

Maryland Planning Director's Roundtable
Thursday, July 31, 2008
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
University of Maryland Baltimore County Campus

Secretary Richard Hall welcomed everyone to the meeting

Introductions:

Secretary Hall introduced President Freeman Hrabowski, President of UMBC. Dr. Hrabowski has served as President since May, 1992. Secretary Hall briefly highlighted some of Dr. Hrabowski's accomplishments, honorary degrees, and recent awards. Dr. Hrabowski has also authored numerous articles and co-authored two books entitled "*Beating the Odds* and *Overcoming the Odds*." Both of these publications are used by universities, school systems, and community groups around the country. Dr. Hrabowski was born in Birmingham, Alabama.

Dr. Hrabowski discussed some exciting new majors that combine public policy and the environment. UMBC is a young campus very accomplished and has very valuable resources. He suggested that people should consider bringing students in to help out with their needs, along with bringing in students to get involved. UMBC is very willing to work and have their students do internship; this effort not only works for the agencies, it really does work. Dr. Hrabowski advised contacting Lisa Akchin at akchin@umbc.edu if you would like to build a partnership with them.

It was noted that a good source of reading is "A Whole New Mind" by Daniel Pink.

Announcements:

The Future Growth and Development in Maryland Task Force: The Task Force has been meeting since January, with the deadline of submitting a report to the General Assembly by the first of December. This Task Force will continue to meet for the following two years with a limited mission. The Chair of the Task Force is Jon Laria.

State Development Plan:

The Task Force is charged with developing some parameters for the State Development Plan and MDP will work within these parameters to develop an all encompassing plan. There will be a transportation and Housing chapter and both agencies (MDOT and DHCD) are involved with developing the State Development Plan as a whole. Later this year, there will be a straw man/ outline. The main focus is going to be State policies, state programs, i.e. State focused.

Smart Growth Listening Sessions:

The Maryland Department of Planning and the Task Force on the Future for Growth and Development in Maryland will be hosting a series of six Listening Sessions. These are public and moderated forums across the State for residents to share their thoughts and ideas on future growth in the State. The dates are September 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, and 25. Regions include Salisbury, Centreville, Silver Spring, Hughesville, Gwynn Oak, and Hagerstown. Secretary Hall mentioned that there will be more information to come and MDP will keep you posted. Secretary Hall asked members to help promote this effort by distributing flyers and posting to websites.

Sustainable Communities Initiative:

Members received information regarding this Initiative in their folders. There is up to \$500,000 to be awarded for Fiscal Year 2009. Goals include – assisting municipalities in meeting increased standards for comprehensive planning; helping municipalities achieve balanced economic, environmental and social needs for a sustainable future; and providing easier access to State resources for planning and technical assistance through stream-lined application and coordinated agency support. Eligibility is determined by HUD for municipalities with a low- and moderate-income population of 51% or greater. Secretary Hall announced that 45 Maryland municipalities are eligible to apply; these are included in your reading packet. Applications are due by September 4, 2008.

Terrapin Run:

There was a misprint in the papers that MDP was endorsing legislation to overturn Terrapin Run. Maryland Department of Planning has formally contacted these papers and sent a correction letter to the Cumberland New Times and clarified that MDP has not endorsed this type of legislation.

Presentations:

Mr. Rex Wright, Chair, Board of the Baltimore Regional Green Building Council gave a brief presentation on the Green Building Council.

Mr. Wright is a 25 year veteran in the Building Industry with the last 20 years focused on Construction Management, energy efficiency, operational efficiency and renewable energy. He is a graduate of Rutgers University with his BS in Mechanical Engineering. Mr. Wright is a Registered Professional Engineer and a certified Project Manager. He has 15 years of experience in Performance Contracting with Hospitals, Universities, State Agencies and School Districts. Performance Contracting is a contracting method where the energy efficiency and operational savings pay for the installation and financing of infrastructure upgrades. Mr. Wright has testified before State and Local governments as an advocate for energy efficiency, green buildings and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Mr. Wright has been a speaker at conventions ranging from Waste Water to Retail Managers. He has also been featured in newspaper articles and television news. He currently chairs the Baltimore Regional Chapter of the USGBC and is the recent past

Chair of the Baltimore County Maryland Commission on Environmental Quality, where he lives.

Ms. Beth Strommen, Manager of Baltimore City's Office of Sustainability gave a presentation on Baltimore City's Sustainability Plan.

Beth Strommen is manager of the City's new Office of Sustainability within the Planning Department. Beth has worked tirelessly on environmental policy in Baltimore for many years. She undertook the city's bicycle master plan effort, which is paying dividends today with a network of designated bike lanes, commuter routes and signage that has helped increase the number of bikes on the streets of Baltimore. Before being named to the Office of Sustainability, Beth worked on the Middle Branch Master Plan, one of the last parts of the city with developable waterfront land.

Mr. Reid Ewing, author of *Growing Cooler: Evidence on Urban Development and Climate Change*, gave a riveting presentation on his book. After his initial presentation, Mr. Ewing answered multiple questions on how to implement better solutions.

Reid Ewing is a Research Professor at the National Center for Smart Growth, associate editor of the Journal of the American Planning Association, columnist for Planning magazine, and Fellow of the Urban Land Institute. Formerly, he was Director of the Voorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University, and earlier in his career, he served two terms in the Arizona legislature and worked on urban policy issues at the Congressional Budget Office. He holds master degrees in Engineering and City Planning from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in Transportation Systems and Urban Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He has authored books for the major planning and development organizations: *Developing Successful New Communities* for the Urban Land Institute; *Best Development Practices and Transportation and Land Use Innovations* for the American Planning Association; and *Traffic Calming State-of-the-Practice* for the Institute of Transportation Engineers. The two books for the American Planning Association made him APA's top selling author for many years. His study of sprawl and obesity received more national media coverage than any planning study before or since, and at one time, was the most widely cited academic paper in the Social Sciences, according to Essential Science Indicators.

His most recent book, written for EPA and published by the Urban Land Institute, is *Growing Cooler: The Evidence on Urban Development and Climate Change*. Also due out this year, and published by the American Planning Association, is *National Traffic Calming Manual*. His prior work on smart growth development includes the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED-Neighborhood Development guidelines, the Institute of Transportation Engineers' Recommended Practice for Context-Sensitive Thoroughfares, the National Wildlife Federation's *Endangered by Sprawl*, and dozens of consulting projects around the United States.
