

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date:	February 18, 2021	(Thursday)
Scheduled Time:	5:30 – 7:00 PM	
Location:	Online (MS Teams)	
Quorum:	Yes	
Attending – LDC Members		
• Adams	Alexandra	Elev8 Baltimore
• Alston	James	Westport
• Brennan	Sandy	Pigtown
• Conroy	Randy	Horseshoe Casino
• Donaldson	Jill	MedStar Harbor Hospital
• Ferguson	Bill	Senate President (46th District), Chair
• Foster	Mark	Second Chance
• Firehock	Chris	Ridgely’s Delight/Barre Circle
• Gervase	Andrew	Sharp-Leadenhall
• Whitmer	Beth	Federal Hill
Attending – Staff		
• Cohen	Ethan	Baltimore City Mayor’s Office
• Flickinger	Brent	Baltimore City Dept of Planning
• McCurdy	Tyler	Senate President’s Office

Note: Agenda for meeting was circulated via email and is included in PowerPoint PRESENTATION (Slide Deck), and is as follows:

- 1) Introductions and Roster of Members
- 2) Background and Timeline
- 3) Review of Revenue Amounts
- 4) Review of Activities
 - a) All years by Master Plan
 - b) Focus on FY20-FY22
 - c) Proposed budget (Draft Spending Plan) for FY22

Minutes of Meeting

- A. Meeting was called to order by Senate President Ferguson at 5:35PM
- B. A quorum (more than 50% of the membership) was determined with ten (10) members in attendance (total membership numbers 15).
- C. Ethan Cohen (staff) gave the presentation (see attached, which was distributed after the meeting), following the agenda above.

Baltimore Casino Local Development Council (LDC)

1. The roster of current members was presented, indicating their affiliations and how long they are eligible to serve, based on when they were first appointed and the LDC's operating procedures, which state members may serve for a maximum of six (6) consecutive 1-year terms. Members may serve again after a break of at least one (1) year, following the term limit.
2. "Background" presentation included a timeline on major milestones since the LDC's formation, including changes in casino operations resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected Local Impact Grant (LIG) revenues for the South Baltimore Casino Impact Area (South Baltimore Gateway).
3. Ethan presented a table showing LIG for South Baltimore since Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15). The table included projections for FY21 (current fiscal year) and FY22 (the year for which a new spending plan must be determined).
 - a) Data shows that FY19 was the "average" per year at \$7M
 - b) Due to COVID's impacts on operations FY20 revenue was \$5.1M; FY21 is projected to be \$6.1M
 - c) For budgeting purposes, the City is using a projected revenue of \$6.9M for FY22.
4. Ethan presented tables showing actual expenditures since the start of the LIG program (FY15), analyzed by Master Plan goal.
5. Ethan presented tables showing actual expenditures by activity (specific projects and programs) for FY20 and FY21, with proposed appropriations for FY22, which include funds that are unspent but encumbered for those activities as "carry forward" for use in FY22. Highlighted projects include:
 - a) "Reimagine Middle Branch" planning process;
 - b) Capital plans for Solo Gibbs Park,
 - c) Efforts to divert and remove "marine trash" from the Middle Branch
 - d) MedStar Harbor Hospital's collaboration with Baltimore City Safe Streets
 - e) Citiwatch CCTV camera expansion projects
 - f) Relocation and construction of the Baltimore City Animal Services facility
 - g) A grant to support B&O Railroad Museum's build-out of facilities for the Baltimore Police Department's Mounted Unit ("First Mile Stable")
 - h) Warner-Stockholm Street reconstruction for entertainment district and expansion of the Gwynns Falls-Middle Branch Trail.
 - i) Efforts of the South Baltimore Employment Connection Center to shift to online-based services during the pandemic.
 - j) Educational programs (Reading Partners and National Aquarium's support for environmental education programs) shift to online services due to COVID-19.

Baltimore Casino Local Development Council (LDC)

- k) Homeless outreach services
 - l) Progress on the Pigtown Weather Sculpture installation.
 - m) Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center –
 - i. \$1M contribution of LIG funds
 - ii. Under construction and scheduled to open in spring of 2022
 - iii. Adjacent Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation-led multi-use sports field planned to open in 2021.
6. Ethan presented the timeline for the LDC's 45-day review period and process for provide comments on the FY22 Spending Plan.

D) Discussion

1. Rand Conroy asked about the allocation for Baltimore Police Department and what the process might be for adjusting it.
2. James Alston asked for a report on the Employment Connection Center's performance.
3. Alexandria Adams asked about how summer work experiences for young people through the YouthWorks program could be made more meaningful (connecting them to experience that is either more related to their career/academic interests and/or to organizations providing services to their communities).
4. James Alston also asked if a template could be provided for individual members to review and provide comments on the budget. Ethan offered to create a survey instrument (tool) for circulating to members and compiling individual responses.

E) Adjourned 7:15PM

Next Meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 18, 2023, also online