

Baltimore Local Development Council
Meeting Minutes
Meeting held Thursday, October 29, 2015, 6:30 – 8:30PM
Baltimore City Department of Planning
417 E. Fayette Street, 8th Floor

Attendance:

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

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

Public: Molly McKee (Office of Sen. Bill Ferguson), Jameson Chalmers (Otterbein Community Association), 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, guests and the public.
- 2) Minutes from the meeting on September 24, 2015, were approved unanimously (moved by Pastor Gwynn, seconded by Richard Parker)
- 3) LDC Membership and Meetings:
 - a) Sen. Ferguson reminded members about the need for some to still submit their Ethics affidavits to comply with the training and reporting requirements of the City Ethics Law.
 - b) Pastor Gwynn reported that the Sanitation, Transportation and Infrastructure (STI) Sub-Committee met on October 22 for the purpose of discussing the preliminary recommendations for FY'17 Local Impact Grant spending.
 - i) He reported that their discussion also considered evaluation measures and tools for assessing the success of Impact Grant spending in achieving the LDC's goals.
 - ii) Ethan added that at each of the sub-committee meetings an attempt was made to match past and current-year spending (FY'15 and '16) to the Implementation Matrix of the Master Plan and have the sub-committees comment on priorities from the Matrix for FY'17. The STI's Sub-committee chose to discuss the broader questions of priorities, process and evaluation measures, rather than focus on the specific budget recommendations.
 - c) Keisha Allen reported that the Public Safety and Services (PSS) Sub-Committee met on October 19 to review spending priorities for FY'17 against the Implementation Matrix and provided feedback on the draft recommendations. She also announced that the PSS Sub-Committee would meet on November 3 with Lt. Bagshaw of the Casino Sub-District.
 - d) Del. Luke Clippinger reported that the Economic and Community Development Sub-Committee met on October 15 and made recommendations on funding priorities related to the Implementation Matrix.

(Continued)

- e) Senator Ferguson stated that the next full LDC meeting is Thursday, November 19, 2015. He noted that the meeting will be a work session on the FY'17 Spending Plan as part of the LDC's 45-day review of the plan, which the Mayor's Office would present tonight. Agency representatives will be available to answer questions in the sub-committees.
 - f) Pastor Gwynn asked all sub-committee chairs to schedule meetings to review the draft Spending Plan in the next few weeks.
 - g) Ethan added that earlier in the day (October 29) the Baltimore City Planning Commission voted to adopt the South Baltimore Gateway Master Plan, presented by the Department of Planning's Brent Flickinger (present).
 - i) Sen. Ferguson congratulated Brent and thanked him and the Department of Planning team for their efforts over the past two year in developing the plan.
 - ii) Brent pointed out the significance of having the plan adopted by the Commission, in that the document is now City policy, and future actions by agencies, developers and the Planning Commission must demonstrate they are responsive to the plan.
 - iii) Ethan reiterated that the Master Plan's nine goals and related strategies and recommendations are the basis for the draft FY'17 Spending Plan.
- 4) Reporting:
- a) Sen. Ferguson introduced Lt. Steven Bagshaw and Det. Alan Woods from the Casino Sub-District. He referred members to the quarterly crime statistics report in their packets and asked if anyone had questions.
 - i) Ethan noted that the third-quarter comparison spans the casino opening, which was August. 25, 2014. For that reason he asked the Police Department to provide separate tables for Carroll-Camden Industrial Area and the casino property (1500 Russell Street) comparing the periods of August 25 through September 30 in 2014 and 2015. He stated that he understood that the increases in crime in some neighborhoods and some categories, like robbery, to reflect wider trends, and he asked Lt. Bagshaw to comment on those trends and any further insights he wished to share on the interaction between the Casino Sub-District and the Southern District operations, building on the discussion the LDC had with Det. Woods and Sgt. Alvarez at the September 24 meeting.
 - ii) Lt. Bagshaw stated the Sub-District is functioning well in preventing and deterring crime in the patrol area around the casino ("Zone 2"), bounded by Ostend and Bush Streets and Wicomico Street and the waterfront, and that his team coordinates with the posts of the Southern District in the wider "buffer zone" (Zone 3) that extends further into the adjacent neighborhoods of Westport, Pigtown, Carroll-Camden, Ridgely's Delight and Sharp-Leadenhall.
 - (1) He stated that the larceny figure is due to petty theft and improper use of gift cards inside the casino, and to the effectiveness of the casino security in catching people who engage in these activities, charging them and having them "evicted," or banned from entering the casino in the future.

- (2) He stated that the increase in violent crime witnessed in several of the Casino Impact Area's neighborhoods is unfortunately similar to challenges elsewhere in the city. In response to a question, Lt. Bagshaw responded that the size of the Southern District staffing was not reduced with the start of the CSD, but rather the introduction of the Sub-District has prevented a strain on resources of the Southern District.
- iii) James Alston stated that he does not see an increase in Police presence in Westport and that the level of criminal activity seems higher of late. Lt. Bagshaw offered to communicate outside of the meeting to consider options for stepped-up Police presence in Westport, coordinated with the Southern District. Ethan added that the PSS Sub-Committee scheduled for November 3 was an opportunity to follow-up on this and other issues as well as strategies discussed at the September 24 meeting.
- b) Ethan reported that the Request for Proposals for the South Baltimore Community Benefits District Feasibility Study was posted on October 27, for official release October 30. Proposals are due Wednesday, November 25. Ethan encouraged LDC members to review the document and stated he believed the final RFP reflects their input, and that the comments received during the September 24 LDC meeting were particularly helpful.
- c) Ethan presented the Local Impact Grant (LIG) funding "dashboard" for the first quarter of FY'16. He pointed out that this is the first quarter of "Year 2," which will be the first complete year of LIG funding.
 - i) He reiterated that funds carried over from FY'15 are held in reserve and are not part of the FY'16 Budget.
 - ii) He noted that some major one-time costs are in progress, such as the Complete Streets Plan, the infrastructure payment (first installment) and the Community Enhancement Projects, and therefore do not yet show as disbursements. Costs for enhanced services, such as the Employment Connection Center and public safety, are ongoing, but cautioned that not all costs associated with these services appear during the quarter in which they are incurred.
- d) Ethan also presented the list of current Community Enhancement Projects and showed images of the project for Penn and Melvin Park in Ridgely's Delight.
 - i) He called this is a testament to the value of planning before funding is identified. In this case, the community worked with the Neighborhood Design Center on a concept-design, which the Department of Parks and Recreation was able to add to a larger capital contract once the LIG funds were made available.
 - ii) A brief discussion ensued about the need to accelerate more projects of this type.
 - (1) Alex Dixon stressed that we need to promote these projects and questioned whether it could be built by the end of 2015 (scheduled for spring 2016).
 - (2) Sen. Ferguson encouraged the City and LDC to develop a logo or branding campaign for LIG-funded projects, and recommended a common protocol for events and promoting the opening or dedication of such projects.
 - (3) Brent suggested BOPA could be tapped as a resource for the branding campaign.

- e) The topic of evaluation was revisited. Ethan reported that Garrett Schiche had raised the issue to him, and he asked Garret to elaborate for the group as a whole.
 - i) Garrett spoke about the potential value of clarifying the goals that the LDC hopes to achieve with the LIG funding and of determining evaluation measures or metrics by which to track progress.
 - ii) Len Bush voiced frustration that it is difficult to ensure accountability.
 - iii) Pastor Gwynn echoed that sentiment, stating that a barrier to assessing accountability is that the City services conducted with LIG funds are “self-reported.”
 - iv) Councilman Reisinger stated the need for a “CitiStat” for LIG funding.
 - v) Sen. Ferguson and others noted that the Community Benefits District was envisioned to ensure greater control and accountability for LIG funds it manages.
 - vi) Garrett added that identifying desired outcomes and evaluation measures would be useful for either of these strategies, whether in tracking statistics through CitiStat or providing benchmarks and goals for the Benefits District.
- 5) New Business: Ethan Presented the FY’17 Preliminary Spending plan in the form of a narrative memo and a budget table that had been distributed electronically the day prior and was in members’ packets.
 - a) Ethan described how the budget employed categories similar to those of prior years, with the major difference being that “Targeted Initiatives” were reorganized under the nine (9) goals of the South Baltimore Gateway Master Plan.
 - b) Sen. Ferguson asked the LDC to review each category and goal for any questions or clarifications needed.
 - i) James Alston pointed out a discrepancy between the memo and the tables with regard to Fire Department/Medic services (the tables are correct).
 - ii) Sen. Ferguson requested that the Department of Transportation report on progress of the Complete Streets Study in considering implementation projects under Goal 1.
 - iii) Del. Clippinger stated that, in general, the budget lines for Goals IV, V and VIII reflected priorities that the ECD Sub-Committee had identified. However, he asked how funding for job training programs might be refined or adjusted. Ethan replied that MOED is considering more flexible funding guidelines and would consider programs in fields beyond construction, where training would be valuable. Del. Clippinger also requested a presentation by BOPA at the meeting on November 19.

6) Public comment: None.

7) Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM

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