

Howard County Economic Opportunity and Prosperity Task Force

Minutes (approved)

January 22, 2018

2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

C. Vernon Gray Room

1st Floor, George Howard Building

3430 Court House Drive

Ellicott City, MD 21043

Members in attendance: Jamie Brown, Paul Casey, Ana Cisneros, Kimberly Flowers, Maddy Halbach, Jason Jannati, Phyllis Madachy, Leonardo McClarty, Elizabeth Noble, and Lawrence Twele.

Staff in attendance: Jim Meyd, County Auditor's Office, Jeff Meyers, County Council office, John Gwynn, Office of Law, and Jessie Keller, Council Member Weinstein's office.

Others in attendance: Renee Kamen and Bruce Gist from the Howard County Public School System, Cole Schnorf, co-chair of the APFO Task Force, and Kelly Cimino, Department of Housing and Community Development Director.

The audio recording of the meeting is available on the Task Force website¹.

Chairperson McClarty called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

Mr. Casey moved approval of the minutes from December 11, 2017. Ms. Flowers seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

The co-chairs have determined that the Task Force should hold public hearings in March and July. The dates have not yet been set. Subcommittees are expected to make a brief presentation at the beginning of each hearing.

The membership of each subcommittee is still in flux; however progress has been made. Each subcommittee's progress was reported. The Economic Development subcommittee was looking at how to identify impediments that affect workers who wish to live and thrive in the County. The Education and Workforce Development subcommittee was seeking to focus the issues to be addressed and sees issues affecting all age groups. The Housing and Community Development subcommittee will review village center issues, bicycle/pedestrian issues, arts, immigration, public health, environmental issues, transportation, and employment centers.

Ultimately, each subcommittee is expected to prioritize its recommendations, presenting 2 or 3 to the full Task Force. Recommendations might be to recommend: County legislation, County government

¹ <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/EOPTaskForce>

action, other governmental action; business community action, faith community action, or nonprofit entity action. Subcommittees should locate reports and data sources and review recommendations made by others. Subcommittee leaders should coordinate amongst themselves.

Subcommittees may either include subject matter experts as members or may use experts as information sources. In some cases, subject matter experts in broader areas will brief the full Task Force.

In completing the work, each subcommittee should be mindful of: 1. what needs tweaking; 2. what is missing; and 3. what does the County Council need to know.

The Task Force asked staff to provide to the Task Force the testimony related to recent APFO legislation.²

Renee Kamen, AICP, Manager, Office of School Planning, Howard County Public School System, briefed the Task Force about school demographics, growth, the capital program, State participation, and redistricting. The School System is growing at a significant pace; a 17% increase in school population is expected over the next 10 years. The Task Force sought information about how school population projections are done and on community impacts of the schools.

Cole Schnorf, COO – Director of Development, Manekin, and Co-Chair of the County APFO Task Force briefed the Task Force on the history and goals of APFO and the associated excise taxes and impact fees. APFO was meant to be a tool to allow for orderly development and planning. Over the years, APFO has been tweaked and amendments to it are now before the County Council. APFO impacts school population changes due to new development, but does not affect school population changes due to turnover in existing housing stock.

The meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

² The 2017 APFO bill was CB61-2017. It failed because it was not voted on within the time limit set by law. The written testimony that the Council received is all posted online. Go to <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olis/LegislationDetail.aspx?LegislationID=2890> and click the “related documents” tab. The Dates tab will tell you when the Council heard the Bill or had a worksession on it. The recordings from those sessions are here: <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Online-Tools/Watch-Us> click “2017” then the appropriate category. Similarly, the recording from the hearing on this year’s Bill CB1-2018 is also available through that page. The documents for CB1-2018 are here: <https://apps.howardcountymd.gov/olis/LegislationDetail.aspx?LegislationID=2955>