

# **Task Force on the Future for Growth and Development in Maryland**

**April 19, 2010, /1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**The Maryland Department of Planning**

**Baltimore, Maryland**

## **Meeting Summary**

*Members:* Jon Laria, Derick Berlage, David Carey, Sandy Coyman, John Dillman, Jan Gardner, Carol Gilbert, Richard Hall, Don Halligan, Frank Hertsch, Brigid Kenney, Gerrit Knaap, Dru Schmidt-Perkins

*Attendees:* Marty Baker, Jamie Bridges, Candace Donoho, John Papagni, Kevin Baynes, Les Knapp

*MDP Staff:* Amanda Conn, Peter Conrad, Nicole Diehlmann, Rich Josephson, Jenny King, Shannon Marino, Matt Power, Andy Ratner, Sharon Reichlyn, Shelley Wasserman

### **Welcome/Administrative Matters**

The Chair, Jon Laria, opened the meeting at 1:15 p.m., welcoming everyone back after a long Session. He noted that the Task Force as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 will be known as The Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission and through now until July, we will be working on a potential transition.

Mr. Laria discussed how the Task Force can prepare for transitioning to the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission. Moving forward there is one more meeting left for the Task Force to meet before it becomes a Commission. Mr. Laria would like the members of the Task Force to express their interest in continuing their membership.

### **PlanMaryland Update**

Mr. Josephson discussed that since he last updated the Task Force, MDP has received information and feedback from the forums. Mr. Josephson provided everyone with new PlanMaryland promotional material. He noted that there has been a great turn out at the forums. Depending on which county the forum was in, the most important visions of the Twelve Visions passed during the 2009 Legislative Session were different. He shared some of the comments received from attendees at each forum.

Mr. Josephson explained there are a number of different ways MDP is reaching out to people about the PlanMaryland forums- emails to many different organizations, advertisement on different websites, local planning offices, colleges, ads in the local papers, and some local press.

Mr. Josephson said, we are not only using these forums to get the word out about PlanMaryland, but we are attending other local organizations events, and conferences.

Mr. Josephson thanked all of the State agencies for their participation and he noted he has seen Task Force members at the forums.

Mr. Laria asked, what is the best role for the Task Force to interact because the Task Force is a valuable resource? Mr. Josephson responded that continued of support and feedback from this group is valuable and that seeing more members at the forums would be good. He noted the importance for the members of the Task Force to come and listen to what people are talking about. Once we get past stage 1 of introducing PlanMaryland we will need the Task Force during the strategy/recommendation stage.

### 2010 Legislative Debrief

Mr. Hall was pleased to announce that there were two important Smart, Green and Growing bills in the 2010 General Assembly session for the future of growth, development and sustainability in Maryland. MDP joins its community of partners, advocates and stakeholders in implementing the Sustainable Communities Act of 2010 (House Bill 475) and supporting the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission (House Bill 474).

Ms. Conn thanked everyone in the room for their support during the 2010 Session. She then briefed everyone about the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission. As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010, the Commission will be made up of 36 members. Membership changes increase the geographic reach of the Commission and its representation among sustainability interests. The bill states that this Commission will exist for a period of 10 years.

Mr. Power introduced the Sustainable Communities Act of 2010 which provides the tools necessary to spur reinvestment in Maryland's valuable existing communities. He thanked the Task Force for their support and noted that because of their help it was a big success. This law authorizes designation of targeted areas as Sustainable Communities and makes them eligible for the State's smart growth programs. It transforms a popular and proven revitalization tax credit program to be the Sustainable Communities Tax Credit Program.

Ms. Gilbert explained how DHCD has new target areas and which will be shared for sister agencies. She also noted that they are working hard with agency partners to move it forward.

Mr. Halligan said MDOT's frustration has been continued inability to coordinate our investments collectively; however this bill will help MDOT coordinate its investments. MDOT will provide broad priority towards targeted sustainable communities. Mr. Halligan noted as money is restored from the federal government MDOT will be better positioned in targeting sustainable communities.

## State Agency/Workgroup Work Plans

### Revitalization Workgroup

Ms. Gilbert went over the “Sustainable Maryland Work Plan” matrix. She briefly updated the Task Force about the workgroup’s goal to attract and sustain private investment in revitalization areas and projects.

She discussed about how we should use Maggie McIntosh’s letter to the Task Force as a tool. The letter states, the Environment Matters Committee held a public hearing on HB 474, which establishes the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission. At the public hearing, questions relating to tax increment financing districts (TIFs) were raised. Therefore, the committee respectfully requested that the Task Force on the Future Growth and Development in Maryland consider both the positive aspects and the negative aspects of TIFs during its 2010 agenda. Additionally, the committee requested the Task Force findings relating to TIFs be reported to the House Environmental Matters Committee by December 31, 2010.

### Indicators Workgroup

Mr. Coyman explained because of the passage of bills during the 2009 Legislative Session the Task Force was required to make further recommendations on additional measures and indicators.

Mr. Coyman said the workgroup is pursuing a process to test the indicators presented on the “List of Potential Smart Growth Indicators.” The workgroup has enlisted the help of a technical team to complete an assessment of the indicators on the “List of Potential Smart Growth Indicators”. The group met on April 8, 2010 and discussed the background and key mission of the technical team. They also discussed some broad issues with the list of indicators and each group member was assigned specific indicators to test.

Mr. Coyman said the next meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2010. By then group members will give a status report on the indicators and present preliminary findings. Also the technical review group will give a progress report to the Task Force in June, 2010.

### Education Workgroup

Mr. Conrad reminded the Task Force that during the 2009 Legislative Session the Maryland General Assembly now requires local jurisdiction’s Planning Commission and Board of Appeals members to complete an education course on or before July 1, 2010. The Education workgroup developed a set of recommendations for content, format and length to guide MDP in the development of the course.

Mr. Conrad noted as of mid-March 250 users had registered, 75 had completed the course and an additional 43 were being verified. In addition, several jurisdictions requested hard copies of the training course. There have been discussions between MDP, MML, and local governments to provide in person training before the July 1 deadline and possibly during the MML Conference

in June. The workgroup has made additional recommendations for mechanisms to bring the education course out to Planning Commission and Board of Appeals members.

Mr. Conrad explained in regards to smart growth education the work group is continuing to look beyond the audience of Planning Commission and Board of Appeals members. Mr. Conrad said the workgroup has been researching and reviewing existing videos about smart growth and planning issues. The development of a Maryland educational video will require the identification of the resources to make it happen.

Mr. Conrad explained that some of the 2010 plans were to assist the Maryland Department of Planning in its efforts to expand the opportunities for classroom setting for the existing education course; contact organizations that offer continuing education opportunities for elected officials; complete the inventory of existing training courses; determine the most viable option for development of a smart growth curriculum; and frame an overall smart growth marketing campaign.

#### TDR/Land Preservation Work Group

Mr. Dillman explained that the workgroup is focusing on two avenues- TDRs and land preservation. He noted that the report issued to the Task Force in the summer 2009 was an initial draft on TDRs and that the TDR work is still ongoing.

The land preservation focus of the workgroup is looking at strengthening existing programs, funding and educational awareness among others.

He noted that he had invited Jim Conrad to the workgroup's next meeting.

Ms. Schmidt-Perkins noted that the document submitted for today's meeting was still a working document and therefore not final.

Mr. Laria asked if the group can examine leveraging private resources.

#### PFA Workgroup

Mr. Knaap explained that the workgroup has been wrestling with different approaches. He noted that the workgroup plans to issue an interim report about PFA issues to report to the Task Force and seek feedback.

#### Conflicts/Inefficiencies Workgroup

Mr. Hertsch noted that the last time the Task Force met a survey was distributed for comments. Since then the survey has not been sent out and the workgroup's status is unchanged since the last meeting.

State Agencies

Mr. Hall discussed the 2010 Census and explained that this Friday was the last day to send back your Census form. The Maryland return rates are better from the 2000 Census count.

Mr. Halligan noted that since the last meeting, there has been record breaking snow falls which has impacted our budget tremendously. Mr. Halligan explained several key transportation related bills from the 2010 Session.

Ms. Gilbert discussed the foreclosure mediation bill.

Ms. Kenney gave a brief update since the Stormwater Management Forum, which was held on January 15, 2010 about the recent developments related to the 2007 Stormwater bill.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

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