

Minutes: Housing / Community Development Subcommittee

March 27, 2018

C. Vernon Gray Conference Room

George Howard Building – Ellicott City, MD

The meeting began at 3:05 p.m.

In attendance: Anne Brinker, Paul Casey, Kim Flowers, Elizabeth Kromm, Cindy Parr, Bruce Rothschild, and Coleen West. Also attending, Jeff Meyers, Council staff.

Mr. Casey noted that the minutes from March 12, 2018, did not include that Mr. Engel indicated that the Downtown Columbia plan for affordable housing was a good plan, but the implementation of the portion of the plan providing for mixed-income projects developed by the Housing Commission requires the County to take additional steps to fund certain capital projects on those sites. Mr. Casey asked staff to report back on the relevant projects included in the Capital Budget.

Cindy Parr, Executive Director of the ARC of Howard County, discussed with the subcommittee the ARC's activities, particularly those related to housing. She noted that population with disabilities that the ARC serves has similar barriers to housing as those with low incomes. The ARC supplies housing for 88 people in approximately 50 dwellings in various locations around the County. There are an additional 8 or 9 other entities that provide some kind of residential services to the disabled populations. Ms. Parr suggested that the subcommittee consult with the Howard County Autism Society because transitioning youth associated with that organization face significant housing challenges. The ARC is satisfied that its current residential clients have safe and decent housing. But changes to federal regulations may make it difficult to continue providing housing for some of the ARC's clients. The subcommittee is seeking further information on the changing regulations. Ms. Parr reported that providing transportation to clients, the need for which is growing, is among the organizations biggest challenges.

Ms. Brinker will contact the Autism Society to find out if someone could brief the subcommittee. Ms. Flowers will try to have someone brief the subcommittee on immigration issues. Ms. West will brief the subcommittee on arts and cultural issues at a future meeting.

The subcommittee discussed the material that it will present to the public at the hearing on April 9. Mr. Casey's proposed outline was approved with minor modifications.

The subcommittee asked staff to create a draft table tracking the subcommittee's collection of information in the form of documents, presenters, and testimony in the form of a shared document. Interested subcommittee members will edit the document, which is here: <https://goo.gl/N1nXLs>.

The meeting ended at 4:45 p.m.

