Howard County Economic Opportunity and Prosperity Task Force

Economic Development Subcommittee Meeting

C. Vernon Gray Room – Howard Building

March 28, 2018

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 3:12 p.m. The following individuals were in attendance: Jay Parekh, Peter O'Neil, Melissa Metz, Roger Barnes, and Jeff Meyers (Council staff).

Mr. O'Neil noted the lack of a quorum so that the minutes from February 28 could not be approved. He recommended that he subcommittee members begin to think about the recommendations that the subcommittee will send along to the full Task Force. He suggested that one recommendation should relate to economic development and one should relate to transportation.

The subcommittee discussed some of the issues related to transportation, including the high cost and that those who could financially support transit do not live in the parts of the County served by it. Those who need public transportation the most are those with the least political clout.

Mr. Barnes indicated a concern that the requirements for County purchasing do not include a preference for in-County firms. Additionally, the requirements imposed on the developer of downtown to use local businesses have no viable compliance mechanism. He will try and find some relevant documents for the subcommittee to review.

Clive Graham, Administrator, Office of Transportation, Howard County Government, briefed the subcommittee. The Office of Transportation's primary focus is to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of public transportation services, walking, and bicycling in and around Howard County. He described the current transit system and its challenges. He noted that the plan to update the transit system is now before the County Council. The proposed Transportation Plan is attached to Council Resolution 48-2018[1]. Additional related materials are available on the consultant's website[2]. Some members asked for additional data regarding utilization and ridership.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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[1] https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olis/GetFile.aspx?id=14952
[2] http://www.kfhgroup.com/centralmd/transitplan.html