



Economic Development Advisory Board Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Via Webex

Board Members Present

Chris Brandt
Cale Christensen
Renee Christoff
Jeffrey Morgan
Robert Dashiell
Mike Donilon
Scott Dorsey
Nakeia Drummond

Pete Forakis
Suzy Ganz
Anna Maria-Palmer
Jeffrey Morgan
Donna Stevenson
Carla Nelson-Chambers
Scott Phillips
Lori Robinson

Timmy Ruppertsberger
Jason St. John
Donna Stevenson
Aaron Tomarchio
Ali Von Paris
Jon Vontran
Marcus Wang
Jason Weiner

Board Members Absent

Lee Coplan
Nigel Knowles
Rodney Oddoye
Eileen Rivera Ley
Marcus Stephens

Guests in attendance

Justin Harrison
George Mayo
Tom Whedbee

Staff in attendance

County Executive John Olszewski, Jr
Carol Brooks
Katie Ciarrochi
Lauren Coleman
Todd Dolbin
Katie Fleming
Leonard Howie

Stan Jacobs
Rick Johnson
Steve Lafferty
Amy Mantay
Leighton McPhaull
Jessica Normington
Ngone Seye Diop

Samantha O'Neil
Josephine Selvakumar
Sara Trenergy
Kimberly Routson
Drew Vetter
Britney Victorine

Call to order and Introductions

Board Chair Marcus Wang called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Marcus thanked everyone for their service during the 2021 year, and introduced County Executive Olszewski.

County Executive Olszewski thanked the Advisory Board & DEWD staff for their dedication and spoke briefly about several upcoming projects including the BMW distribution center at Sparrows Point. The County Executive provided an updated on countywide vaccination status and the continued success of rapid test distribution. Executive Olszewski announced that he's looking forward to distributing the \$160 Million awarded to Baltimore County as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. He discussed the County's intention to streamline the procurement process and announced that the Efficiency Audit is currently underway and will improve quality of service. The County continues to work through the 2030 Master plan, and the County Executive thanked the Board & Staff for joining today to assist in the process.

DEWD Director, Leonard Howie, introduced the newly-established Agricultural Subcommittee, comprised of members of the Advisory Board & special invited guests. The Subcommittee will focus on defining agricultural services, present issues, and how to better serve the agricultural sector as a critical economic component. County Executive Olszewski announced that an additional agricultural liaison will be added to staff & ARPA support has been designated to assist in reimagining the County's agricultural sector in the years ahead.

Master Plan 2030 Presentation

Director Lafferty provided a brief overview of the of the 2030 Master Plan and Amy Mantay, proceeded to the presentation of the input and feedback received for the 2030 Master Plan. For more information on the Master Plan [click here](#).

Feedback

Draft Goal 1: *Utilize land use policies and innovative strategies to support redevelopment and reinvestment in commercial corridors and aged industrial sites.*

- Safety Concerns
 - Rising concern in Baltimore county on crime – what is perceived vs. what is actually happening
 - What can the Board do to help change the perception?
 - Suggested to structure next meeting on public safety
 - Chief Hyatt to provide more detailed response to what is happening in the County
 - BCStat offer statistics on crime
 - Invite Business owners to discuss their concern
- Strategic real-estate utilization

Draft Goal 2: *Create equitable workforce development strategies that anticipate and prepare workers for economic needs and changes.*

- Refining interdepartmental communication & messaging to address needs
- Continuing to incentivize the relocation of businesses & employees

Draft Goal 3: *Grow, and promote the County's tourist attractions to make it the leading tourist area in the region.*

- Strategic Real-Estate Utilization
- Marketing & Branding Campaign
 - Potential for Additional Staff
 - Fostering positive messaging & media relationships
- Fostering Unique County Experiences and Opportunities for Engagement
 - ANNIE designation in Catonsville
 - Tourism reboot in progress

Draft Goal 4: *Dismantle barriers and expand opportunities for low-income people and communities of color.*

- Disparities in Community Investment
 - Adopted CEDS initiative in coordination with Planning

Overall Themes:

- Crime and Safety are major concerns for the Board – this impacts quality of life and recruitment
- Liberty Road Revitalization (Security Woodlawn too)
- Assistance with out-of-state recruitment
- Promotion of Quality of Life to change national perceptions
- Create an investment fund for County to purchase land
- Tourism – more events, restaurants, festivals and promote! Better website for Tourism as well

Closing Remarks - Marcus Wang, Chair

The Board recognized Guinness for celebrating one million visitors to their Baltimore County location.

The Next Economic Development Advisory Board meeting will be in May, date TBD. Meeting ended at 3:35 pm

Congratulations went to Jason St. John for becoming principal of Saul Ewing.