

Howard County Economic Opportunity and Prosperity Task Force

Minutes (approved)

October 9, 2018

C. Vernon Gray Room
1st Floor, George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Task Force Meeting

Members in attendance: Paul Casey, Ana Cisneros, Kim Flowers, Phyllis Madachy, Leonardo McClarty, Betty Noble, Jaykant Parekh, and Lawrence Twele. Peter O'Neil from a subcommittee also attended.

Staff in attendance: Jim Meyd, County Auditor's Office, and Jeff Meyers, County Council office.

Chairperson Madachy called the meeting to order at 4:17 p.m.

The Task Force approved the minutes from its meetings held on August 13, 2018 and September 17, 2018.

Mr. Casey wondered what materials the public would have to review and react to at the public hearing taking place later in the day. Mr. McClarty indicated that he would be presenting a PowerPoint that highlighted the various themes and likely recommendations based on the past year's meetings and discussions. The PowerPoint has been posted to the Task Force website¹.

Ms. Madachy reviewed the Task Force responsibilities and her current thinking about the Final Report. A drafting committee will meet on October 29, 2018, at 3:30 p.m. at the Howard County Chamber of Commerce Office to work on a draft. Members discussed the likely contents and structure. Additional thoughts should be sent to the co-chairs expeditiously. Ms. Madachy hopes for unanimous approval of the Final Report by the Task Force membership. The Task Force will meet next on November 28 to review the work of the drafting committee and again on December 10 to approve the Final Report.

The Task Force adjourned at 5:09 p.m. with instructions to reconvene at 5:30 p.m. for the Public Hearing.

Public Hearing

Chairperson McClarty called the hearing to order at 5:37 p.m.

¹ <https://cc.howardcountymd.gov/EOPTaskForceDocs>

In addition to the members listed above, 3 persons from the public attended: Nanette Stokes from JustLiving Advocacy, Inc.; Jackie Eng from the Association of Community Services; and Michael Lee from Making Change.

Mr. McClarty reviewed the Task Force's work and plans by presenting a PowerPoint. See footnote 1, *supra*.

Ms. Eng described her background and activities and noted the deficits in the County in terms of housing for certain populations. She indicated that Montgomery and Arlington counties have more robust, better financed housing programs and master plans. Ms. Madachy noted that Howard County created a Senior Housing Master Plan, which, in essence, provides developers with voluntary standards for senior housing designs. This was the first time that various County departments had worked together to create a master plan; also that some representatives from the private sector were included.

Mr. Lee described the activities of his non-profit. He suggested that the Task Force include economic skills and financial training in its recommendations.

Ms. Stokes seeks to provide bridge financing to single mothers who desperately need child care as a prerequisite to working. Child care is expensive and there are insufficient seats in the County. The State voucher program is a bureaucratic mess. These factors push lower income mothers to use less proficient providers, thus the children lag behind their peers on entering school. She reported that some County MIHU residences were given to out-of-County individuals even though in-County individuals need those residences.

The hearing adjourned at 6:44 p.m.