

Minutes: Housing / Community Development Subcommittee

July 23, 2018

Columbia/Ellicott Conference Room

George Howard Building – Ellicott City, MD

The meeting began at 3:35p.m.

In attendance: Paul Casey, Kiim Flowers, Bruce Rothschild, and Coleen West. Also attending, Jeff Meyers, Council staff.

The attendees recommended that the subcommittee adopt the following recommendations:

The County should develop a master plan for identifying and addressing the housing affordability needs of a broad spectrum of workforce families, limited income families, and other vulnerable populations. Vulnerable populations include senior citizens, individuals who are homeless or at risk of being homeless, disabled persons, immigrant populations, and ALICE (Asset-limited, Income-Constrained, Employed) individuals¹.

The master plan shall be developed by a task force under the direction of the Department of Planning and Zoning with representatives from the Department of Community Resources and Services, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Howard County Housing Commission, the Columbia Downtown Housing Corporation, as well as representatives from stakeholders in the community.

The master plan shall consider locations integrated in developments county-wide, funding, the availability of transportation, and proximity to employment opportunities, health services, and education.

The master plan shall address the provision of annual and sustained funding to attain long-term and annual goals and plans and programs to achieve those goals.

The County should strengthen the commitment to affordable housing as represented by the Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreement (DRRA) for Downtown Columbia and other development policies.

The County should implement programs to incentivize private developers to partner with the County to create mechanisms that ensure the on-going ability to develop affordable housing.

The County should ensure coordination of the delivery of affordable housing resources and services to efficiently achieve the goals of the master plan.

¹ <http://www.uwcm.org/main/alice/>

The existing master plan for arts and culture dates from 1991 and is obsolete. A new master plan for arts and culture should be developed to address the interests of a growing and diverse population County-wide including addressing the need for adequate dedicated spaces for the performing arts and visual arts and include guidelines for a formal public art program.

Recognizing the increased demand for services to immigrant populations, the County should provide additional resources for immigrant service providers.

The meeting ended at 5:30 p.m.