

Baltimore Local Development Council
Meeting Minutes
Meeting held Thursday, July 28, 2016, 6:30PM – 8:30PM
Baltimore City Department of Planning
417 E. Fayette Street, Baltimore, MD 21202

Attendance:

LDC Members:

Keisha Allen, Sen. Bill Ferguson (Chair), Michael Costa (Proxy for Garrett Schiche), Andrew Gervase, Alvin Lee, Beth Whitmer, Richard Parker, Wayne Vance, Alvin Gwynn, Jr., *Quorum Present: Yes*

City/Agency Representatives:

- Ethan Cohen – Mayor’s Office of Economic and Neighborhood Development (END)
- Sara Paraniyam – Department of Planning
- Eric Costello – City Council
- Lt. Steven Bagshaw, Det. Alan Woods – Baltimore Police Department (BPD)
- Joseph Carella – Mayor’s Office of Information Technology
- Laura Flamm – Health Department

Public/Guests:

- Tom Cassella, Horseshoe Casino

Proceedings:

- 1) Senator Ferguson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. welcoming members, City agency representatives and the public. LDC members introduced themselves.
- 2) Minutes from the LDC meeting on April 28, 2016, were approved unanimously. (Motedioned by Vance, seconded by Gervase)
- 3) Committee reports:
 - a) Public Safety and Services –
 - i) Senator Ferguson directed members’ attention to the neighborhood crime statistics report from Baltimore Police Department comparing the second quarters of 2015 and 2014. Lieutenant Bagshaw was asked to comment on any trends and take questions. He responded that figures for 1500 Russell Street include arrests inside the casino and garage, and that some increases are indicative of police arresting people for fights; this appears under common assaults and typically involves at least two people being arrested. Incidence of robbery and burglary is up in many neighborhoods here as around the City, but BPD has made arrests of some groups of young people involved targeting certain neighborhoods for theft.
 - ii) Richard Parker reported that the committee has been working with Lt. Bagshaw on a proposal to fund additional, dedicated patrols in neighborhoods near the casino and sub-district. The Mayor’s office is currently working to obtain approval for using Tier 2 funding for this purpose.
 - b) Community and Economic Development Committee –
 - i) Alvin Lee reported that the committee was focused on work with the Valbridge team on completing the Community Impact District Feasibility Study, delivered at the end of June.
 - c) Sanitation, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee --

(Continued)

- d) Beth Whitmer reported that the committee had discussed their disappointment with the draft Complete Streets Plan. She stated a group from Federal Hill had reviewed it and submitted detailed comments to the Department of Transportation. Senator Ferguson echoed Beth's view and urged members and community groups to submit comments by the deadline, so that DOT and its consultants would be on notice of the community's concerns.
- 4) Ethan Cohen reported on year-end revenue and Local Impact Grant (LIG) funds received, approaching \$7.6 million. He presented the FY'17 Spending Plan "dashboard" on expenditures.
- 5) Following his presentation of the dashboard and discussion of some of the projects, Ethan presented a set of proposed allocations for "Tier 2" and surplus funding. This included new items recommended by the Public Safety and Services committee, such as support for additional police patrols and educational and workforce collaborations proposed by the Southwest Partnership. It also included funding for an anti-homelessness initiative with the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services. In addition the budget presented included \$30,000 additional for the pool of Food Access Grants being distributed by the Health Department.
 - a) Pastor Gwynn started the discussion to question how we develop projects, whether they are "agency driven" or developed with outside input. For instance, on homelessness, he cited that the United Way and The Baltimore Station are located within the Casino Impact Area and could be approached as partners on coming up with a plan to address the problem. Ethan commented that MOHS recommended working with People Encouraging People to expand the outreach and case management services they currently provide in the CIA; however the City is open to working with the LDC and local organizations, including churches, to come up with a different plan that might serve as a pilot to be tested here and then replicated elsewhere. Pastor Gwynn and Ethan will follow up.
 - b) Richard Parker stated that a more detailed budget breakdown was needed before the LDC should consider approving the allocations.
 - c) Senator Ferguson requested that Ethan develop and circulate more clearly defined proposals with budget items from Tier 2 priorities and any recommendations from the committees.
 - d) Subsequent to the meeting a revised budget for Tier 2 and surplus funds was circulated. This was approved by members of the LDC. Voting affirmatively were: Allen, Ferguson, Gervase, Gwynn, Hayes, Parker, Reuter, Vance and Whitmer (nine votes). This budget incorporated feedback from the meeting and the priorities of the PSS Committee.
- 6) Ethan presented again the final version of the FY'17 Spending Plan and highlighted some new initiatives for which plans were already underway, as well as some re-appropriation of FY'16 funds.
 - a) Still cameras were purchased using surplus funds for maintenance on Citiwatch Cameras—for use by Code Enforcement's legal division to tackle illegal dumping. Ethan offered to circulate information on the program for input on other locations that should be monitored.
 - b) Laura Flamm of the Baltimore City Health Department's Baltimarket Program presented the LIG-funded initiatives that implement the City's Food Access strategies in the CIA. This included awards of grants to 10 organizations (pending funding approval of an additional \$30,000) for various projects from community gardens, to farmers markets to cooking classes.
 - i) Senator Ferguson motioned to support the additional funding, seconded by Pastor Gwynn.
 - ii) Laura reported on the expansion of the Virtual Supermarket program to Hanover Square senior apartments in Otterbein, which has been one of the most successful locations and

was made possible with the LIG funding. She reported that this has caused BCHD to rethink its income-based criteria for “food deserts” in determining sites for the program; Hanover Square is an example of lower-income residents in a higher-income census tract, yet with limited food-purchase options.

- iii) Keisha Allen and Pastor Gwynn cited potential sites for the Virtual Supermarket program at Westport Homes and 911 W. Hamburg Street senior apartment building.
 - iv) Andrew Gervase asked about providing transportation to brick-and-mortar stores. Laura said that the program sometimes provides travel to let participants visit the stores that are supplying the deliveries. Generally, this falls under the work of the Department of Planning in its Food Access Plan; Planning is working on a transportation study related to food access and advising on the MTA’s Baltimore LINKS plan.
 - v) Keisha asked about developing new brick-and-mortar stores in the Impact Area. Laura reported that is also part of the deliverables and a citywide plan that BCHD is working on with Baltimore Development Corporation – to retain and attract more grocery stores.
 - c) Joe Carella reported on progress for expanding City conduit and fiber-optic cable in the CIA. The plan includes build-out areas in Westport, Pigtown and Ridgely’s Delight, which will facilitate expanding the Citiwatch camera network. Initial cost estimates appear to be in line with the amount budgeted for FY’17 (\$500,000), which may allow for additional runs to other community assets, such as the Washington Village branch library, Westport Boys and Girls Club building, the Lakeland Recreation Center and the Middle Branch Park boathouse. MOIT continues to seek more information and will report back in the next month with cost estimates and recommendations for phasing, if needed.
- 7) Ethan reported that the final version of the study on the Community Impact District was presented at the end of June and had been distributed via email to LDC members in July, and that the Mayor introduced a City Enabling Ordinance creating the district in June.
- a) Ethan directed members to review an excerpt of the study in their packets – Chapter 8 on Next Steps, which outlined the timeline and key milestones that need to happen once the enabling ordinance passes (expected before the end of August).
 - b) Ethan noted that under the City ordinance all members of the LDC who are not elected officials serve “ex officio” as full voting members of the CID’s Board of Directors. This comes with no term lengths or limits. As ex officio members, they serve on the CID Board so long as they are active LDC members in good standing.
 - c) Senator Ferguson urged members to consider the duties of being on both bodies and report to Ethan if they wish to step off the LDC or designate a proxy to serve on their behalf on the CID Board. Proxies must be approved, particularly now as the CID Board has requirements for representation from different geographic sectors of the Casino Impact Area.
 - d) In order to meet the timelines and milestones required by the law, Ethan announced he had requested a proposal for additional consulting services by Brad Rogers of Advanced Placemaking, who was part of the Valbridge Team and was most involved in drafting the legislation and bylaws. Ethan noted that Joe Cronyn of Valbridge was retiring and gave his approval for the City and LDC to engage Brad without going through Valbridge.
 - i) The proposed services would be billed hourly and procured as needed to facilitate the start-up of the CID. The consultant would work on tasks approved by the Mayor’s Office with

input from the LDC and the CID Board once it was formed. Funding for the contract is available from what was budgeted for the CID start-up in FY'16.

- ii) As an aside, Alvin Lee remarked that the creation of the CID would be a valuable opportunity to begin to make funds available for grants to organizations; this would enable the public to more directly see the casino LIG funding at work. Ethan responded that there is an appropriation in the FY'17 Spending Plan for "grants to neighborhood associations." However, the challenge currently is figuring out how to disburse and contract for these funds, and to perform monitoring on myriad small grants, something that might be better handled by the CID. Nonetheless, Ethan said that this is something the Mayor's Office would look into prior to the set-up of the CID.
 - iii) In the discussion of the proposal, Alvin Lee asked if the hourly rate was competitive. Ethan said that he would check the original proposal by Valbridge's team to see if hourly rates were provided. Richard Parker suggested checking with Southwest Partnership for consulting rates and other candidates, while acknowledging that Brad has the requisite knowledge of this situation and can therefore act quickly to help with start-up of the CID.
 - iv) As members generally seemed to be of the opinion that more information was needed, Senator Ferguson outlined three possible actions:
 - (1) Issue an informal bid request as offered by Ethan if other candidates could be identified;
 - (2) Hire Advanced Placemaking based on the proposal;
 - (3) Request more information of Advanced Placemaking and then decide.
 - v) Subsequent to the meeting, Ethan requested more information and a revised proposal containing greater detail on potential tasks and an upside/not-to-exceed estimate for time and expense. This proposal was circulated to LDC members and approved. Voting affirmatively were: Allen, Bush, Dixon, Ferguson, Gervase, Johnson, Reuter, Vance and Whitmer (nine votes). The City issued a Professional Services Contract to Advance Placemaking, under which work began in September.
- 8) The process for issuing the FY'18 Spending Plan was discussed and a workshop was announced tentatively for September 22nd. Subsequent to the meeting that date was canceled. The PSS and STI Committees met in August and September with a focus on start-up of new initiatives, which will inform the FY'18 plan. The CED committee did not meet over the summer; however Ethan continued working with agencies and partners involved in projects under that committee's purview – BDC, BOPA, MOED and Recreation – to define and implement programs from the FY'17 Spending Plan. Engaging Advanced Placemaking on start-up measures for the CID was another area of focus.

9) With no Public Comment, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

10) Next meeting(s):

- a) Committees meet at standing times: PSS on second Wednesdays, STI on third Wednesdays, CED on fourth Thursdays.
- b) Full LDC scheduled for Thursday, October 27, 2016, subsequently rescheduled to Tuesday, November 1, 2016.
- c) Wednesday, November 16, 2016 – Hold for budget work session on FY'18 Spending Plan.

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