

Baltimore Local Development Council
Meeting Minutes
Meeting held Monday, November 30, 2015, 6:30 – 8:30PM
Baltimore City Department of Planning
417 E. Fayette Street, 8th Floor

Attendance:

LDC Members: Keisha Allen, James Alston, Del. Luke Clippinger, Sen. Bill Ferguson (Chair), Andrew Gervase, Sam Himmelrich, Bill Reuter, Garrett Schiche, Wayne Vance, Beth Whitmer
(Absent: Len Bush, Pastor Alvin Gwynn, Richard Parker, Councilman Ed Reisinger)

Quorum Present: Yes

City/Agency Representatives: Ethan Cohen (Project Coordinator); Brent Flickinger, Department of Planning; Lt. Steven Bagshaw and Det. Alan Woods, Baltimore Police Department; Laura Fox, Health Department; Tom Jeannetta, Erik Dihle, Kate Brower and Fran Spero, Parks Department; Mary Sloat, Employment Development; Ryan Patterson, Baltimore Office of Promotion and the Arts; Sally Costello, BDC; Joseph Carella and Jason Hardeback, Information Technology.

Public: William Marker (Barre Circle Community Association)

Proceedings:

- 1) Chair, Senator Bill Ferguson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. welcoming LDC members, City agency representatives and the public.
- 2) Minutes from the meeting on October 29, 2015, were approved unanimously (moved by Schiche, seconded by Vance)
- 3) LDC Membership and Meetings:
 - a) Sen. Ferguson stated that membership on the LDC is for a one-year term that begins in January and that all current members interested in serving in 2016 as well as any other members of the public will need to apply.
 - i) The Mayor's Office will make the application available in the next few weeks to be due in early January.
 - ii) Current members who do not wish to continue to serve should inform the Chair and Mayor's Office. Current members may also recommend other prospective members or encourage them to apply.
 - iii) It was discussed it may be possible to revisit which neighborhoods are represented and whether terms be made longer than one year and potentially overlapping (rather than appointing or renewing all members every year as we do currently).
- 4) Old Business: Sub-Committee Work Session with agency representatives on FY'17 Spending Plan.
 - a) Sen. Ferguson announced that the Sub-Committees and agencies would have approximately 50 minutes for the work session on the FY'17 Draft Spending Plan and then the full LDC would reconvene to report on results.
 - b) Ethan instructed LDC members and agencies to divide into groups by sub-committee and the related topics in the FY'17 Draft Spending Plan. He presented a worksheet that follows the Draft FY'17 budget and asked that Sub-Committees indicate their

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recommended actions from the choices of “Approve, Disapprove, Modify or Request Information” on each of the line items assigned to that sub-Committee

- c) The three groups met with agency representatives for approximately one hour. Upon reconvening the sub-committees reported on their recommendations,
 - i) Economic and Community Development (ECD) Sub-Committee chair Del. Clippinger requested a clarification regarding funding for the Community Benefits District, as to whether the funding showed for FY’17 was inclusive of or in addition to the carry-over funds from FY’15 and funds budgeted for FY’16. Ethan reported they are in addition to prior year funding. Del. Clippinger read aloud ECD’s results.
 - ii) Public Safety and Services (PSS) Sub-Committee chair Keisha Allen read aloud the sub-committee’s results, which highlighted areas where more information was requested (“R”): CitiWatch Cameras and Lighting under Goal III; Community Schools, Environmental Education and Weinberg Foundation Library Project under Goal VI.
 - iii) Sanitation, Transportation and Infrastructure (STI) Sub-Committee: Ethan Cohen chaired the STI Sub-Committee session on behalf of Councilman Reisinger, who was sick. He reported on the actions for some of the line-items but stated that the committee had not gotten through all items.
 - iv) Sen. Ferguson requested that all sub-committees should confirm their results, or in the case of STI complete their recommendations, and submit them to Ethan by December 10. He requested that Ethan create a consolidated list of recommendations to circulate by Friday, December 11, 2015. All LDC members should review this list and be prepared to vote on it on December 17.

5) Reporting and Presentations

- a) Ethan announced that proposals for the Community Benefits District Feasibility Study had been received on November 25 and were being reviewed currently by the City’s Department of Purchases for compliance. Those deemed acceptable will be distributed to the selection committee by December 4; the committee will meet on December 3 and, if necessary, interview proposers on December 17. A selection should be made by the end of December, 2015, with the goal of having the consultant start in January, 2016
- b) Sally Costello of Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) gave a presentation on the infrastructure improvements performed by the Casino developer in the vicinity of the project, the costs of which are slated for reimbursement from Local Impact Grant funds in three annual payments of \$2 million each. The first payment is due now, based on the Casino having submitted documentation on the work, and following the first full year of operations.
 - i) Sally reported that BDC received records of contractor invoices in excess of the \$6 million agreed upon as the maximum reimbursement to the casino under the Ground Lease Agreement (GLA).
 - ii) BDC analyzed approximately \$6.8 million in eligible expenses. These include new underground electrical conduit and duct banks; new street lighting; storm drains, sanitary and water lines; roadway improvements, including widening streets,

changing alignments and installing new traffic signals; improvements to the Russell Street viaduct; and removal of brush and invasive species at the Parks Department/Gwynns Falls Trail property southeast of the Casino garage.

- iii) Despite these costs all being deemed eligible, only \$6 million – the maximum amount allowed under the GLA – is approved for reimbursement.
- iv) Sam Himmelrich asked how much of the initial outlay for this work had been paid for by the City. Sally replied that all costs being submitted were paid for by the Casino developer to its contractors and/or sub-contractors.

6) Public Comment

- a) William Marker said he wished to renew his contention that the \$6 million payment for infrastructure improvements is not a “legal” use of local impact grant funds, as it does not constitute spending that benefits the communities in the vicinity of the casino.

7) Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

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