

Baltimore Local Development Council Meeting notes
May 3, 2023
Middle Branch Fitness and Wellness Center; virtual option via Teams

Transcribed by Ethan Cohen, edited for clarity by Chris Firehock

Opening 6:40PM

Attending –

LDC members-

- Senate President Bill Ferguson, Chair,
- Del. Melissa Wells,
- Del Luke Clippinger;
- Councilwoman Phylicia Porter,
- Dr. Paula Smith-Benson,
- Sandy Brennan,
- Mark Foster,
- Min. Willie Pack,
- Garrett Schiche,
- Michael Murphy,
- Randy Conroy,
- Alex Adams,
- Jill Donaldson,
- James Alston (via Teams)

Proxies-

- Serena Watters (Phylicia Porter),

Guests-

- Tyler McCurdy (Sen. Ferguson's Office)

Staff –

- Chris Firehock, Mayor's Office of Community and Economic Development
- Ethan Cohen, Mayor's Office of Community and Economic Development

1. Start: Welcome – Bill Ferguson
Introductions
2. Housekeeping- Chris Firehock
 - Operating procedures
 - Appointment letters
3. Ethics reporting- Chris Firehock
 - Required for Financial Disclosure for 2022 filing.
 - Required training for members, waiting on Ethics input.
4. Vice Chair election – Chair Bill Ferguson
 - Nomination of Phylicia Porter by Bill Ferguson
 - Seconded by Luke C

- Approved by acclimation, including James Alston on Teams.
- 5. FY24 Spending Plan Memo – presented by Chris Firehock
 - Discussion followed the spending plan memo presentation.
 - Interest from LDC in more detailed historical data by goal and neighborhood
 - Definition of Fund Balance and carry-forward.
- 6. Review of FY24 budget
- 7. Discuss process for going forward – Wells, Porter
- 8. Discuss projects – Bill F
 - Review projects – Bill F –
 - Transportation 1 – Sandy opposes Warner Street.
 - James Alston echoed that concern.
 - Wells: interested in “equity” for opportunities for jobs; local residents employed on the project.
 - Local employment and MWBE on the contract
 - Q: is project construction subject to MWBE and Local Employment goals
 - Alex – access to employment on Warner St. for youth too
- 9. Review of projects one by one – discussion:
 - Police \$1M
 - Randy – we have increased BPD overtime costs
 - Mike – I like to see this continued; Baltimore Peninsula growth will draw resources / needs from Citywide needs.
 - Homelessness –
 - Discussion – Sandy: I’d like to make this a priority.
 - Paula – I’d like to contribute to this.

Next steps –

Bill: How we will follow up

- Form will be circulated. Members provide feedback on individual budget items. We will analyze results and identify areas where members are interested in following up with deeper dive on specific allocations.
- Google (Microsoft Forms) sheet – Porter would like to be copied on the results of raw data. Chris- we’ll make that happen.
- Discussion –
 - Garrett -- Where’s the opportunity for feedback? Is it real given how late this is in the City’s budget process.
 - Others – we can focus earlier on FY25.
 - Ethan we can be thinking about multi-year commitments and plans; plus planning for mid-year allocations or adjustments to the budget after closeout of FY23 as of June 30.
 - Garrett – let’s think about how we can maybe have bigger investments (spread less thin).

Adjourn – 8:25PM