

Baltimore County Advisory Commission on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Agenda for Meeting of October 23, 2024

7 pm **Welcome.** Thank you to Brian Lindley for unlocking the building's door for CEQ at 6:45 pm, and to Steve for serving as Greeter tonight. Andy will be the Greeter on December 4. Brian Bernstein has agreed to take over the responsibility of organizing the Greeters program for 2025; thank you, Brian!

Appreciation of Valerie Androutsopoulos' many contributions to CEQ during her 11 years as Commissioner. Her insight into recycling, including large-scale commercial recycling, and the complexities of practical issues in the context of many concerns in the area of environmental quality has been especially helpful.

7:10 pm **Speaker:**

Della Leister, RN, Acting Health Officer and Acting Director of the Baltimore County Department of Health, will speak on the Health Department's plans including public messaging - a short list of Hot Weather Tips, as well as a list of locations to seek "water and bathrooms in a cool environment." She will update us on the department's plans for further management of heat emergencies. Ms. Leister has been employed by the Health Department for well over 25 years, and has been instrumental in a variety of emergency response planning activities within the Department.

7:40 pm Q & A

7:50 pm **Final call for input to the Road Salt Report.** Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the report. Brian Fath is incorporating final changes. To suggest any further changes, please do so this week by using the "suggesting" mode (found in the upper right-hand corner). The default is editing, but the drop down can be changed to suggesting. Thank you.

8:00 pm **Update on CEQ Workgroup on Baltimore County Weed Ordinance** (County Code 13-7-401) Interested members of the environmental volunteer community are developing a more explicit description of that is meant by "low-impact landscaping", consistent with the definitions in the MD State law and reflecting the ordinances that have been passed already in multiple jurisdictions. They plan to present this version to Councilmembers Marks and Ertel, as well as to PAI leadership, for feedback.

8:10 pm **Update on Oregon Ridge Park.** The Trails Master Plan was presented at a public meeting at the park Lodge on 10/19. Frustrations were voiced by attendees about prioritizing a new, 1.6 mile loop trail of paving, said to be for

disabled visitors but also for runners, over correcting the environmental degradation by Baisman Run stream or creating/renovating the multiple walking trails that were the primary request of the public at previous sessions. The Trails Master Plan was said to have a 30-year timeframe, which was met with dismay as the trails were to be the primary, first area to be addressed. Questions were raised about whether foresters and ecologists from DEPS were involved in the planning, about preservation of trees, as well as about why only one environmental manager will be hired to work on several large parks rather than on one large, complex nature park. Carol asked the Rec & Parks Director to schedule another public meeting to follow up on these concerns.

8:20 pm **Minutes of 9/25/24** - Correct and approve.

8:25 pm Next meeting 12/4: We continue our series on Baltimore County's resilience to the risks imposed by increasingly frequent and severe episodes of extreme heat. **Baltimore Social-Environmental Collaborative (BSEC) leaders will speak on the environmental challenge of extreme heat in our region.** "The BSEC's mission is to create a truly community-centered urban climate observatory—based not just on theory but in real neighborhoods—to contribute to climate action plans that make environmental justice a priority." While the collaborative is based at Johns Hopkins University, faculty from additional universities are participating including Dr. Andy Miller.

Please suggest other speakers, from within Baltimore County leadership, or other counties or municipalities that are developing strategies and plans, or others.

Need: A volunteer to draft a report summarizing what we have heard in this series, with recommendations.

Next CEQ meetings: 12/4/24, 1/22/25, 2/26, 3/26, 4/23, 5/28, 6/25, then summer break.