

Maryland Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities (CEJSC) Meeting

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

DRAFT MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE:

Commission Members:

Scot Spencer, Vernice Miller-Travis, Stephen Pattison, Dorothy Morrison (Designee for Kendl Philbrick), Carlita Lindsey (Designee for Audrey Scott), Kelly Pfeifer (Designee for Kristine Dunkerton) Andrew Fellows, Rosa Burnstein

Commission Participants:

Dr. Janet Phoenix, Mr. Reggie Harris, Nan Lyon, Arthur Ray, Nadine Jackson-Bey, Roger Taylor, Thomas Denton (representing Lesley Smith & Lou Takacs of Washington Village Pigtown Neighborhood Planning Council), Sharmi Das (DHMH), Mr. Roberts (PG County)

Minutes from May & July Meeting

The draft minutes from May & July were approved.

Presentation on East Baltimore Redevelopment Project

Dr. Janet Phoenix and Mr. Reggie Harris gave a thorough and informative presentation to the Commission regarding adopting protocols for demolition. Dr. Phoenix and Mr. Harris are part of an Independent Advisory Panel on the East Baltimore Redevelopment Project that have been charged to develop a City-wide Demolition and deconstruction protocol. One of the roles of the panel is to review the protocols at the East Baltimore site to ensure that there are safeguards to the residents. Dr. Phoenix's presentation provided details on Phase I of the redevelopment project that required monitoring 18 buildings that were torn down in 2005. During Phase I there were several health concerns that were raised (rats, vacancy and asthma triggers). The panel recommended adjustments to the protocol in advance of Phase II; which has not be completed yet. The residents were encouraged with the assistance of the panel.

Dr. Phoenix expressed the timely and costly resources that instituting a City-wide demolition Policy would entail. The Panel has requested assistance from the Commission. No decision has been made and the Commission members agreed to further discuss at the upcoming meeting.

Commissioners Vernice Miller-Travis and Rosa Burnstein are members of the independent advisory council.

Debrief MACo Summer Conference

On August 18, 2006 at the Annual MACo Summer Conference, Vernice Miller-Travis was asked to give a presentation on Sustainable Land Use. She also informed the 150 attendees of the work that the Commission on Environmental Justice & Sustainable Communities is doing. It was a very informative presentation. In attendance was Baltimore County Executive, James Smith and Prince George's Council, David Harrington and EPA representative, Joe Briss. The next step in continuing dialogue with the local communities and local

government is to invite key people to a meeting to educate and inform the communities of guidance on land use. Dorothy played a key role in initiated the presentation at the MACo Conference.

Annual Report Items

The following topics were discussed with regards to the Annual Report:

- **TO ALL CHAIRPERSONS:** All accomplishments and task done for the year are due to Dorothy as soon as possible.
- Opportunities through grants and cooperative agreements by forming partnerships with the Commission and communities or stakeholders were discussed.

2006-2007 Workplan suggestions:

- How CEJSC can interface with EBD program.
- Finalize recommendation on demolition protocol;
- How to strengthen relationship between Priority Places and EBDs.
- Develop EJ guidance for local government.
- Pursue foundation funding for State EJ work and identify groups working on regional EJ equity.

Outlines for the Annual Report

- Outreach Calendar for the year (Environmental Matters, MACo, Lt. Governor's meeting & Eastern Shore meeting)
- Policy Commission (Demolition Protocol, EBD, Advise on Eminent Domain)
- Health & Environment Research (Home based for Health Indicator and funding)

**The next Commission on Environmental and Sustainable Communities meeting
October 25, 2006 @ 11:00 am.
Easton Town Hall, 2nd floor Town Council Chambers,
14 South Harrington Street, Easton, MD**