

## **Council Resolution No. 31**

Sager, Jennifer

**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2016 6:07 PM

**To:** Ball, Calvin B; CouncilRecords; Feldmark, Jessica; Fox, Greg; Meyers, Jeff; Sayers, Margery; Sigaty, Mary Kay; Solomon, Eric; Terrasa, Jen; Weinstein, Jon; Wimberly, Theo

**Cc:** Caldwell, Jim; Siddiqui, Jahantab

**Attachments:** 20160321165125238.pdf (181 KB)

Regarding CR 31-2016 (Environmental Sustainability Board review of certain HCPSS reports), please see the attached from the Office of Community Sustainability.

As always, let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,  
Jen



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

3430 Courthouse Drive ■ Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 ■ 410-313-0700  
Lonnie R. Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer Voice/Relay

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March 21, 2016

Council Chairperson Ball,

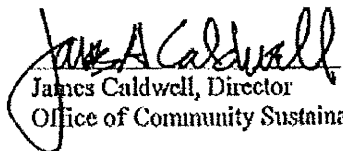
The Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB) and the Office of Community Sustainability (OCS) have worked hand in hand over the past few years and maintain a strong working relationship in dealing with a wide array of issues impacting the county. For example, ESB and OCS work together to educate the public on the importance of stormwater remediation, energy conservation, and the operations of our agricultural community.

Regarding Council Resolution 31-2016, I do not believe the ESB was established in order to provide recommendations on this subject to the level of detail that the Council has requested. The ESB previously made general comments on policies, but does not have a history of evaluating scientific methodologies and protocols to the degree requested. The subject areas of interest on the Board range from farmers to lawyers to energy professionals. These individuals do not have the experience to review and comment on the methodology utilized, or to question the validity of results found, by companies who reviewed the air quality of schools, including Glenwood and Mount View Middle Schools.

In their last meeting, the ESB members expressed concern that they cannot adequately review the reports in question because the ESB does not have the necessary technical expertise in the field of air quality or health, particularly as it relates to mold. Please see the attached draft minutes for more information.

I have reached out to you today to make the Council aware of the internal concerns the ESB has with this legislation, and I hope that you would take their concerns into consideration as you move forward with the legislation.

Sincerely,

  
James Caldwell, Director  
Office of Community Sustainability

Howard County Environmental Sustainability Board Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2016

7pm-9pm

Robinson Nature Center, Columbia MD

| Attendees          | Association           |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Chris Tsien        | ESB                   |
| Kelly Hensing      | ESB                   |
| Phil Nichols       | County Administration |
| Val Lazdins        | DPZ                   |
| Jim Caldwell       | OCS                   |
| Ned Tillman        | ESB                   |
| Georgia Eacker     | ESB                   |
| Chein-Chi Chang    | ESB                   |
| Mark Southerland   | ESB                   |
| John Dove          | ESB                   |
| Tom Paxton         | ESB                   |
| Vicky Cutroneo     | Public                |
| Ed Wilson          | ESB                   |
| Catherine Strawley | ESB                   |
| Bill Mahoney       | OCS                   |

7:00 – Board Chair, Ned Tillman, initiated a round of introductions for the benefit of recent board additions Chris Tsien and Kelly Hensing.

Ned then introduced Val Lazdins, the new Director of DPZ, and asked Val to introduce himself further and discuss idea of what sustainability means. Val has a background in landscape architecture and redevelopment, and has worked for a number of consulting firms around the country, as well as most recently being the Chief of Research and Special Projects for Montgomery County. Val explained that he has been learning the unique characteristics of Howard County over the past 8 months, he described some of the current priorities of DPZ, and some of the policies and regulations that are likely to be reviewed by him and his staff.

Board member Chris Tsien asked how far along the Complete Streets initiative is. It is awaiting approval as part of the Bicycle Masterplan that is up for adoption by the County Council.

7:45 – The ESB discussed Councilman Ball’s proposed resolution “requesting that the Environmental Sustainability Board review the various reports commissioned by the Howard County Public School System pertaining to mold at Howard County Public Schools.” (Previous text, in quotes, was taken from the HC County Council website.

<https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olls/PrintSummary.aspx?LegislationID=1642>)

The Board determined that it cannot adequately review the reports in question because the Board does not have the necessary technical expertise in the field of air quality, particularly as it relates to mold. The

Board discussed whether there was an appropriate way for the Board to be involved in this process; such as by helping to create a task force to review the reports, however no decision was made as no official vote was taken. Chair Ned Tillman will contact Councilman Ball to express the view of the Board.

8:15 – Ned asked the group to come up with challenges/goals for Columbia since it is about to have it's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Jim Caldwell recommended having representatives from CA come to our next meeting to see if they already have similar plans and how ESB might support those plans.

8:20 - Catherine Strawley announced that the Howard Environmental Club had just held an educational event based around composting and that the Science National Honors Society wants speakers for an event they are having on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

8:25 - Ed Wilson reported on the Energy Task Force. The group has broken into subcommittees which will begin working on their various tasks.

8:30 - Bill Mahoney reported to the Board about the Administrations recent meeting regarding compliance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act. At least one Board Member will have to take a training on the Act.

8:35 - Jim Caldwell gave the Director's report, covering the following information:

- The Roving Radish is getting a second truck, two new stops, and moving from 150 up to 200 meals a week.
- James Zoller of OCS is developing a Food Hub so that local farmers can source their produce to local restaurants. There will also be a certification program so farmers can prove that their produce is local.
- The legislation to repeal the Watershed Protection Fee was voted down
- Councilman Weinstein has proposed a resolution to cap the fee at 20% of a commercial property owner's overall property tax. The cap would change to 15% next year, 10% the next, and 5% the next but staying at 5% from then on. The resolution also includes a provision for 100% fee forgiveness for commercial properties that control 100% of their impervious surface.
- OCS is soon to award one or two contracts for the CleanScapes Community Program. The program is specifically for the Northern Little Patuxent Subwatershed. The County will fund 75% of each rain garden and the landowners will pay the remaining 25% for 50 gardens in the subwatershed.
- The 20 minute clean-up will be April 22<sup>nd</sup> this year.
- GreenFest will be at HCC on April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The Ellicott City Partnership's Green Streets Committee will be removing English Ivy along Ellicott Mills Drive on April 11<sup>th</sup>, and encourages ESB board members or their contacts to come participate.