

Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission Meeting

January 30, 2012/1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Department of Housing and Community Development
100 Community Place
Crownsville, Maryland**

Meeting Summary

Members: Jon Laria, Marty Baker, Calvin Ball, Derick Berlage, Greg Bowen, Karl Brendle, Russ Brinsfield, Dave Carey, Kelly Cartales, Diane Chasse, Cheryl Cort, David Costello, Sandy Coyman, Alan Girard, David Goshorn, Frank Hertsch, Victoria Jackson-Stanley, Gerrit Knaap, David Lever, Kassie Lewis, Mary Ann Lisanti, Robb Merritt, Sam Parker, Dru Schmidt-Perkins, Matt Power, Ray Skinner, Rollin Stanley, Bryce Turner, Duane Yoder

Attendees: Jamie Bridges, Candace Donoho, Anne Eisele, Tom Farasy, Carol Gilbert, Katie Maloney, Jason Sartori, Hara Smith, Caroline Varney-Alvarado

MDP Staff: Chuck Boyd, Amanda Conn, Peter Conrad, Arabia Davis, Jenny King, Rich Josephson, Pat Russell

Introductions/Administrative Matters

The Chair, Jon Laria welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Mr. Skinner for hosting today's meeting. Mr. Laria noted that in today's packet everyone received a copy of the 2012 Meeting Schedule and advised that the July meeting will NOT be held in Greenbelt, Maryland. The group will be meeting in Greenbelt at the November meeting. A new meeting location will be determined for the July meeting.

Mr. Laria introduced and welcomed Mr. Bryce Turner to the Commission. Mr. Turner is a licensed Architect. Mr. Turner gave some brief background information about himself saying that he attended Virginia Tech and has been involved in the Urban Land Institute (ULI).

Mr. Laria asked everyone to take a look at the poll that was done by Opinion Works (copy in today's materials). Mr. Laria noted that these types of tools are good to have and good that people are thinking about these types of issues, e.g. disputes about PlanMaryland has gotten quite a few people involved.

Governor's Budget/Smart Growth Highlights

Maryland Department of Planning

Mr. Power reported on the Maryland Department of Planning's budget. Highlights include:

- \$7 million for Sustainable Communities Tax Credit (General Fund). This is the strongest tool that the Department has.
- \$1.6 million for Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (Tourism).

Department of Natural Resources

- Program Open Space (POS) was fully funded - \$115 million
- \$22.7 million for State parks upgrade

Public School Construction

- \$100 million for CIP/schools
- \$50 million targeted to energy reduction
 - *some programs are not PFA restricted – they can make changes to align with goals of PlanMaryland

Department of Business & Economic Development

It was noted that all of the Department's programs are designed to promote development in the PFA.

Department of Housing & Community Development

- \$5 million to help fund catalyst projects in sustainable community areas
- Community Legacy Program - \$6 million
- Neighborhood Business Development – level funding
- \$15 million for job creation

Septics Task Force and Related Legislation

Ms. Conn provided copies of SB 236 and asked that members not read beyond page 23 of the bill. She advised that since Article 66B will go away; the bill had to be double drafted. A new code will go into affect October 2012. MD Department of the Environment has the requirement to approve all subdivision plats.

Ms. Conn said that under Task Force recommendations, four new Tiers were suggested. They include:

Tier I – Growth on public sewer

Tier II – Future Growth on public sewer

Tier III - No planned sewer service where some growth could occur
Tier IV – Preservation areas

The Tiers need to be in place by December 2012. Ms. Conn also noted they are not mandatory. Major subdivisions on septic must be approved by the Planning Board. The bill is effective on July 1, 2012.

Mr. Laria requested that an annotated version or summary of the bill be made available to all interested parties. He said that the Bill will be heard in the Senate on February 14th. This is an opportunity for the Commission to engage in a part of this.

Mr. Berlage asked about the impact on Tier II? Ms. Conn said there are only minor subdivisions on septic. Major subdivisions will not be allowed in Tier II.

A question was asked about the mapping component and how it lines up with PlanMaryland. .

Another concern was how will we resolve conflicts between municipalities/locals and counties?

Mr. Costello then discussed the Bay Restoration Bill (SB 240). This Bill is for the purpose of increasing the fee for water and sewer. He said that this Bill would double the fee on top of what is already collected. The fee would start to double by 2013 and triple by 2015. The fee would support an estimated 1,100 jobs (creating infrastructure).

2012 Legislative Session

Mr. Power said that MDP will have an offensive and defensive agenda. He said there are a lot of bills that relate to MDP and a number of bills that MDP will be opposing. There are several parties interested in reversing newly implemented regulations (Sustainable growth development and school funding for schools constructed outside of the PFA that add capacity).

Workgroup Updates

WIP Workgroup

Mr. Girard said the Maryland Phase II WIP has been drafted. The Phase II comment period ends on March 9, 2012. Mr. Laria requested that Mr. Girard update the members on Phase II.

Funding Workgroup

Mr. Stanley stated that there is a need to expand Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and use the State's power to guarantee TIF funds. He also stated the need to address the debt ceiling issue. Mr. Laria said we are going to see some proposals and need to use some State revenue building initiatives between State and local governments. Mr. Laria noted that he will be happy to move the ball on this recommendation during this session. Mr. Laria stated that we need to catch up with other states.

Concentrating Growth Workgroup

Mr. Berlage reported that the workgroup will be meeting a week from tomorrow. He will give a report at the next Commission meeting.

Indicators Workgroup

Mr. Coyman reported the Task Force received their recommendations, which were outlined in the final report. He said he will come to the next meeting with draft copies for the membership's final review.

Education Workgroup

Mr. Ball said he is working on expanding the workgroup and hopes to include environmental folks and realtors etc.

Some initiatives being explored include a Live Where You Work program and a Renaissance Project – a volunteer program geared towards artist interested in qualifying for affordable housing. They are also looking at different planning and sustainable growth degrees and talked to several college President's around the state.

Mr. Ball said one of the ideas the group had included a sustainable growth challenge for students in grades K-12.

The workgroup's next meeting is scheduled for February 2nd and will be discussing goal setting for the upcoming year.

Housing Workgroup

Mr. Skinner noted the group has been meeting for several months now. They have come up with a set of guiding principles which they will be focusing on. There is no written document yet. He said they are working to flush out these principles and come up with some more specific recommendations. The group is working towards April to have a rough draft of the Housing Plan. He added they are looking at how to position a State housing plan and see how it is consistent with PlanMaryland.

PlanMaryland Workgroup

Mr. Boyd said he received a report from the workgroup. They finalized a review of the 2nd draft and the Commission subsequently endorsed the report at its November 14, 2011 meeting. The group met on December 8, 2011 and reviewed the initial draft of the planning area guidelines. The workgroup submitted very good recommendations about identifying these planning areas. He noted that the Department of Planning met with five different counties and will be meeting with another seven in the next week or so. The meetings are two hour sessions. Plans are to get involved in the mapping process during March through December. In mid-February, the

workgroup plans to look at where they are with the State agency's assessment process. The planning areas and implementation process are moving forward.

2012 Commission Focus

Mr. Laria discussed the agenda for 2012. He felt that everyone should be commended for the work that they have accomplished. Looking ahead into 2012 he stressed the need to have all of the workgroups establishing strong work plans with timelines associated with them. He felt that 2011 had seen some substantive work but more could be accomplished. He said the role that the Commission has played with regards to PlanMaryland has been good. We need to look at using everyone's time as well as possible.

Mr. Laria suggested the idea of looking into an annual forum and/or symposium.

Mr. Knapp suggested possibly recording what has been achieved. Also think about what is our mission and our task for this Commission. He said PlanMaryland is going to take another couple of years, but the work of the Commission will still be going for some time.

Mr. Costello said we need to look at where we are with growth. We need to look for something that the Commission will be able to work as a Commission and not just in workgroups.

Mr. Laria suggested a possible retreat and having meetings all around the State would be a good idea. Mr. Laria asked everyone to please submit their thoughts to him on how they think the Commission should move forward.

Adequate Public Facilities Reporting

Mr. Josephson distributed a hand out on APFO Reports for CY 2009 by Jurisdiction. He said a reminder letter was sent out to the counties and municipalities to submit their reports.

Mr. Laria said we need to take this more seriously with regards to looking at these reports. We need to familiarize the Commission with the broader issue, i.e. where APFO's have their impact. This is a very specific charge for the Commission and we need to get this organized.

National Center for Smart Growth – PFA Report

Mr. Knaap introduced Jason Sartori of the National Center for Smart Growth. Mr. Sartori presented a power point presentation entitled: Barriers to Development Inside Maryland's PFA.

The presentation can be located on both the Commission's and Smart Growth Center's websites.

Mr. Laria suggested carrying the discussion on this topic over until the next Commission meeting. The next Growth Commission meeting is scheduled on March 26, 2012 in Crownsville.

Public Comments

None.

*The meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.