

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date:	April 22, 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
• Clippinger	Luke	Delegate (46 th District)
• 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
• Lee	Alvin	Cherry Hill
• Murphy	Michael	South Baltimore Neighborhood Assoc.
• Wells	Melissa	Delegate (40th District)
• Whitmer	Beth	Federal Hill
Attending – Staff		
• Cohen	Ethan	Baltimore City Mayor's Office

Note: Agenda for meeting was circulated via email and is as follows:

1. Review Local Impact Grant uses/criteria and LDC role in allocations
2. Review FY22 Proposed Spending Plan; Discussion
3. Possible options for allocation of surplus funds.
4. (Notice regarding City Ethics Law and required financial disclosure filing was included in email/agenda circulated before the meeting)

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 nine (9) members in attendance (total membership numbers 15).
- C. Senate President Ferguson reminded members of the City Ethics Law's requirement for filing financial disclosures for 2022 (prior year) by April 30.
- D. Sen. Pres. Ferguson reminded members of the LDC's role in reviewing and providing feedback on the Mayor's annual spending plan for use of Casino Local Impact Grant

(LIG) funding dedicated for South Baltimore's Casino Impact Area (aka the South Baltimore Gateway)

- E. Sen. Pres. Ferguson opened the floor for discussion on the FY22 Draft Spending Plan budget:
1. James Alston stated he does not support the allocation of \$600,000 for engineering/design work on the Warner-Stockholm Street improvements, because he views this as diverting funds intended for communities.
 2. Sandy Brennan conveyed she shares this view, adding that while she supports "complete streets" projects and connectivity, she favors making such investments to connect neighborhoods to one another, rather than connecting venues within the Entertainment District (stadiums with casino, e.g.), and that the latter should be funded with other (City, State, or private) resources.
 3. Sen. Pres. Ferguson conveyed his disagreement, noting that the statute governing LIG funds states that economic development and infrastructure projects are included among their intended uses.
 4. James Alston stated that he believes the support for Bureau of Solid Waste has not been effective in working as intended. He advocates for a program that would be community-run (employing local residents and targeting locations priorities identified by communities).
 5. Randy Conroy conveyed that the solid waste collections and enhanced services are not effective, remarking on chronic problems with trash/litter around the casino and the highway entrances into downtown. He offered the casino's help.
 6. Michael Murphy stated that the solar-compacting trash cans are not being maintained well.
 7. There was a general discussion about the allocation for relocating and constructing a new facility for Baltimore City Animal Services (BCAS) with some voicing concern about this budget item.
 - a) Sen. Pres. Ferguson reminded members that the current appropriation is the last installment of a three-year commitment that has already been committed, and that relocating/constructing this facility is part of the economic development strategy for the entertainment district.
 - b) Ethan Cohen noted that the City has needed a new facility for this program for many years, with no resources to fund it, and that the project is receiving cost-sharing (approximately \$7 million) from the sale and development of the waterfront property for Top Golf, which is projected to create several hundred jobs and produce tax revenue for the City (unlike the BCAS facility).
- F. Sen. Pres. Ferguson motioned that members vote on the budget as a "slate" with the exception of line items for Warner-Stockholm Street improvements, Solid Waste Services and BCAS, then voting on each of those items individually.

Baltimore Casino Local Development Council (LDC)

- 1) Vote result for the budget slate minus the three items above were “all in favor” (of the 9 members present).
 - 2) Vote result for Warner-Stockholm Street’s allocation of \$600,000 for engineering design work was: 6 yes (“aye”), 1 abstain (Conroy), and 2 no (“nay”) by Alston and Brennan.
 - 3) Sen. Pres. Ferguson made a motion to split DPW’s allocation for enhanced solid waste services into 50% for the agency and 50% for community-based efforts; all were in favor (9 members present).
 - 4) Vote result for the appropriation of \$3.5 million in FY22 to complete the repayment commitment for a new BCAS facility (bringing the total LIG contribution to \$8.5 million total) was: 7 yes (“aye”), 1 abstain (Conroy), and 1 no (“nay”) by Alston.
- G. Sen. Pres. Ferguson requested that Ethan Cohen (Mayor’s Office) schedule follow-up discussions with LDC members conveying concerns and “no” votes, in particular on developing the community-based sanitation measures.
- H. Sen. Pres. Ferguson led a discussion on priorities for using potential surplus fund balance, resulting in the following list of potential priorities if funds are available:
- 1) Improvements in parks (in collaboration with South Baltimore Gateway Partnership)
 - 2) Expanding accessible broadband services and/or public wifi (such as hot spots planned together with Citiwatch cameras)
 - 3) Managing trash and litter in public areas (in collaboration with South Baltimore Gateway Partnership)
 - 4) Hanover Street (Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial) Bridge – advancing its improvement or replacement.
 - 5) Food access, such as support for Black Yield Institute’s farming project.
 - 6) Social supports for community-serving agencies and organizations.
 - 7) Educational support and enrichment programs.
- I. Sen. Pres. Ferguson recommended the following priorities for available fund balance, which were discussed and generally agreed to: Trash, Parks, Food Access, and advancing the Hanover Street Bridge (Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial Bridge) improvements.
- J. The minutes from the meeting on March 18, 2023, were approved and adopted (motioned by Brennan, seconded by Adams)**
- K. Action item (requested by Sen. Ferguson): Ethan Cohen to draft a memo to the Mayor with the LDC’s recommendations, attaching the minutes of this meeting.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:15PM