

BGF Meeting Summary: July 26, 2010

Geoff Stack

What big themes and patterns did you see emerging from the survey questions asked at the year-end picnic and through the online survey?

- Lots of interest in learning more about / defining:
 - Food / Permaculture
 - Practical, first steps information / transition
 - Social change / psychology
 - General sustainability
- Lots of desire to:
 - Share success stories
 - Get together / network / build community
 - *Find connections, not chaos.*
 - Think bigger
- Conclusion:
 - We have everything we need

What aspects of the BGF meetings currently work well and what would we like to see more of?

- Sharing of resources
- Building relationships / community
 - Support from others with similar interests (“like weight watchers”)
- Predictable structure + format to the meetings
- Focus on values
 - ethics
 - harmony + peace
 - respect
- Big-picture / holistic thinking
- Action

How do we define our success?

Success of the sustainability movement in Baltimore: The needs of Baltimore residents are met in ways that support and renew the health, wellbeing and spiritual connection of Baltimore as a whole.

Success for the Baltimore Green Forum: Meeting to discuss and discover how to address the interconnected needs of Baltimore area residents. The Forum will focus on the topics of food, waste, transportation, building, energy, water, currencies, access to wilderness and spirituality.

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What systems and topics would we like to work with?

See attached "Systems + Topics" Map.

Most topics overlap with each of our major systems - self, economy, community and ecology. The topics that touch all 4 systems are: food, waste, transport, building, energy and water. The exceptions are currency (an economic system), wilderness (an ecological system) and spirit (a culmination of all systems).

Each month, while the Baltimore Green forum may address one of the particular topics, it can always be set within the context of all other systems. In this way, the BGF can address the "whole," even when exploring one of the "parts" of the overall picture.

What format will our meetings take?

This is the part that needs the most dialogue at this point. There seems to be a desire to include each of these broad categories in each monthly meeting:

- **A presentation focusing on one of the 9 topics** (and how it relates to the whole of the sustainability challenge). Recent success stories and work being done in the Baltimore area could be featured. Success stories from outside the Baltimore region may also be topic of discussion.
- **Work, discussion in an "Interest" or "Affinity" groups** (correspond to the 9 BGF topics). Participants can join in on the same group each month or move around. These are self-organizing groups that may or may not choose to take on a project or meet outside of the monthly meetings. Leaders of groups ("curators"?) may be asked to organize the presentation that corresponds to their topic when it comes up each year.
- **Spiritual exploration or shared silent time.**
- **Sharing of upcoming events.**

What questions do we still need to discuss?

1. What direction do we want to give to presenters, affinity groups, spiritual guides and announcements? How much time for each? Should there be handouts? Will we ask for notes at the end of meetings?
2. What questions do we want to pose to each of the affinity groups to help them get started with the exploration of their topics?
3. Who will be an "affinity leader" for each of the 9 topics?
4. Who will be responsible for the behind-the-scenes work and the "tweeners"?
5. How will we expand our outreach and connections to others who are working on these topics in the region?

Baltimore Green Forum

Systems
+ Topics

