

Baltimore Local Development Council
Meeting Minutes
Meeting held Thursday, April 28, 2016, 6:30PM – 8:30PM
Baltimore City Department of Planning
417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

Attendance:

LDC Members: Keisha Allen, Len Bush, Del. Luke Clippinger, Alex Dixon, Sen. Bill Ferguson (Chair), Andrew Gervase, Del. Antonio Hayes, Jill Johnson, Alvin Lee, Beth Whitmer, Richard Parker, Wayne Vance. Absent: Pastor Alvin Gwynn, Bill Reuter, Garrett Schiche.

Quorum Present: Yes

City/Agency Representatives:

- Ethan Cohen – Mayor’s Office of Economic and Neighborhood Development (END)
- Daniel Baldwin, Michelle Miles, Davi Peterson – Mayor’s Office of Employment Development (MOED)
- Tavon A. Claggett – Baltimore City Fire Department (BCFD)
- Lt. Steven Bagshaw, Det. Alan Woods – Baltimore Police Department (BPD)
- Ryan Patterson – Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts (BOPA)
- Tonya R. Simmons – Department of Public Works, Bureau of Solid Waste (DPW)
- Erik Dihle, Tom Jeannetta, Fran Spero – Baltimore City Recreation and Parks (BCRP)
- Valorie Lacour – Department of Transportation (DOT)

Public/Guests:

- Betty Bland-Thomas, South Baltimore Partnership
- Joseph Cronyn, Valbridge Property Advisors
- Liza Frye, Associated Catholic Charities
- William Marker, Barre Circle Community Association)
- Diane Powell, Ebenezer AME Church
- Brad Rogers, Advanced Placemaking
- Michelle Whelley, Consultant

Proceedings:

- 1) Senator Ferguson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. welcoming members, City agency representatives and the public. LDC members introduced themselves.
- 2) Minutes from the LDC meeting on January 30, 2016, were approved unanimously.
- 3) Ethan Cohen reminded LDC members that 2015 financial disclosure filings, required under the City Ethics Law, must be completed by April 30.
- 4) Committee Reports were tabled in the interest of time.
- 5) Ethan Cohen reported on the Mayor’s FY’17 Spending Plan for Local Impact Grant (LIG) funds. The plan was distributed with the Mayor’s cover letter dated April 26, 2017, prior to the meeting and in members’ packets.
 - a) The plan includes projects and initiatives totaling \$11.35 million. The increase from approximately \$7 million in FY’16 results from the revised funding formula that will be applied once the National Harbor casino opens by January 2017. The plan was submitted to the City Council as part of the City budget in March. It is expected to be approved unchanged.
 - b) Ethan highlighted other new or expanded initiatives in the FY’17 Plan:

(Continued)

- i) Collaborations on education with partners like Catholic Charities (Head Start program), Reading Partners, Weinberg Foundation and the Office of Sustainability.
 - ii) Funding for the Health Department's BaltiMarket program to pilot implementation measures from the City's Food Access Strategy.
 - iii) Funding for short-term upgrades to parks, trails, streets & sidewalks and City broadband fiber. Budget lines for these activities must be programmed into individual projects by the Administration and LDC/Committees working with City agencies.
- c) Ethan stated that the plan is largely consistent with the recommendations from the LDC on the Draft Spending Plan, received in December 2017. One change was shifting \$100,000 from Baltimore City Recreation and Parks' (BCRP's) budget for Urban Forestry to help match \$200,000 in City capital funding for renovations at the Lakeland Recreation Center. This investment will leverage \$325,000 to create a Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Athletics, and Math ("STEAM") center at this location. Partners are Lakeland Elementary and Middle School, University of Maryland Baltimore County and Northrop Grumman Corporation and Foundation.
- i) Richard Parker asked when this change was made and why it was not presented to the committee. Ethan replied this request was made in January by BCRP to shift funds within its budget; the Chair of the LDC was notified but committees were not, yet should be in future.
 - ii) Ethan clarified that, although the change was within BCRP's budget, it moves \$100,000 from Goal II—Environmental Sustainability to Goal VI—Education (Strategy B, Recommendation 4: "Expand technology-based education opportunities for youth in schools and libraries and through community-based programs.")
- d) Richard also asked about whether or not funding for Summer Head Start programming would be available to families from outside the Casino Impact Area (CIA). Liza Frye, Head Start Administrator for Catholic Charities, responded that LIG-funded programs will not serve Head Start sites or students outside the CIA. LIG funding of \$200,000 will support 153 children at sites in Cherry Hill and Pigtown, which doubles the number of children that Catholic Charities could serve with state funding alone at these sites and others in Southwest Baltimore.
- 6) Ethan reported on LIG funds received from the third quarter of FY'17. Revenues have been strong since December 2015, with the March 2016 LIG disbursement 8% higher than from March 2015. The Tier 1 budget of \$7 million will likely be exceeded and could approach \$7.6 million.
- 7) Ethan presented FY'16 LIG-funded activities, referencing the Spending Plan "dashboard" for the third quarter ("Q3"). Various agency representatives were in attendance to answer questions and for the discussion of individual activities:
- a) Battalion Chief Tavon Claggett from BCFD reported that the call volume handled by PEAK Unit Medic 44 is heavy and consistent. The cost per quarter should be consistent as well, since the unit is staffed regularly at the same level. (However, teams may stay extra hours when involved with a call that runs beyond the 9AM-9PM shift). BCFD is analyzing costs that appear to be getting charged to the LIG account incorrectly and will reverse any chargers where that has been the case. Nonetheless, BCFD does expect a small operating deficit for the PEAK unit.
 - b) Lt. Steven Bagshaw reported staffing of the Casino Sub-District is reduced from 11 to 10 full-time personnel – himself, one sergeant and eight officers. Overtime staffing covers the difference. Crime statistic reports were distributed to LDC members and were available at the meeting.

- c) Ethan reported that surplus funds allocated for maintenance on Citiwatch cameras will be reallocated for Housing's Code Enforcement Legal Division to purchase still cameras for deployment at known illegal dumping sites. Richard Parker asked how they are monitored. Ethan stated he would inquire but thought they contain internal memory storage devices that are checked manually when there is evidence of dumping. Jill Johnson asked if the Police are responsible for pursuing those dumping illegally. Ethan responded that this function falls under the Department of Housing (Code Enforcement Legal Division), who requested the cameras.
- d) DOT's Safety Division has reduced its spending and will produce a savings of at least \$20,000; Ethan stated he planned for those savings to offset the deficit with BCFD for Medic 44. He suggested that additional savings from this line could be reprogrammed within DOT for activities like traffic studies. This was confirmed by Valorie Lacour of DOT, who added that a study of traffic in the Hanover Street corridor is included within a federally funded "TIGER" grant study on the Hanover Street Bridge.
- e) DOT's Complete Streets Plan: Valorie reported that "tasks" for the final report documentation and a Parking Study of the South Baltimore Peninsula neighborhoods are currently with the City's Audit Department for approval. The goal is to have the plan finished by June 30. The parking study may be completed later in the summer.
- f) Employment Connection Center – Davi Peterson and Daniel Baldwin reported on outcomes that include nearly 900 new participants registered since opening in April 2015; 12 enrolled in occupational skills training; 202 placed in full-time employment with an average wage of \$11.58 per hour; 78 enrolled in the Digital Learning Lab; and outreach to a growing list of businesses, non-profit employers and other service providers.
 - i) It was discussed that participation in JumpStart's construction training program remains low, due to challenges in finding suitable candidates from the CIA.
 - ii) Delegate Hayes recommended connecting with state's Department of Social Services to inform caseworkers or programs available to residents on public assistance from the CIA.
- g) Tonya Simmons of DPW Bureau of Solid Waste reported that costs have begun to be booked for the second shift providing enhanced services in the CIA. This crew is funded with overtime or seasonal workers, while DPW works on creating and filling these positions permanently. Expenses have now been journaled for Q1-Q3 reflecting the cost of this activity.
- h) Michelle Miles of MOED reported that 412 youth from zip codes in the CIA have been registered for summer 2016 YouthWorks positions. Richard Parker and Keisha Allen requested that MOED provide a scenario of "cost-sharing" on salaries for youth from the CIA, citing the principle that LIG funds not be used to supplant normal City resources. Michelle and Ethan replied they would look into whether that is possible. They and Senator Ferguson cited that the program received a record number of applicants this year—9,000 youth seeking summer employment—and that the City is committed to trying to providing every eligible young person with a job.
- i) Ryan Patterson reported that BOPA is issuing a request for proposals to engage a conservator for restoring a mural by the artist Tom Miller on the building that houses the Cherry Hill branch of the Pratt Library and the South Baltimore Community Action Center.
- j) Erik Dihle of BCRP reported that Urban Forestry's focus has been on removing, replacing and "proactive pruning" of trees in the Carroll Camden Industrial Area. They are planning projects in other areas, starting with Federal Hill. Projects in CCIA and Federal Hill are funded under

“Community Enhancement Projects.” Funds issued directly to BCRP/Forestry will supplement these projects and support an overall plan being developed across all neighborhoods.

- k) Ethan stated that in FY’17 there is \$900,000 in funding through BCRP for short-term projects that may include street tree planting. BCRP submitted a preliminary list in November 2015, which must be updated with project scopes, budgets and timelines needing to be developed.
- 8) Senator Ferguson introduced Joe Cronyn and the team from Valbridge Property Advisors, consultants on the Community Impact District (“CID”) feasibility study, for a presentation and work session on the their progress.
- a) Joe introduced members of the Valbridge team, Brad Rogers and Michelle Whelley, and provided an overview of Progress Report 4, copies of which were distributed.
 - b) Brad Rogers led the discussion on the draft City enabling ordinance for establishing the South Baltimore Gateway Community Impact District and Authority (Attachment 4), which garnered the following comments:
 - i) Delegate Hayes questioned why the ordinance allows for the CID authority to create a separate not-for-profit corporation. Brad responded that this was a power granted to the Authority but not required of it; the rationale is that there are activities, such as owning or developing properties, or applying for outside grants, which may be more appropriately performed by an independent entity, such as a community development corporation (“CDC”), rather than by the authority. This would be for the CID Board to determine.
 - ii) Brad requested that the Steering Committee meet to promptly advise the Valbridge team on this question or other recommendations for changing the draft ordinance, as it was the consultants’ goal to provide the City with an ordinance ready to introduce in June.
 - c) Delegate Clippinger asked if there were other issues for discussion and urged Valbridge to provide a timeline on critical-path items. A discussion then followed about next steps:
 - i) Del. Clippinger scheduled a meeting of the Community and Economic Development Steering Committee (aka Steering Committee) on Thursday, May 12, and asked that LDC members provide feedback on the ordinance or other parts of the Progress Report by Monday, May 6.
 - ii) Feedback was requested as proposed amendments to the Draft Ordinance, which was cited as the most critical item in achieving the timeline for establishing the CID by September.
- 9) Public Comment
- a) William Marker stated his opposition to the draft ordinance’s proposal that members of LDC serve automatically on the CID Board, and his view that having a majority of the Board members appointed by the Mayor was not what was envisioned when the concept of a district was first discussed in 2013-14. Nor was it envisioned in meetings of the Steering Committee since January 2016, which had garnered input from community residents beyond the LDC.

10) Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

11) Next meeting(s):

- a) Thursday, May 12, 2016 – Community and Economic Development Committee
- b) Thursday, July 28, 2016 – Full LDC Membership, Quarterly Meeting

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