

Baltimore Local Development Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Meeting held Thursday, September 24, 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, Alex Dixon, Sen. Bill Ferguson (Chair), Andrew Gervase, Samuel Himmelrich, Bill Reuter, Garrett Schiche, Wayne Vance

*Quorum Present: Yes*

City/Agency Representatives: Ethan Cohen (Project Coordinator); Brent Flickinger, Department of Planning; Sgt. Amado Alvarez and Det. Alan Woods, Baltimore Police Department

Public: Kia Calloway (Lakeland Community Association); Chance Carter and Molly McKee (Office of Sen. Bill Ferguson), Jameson Chalmers (Otterbein Community Association), Councilman Eric Costello, Clare Elliott (Paul's Place), William Marker (Barre Circle Community Association), Mark Reutter (Baltimore Brew)

**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 July 30, 2015, were approved unanimously (moved by Wayne Vance, seconded by Bill Reuter)
- 3) LDC Membership and Meetings:
  - a) Ethan Cohen reminded members that anyone who had not yet taken the required City Ethics Board training needs to do so. Sessions will be announced in October 2015, and he will circulate dates. Some members still need to file their Conflicts Affidavit (this is required as a one-time filing addition to the annual financial disclosure filing).
  - b) Sen. Ferguson announced that Alex Dixon has been appointed by the Mayor as the official LDC representative from Horseshoe Casino. Alex has previously served on the LDC as the proxy for the prior Horseshoe representative Chad Barnhill.
  - c) Ethan reported on meetings of the Sub-Committees to review and provide feedback to the Department of Planning on the public release (August 17) of the South Baltimore Gateway. In particular, the Sub-committees worked through the Master Plan's "Implementation Matrix." Meetings were held on the following dates:
    - i) Public Safety & Services – August 20, 2015
    - ii) Economic & Community Development – August 22, 2015
    - iii) Sanitation, Transportation & Infrastructure – August 26 and September 16, 2015
  - d) Ethan noted that sub-committees' comments on the matrix were incorporated into a revised draft shared with Planning. He requested that Sub-Committees schedule meeting times in October to discuss ideas for the FY'17 Spending Plan and for using the matrix to develop a Multi-Year Spending Plan.
  - e) Senator Ferguson proposed a revised/updated schedule for the rest of 2015, which was circulated, as follows:

(Continued)

- i) Sub-Committees meet in October on FY'17 priorities and Multi-Year Spending Plan*
- ii) Reschedule the next full LDC meeting to Thursday, 29: Mayor's Office Submits Draft Spending Plan for FY'17; 45-day review ends*
- iii) November 18, Budget Workshop*
- iv) December 17, Vote on Response to Budget*

4) Reporting:

- a) Sgt. Alvarez and Det. Woods from the Casino Sub-District were introduced to speak about the CSD and its roles and functions.
  - i) Sgt. Alvarez described the footprint of the CSD's primary patrol area as from Ostend to Bush Street and Wicomico Street to the waterfront.
  - ii) Bill Reuter asked about how the CSD coordinates with the Southern District. Sgt. Alvarez replied that their posts do not overlap but they coordinate on initiatives and support each other particularly in the wider patrol area or "buffer zone" discussed on prior occasions with the LDC. They also coordinate on special initiatives such as investigations in the outer area.
  - iii) Brent Flickinger asked about what types of criminal activity are observed. Sgt. Woods replied they have had an impact in breaking up prostitution and human-trafficking operations (related to the bus station) among other issues.
  - iv) Both officers provided their direct telephone numbers and offered to meet again with LDC representatives for follow-up on any concerns or ongoing issues.

- 5) Clare Elliott, Corporate Engagement Coordinator for Paul's Place, gave a brief presentation and distributed materials on the organization, which is based in Pigtown and is a multi-service provider for residents of Washington Village/Pigtown and the surrounding Southwest Baltimore communities. Clare also announced the Huff & Puff 5K run in Carroll Park, Saturday, November 14 at 12PM (Pig and Wolf costumes encouraged!).

6) Mayor's Office:

- a) Ethan reported briefly on the FY'16 budget, currently with \$6.99 million in Tier 1 and \$2.1 appropriated for Tier 2, noting the LDC will need to assess where the priority spending should be allocated based what funds are likely to be available for Tier 2. The City's Finance Department will likely offer an adjusted projection in January after six months of revenue.
- b) In the interest of time, Sen. Ferguson asked that Ethan skip reporting highlights on FY'16 initiatives and community enhancement projects, but referred LDC members to pages from the PowerPoint presentation included in their packets.

- 7) Senator Ferguson introduced a working session on the Community Benefits District Feasibility Study, for which a request for proposals has been drafted and will be issued by the City in October. Ethan and Brent Flickinger ran the workshop, guiding the LDC members through a series of slides that explain the purpose of the RFP, of the Study and of the District and seeking feedback and from members at key points on these issues. **The following feedback was provided to the "prompts" or questions posed to the LDC:**

- a) *Ideas, questions or comments on the purpose of the RFP?*
  - i) The study needs to explore “what is feasible because of [practices, measures] done elsewhere.”
  - ii) “Don’t spend money unnecessarily” (on research of issues that are not relevant)
- b) *What other ideas exist for the purpose of the study [beyond those listed on the slide]?*
  - i) It should include a level of specificity such as “job descriptions,” resulting in the steps needed to be “all systems go” for the start-up of the District Authority.
  - ii) The Study process must be “participatory” with regular and routine involvement of the LDC and community representatives.
  - iii) It needs to result in a “specific operation plan” and, specifically, a “budget” or various budget scenarios.
  - iv) It needs to provide a “timeline” for implementation or, presumably, alternative timelines and the conditions needed to meet them.
- c) *Questions, comments as the Casino Impact Area [boundary] relates to creation of CBD?*
  - i) There was a discussion as to whether the CBD would serve the whole area at once or in phases.
  - ii) Consensus comments were made about how varied the area is.
- d) *Other ideas for what the Consultant should do?*
  - i) Work through the LDC as the conduit for community input, rather than starting new outreach. “The LDC represents the community.” Community input should be “focused,” using the LDC and neighborhood associations, and rely on documents like the South Baltimore Gateway Master Plan, “not too broad” or starting from scratch.
- e) *Other ideas on a “Vision” for the District?*
  - i) Study should address “how to deal with the diversity [of different characteristics of neighborhoods and geographic areas] within the zone.”
  - ii) Study should assist with “how to determine the appropriate zone boundaries.”
  - iii) Funding should not be “top heavy” on staff salaries [ensuring that funds are available for services and programs that directly benefit communities.]
- f) *What services, functions are envisioned from the list... or “other services and functions”?*
  - i) “Educational development”
  - ii) Refer to the vision statement in the FY’15 Spending Plan
  - iii) Marketing and promotions of communities and commercial areas.
- g) *Project Goals: What’s most important from this list? What’s missing?*
  - i) “Executive Director [and general administration of the CBD] must be independent, fair and impartial,” not subject to patronage or beholden to any particular neighborhood or interest group
  - ii) CBD needs “a conflict of interest policy.”
- h) *Technical Services being sought through the RFP*
  - i) “Local comparisons” to other districts in the city are important.

- ii) The LDC must be the party to evaluate different options.
- iii) Economic and Community Development sub-committee should be the entity to oversee and monitor the work.

8) Public Comment

a) William Marker, Barre Circle:

- i) CBD's activities must be for services "beyond existing City expenditures."
- ii) Another stakeholder group that needs special attention is seniors.
- iii) The study should address whether representation on the CBD should be divided equally by neighborhood or weighted population.
- iv) The leadership ("executive directors") of the existing benefits districts are resources that need to be tapped, and they should be hired or contracted to help plan a district here – rather than hiring an outside consultant.
- v) The seven (7) community representatives on the LDC should form the body/committee overseeing the consultant's work on the CBD study.

b) Jameson Chalmers, Otterbien:

- i) It is important that no new resident taxes be imposed for the operating of the Community Benefits District.

**9) Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM**

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