

Minutes of the July 16, 2024 Meeting of the West Baltimore County Redevelopment Authority

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm

IN ATTENDANCE:

Members:

Senator Charles Sydnor

Councilman Pat Young

Delegate Jennifer White Holland

Baltimore County Staff:

Samantha O'Neil (Executive Office)

Tucker Cavanaugh (Executive Office)

Will Thorne (Executive Office)

Jonathan Herbst (Office of Law)

Senator Sydnor:

- Gave welcome remarks and introductions.
- Background on how the concept of a redevelopment authority evolved over the past two years.
 - Following community engagement process in regards to potential development opportunities around Security Boulevard and Security Square Mall and the Liberty Road Corridor, the idea of a dedicated and geographically focused redevelopment authority in western Baltimore County formed.
 - Senator Sydnor and then Delegate Young championed legislation through the Maryland General Assembly during the 2022 legislative session.
 - This was enabling legislation, which led to the County Council passing Council Bill 40-23.
 - The nine ex officio members are: Senator Charles Sydnor (District 44), Councilman Pat Young (District 1), Delegate Jennifer White-Holland (District 10, designated by Speaker Adrienne Jones), Senator Ben Brooks (District 10), Delegate Eric Ebersole (District 44B, designated by Speaker Adrienne Jones), Councilman Julian Jones (District 4), Councilman Izzy Patoka (District 2), County Administrative Officer D'Andrea Walker, Senior Deputy Administrative Officer Sameer Sidh.

Councilman Young:

- Discussed the purpose of the meeting with the present ex-officio members to begin developing the process of appointing public, voting members of the Authority. Resumes and cover letters were submitted by candidates from neighborhoods located under the authority of the Redevelopment Authority.

Senator Sydnor:

- There are going to be 11 voting members (public members). The County legislation requires that the public members be from one of the three Council districts making up the Authority (Districts 1, 2 and 4). Ex officio members will review submitted resumes and will ultimately vote on a slate to provide to the County Executive for appointment consideration.

Tucker Cavanagh (ADAO, Baltimore County):

- The charter and bylaws have been created and approved, but may be amended once this fully body is established.
- The Baltimore County Office of Law helped establish the Authority.
- The Charter was filed with SDAT.

Sam O’Neil (Senior Advisor to the Baltimore County Executive):

- Call for applicants was released earlier in the spring; Office of Community Engagement helped circulate to their district networks and social media posts were created to promote the application process.

Councilman Young and Senator Sydnor:

Discussed responsibilities of ex officio members: review applicants and recommend at least one applicant to move forward to an interview round. Discussed potential qualities and characteristics to determine when reviewing applications.

Delegate Holland:

- Noted that having some sort of interview process would make sense.

Councilman Young:

- Correspondence will be shared with all ex officio members to outline next steps.
- Noted that ex officio members should look through applicants to identify who they feel meets the criteria for a member.

Delegate Holland:

- Noted need to identify timeline for this process.

Councilman Young:

- It would make sense for this group to meet a month from now to discuss the next steps. Doodle poll to help coordinate calendars over the next few months will be included in the ex officio correspondence.

Sam O’Neil (Senior Advisor to the Baltimore County Executive):

- The County Executive’s office can assist in staffing needs of this board.

- The County Executive's office can provide official letters to ex officio members indicating that they've been selected by the Speaker to serve on the board.
- County Executive's office can facilitate communication, scheduling, and more amongst the ex officio members.

Jonathan Herbst (Assistant County Attorney, Baltimore County Office of Law):

- Emphasized the need to publicize meeting dates in advance, as well as publish an agenda at least two days ahead of time to be in compliance with Open Meetings Act.
- Ex officio members can be added to the website, as well as the minutes, agenda, and the map to the WBCDA website.
- May want to consider a recording option so that people can join the meetings virtually.

Councilman Young:

- Ex officio members will engage with members to identify next steps.
 - Identify meeting for August.
 - September interviews.
 - Final vote in October before it is sent to the County Executive.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:15 pm