

2017

Report of the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission

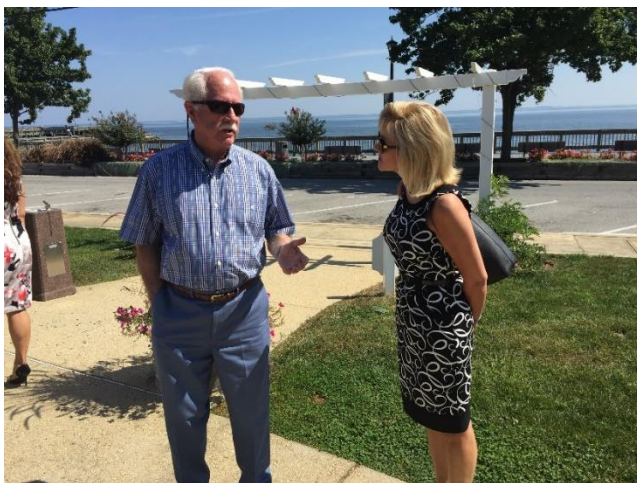


The Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission

Established by the Maryland General Assembly, the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission makes recommendations on growth and development issues and celebrates smart growth achievements throughout the state. Commission members, who represent state and local government, business, and nonprofit organizations, consider how to improve Maryland's implementation of laws and regulations concerning growth and development. Commission members also promote planning coordination and interjurisdictional cooperation.



With several new members to the Growth Commission, the work of the commission this year was focused on learning first-hand about the growth challenges facing local governments, particularly in the rural parts of Maryland. This focus was strengthened by holding the bi-monthly meetings in different areas of the state, during which local officials were provided an opportunity to present their successes and challenges. Besides the meetings in Annapolis during session, these meetings were held in Frederick, Somerset, Worcester, Calvert and Howard counties.



The Commission's Reinvest Maryland Workgroup led the effort to update the *2014 Reinvest Maryland: Accelerating Infill, Redevelopment & Community Revitalization* report, identifying how state and local governments can work together to spur reinvestment into our existing communities. In September, the Commission endorsed the text and recommendations for a Reinvest Maryland 2.0 document, which is designed to be user friendly and a practical guide to promoting reinvestment. The publication of

the new report and associated interactive website is being finalized and should be available in early 2018. Additionally, the Commission's Rural Economies Workgroup has made significant progress investigating local food production opportunities, streamlining Maryland's forestry harvesting process, continuing to assess the needs for state land preservation efforts, and reducing impediments to rural development.

The Commission's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) Workgroup is also continuing to study the reports of local jurisdictions with adopted APFOs to determine if these ordinances are redirecting development to areas outside of Priority Funding Areas. The Workgroup's preliminary assessment has been that local reports indicate statewide growth pressures have not returned to pre-Great Recession levels, which provides sufficient evidence that APFOs are redirecting development beyond some localized restriction. In addition to the work with APFOs, the Commission is working with the Department of Planning and the Smart Growth Subcabinet to prepare a new State Development Plan by advising them on the major issues to be addressed in the plan.



On May 18, 2017 the Commission held its fifth annual Sustainable Growth Awards ceremony in Annapolis. The award presentation was held in the Governor's reception room at the Maryland State House and featured a welcome address by Secretary of Planning Wendi Peters. The Commission recognized six individuals, organizations, and projects that have contributed to sustainability and smart growth in Maryland. Secretary Peters remarked that she was proud to recognize the contribution these recipients have made to the state, noting the importance of innovation, leadership, and passion that makes Maryland a leader in cultural preservation, community and economic development, and environmental stewardship.



2017 Sustainable Growth Awards

The Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards celebrate significant achievement by individuals, businesses, organizations and local governments. The awards promote exemplary work that represents or inspires collaboration, innovation, conservation, community impact and quality of life. The Commission recognized the following for their 2017 awards:

Uri Avin received a Leadership & Service Award for more than 40 years of broad and innovative work in planning, urban design, and architecture, in government, the private sector, and academia. Capping his career as director of the Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability at the University of Maryland, he created a multi-disciplinary program that cuts across almost all academic programs at the university.



Envision Salisbury was presented a Sustainable Communities Award for the city of Salisbury's 20-year Downtown Master Plan that started with a student-led community design project and developed into a plan with almost \$650 million in public and private investment across seven districts, and almost 140 recommended public and private projects and priorities.

Town of Grantsville & the Grantsville Revitalization Organization earned a Sustainable Communities Award for teaming up to stem the tide of business closings along Grantsville's Main Street by planning and implementing economic development initiatives that have resulted in attracting new business and expanding existing over the past nine years.



Open Works received a Sustainable Communities Award for its service as an incubator for Baltimore's creative economy. It provides affordable working studios and access to state-of-the-art production facilities for a variety of artists and creative workers.

Ten Light Street accepted a Sustainable Communities Award for establishing a benchmark for adaptive reuse in Baltimore’s Central Business district and providing market rate housing for Baltimore’s growing millennial workforce.



Historic Sotterley, Inc. Farm Program was awarded the Preservation and Conservation Award for operating a historic plantation with restored farm fields dedicated to organic farming, with a mission to preserve, research, and interpret its diverse history, culture, and environment, and to serve as a public educational resource.

Videos detailing each award winning project may be viewed on Planning’s website at: http://planning.maryland.gov/YourPart/773/MSGC_Awards2017.shtml





Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission
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