

Baltimore Local Development Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 11, 2018, 6:30-8:00PM
Baltimore City Department of Planning
417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

Attendance -- LDC Members:

Keisha Allen, Thomas Cassella (Proxy for Jacqueline Grace), Sandy Davis (Proxy for Aparna Jain), Bill Ferguson (Chair), Andrew Gervase, Alvin Gwynn, Karl Lowe, Bill Reuter, Wayne Vance.

Quorum Present: Yes

Baltimore City Agency Representatives: Ethan Cohen (Mayor's Office, Liaison to LDC), plus Lt. Craig Hartman (BPD), Lenora Henry (BOPA), Brent Flickinger (Department of Planning), Geon Floyd (MOHS), Stacy Freed (HCD), Terry Hickey (MOHS), Valorie LaCour (DOT), David Mitchell (BOPA), Dana Moulden (BOPA), Davi Peterson (MOED), Muriel Rich (DPW Bureau of Solid Waste), Mary Sloat (MOED).

Public:

Kim Lane (Pigtown Main Street), Denine Rafus.

Proceedings:

- 1) Sen. Ferguson called the meeting to order at 6:35PM.
- 2) Minutes were presented for the meeting on November 30, 2017. It was noted that there was no quorum at the December 12, 2017 meeting. At the opening of this meeting there was not a quorum present. Acceptance of the minutes was therefore tabled for the start of the meeting.
- 3) Per the agenda, committee reports were tabled for input by LDC committee members on individual projects.
- 4) Senator Ferguson noted that term limits would affect some current LDC members who are in their sixth consecutive years of service.
- 5) FY18 Spending Plan review:
 - a) Ethan presented the dashboard table with preliminary fiscal data for the FY'18 closeout. Only the cover sheet of the dashboard was distributed at the meeting -- with the backup project sheets emailed previously. Project sheets on Employment Development programs were included in the handouts.
 - i) FY'18 new appropriations totaled \$7.5 million; yet the estimated revenue (final disbursement for June was not yet received) is \$6.4 million. The LDC had been informed in previous meetings that revenues resulting from the opening of MGM Grand casino were lower than had been projected by the State's analysts when the FY'18 spending plan budget was created. Therefore both FY'17 and FY'18 budgets needed to be adjusted downward after they were adopted.
 - ii) Funds carried forward from FY'17 into FY'18 totaled \$5 million, resulting in \$11.4 million available in FY'18.
 - iii) Spending for the year was approximately \$7.4 million, leaving a carry-forward balance of approximately \$4 million.
 - b) Discussions of individual projects included the agency/partner organizations on the points listed below.

- c) Police sub-district expenses showed a big increase in Q4. Ethan explained that this is due to a projected one-time expense for retirement/personnel benefits, typically charged at year-end.
 - d) Dumping cameras: Results were requested. Keisha Allen stated that illegal dumping is a problem in Westport.
 - e) DOT Complete Streets: Valorie LaCour reported that the South Baltimore Parking Study has been referred to the Parking Authority for consideration and developing new policies. Valorie also reported that DOT is applying for two US-DOT "BUILD" grants, and will request letters of support from the LDC: 1) for capital improvements on Martin Luther King Boulevard; and 2) for the environmental impact statement phase on the reconstruction of the Hanover Street/Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge. Senator Ferguson offered to provide the letters on behalf of the LDC.
 - f) Sandy Dennis asked about the homeownership counseling/incentive program, stated that incentives would be more valuable than counseling.
 - g) Terry Hickey reported on the launch of the new Homeless Street Outreach Team, introducing Geon Floyd who started in April as the outreach worker assigned to the South Baltimore Gateway. LDC members Allen and Gwynn reported on individual encampment sites (295 "Baltimore" gateway sign, Stockholm Street).
 - h) MOED's Mary Sloat reported on progress of the Employment Connection Center, including employment gains and an increase in traffic to the center: over 200 job placements occurred in FY'18; enrollment is up 25% for the year.
 - i) Stacy Freed of Housing & Community Development announced that the City is launching a new Community Catalyst grant program with \$5 million in grants split between funds for capacity building/operations for community development corporations, and funding for individual projects (capital and/or predevelopment costs).
 - j) BOPA representatives reported on projects: Pigtown Weather Sculpture has a new location; installation of this work and the artwork at Robert Baker Park are anticipated by December 2018. SoBo Summer Music Series will occur this summer. The question was raised as to which source(s) are funding the program: LDC/City funding or South Baltimore Gateway Partnership. BOPA's response was that it was possibly a combination, but that they would confirm.
 - k) Summer Head Start -- Ethan reported on behalf of Catholic Charities that summer Head Start programming began in June, serving 138 children at seven locations.
- 6) Review of the final FY'19 Spending Plan Budget
- a) Ethan presented a new table showing the final FY'19 Spending Plan budget, organized by agency. The table also shows final FY'18 figures where appropriations were adjusted based on needed cost savings and/or actual spending.
 - b) The budget shows a total appropriation of \$6.46 million. This includes \$3.96 million in new appropriations through the City's operating budget and \$2.5 million in capital funds for the Baltimore City Animal Services facility (first of three installments). Final carry-forward amounts, estimated at \$4 million total, will not be known until further analysis of closeout figures and encumbered expenses for FY'18.

- c) Brent Flickinger asked about projects not receiving funds in FY'19, such as the BOPA/cultural program coordination. Senator Ferguson responded that communities may address funding needs with the South Baltimore Gateway Partnership.
- 7) Lisa Schroeder, Executive Director of Parks and People Foundation, gave a presentation on the Middle Branch Waterfront Vision and Implementation Plan.
- a) A series of stakeholder meetings occurred in the last week of June. Feedback was positive and constructive. Interest was widespread in seeing something “happen” in a defined timeline, not just planning.
 - b) Keisha Allen cautioned that feedback from the public many not always be representative of the immediately adjacent communities. While acknowledging that an expanded Middle Branch park network will have a regional/citywide draw, those interests must be balanced against the impacts on and interests of nearby communities.
 - c) Lisa noted that shoreline restoration may generate “credits” that can be sold to raise capital funding for construction of the park.
 - d) As follow-up the PowerPoint will be distributed.
- 8) Minutes from the November 30, 2017 meeting were accepted, with all voting in approval.
- 9) Meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM.

Next meeting: tentatively scheduled for October 25 was later moved to November 8, 2018