

MINUTES

Baltimore County Planning Board Meeting

May 19, 2016

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Minutes

May 5, 2016

Call to order, introduction of Board members

Chairman Phillips called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The following members were:

Present

Mr. N. Scott Phillips
Mr. Mark Schlossberg
Ms. Lori Graf
Ms. Cathy Wolfson
Ms. Nancy Hafford
Mr. Jon Herbst
Mr. Wayne McGinnis
Mr. Todd Warren*
Ms. Michelle Lipkowitz
Mr. Scott Jenkins
Dr. Chris Haffer
Mr. Rick Yaffe

*Mr. Warren arrived at 4:20 p.m.

Absent

Mr. Jeffrey Gordon
Mr. Howard Perlow
Ms. Christina Berzins

County staff present included: Andrea Van Arsdale, Kathy Schlabach, Matt Diana, Lloyd Moxley, and Janice Graves

Review of today's agenda

Chairman Phillips asked if there were any changes to the tentative agenda. Staff indicated that Dr. Haffer wished to address the Board regarding the North Point Heritage Greenway Trail.

Minutes of the May 5, 2016 meetings

There were no changes to the minutes from the May 5, 2016 meeting. Chairman Phillips called for a motion to accept the minutes from the May 5, 2016 meeting. Ms. Wolfson made the motion and Mr. Schlossberg seconded the motion, which passed unanimously at 4:04 p.m. Absent were Messrs. Gordon, Warren and Perlow, as well as Ms. Berzins.

Item for Discussion and Vote

1. Foundry Station- Planned Unit Development involving a historic structure

Mr. Yaffe stated that he hoped that the smokestack and water tower would not be an impediment to development, and that the community doesn't want anything standing in the way of the project. He also stated that the citizens of that part of the county did not consider the smokestack or water tower historic.

Dr. Haffer reiterated Mr. Yaffe's sentiment, and noted that the site has been in dire need of redevelopment for quite some time and he hoped that the involvement of these structures will not make completing the project more difficult.

Chairman Phillips called for a motion on the item. Ms. Hafford made a motion to approve the project and Ms. Graf seconded the motion, which passed unanimously at 4:07 p.m. Absent were Messrs. Gordon, Warren and Perlow, as well as Ms. Berzins.

Other Business

2. Report from the May 12th, 2016 meeting of the Landmarks Preservation Commission

Mr. Yaffe gave a report from the most recent meeting of the LPC. The LPC voted to issue nine Certificates of Appropriateness and one notice to proceed. One property, the "Woodbrook Cottage" was placed on the Preliminary Landmarks List following a public hearing.

Mr. Yaffe noted that there was some discussion at the LPC meeting regarding the Woodbrook Cottage, as some members of the LPC felt that it was only being nominated to stop development. The members came to a resolution to put the Woodbrook Cottage on the list, but allow the building to be moved to another location on the property.

3. Recent County Council legislation of interest to the Board

Mr. Diana gave a report on the most recent County Council legislation of interest to the Board. There were three items discussed. Bill 18-16 which amended the Basic Services Maps, Bill 21-16 which amended the R-O zone use regulations and Resolution 50-16 which extended the Loch Raven Commercial Revitalization District.

4. North Point Heritage Greenway Trail

Dr. Haffer addressed the Board regarding a matter in the 7th district, that of the proposed construction of the North Point Heritage Greenway Trail. Dr. Haffer characterized the trail as being beneficial to the County and requested that a letter from the Board be sent to the Department of Natural Resources showing support for the trail. Staff confirmed the trail was a part of the Eastern Baltimore County Pedestrian and Bicycle Access Plan, which is part of the Baltimore County Master Plan 2020. The land is State controlled and therefore the County is not liable for funding.

Ms. Hafford questioned if this would set a precedent that the Board would be asked to support other projects in the future.

Mr. Schlossberg asked if there was any community opposition or if a public hearing would be required.

Chairman Phillips stated that the letter could come from the Chair, and that those members who support the project could place their names on the letter. The letter should be circulated to the Board members prior to sending.

5. CIP School Construction Monies

Mr. Jenkins raised the issue of the Maryland Board of Public Works decision to set a new budget that would require the county to provide window unit air conditioners in the County's public schools. This approach is contrary to the County budget as passed, which addresses the issue in a long-term, more cost efficient way. Chairman Phillips stated that perhaps the Board should reiterate what was sent in the original CIP letter from the Board, supporting the budget as passed.

Mr. Herbst noted that this is an issue of local autonomy.

Ms. Hafford stated that if a letter is sent it should be respectful.

Dr. Haffer advised that perhaps the Board should contact the Executive Office to vet the letter.

Mr. Yaffe asked what the goal of the letter would be.

Chairman Phillips stated that the Board represents the citizens and that the citizens' voice has not been considered. The Board's point needs to be made very clear and that this is about more than politics.

Mr. Jenkins stated that the \$10 million shortfall must come from somewhere else in the budget. That money should come to Baltimore County and not be taken away for political reasons. The Planning Board should use its standing and weigh in on the issue.

Ms. Wolfson stated that air conditioning is not the key to a child's successful education.

Mr. Herbst agreed with Ms. Wolfson, stating that he was a product of a Baltimore County school that did not have A/C.

Mr. Schlossberg noted that it is the role of the Board to weigh in with an opinion, but stay out of the politics.

Chairman Phillips asked if there was any consensus among the Board members regarding a letter to the Board of Public Works.

Mr. Yaffe stated that he does not agree that a letter should be sent from the Board. Anyone can write a letter to their elected officials and there is no need to get into the politics of it. He continued by saying that the Planning Board has done its job and he wants no part of any letter to the Board of Public Works.

Mr. Schlossberg concurred stating that individual members can write letters if they so choose.

Dr. Haffer stated that the \$10 million could potentially be put back into the budget next year.

Chairman Phillips concluded by stating that there is no real hurry and that the Board, if it wishes, can revisit this conversation at the next meeting in June.

Adjournment of Board Meeting

Chairman Phillips called for a motion to adjourn the Board meeting. Mr. Jenkins made the motion and Mr. Yaffe seconded the motion, which passed unanimously at 4:40 p.m. Absent were Messrs. Gordon and Perlow, as well as Ms. Berzins.

