

Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission Meeting

January 26, 2015/1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Maryland Department of Planning
Baltimore, Maryland**

Meeting Summary

Members

Present: Jon Laria, David Craig, Marty Baker, Carol Gilbert, Frank Hertsch, Stephen Lafferty, Robb Merritt

Members on Conference Call:

Derick Berlage, Greg Bowen, Boyd Campbell, Deborah Carpenter, Daniel Colhoun, David Costello, Charlotte Lawson-Davis, Alan Girard, Howard Freedlander, Matt Holloway, Gerrit Knaap, Leslie Knapp, Jr., Sandi Olek, Dru Schmidt-Perkins, Roger Venezia, Bruce Williams, Duane Yoder

Attendees: Kevin Baynes and John Papagni

MDP Staff: Jenn Aiosa, Valerie Berton, Chuck Boyd, Arabia Davis, Rich Josephson, Kristen Mitchell, Pat Russell, Joe Tassone

Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chair, Jon Laria welcomed everyone to the meeting. Due to inclement weather, the meeting location was moved from the Anne Arundel County Department of Planning and Zoning to the Maryland Department of Planning. A number of members chose to join the meeting by way of conference call. Mr. Laria mentioned that staff will work on hosting the March meeting in Anne Arundel County. Mr. Laria acknowledged Deborah Carpenter, Director of Garrett County's Department of Planning and Land Management, and Leslie (Les) Knapp, Jr., Legal and Policy Counsel for the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) on their recent appointment to the Commission on behalf of the Maryland Association of Counties. Please let staff know if you would like a copy of Ms. Carpenter's and Mr. Knapps' bio.

Mr. Laria then introduced the new Secretary of the Maryland Department of Planning, David R. Craig. Secretary Craig spoke briefly and told members that local government issues are one of his main interests and that he looks forward to meeting all the Commission members.

In Memoriam – Karl Brendle

Mr. Laria recognized the passing of Karl Brendle, who will be remembered as a dependable and hard-working member of the Growth Commission and the Forum & Awards Selection Committee. A resolution of appreciation from the Commission was delivered to his family at a

service held in January. An award will be presented to the City of Laurel acknowledging Mr. Brendle's service at the 2015 Maryland Sustainable Growth Awards Ceremony.

Administrative Matters

Mr. Laria encouraged the Commission members to register for the 2015 Sustainable Growth Forum/Awards Ceremony scheduled for February 24th in Annapolis from 3 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. He mentioned that Ed Rendell, Former Governor of Pennsylvania would be the Keynote Speaker.

He noted that the list of upcoming Commission meeting dates is included as an attachment in today's packet.

Report of the Neighborhood Stabilization & Homeownership Workgroup(NSHW)

Mr. Laria informed the members that a copy of the letter from the Neighborhood Stabilization and Homeownership Workgroup to Speaker Busch can be found in today's meeting materials. Delegate Lafferty and Carol Gilbert presented a power point for today's discussion. Delegate Lafferty noted that the Workgroup would serve as on-going advisory group to the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Community Development on this matter. The responsibilities of the Workgroup will continue over at least an additional six month period of time.

Mr. Laria was pleased with the findings and recommendations of the Workgroup participants and congratulated them on their outstanding work.

Ms. Baker inquired about the anticipated enhancements to the state's "toolkit" of neighborhood revitalization programs. Mr. Gerrit Knaap inquired about one of the graphs in the presentation regarding the "Gap in Net Worth." He also wanted to acknowledge the work of his co-worker Katie at the National Center for Smart Growth that helped to prepare the TRF Report.

Mr. Laria thanked everyone and said Commission members will be kept apprised of Workgroup's ongoing efforts. He also acknowledged the support received from Speaker Busch looking to the Commission for recommendations on such an important issue facing Maryland.

Resolutions on the Red and Purple Lines

Mr. Laria asked members to take a look at the draft resolutions on the Red and Purple Lines in today's materials. He noted that he viewed this as an opportunity for the Commission to weighing-in on these proposed transit lines, given their potential impact on smart growth by promoting reinvestment/redevelopment. Ms. Perkins made a motion for the Commission to approve the draft resolutions; seconded by Mr. Berlage.

Mr. Bowen felt the Commission shouldn't take a position on specific capital projects. He said he felt more comfortable when the Commission researched issues and made policy recommendations, because he was not sure taking a position on this matter was part of the Commission's charge.

Mr. Berlage said there are many transportation projects being considered throughout the state, which have some impact on smart growth. It is difficult to have the Commission review and comment on all those projects. However, he said, when a new transit line is being considered,

that level of investment will have a significant impact on promoting smart growth. And when two projects have come as far as these two have come, they are game changers worthy of the Commission's support.

Mr. Campbell said he would like to support both resolutions, but with specific focus on the Purple Line. He noted there is a real need to connect transit dependent individuals to employment opportunities, and the Purple Line would help address this important concern.

Ms. Perkins indicated that she believed taking action on the resolutions is an appropriate role for the Commission, and felt this is the type of projects that the Commission should support. These projects are critical to smart growth in Maryland and the kind of message we want to send to the new administration.

Mr. Merritt said that he viewed these resolutions as a soft approach toward endorsing these projects. He said he is more familiar with the Red Line. He shared the general concerns that Mr. Berlage expressed, but could support this soft approach.

Mr. Hertsch was hesitant to act on this and felt that there should be no vote at all until they find out what the new administration is going to do. Mr. Hertsch made a motion to table consideration of the resolutions, the motions was seconded. Mr. Laria called the vote on tabling the resolutions for both members present and those on the phone. The motion to table consideration of the resolution failed. (See the attached summary of the votes for individual votes cast.)

Mr. Laria then called the vote on the original motion in support of the resolutions for both members present and those on the phone. The motion to support the resolutions passed. (See the attached summary of the votes for individual votes cast.)

2015 Sustainable Growth Challenge Competition Update

Ms. Olek said the Student Challenge presentations to the panel were great; but unfortunately the panelists were only able to select three winners for the 2015 Sustainable Growth Challenge. The student groups included University of Maryland, Morgan State University, Howard County, Frederick, Eastern Shore, Baltimore City Community College and Community College of Baltimore County Catonsville. Ms. Olek mentioned that there were a number of diverse projects presented. The winning student groups will be invited to receive their awards at the Smart Growth awards ceremony in February.

Ms. Perkins said she was part of the review process, and it was fabulous having student groups from all over the State present their projects. She added how much she appreciated the efforts of staff organizing the Challenge competition.

2015 Annual Forum and Award Program Update

Mr. Bowen referenced the memo included in today's packet. The Selection Committee has finalized the plans for the awards ceremony, scheduled for February 24, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the Miller Senate Office Building. Mr. Laria mentioned that former Governor Rendell will be the Key Note Speaker and that invitations will be sent to State Senators and Delegates encouraging

them to attend. The event announcement will also be emailed to Commission members so they can share with other interested parties.

Valerie Berton mentioned that MDP's Communication Division sent out another e-blast this morning to remind people of the upcoming event. Ms. Berton said she is also working on updating the legislative contacts list, so the invitation to State Senators and Delegates should occur shortly. She added that a press release will be developed to encourage media coverage of the event.

2015 Legislative Matters/2016 Budget

Mr. Laria invited State agencies to share any legislative summaries they may have.

Ms. Aiosa reported on MDP's legislative priorities.

Ms. Perkins reported that the budget for DNR's Program Open Space was reduced; \$30 million out of this year's dedicated fund.

Mr. Knapp stated that there was no additional funding for local transportation. No additional funds for roadways; police aid, and education.

Mr. Williams said he is waiting to see the March revenue.

Workgroup Updates

Adequate Public Facilities Workgroup

Mr. Hertsch briefly went over the Workgroup's quarterly report (copy included in today's packet). He noted that the Workgroup has compiled 2013 data for the 71 major waste water treatment plants in the state and is reviewing the available capacity of these plants. He hopes to have something to report at the March meeting.

Concentration Growth Workgroup

Mr. Berlage said his group is continuing to work on the Status Check project (copy of report in today's packet). The group is interested in getting suggestions from members of the Commission and from the new Administration. Mr. Berlage said the Workgroup will be soliciting feedback from the Commission members shortly regarding the on-line Status Check report.

Rural Economics Workgroup

Mr. Bowen said the workgroup (copy of report in today's packet) will be meeting every other month either in person or by phone. The workgroup's real work will occur through subcommittees that will meet more often.

Public Comments

None

Chairman Laria adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.



26-Jan-15

Growth Commission Voting Results

Name Table Vote on Vote on Resolution
Resolution

J.B. Jennings	Absent	Absent
Stephen Lafferty	No	Yes
Joan Carter Conway	Absent	Absent
David R. Craig	Abstain	Abstain
David Costello	Absent	Absent
Don Halligan (Marty)	Abstain	Abstain
Kenneth Holt (Carol)	Abstain	Abstain
Charlotte Lawson-Davis	Yes	Yes
Gerrit Knaap	No	Yes
Bruce Williams	No	Yes
Deborah Carpenter	Abstain	Abstain
Leslie (Les) Knapp, Jr.	Abstain	Abstain
Cheryl Cort	Absent	Absent
Dru Schmidt-Perkins	No	Yes
Sandi Olek	Abstain	Abstain
Ursula Powidzki (Roger V. attended)	Abstain	Abstain
Diane Chasse	Absent	Absent
David Lever	Absent	Absent
Duane Yoder	Yes	Yes
Greg Bowen	Yes	No
Frank Hertsch	Yes	Yes
Robb Merritt	Yes	Yes
Derick Berlage	No	Yes
Howard Freedlander	Yes	Yes
Boyd Campbell	No	Yes
Bryce Turner	Absent	Absent
Jon Laria	No	Yes
Daniel Colhoun	No	Yes
Matt Holloway	Yes	Yes
Stan Wall	Absent	Absent
Robert Goldman	Absent	Absent
Alan Girard	No	Yes
Total Commissioners Absent - Table Vote		9
Total Commissioners Opposed - Table the Vote		9
Total Commissioners Agreed - Table the Vote		7
Total Commissioners Abstain - Table the Vote		7
Total Votes		32
Total Commissioners Absent - Vote on Resolution		9
Total Commissioners Opposed - Resolution		1
Total Commissioners Yes - Support Resolution		15
Total Commissioners Abstain - Vote on Resolution		7
Total Votes		32
Vacancies		
Karl Brendle		
Calvin Ball		
Rudolph Cane		
BRAC Representative		