

Task Force on the Future for Growth and Development in Maryland
January 28th, 2008 / 12:00 PM – 3:00PM
Banneker-Douglass Museum
Annapolis, Maryland

Meeting Summary

Attendance

Members: Jon Laria (Chair), David Beall, Derick Berlage, Jerry Boden (for Asuntha Chiang-Smith), Karl Brendle, David Carey, Virginia Clagett, Sandy Coyman, Jan Gardner, Carol Gilbert, Teena Green, Richard Hall, Frank Hertsch, Brigid Kenney, Gerrit Knaap, Caitlin Rayman, Dru Schmidt-Perkins

Attendees: Marty Baker (MDOT), Michelle Cyprese (Office of Hon. Joan Carter), Candace Donoho (MML), Jen Haley (Office of Delegate Lafferty), Katie Maloney (MD State Builders), Marsha Tracy (Office of Delegate Lafferty), Tim Wheeler (Baltimore Sun)

MDP Staff: Amanda Conn, John Coleman, David Costello, Nicole Diehlmann, Mark Goldstein, Don Halligan, Jocelyn Harris, Jenny King, Linda Janey, Nery Morales, Eric Schmitt

Welcome & Introductions

Mr. Laria welcomed Task Force members, attendees, and staff, and introductions were made by all. Mr. Laria thanked Task Force members for their participation and anticipated commitment to the Task Force's effort and made opening comments.

Initial Goals

As requested by the Chair, each Task Force Member briefly described what they hoped the Task Force would achieve. Answers included the following:

- Encourage and target BRAC growth as smart growth within Priority Funding Areas along with areas that need to be revitalized.
- Help Maryland "grow green" by using the latest energy efficiency.
- Develop a strategy to educate planners, builders, developers and local officials on the principals and foundation of smart growth, and create the political will to pursue smart growth.
- Create a break-through mechanism that would allow all of Maryland's stakeholders with self interest to give up some of their particular interest and support the greater goal of Maryland.
- Develop some meaningful incentives for the redevelopment of Maryland's urban areas.
- Craft proposals that would foster regional planning and ensure implementation.

- Work on the reuse of Maryland’s lands and forge a working relationship between municipalities and counties.
- Focus on the importance of farms and agricultural land, so that necessary growth is balanced with preservation.
- Develop intentional and specific strategies for workforce housing and the revitalization of older communities.
- Provide a balanced opinion to accommodating growth and preserving land that people will view not as giving up, but gaining.
- Concentrate on the problem of water and water resources and quantity and quality and using water resources as a “carrot” to affect behavior.
- Resolve conflicts among smart growth, density, and preservation.
- Address problems of a master planning process that provides a map, but no infrastructure to properly support development.
- Address failure to commit sufficient funds to improve school capacity.
- Identify funding mechanisms for infrastructure and for agriculture.
- Avoid talking merely as representatives of interests.
- Better integrate transportation with land use and environmental planning.
- Make a better Maryland and develop better utilized comprehensive plans.
- Incentivize integration of state transportation planning with local priorities.
- Look for win-win opportunities and flexible approaches.
- We must not only agree on a plan, but also move to implement it.
- Identify sustainable processes and best practices that can withstand political changes or the next election.
- Identify better coordination/collaboration practices within and outside of government.
- Identify ongoing technical resources to assist government agencies and educate the public about the benefits and need for sustainable growth?

Designees

Mr. Laria advised that the Task Force’s enabling statute does not contemplate designees or substitutes for members other than as specifically provided for in the statute. Accordingly, designees or substitutes are welcome to attend meetings, but will not be able to participate as full members. Moreover, in view of limited time and a broad charge, it is important for Task Force members to participate as actively as possible.

Public Forum

The Task Force is subject to the State’s open meetings laws and related rules. Each agenda will provide an opportunity for public comment and members of the public are always encouraged to submit comments in writing to the Chair, c/o the Maryland Department of Planning.

Review of Agenda & Statutory Charge

A draft Work Plan outlining all the meetings for this year was distributed and discussed.

Logistics

During the Legislative Session, meetings will be held at the Banneker-Douglass Museum, and thereafter at the MDP offices in Baltimore.

The discussion of local planning issues scheduled for February will be moved to March, and the initial discussion of the State Development Plan parameters will be in February instead.

Discussion

The Task Force discussed how best to handle each statutory charge, including the possibility of using smaller work groups.

Presentations

Don Halligan , MDP Assistant Secretary, gave a presentation titled “Planning 101”.

MDP Secretary Hall gave a presentation titled “Maryland Land Use: Growth and Trends”.

Mark Goldstein, MDP Staff Economist, gave a presentation titled “Maryland Demographics 101”.

These presentations are on the Future Growth and Development website:
http://www.mdp.state.md.us/future_growth.html.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 PM.
