

Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission Meeting

January 24, 2011/1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Banneker-Douglass Museum
Annapolis, Maryland**

Meeting Summary

Members: Jon Laria, Calvin Ball, Derick Berlage, Greg Bowen, Karl Brendle, Russ Brinsfield, David Carey, Kelly Cartales, Diane Chasse, Asuntha Chiang-Smith, Sandy Coyman, John Dillman, Alan Girard, David Goshorn, Richard Hall, Don Halligan, Frank Hertsch, Brigid Kenney, Gerrit Knaap, Patricia Langenfelder, Thomas Liebel, Mary Ann Lisanti, Robb Merritt, Sam Parker, Dru Schmidt-Perkins, Ray Skinner, Bob Walker, Duane Yoder

Attendees: Marty Baker, Tom Ballentine, Martin Bierbaum, Noah Bradshaw, Jamie Bridges, Melissa Chatham, Candace Donoho, Andrew Fallon, Abby Ferretti, Kurt Fuchs, Tyler Gearhart, Carol Gilbert, Jim Loving, Chris Patusky, Kip Reynolds, Jason Sartori, Matt Stover

MDP Staff: John Coleman, Amanda Conn, Jenny King, Shannon Marino, Jim Palma, Matt Power, Pat Russell

The Chair, Jon Laria called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and thanked everyone for coming.

Maryland Smart Growth Indicators

Mr. Hall began the discussion with a brief background of indicators and what this means from MDP's perspective. He explained that MDP is the State Data Center for Maryland, providing census information, projections, employment data, and forecasting in Maryland. He noted that MDP was the first in the nation to have a State-wide parcel data base. He advised everyone to check out MDP's web page where they will find a lot of information on Indicators. Page 13 of MDP's Smart, Green & Growing Planning Guide includes a section on Indicators. It was noted that the Indicators Workgroup was part of the previous Smart Growth Task Force.

Mr. Coyman talked about the background of the Indicators Workgroup, which included State agency and local government representatives. The group was divided up into areas of interest and which came up with indicator recommendations.

Mr. Jim Palma supplied an Indicators Technical Team matrix. He briefed the Commission on the process and challenges that the Technical Team considered.

Mr. Laria said PFA's are proxy of where you want growth to go or not to go. He said we need to look at these questions - what are we using this data for; is it worth the costs to collect it; are we going to mandate it; and if so, who is going to mandate them?

Briefing: Indicators of Smart Growth in Maryland

Mr. Knaap presented a power point presentation entitled: “*Indicators of Smart Growth in Maryland.*” He introduced Jason Sartori from the University of Maryland’s Center for Smart Growth to co-present the information (copy available at: http://www.mdp.state.md.us/YourPart/773/MSGC_Meetings.shtml#20110124)

Mr. Sartori explained the Indicator project, its organization, technical issues, population, how Maryland compares, population, etc.

Mr. Laria said this was a good opportunity to establish what Indicators are the ones that matter; what data do we want to collect; and what else can be collected.

Tax Increment Financing Presentation

Before beginning the presentation, Mr. Laria noted that he was asked by some legislators to do some research on Tax Increment Financing (TIF). He felt this was a good opportunity to have a presentation before the Growth Commission. He noted that the Commission can focus this study as a smart growth tool and look at what kinds of financing tools are available in the State. A workgroup will be formed to look at this effort. Chris Patusky, MD Department of Transportation, will be the facilitator for this and will work on innovative ways to look at the infrastructure tool that could be developed into a smart growth tool.

Mr. Laria introduced Abby Ferretti from the Partners for Economic Solutions (PES). Ms. Ferretti presented a power point presentation (copy available at: http://www.mdp.state.md.us/YourPart/773/MSGC_Meetings.shtml#20110124). She went over the origins of TIF, which was authorized by State statute, and also gave examples of other states that have TIF programs.

At the conclusion of the TIF presentation, Mr. Laria said he would like to have feedback. One of the members asked a question concerning recourse and what it means. Mr. Patusky responded that TIF is a use of public funds. He said concerning the Funding Workgroup, a second report is coming together and it will be shared in draft with the Funding Workgroup. After the Funding Workgroup has considered the report they will report back to the Commission and circulate with a broader audience.

Workgroup Formation

Mr. Laria discussed the list of the workgroups that was distributed to members. He noted that he had spoken with Chairs and Vice-Chairs. Principal staff will be assigned to the workgroups and everyone should take the lead in his or her agency and decide who will be the right person to lead and support the group.

Mr. Skinner suggested forming a workgroup that will focus on housing. He felt it would be helpful to have a group that focuses on housing issues. The workgroup could include members of the Commission and people with expertise in this field. Mr. Skinner said he has had discussions with some of the housing advocates over the last few months, as well as some developers. He said even though there could be a separate commission for this, given the charge of this group, it makes sense that this Growth Commission could take charge of this effort. He added this group could be a vehicle to support this venture.

Mr. Laria said that with each of these groups, hopefully it will be a chance to get others involved. He asked that members please let Jenny King know if you have suggestions of people that you feel should be involved in these workgroups.

Public Comments

Mr. Tyler Gearhart from Preservation Maryland made a comment concerning TIF – adding that Baltimore City is looking at how to apply rehabilitation and revitalization. He also noted that he attended the Sustainable Maryland Growth Forum.

Mr. Laria adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 28th at the Banneker-Douglass Museum.