Annapolis Environmental Commission
May 1, 2019

The Annapolis Environmental Commission (AEC) held its regularly scheduled meeting on May 1, 2019 at 145 Gorman Street, Conference 3. Chair Bohanan called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

Members Present: Chair Bohanan, O’Leary, Turgeon

Members Absent: Murphy, Buchheister

Staff Present: Teresa Sutherland-City Manager, J. Guild, R. Hodo

Guest Present: Michael Giblin, Anne Stephenson, Alderwoman Tierney, Diane Butler Joanna Ogbum-Chair of Annapolis Conservancy Board (ACB)

II. REGULAR BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMISSION

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. April 3, 2019 Meeting Minutes
   The AEC deferred voting on the April 3, 2019 meeting minutes to its June 6, 2019 meeting.

B. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Chair Bohanan noted that there were discussions at previous meetings about collaboration with the Annapolis Conservancy Board (ACB) on some of the projects and initiatives such as the Green Space Plan so invited Ms. Ogbum of the ACB for round table discussion.

Ms. Ogbum explained that the ACB’s role and functions include monitoring as well as acquiring easements. She briefly went over the ACB’s initiative to begin identifying potential properties for easements and to develop a plan to acquire these properties. It was noted that Mr. Turgeon agreed to attend the ACB’s bi monthly meetings to participate where there is overlap with the AEC on these types of projects. She explained that the ACB’s interest in the Green Space Plan is the best approach to identify properties that can serve as easements and public access so developed six characteristics that she agreed to share with AEC if there is an interest. She discussed coordinating with Planning Staff to make them aware of the locations of the current easement and what can and cannot be done on these easements. Also to reiterate that the ACB would like to be a part of the conversation during the development process regarding the best place for open space.

C. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY REPORT

Ms. Guild reported that the County has formed a Sediment and Erosion Control Task Force that currently consists of staff stormwater engineers to review their sediment and erosion control regulations for possible improvements. She reported that the Key School issues came up during discussions and the Task Force will be working to developing a MOU for a coordinated plan between the City and County. She noted that the MOU for transboundary pollution is still underway and is anticipated to be
completed by early summer. She discussed the research on the plastic bag ban and the hybrid bag fee. She was approached by DNR about a partnership on the plastic bag ban so have applied for grant funding. She reported on the effort to reduce and eliminate the harmful pesticide fertilizers that the Mayor fully supports so hopes to do this as a joint City/County effort. She reported that Chesapeake Bay Professional Landscape will do a presentation to OEP and Tom Smith on their certification program on innovative sustainable landscaping.

Ms. Hodo provided background on the Community Assistance Visit (CAV) explaining that FEMA reviews the City's flood plain management and noted that the CAV was rescheduled to the week of July 15, 2019. She noted that the Community Rating System (CRS) and the Maryland Environmental Services (MES) application in moving forward. She briefly discussed some of the benefits from the CRS/CAV. She reported on the ordinance for banning foam/Styrofoam that included an educational component. She reported that the City was designated as a Bee City USA or Pollinator Gardens.

III. OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on Reappointments
Chair Bohanan reported that several members were approved for reappointments. She noted that Mr. Gilbin and Ms. Stephenson will be approved at the next Committee meeting. She also mentioned that there were other applicants so hopefully the AEC will soon be at full staff.

2. Forest Drive/Eastport Sector Study
Chair Bohanan explained that the AEC has commented on the Forest Drive/Eastport Sector Study and will continue to comment at the next opportunity. Mr. Gilbin added that Alderman Savidge removed the Forest Drive/Eastport Sector Study from the Council agenda explaining that a task force will be established to address the study. The AEC agreed to recirculate their original comments.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Office of Environmental Policy Proposed Changes
Chair Bohanan noted that the AEC submitted a letter to the Mayor's office regarding the OEP proposed changes and was unsure of the status of the ordinance. The AEC agreed to meet at a separate meeting to discuss and formulate comments to send to Alderman Savidge. There was a general discussion regarding the proposed changes.

2. AACO Task Force on Sediment and Erosion Control
This was discussed under the OEP report.

3. Future Guest Speakers
Chair Bohanan explained that the AEC discussed changing venues or locations on a bi-monthly basis to improve the AEC visibility. The AEC agree to decide on a location for the June meeting.

4. Bay Stewardship Workshop
Chair Bohanan explained that there is a Bay Stewards Environmental Committee meeting scheduled for May 9, 2019 at the Eastport Yacht Club that she and Ms. Stephenson plan to attend so will report at the next meeting. Ms. Butler added that Annapolis Yacht Club has established a green tea.

V. ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, Mr. O'Leary moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:08pm. Mr. Turgeon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously in a vote of 3-0.

The next AEC meeting is Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 7:00pm at 145 Gorman Street.
Tami Hook, Recorder