonight), etc.

- VI. Private Tree Rules – Article sent to CEQ Members by Kui on 1/24/18.

DEPS regulates private trees if there is some issue that triggers county involvement

Towson tree study going on right now

Is BC already involved in this and if so who? Planning, DEPS?

Has anything changed since our last report?

There is a concern that urban trees are not being replaced. Is there a role for DPW dealing with trees on road and utility ROW.

Sustainable Community designation may be an entry point.

To satisfy the MS4 permits, we need acres and acres of trees

- VII. Adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:41

- VIII. Next regular Meetings 7 PM:

- March 28, 2018
- April 25, 2018
- May 23, 2018