

Baltimore Local Development Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Meeting held May 27, 2015, 6:30 – 8:30PM  
Baltimore City Department of Planning  
417 E. Fayette Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor

**Attendance:**

LDC Members: Keisha Allen, James Alston, Leonard Bush, Del. Luke Clippinger, Sen. Bill Ferguson (Chair), Rev. Alvin Gwynn (Vice-Chair), Samuel Himmelrich, Andrew Gervase, Richard Parker, Bill Reuter, Wayne Vance, Beth Whitmer

Quorum Present: Yes

City/Agency Representatives: Ethan Cohen (Project Coordinator); Daniel Baldwin—MOED; Brent Flickinger and Theo Ngongang—Department of Planning; Valorie Lacour—Department of Transportation.

Public: Clare Elliott (Paul's Place), Ben Hyman and Matthew Signer (Pigtown Main Street), Bill Marker (Barre Circle), Michael Middleton (Cherry Hill Development Corp.).

**Proceedings:**

- 1) Chair, Senator Bill Ferguson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. welcoming LDC members, guests and the public. He noted that this meeting had originally been scheduled for April 23, as a quarterly update, but was rescheduled due to the Civil Unrest that began that same week.
- 2) Minutes from the meeting on January 31, 2015, were approved unanimously.
- 3) LDC Membership:
  - a) Sen. Ferguson asked members to introduce themselves and directed their attention to the roster (**attached**), which lists sub-committee assignments.
  - b) Sen. Ferguson then noted that an Ethics Training needs to be scheduled before the end of June and reminded members of the requirement they all complete an Initial Financial Disclosure form.
- 4) Sub-Committees
  - a) Public Safety and Services – Keisha Allen reported on meetings that occurred on March 4 (to review the Master Plan goals) and on May 20 with representatives from the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice and the Police Department's Casino Mini District. The latter meeting involved a discussion of CitiWatch cameras and other, less costly crime prevention measures like the CitiWach Community Partners program, and initiating a "Main Street" approach with support from Baltimore Development Corporation. Keisha also presented the crime statistics report for the first quarter of 2015, noting that the period of reporting was inconsistent (through April 11 instead of March 31). Ethan said he would request the report be redone for the period through March 31 along with a snapshot of incidents since April 1.
  - b) Economic and Community Development – Delegate Clippinger reported on meetings that occurred on March 7 (to review the Master Plan goals) and on March 24, for a presentation by the Mayor's Office of Employment Development on the Workforce Environmental Scan and related initiatives.
  - c) Public Safety and Services – Ethan Cohen reported on meetings on February 11 (on the Complete Streets Plan), March 11 (on the Master Plan goals) and April 15, for an update on Complete Streets and Solid Waste services.
  - d) The Chair and Vice-Chair directed attention to the meeting schedule (**attached**) and charged sub-committees with the task of developing the Multi-Year Spending Plan and setting budget priorities for FY'17 over the summer and fall.
- 5) Old Business – FY'16 Spending Plan

(Continued)

- a) The Chair spoke about fluctuations in the budget projections for Local Impact Grant (LIG) funds that had occurred over the past months, caused both by changes in revenue projections and Governor Hogan's proposal to redirect approximately \$1 million in LIG funds from FY'15 and '16 budgets to other uses. This proposal was later blocked by the General Assembly.
  - b) Ethan Cohen discussed current revenue estimates and introduced the Mayor's Final Spending Plan, which was included in the final budget submitted to the City Council in April.
    - i) He presented charts on actual and projected revenues for FY'15, showing that average LIG revenues through April 2015 suggest a year-end total of approximately \$6 million for 10 months of operations in FY'15. At this rate, he stated, \$8.6 million would be the total for 12 months in FY'16.
    - ii) He then directed members' attention to the Final Spending Plan and Letter from the Mayor dated May 19, 2015, originally drafted for distribution to the LDC on April 22. He stated it was the Mayor's goal that the plan respond to priorities expressed by the LDC in their Advice Letter of December 2014 issued in response to the Administration's Draft FY'16 Spending Plan. He noted that the total amount is based on current, more conservative revenue projections, resulting in a Tier 1 budget of just under \$7 million and a total Tier 2 budget of just over \$9 million—reduced from the \$9 million and \$12 million figures of the Draft Plan.
    - iii) He explained that the letter and FY'16 Plan include a revised version of the FY'15 LIG budget, based on updated revenue projections resulting in a Tier 1 total of \$6 million. Major factors that allow for reductions in both budgets are the delayed opening of the Employment Connection Center, which occurred April 27; shifting the contracted scope of work for the Complete Streets Plan over FY'15 and FY'16 (\$300,000 in each) and delaying the subsequent implementation of capital projects that result from the plan; the delayed start-up of the Community Benefits District's operations; and extending the repayment schedule for infrastructure improvements around the casino from three years to four.
    - iv) LDC members asked questions and requested clarifications on some items in the plan.
  - c) Sen. Ferguson introduced a motion recommending a modification to the FY'16 plan, shifting \$100,000 from funds budgeted for a second round of Community Enhancement Projects to summer youth jobs, stressing the need to help youth in Baltimore feel engaged with future work and educational opportunities, as evidenced by the recent Civil Unrest.
    - i) Richard Parker responded that he questioned whether this change represented the most sustainable use of resources, i.e., to provide one-time summer employment, if communities were not improved over the long-term.
    - ii) Members voted to approve the recommendation budget change, with 11 members voting in favor and one against (Parker).
- 6) Reporting on FY'15 spending and initiatives
- a) Ethan Cohen presented the third quarter "dashboard" and updates on projects and spending.
  - b) Valorie Lacour reported on the Complete Streets Study, noting that the consultant team's work on the Study ceased once the amount of the fee for the contracted services was determined to be in excess of funding available in FY'15.
    - i) She reported that the scope of work has now been rewritten to show the phases of the project as separate tasks or contracts, each to proceed as funds become available and each to have an interim deliverable/report at the end of that phase. These tasks will be spread over FY'15 and

FY'16 and will cost approximately \$300,000 in each year. DOT is waiting for approval by the City's Audit Department and Board of Estimates to proceed.

- ii) She noted DOT had met with 13 neighborhood groups. Richard Parker questioned why DOT had not contacted Citizens of Pigtown Community Association to schedule a meeting. Valorie responded that DOT held a meeting sponsored by Pigtown Main Street and would contact COPCA to schedule another meeting in the area.
  - c) Daniel Baldwin, Business Services Representative for the Mayor's Office Employment Development, reported on the opening of the Employment Connection Center and the services offered to employers and job-seekers. He described plans for outreach to businesses and community groups in the Casino Impact Area, and stated his goal of meeting with LDC members individually in order to discuss their priorities for workforce development.
  - d) Ethan reported on the Casino District Fiber Study and noted that consultants will be available to meet with LDC and other stakeholders June 10-11.
  - e) Theo Ngongang of the Department of Planning discussed the timing for the final wrap-up and roll-out of the Master Plan, expected at the end of June. The City will present a complete draft of the revamped plan to the LDC at the next meeting and seek feedback for incorporating it into the final version that will be submitted to the Planning Commission in September or October, following a general public comment period.
  - f) Ethan gave an update on Community Enhancement Projects directing members to the handout **attached**. Richard Parker and Rev. Alvin Gwynn both responded that the progress on these projects appears very slow, considering how City-sponsored projects and operations have been implemented more quickly. The Chair and Vice-Chair both urged that progress on these projects be accelerated in the coming months.
- 7) Public Comment
- a) William Marker spoke reiterating concerns that Impact Grant funding was slow to flow into benefits for the community while general operations continued to be funded.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM**

Prepared by: Ethan Cohen, Office of the Mayor, (410) 545-3107, [Ethan.Cohen@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:Ethan.Cohen@baltimorecity.gov)

**Baltimore Casino LDC**  
**Membership and Committees 2015**

<b>15 Required Representatives:</b>			
1	Bill Ferguson	Senator	Maryland District 46
2	Luke Clippinger	State Delegate	Maryland District 46
	Edward Reisinger	City Council (Proxy for Del. Hammen)	City Council District 10
1	Chad Barnhill	General Manager	Horseshoe Casino Baltimore
<b>Seven Residents of Communities in the Casino Impact Area:</b>			
	Keisha Allen	Westport Neighborhood Association	
	James Alston	Westport Community (Resident)	
7	Bill Reuter	Ridgely's Delight Association	
	Andrew Gervase	Sharp Leadenhall Improvement Assoc.	
	Beth Whitmer	Federal Hill Neighborhood Association	
	Garrett Schiche	South Baltimore Neighborhood Assoc.	
	Richard Parker	Citizens of Pigtown Community Assoc.	
<b>Four Representatives of Businesses or Institutions in the Casino Impact Area:</b>			
	Leonard Bush	Len the Plumber, Inc.	
4	Samuel K. Himmelrich	Himmelrich Associates, Inc.	
	Wayne Vance	STX, LLC	
	Rev. Alvin Gwynn	Leadenhall Baptist Church	Vice Chair

<b>Economic &amp; Community Development (ECD)</b>		<b>Sanitation, Transportation, &amp; Infrastructure (STI)</b>	<b>Public Safety &amp; Services (PSS)</b>
1	<u>Luke Clippinger_CHAIR</u>	<u>Edward Reisinger_CHAIR</u>	<u>Keisha Allen_Chair</u>
2	Wayne Vance	Garrett Schiche	Chad Barnhill
3	Samuel Himmelrich	Bill Reuter	Bill Ferguson
4	James Alston	Beth Whitmer	Richard Parker
5	Leonard Bush	Alvin Gwynn	Andrew Gervase
Total 5		Total 5	Total 5

**Baltimore Casino Local Development Council  
Schedule of Meetings – 2015**

<b>January 31, 2015 (Saturday)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Full LDC Meeting – Quarterly Reporting</b></li> </ul>
<b>February-March 2015 – Various Dates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sub-Committees Meet on Master Plan</b></li> </ul>
<b>April 23, 2015 (Thursday) – POSTPONED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del><b>Full LDC Meeting – Quarterly Reporting</b></del></li> </ul>
<b>May 28, 2015 (Thursday) –</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Full LDC Meeting – Quarterly Reporting</b></li> </ul>
<b>June-July 2015 – Various Dates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ECD Sub-Committee Meeting on Fiber Study – presentation by consultants June 9 (Tentative)</b></li> <li>• <b>All Sub-Committees Meet on Master Plan. Multi-Year Spending and ongoing initiatives</b></li> </ul>
<b>July 30, 2015</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Full LDC Meeting – Quarterly Reporting</b></li> </ul>
<b>August 2015 – Various Dates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sub-Committees Meet on Multi-Year Spending Plan</b></li> </ul>
<b>September 24, 2015 (Thursday)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Full LDC Meeting and/or Sub-Committees – Work session on Multi-Year Spending Plan</b></li> </ul>
<b>October 22, 2015 (Thursday)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Full LDC Meeting – Quarterly Reporting and Presentation of Draft FY'17 Spending Plan (Commencing 45-day LDC review period)</b></li> </ul>
<b>November 18, 2015 (Wednesday)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Full LDC Meeting and/or Sub-Committees – Work Session on Draft FY'17 Spending Plan</b></li> </ul>
<b>December 17, 2015 (Wednesday)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Full LDC Meeting – Vote on Draft FY'17 Spending Plan, final response and recommendations</b></li> </ul>

May 21, 2015

**COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS**  
**Baltimore Casino Local Development Council**  
**Wednesday, May 27, 2015**

Community/Organization	Project Description	Agency Partner	Status
Carroll-Camden Business Association	Street-Tree Planting throughout Carroll-Camden Industrial Area	BCRP Forestry (Tree Baltimore)	Scoping/review by Forestry needed; meeting scheduled
Citizens of Pigtown Community Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of PNC-grant work</li> <li>• Surveillance cameras on Washington Blvd.</li> <li>• Community Garden fencing</li> <li>• GW Elementary Playground</li> <li>• Partial restoration of Penn-Melville Park (aka Ridgely's Delight Playground)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BOPA</li> <li>• CitiWatch, MOCJ</li> <li>• Baltimore Green Space (potential)</li> <li>• BCPS; BCRP</li> <li>• BCRP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination needed</li> <li>• Site survey ordered</li> <li>• Preliminary</li> <li>• Preliminary</li> <li>• Scheduled for capital project early 2016;</li> <li>• Design documents will start summer 2015</li> </ul>
Ridgely's Delight Association			
South Baltimore Neighborhood Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hanover Street Gateway</li> <li>• Building off new landscaped medians at Hanover and Wells St.</li> <li>• Banners, welcome sign and other streetscape elements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DOT (to implement)</li> <li>• Neighborhood Design Center</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SBNA engaging NDC for plan;</li> <li>• Design may take 3-4 mos</li> <li>• DOT will be consulted during design</li> </ul>
Westport Neighborhood Association and Westport Community Development Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvements in Florence Cummings Park;</li> <li>• Community Welcome Signs</li> <li>• Cameras on Annapolis Road</li> <li>• Possible collaborations with Westport Academy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BCRP</li> <li>• DOT</li> <li>• CitiWatch, MOCJ</li> <li>• BCPS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park improvements have been preliminarily scoped out</li> <li>• DOT to be notified of locations</li> <li>• Site survey has been ordered</li> <li>• WNA/CDC reaching out to school; contact BCPS partnerships office</li> </ul>
Federal Hill Neighborhood Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repair turf in Federal Hill Park &amp; Robert Baker Park</li> <li>• Repair fencing (FH Park)</li> <li>• New dog run (RB Park)</li> <li>• Crosswalks at Light, William Streets</li> <li>• Landscaping at DHF Rec Tech Center on Light Street</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BCRP</li> <li>• BCRP</li> <li>• BCRP</li> <li>• DOT</li> <li>• Digital Harbor Foundation &amp; BCRP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List is preliminary; outreach to agencies not yet conducted.</li> </ul>
Sharp-Leadenhall Improvement Association	Ideas include new welcome sign/garden at Hanover and Hamburg Street; replace tree pits on Hanover above steam line.	DOT, BCRP/Forestry likely	No recommendations yet developed or proposed formally.