

Baltimore Local Development Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Meeting held Saturday, January 30, 2016, 10:00AM – 12:00PM  
MedStar Harbor Hospital – Baum Auditorium  
3001 S. Hanover Street, Baltimore, MD 21225

**Attendance:**

LDC Members: Keisha Allen, Del. Luke Clippinger, Alex Dixon, Sen. Bill Ferguson (Chair), Pastor Alvin Gwynn, Del. Antonio Hayes, Jill Johnson, Alvin Lee, Rufus Lusk (for Beth Whitmer), Richard Parker, Bill Reuter, Garrett Schiche, Wayne Vance

(Absent: Len Bush, Andrew Gervase)

*Quorum Present: Yes*

City/Agency Representatives: Ethan Cohen (Project Coordinator); Daniel Baldwin and Davi Peterson, Mayor's Office of Employment Development.

Public: Ben Hyman (Pigtown Main Street), William Marker (Barre Circle Community Association), Michael Middleton (Cherry Hill Community Coalition)

**Proceedings:**

- 1) The Chair Senator Ferguson called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. welcoming members, City agency representatives and the public, and announced this as the first official meeting of the 2016 Baltimore Local Development Council (LDC). Sen. Ferguson acknowledged new members Delegate Antonio Hayes, Alvin Lee and Jill Johnson and thanked Jill Johnson for hosting the meeting at MedStar Harbor Hospital.
- 2) Sen. Ferguson announced the need to elect of a Vice Chair. Nominations were requested, and Pastor Gwynn nominated Richard Parker. With no opposition, the vote approving Richard Parker as Vice Chair was unanimous.
- 3) Sen. Ferguson requested a vote to approve the minutes from the meeting on November 30, 2015, which included results of a vote on the FY'17 Spending Plan taken by email on December 16, 2015. The vote to approve the minutes was moved by Gwynn, seconded by Delegate Luke Clippinger, with all in favor.
- 4) Meetings and Committees:
  - a) Chair presented the meetings schedule for the year. Meetings are scheduled quarterly in January, April, July and October to review reports on Local Impact Grant (LIG) spending by the City. Other meetings in November and December are for review of the FY'18 Spending Plan prior to year-end. Committees will meet between quarterly meetings of the full LDC to review current initiatives and plan for FY'18.
  - b) Chair presented committee assignments with changes from 2015: Bill Reuter will chair Sanitation, Transportation & Infrastructure (STI); Antonio Hayes will chair Public Safety and Services (PSS); Keisha Allen moves from PSS to STI; Alex Dixon moves from PSS to Economic & Community Development (ECD); Jill Johnson joins PSS; Alvin Lee joins ECD.
  - c) Chair encouraged committees to coordinate regular meeting dates and times with Richard Parker (Vice Chair) and Ethan Cohen (Project Coordinator).
  - d) Ethan Cohen stated the need for committees to help refine and provide feedback on proposed initiatives in the FY'17 Spending Plan, as well as providing guidance to

agencies and partners on initiatives already funded. A table of the nine “goals” from the Master Plan shows which fall under each committee’s purview (three per committee).

5) Old Business: FY’17 Spending Plan

- a) Ethan presented a summary of the FY’17 Spending Plan, highlighting some new initiatives that are part of a total budget of \$11.35 million. There was a brief discussion of the Health Department’s proposed food access plan. Members would like to see more clarity and accountability on what is being funded and what are the intended outcomes.
- b) Ethan described that the LIG fund, though separate from the general fund, is included in the City’s budgeting process. The preliminary budget is due to the Department of Finance in February and must be finalized by the end of March for City Council hearings in April. The Council votes on the budget in June.

6) Reporting on Current Year Second Quarter Spending

- a) Ethan presented data on LIG revenue, which indicate that the Tier 1 budget will likely be met. The state’s estimate from September projected \$7.2M (Tier 1 budget is \$6.9M). Based on a strong fall, LIG funds may exceed \$7.2M, and December VLT revenue was 19% higher than the average for FY’16. Committees will be asked to make recommendations for Tier 2 funding priorities.
- b) Ethan then presented the second quarter “dashboard” on current spending. He reported that savings are occurring in the maintenance on CitiWatch cameras and in traffic safety operations. The Complete Streets Plan’s inventory phase started in fall and meetings to report back to community groups started in late January (2016). Approval will be sought for Tier 2 funding for the Parking Study, which DOT will present to the STI committee in February. The discussion that followed included feedback and questions on these items:
  - i) DOT Traffic Division – consider funding speed cameras with surplus funding.
  - ii) Fire/Medic – determine timeframe for hiring more full-time EMS workers.
  - iii) DPW Bureau of Solid Waster – monitor what is being funded and determine if the service delivery is meeting what has been budgeted for.
- c) Ethan reported on the start-up of the Community Benefits District Feasibility Study. The team led by Valbridge Property Advisers began in earnest January 6 and has met once with the Steering Committee (ECD Committee) on January 28. The project has a six-month timeframe.
- d) Ethan reported on Community Enhancement Projects. The chair reiterated the need to “brand” and promote these projects.

7) Agency reports:

- a) Police Department crime statistics report for October-December 2015 was distributed.
- b) Report by Employment Connection Center staff Daniel Baldwin and Davi Peterson:

- i) Outcomes of the Center are strong and growing – walk-in customers; numbers of customers trained and placed in jobs is increasing; outreach to and requests for placements with employers are increasing.
- ii) Project JumpStart training is facing difficulty in recruiting students from the catchment area. There have been nine (9) graduates so far; there is a budget for 30 slots by the end of 2016; only one (1) new student is enrolled for the January-April session.
- iii) Discussion:
  - (1) Chair requested to know what are the barriers to finding more candidates for JumpStart program.
  - (2) Pastor Gwynn asked how the LDC can help in the marketing.
  - (3) Garrett Schiche suggested the ECC work with the Baltimore Station.
  - (4) Alex Dixon asked what are the metrics for success of the ECC and can we justify growing the budget if those are unclear. Davi Peterson responded that growing the staff will allow for more outreach work in the community; that with 3.5 personnel it is difficult to cover staffing the center if even one person is out in the community. Michael Middleton echoed this need – more funding is needed for MOED staff to be out in the community recruiting prospective jobseekers to take advantage of these programs.
  - (5) Keisha Allen suggested we could be more creative in promoting the work of the ECC, and the LDC/LIG funds in general, through social media campaigns; possibly TV or radio commercials.

#### 8) Public Comment

- a) William Marker expressed concern that the Steering Committee for the Community Benefits District should be more representative of neighborhood organizations and community residents.

#### 9) Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM

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