

## Minutes

### Advisory Commission on Environmental Quality (CEQ)

March 28, 2018, 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)

Attendance: Lynda Eisenberg, Glenn Elseroad, Brian Fath, Lois Jacobs, Andy Miller, Carol Newill, Karen Wynn, Kui Zhao, Brian Lindley.

#### Open Meeting

- I. Welcome and Remarks – Lois Jacobs, Chair  
We're not sure whether James Deriu is intending to resign – we have not seen him in the last year. Dan Dofer had to resign because of work obligations. Thanks to Kui for the article she sent us about Singapore. We will try to discuss this at a future meeting.  
Action: E-mail to James Deriu. Call District 6 Office about need for CEQ rep.
- II. Discuss and Approve minutes of February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.  
Glenn pointed out that there is no clear-cutting on Maryland farms and that when timber is harvested, the county harvester has to come out and approve a targeted plan that includes marking all of the trees and preparing a bid sheet for contractors to use. If trees are within some minimum distance from a stream or wetland, they cannot be harvested. Trees within a designated conservation area also cannot be harvested.  
Vote to approve the minutes. Approved unanimously.
- III. Painted Tree Report – Follow-up and next steps.  
Carol met with David Marks. He thinks that changing the law is a good idea and that it should say the Director of Rec and Parks would have to make a decision in collaboration with the director of DEPS. Lois met with Vicki Almond. She was in favor of changing the law and thought that our recommendations were good ones. Some changes are legislatively oriented and others are administratively oriented. . Karen says a bill needs to be addressed quickly so the project doesn't serve as a precedent at other parks.  
Karen pointed out that she has heard there was some preliminary discussion of the report in the council and it was generally positive.  
Action: Continue meetings with Councilmen and plan to speak at a future Council meeting.
- IV. Hearing for Ten-Year Solid Waste Plan.  
The group working on solid waste was snowed out last time and is meeting tonight. Anne Marshall (Public Information Specialist at Bureau of Solid Waste Mgmt/DPW) will send us notes about what is discussed. Lois will send those out once she receives them; we will have one meeting before their deadline for comments on May 2.

In discussion it was suggested that the document doesn't go far enough and needs more tangible recommendations. Also Baltimore County Parks need more in the way of recycling opportunities and education. It was suggested that schools should do more with solid waste including banning Styrofoam trays and moving to recyclables. The plan says that DPW should continue to expand collaborations with the school system. We should make recommendations to look beyond what is recycled to reduce what goes into the waste stream. Montgomery County and Howard County are following a similar path. Baltimore City is phasing out the use of Styrofoam. Places whose tourist industries depend on clean coasts have also been able to make progress in limiting the use of plastic bags and non-recyclable waste. One of the reasons it is so difficult to have statewide policies is because of the diversity of interests and concerns; at the local level we should have our county government concentrate on what it can do. Glenn suggests that in places where a regulatory decision is made to require better management, people generally adjust. Lynda commented that she was also surprised not to see a "pay as you throw" policy. In Carroll County recycling is free and you pay for trash collection beyond the first bag. The question is whether this would cause people to dump trash illegally.

Carol had an interesting conversation with Julian Jones. He said that because Baltimore County doesn't raise taxes, overturning the stormwater fee is creating problems and he is considering that it may be necessary at some point to start charging for things like trash collection that people think of as free county services.

Action: At next CEQ Meeting, discuss written response.

- V. Solar Facilities Committee Meeting, Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018.  
Lois attended the meeting and a number of people attended including representatives from the Sierra Club, CEQ, industry, Valleys Planning Council and other groups; everyone was invited to offer comments. There were 8 new permits requested after the solar bill passed in district 3 alone, several in district 4, and a few in districts 1 and 2. Lois will be getting a copy of the chart with a list of requests. Glenn says six have had hearings and have been approved in District 4. In District 3 one has been approved and is on appeal, another is pending. In District 6 there is one that was approved. Most are commercial. One in District 5 is proposed to generate electricity for a farm. Rules are different for onsite use. None of the properties had significant opposition.  
Lois was told that Wally Lippincott will make a copy of all the suggestions that were made and share it with CEQ.  
Their next meeting is Tuesday, April 17.
- VI. Meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Next regular Meetings 7 PM:

- April 25, 2018
- May 23, 2018