



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Jennifer Terrasa, Chairperson
District 3
Mary Kay Sigaty, Vice Chairperson
District 4
Courtney Watson
District 1
Calvin Ball
District 2
Greg Fox
District 5

Minutes (Approved) Legislative Work Session January 28, 2013

The work session was called to order by Chairperson Terrasa at 4:35 p.m. in the Banneker Room, George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City.

Members present: Calvin Ball; Greg Fox; Mary Kay Sigaty; Jennifer Terrasa; and Courtney Watson.

Council Bill No. 1-2013 - Introduced by, Greg Fox, Councilmember - Amending Plan Howard 2030, the general plan for Howard County, by defining Growth Tiers, as required by the Maryland Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act of 2012; specifying additional designated place types to correspond with the Growth Tiers; revising certain maps to reflect the additional designated place types; adding new text to describe Growth Tiers and adding new maps; and generally relating to planning, zoning and land use in Howard County.

The members discussed the bill and the tier requirements under Senate Bill 236 with Marsha McLaughlin, Joy Levy, Bert Nixon, Ray Wacks and Paul Johnson. Ms. McLaughlin submitted a written proposal expressing six shared goals and five suggested strategies; along with a table showing the grandfathered RC properties. There was a discussion of each of the proposed strategies. Ms. McLaughlin will continue to engage the stakeholders (landowners, Farm Bureau, Homebuilders). The Administration is committed to a package of legislative proposal consistent with the strategies. Mr. Nixon discussed the status of perc testing for the grandfathered lots. The window of opportunity for this year's wet season per testing is expected to open next week. The end date is unknown. The Health Department is prepared to make partial refunds for those properties that do not complete perc testing. Mr. Wacks summarized the fiscal impact of the strategy of refining the agricultural preservation program. In brief, the proposal will require a commitment of \$2.5 - \$3.0 million per year for each of the ensuing eleven years. He will provide the spreadsheet of the calculations for the Council's review. Mr. Johnson was asked to provide advice on whether the opportunity still exists to change the definition of major subdivision under SB 236. Ms. McLaughlin will provide additional information, including proposed tier map, map of grandfathered properties, list of properties between 10 and 21 acres, and information on the impact of changing the definition of major subdivision.

The work session was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.