



TO: Susan Summers, Chair

FROM: Jim Kruger, Workgroup Chair, and Joe Griffiths, Planning Staff

SUBJECT: Progress Report

DATE: November 13, 2017

Since the last work group report in September, the Education Workgroup (workgroup) held two regular meetings; one on 10/10/17 and another on 11/7/2017. During the two months since the last meeting of the Commission, the workgroup continued engaging Maryland institutions of higher learning regarding the Sustainable Growth Challenge (Challenge), planning the completion of a professional training program for the updated Reinvest Maryland document, and providing support to the Nature City Forum in Baltimore on November 16. More details on each initiative are outlined below.

1. Sustainable Growth Challenge

Since the September meeting, workgroup members engaged Maryland institutions of higher learning in the following ways.

- Met with Harford Community College faculty and students on 10/16/2017 to discuss submission and participation requirements of the Challenge. Students discussed four submission ideas and staff encouraged as many submissions as possible
- Contacted the head of the APA Maryland Chapter's Emerging Planners group to disseminate information about the Challenge on 11/8/2017
- Members of the workgroup conducted individual outreach to the University of Maryland and Towson University to encourage submissions
- Received promising confirmations from Harford CC, Frostburg State, and Morgan State that they will be submitting projects
- The workgroup also discussed the following logistics for early 2018 submissions and scoring
 - Submission due date: 1/19
 - Project presentation and scoring meeting: Mid-February
 - Award ceremony and student presentation to the larger Commission: 3/26 meeting

2. Reinvest Maryland Professional Training

The Commission provided positive feedback on the initial reinvest Maryland 2.0 training module at its 9/25/2017 meeting. Due to other work demands, significant progress on the training has not been made since that time. However, the workgroup intends to prepare a draft module for

consideration and feedback at the January meeting of the Commission. The training will be organized in the following manner.

Topic Area: Overcoming Barriers to Infill and Adaptive Reuse

Module 1: Addressing Aging Infrastructure

Module 2: Density, Design, and Economic Viability

Module 3: The Role of Small Business

The workgroup desires to engage the rest of the Commission in the development of the training, as it could benefit many different audiences, including:

- Local planning and other governmental staff
- Developers
- Citizen planners (Planning Commissioners, Boards of Zoning Appeals members)
- Elected officials
- Realtors
- Business Owners

Many of the industries represented in this list require continuing education credits as part of professional development, and the workgroup would like to tailor the training to meet these needs. The workgroup requests support in developing content and case studies that could be used in the training, compiling data and other resources, and reaching out to individuals and industry organizations that have a compelling interest in the development of such training. This support will not only assist in expediting the completion, but also in crafting a superior product. Reinvest Maryland 2.0 will be a valuable tool with continuing and evolving utility through the application and growth of this training program. The workgroup requests input to the training, as described above, by Friday 12/8. Please contact Joe Griffiths at joseph.griffiths@maryland.gov or 410-767-4553 with any questions or suggestions.

3. Nature City Forum

The Governor's Project Green Classrooms initiative is partnering to host the Nature City Forum at the Cylburn Arboretum in Baltimore on November 16 from 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM. Sandi Olek, member of the workgroup, is a key contributor to the forum. In partnership with Susan Summers, Commission Chair, the Education Workgroup drafted an email to the Commission in October soliciting help with outreach about the forum. The Maryland Department of Planning also posted information about and a link to the forum on its Planning Practice Wednesday webpage. At its 10/10/2017 meeting, the workgroup discussed the Project Green Classrooms initiative and how it differs from the previous Children in Nature initiative.

Next Steps

- a. Next Workgroup Meeting: 12/5/2017