



Howard County Council

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

COUNCILMEMBERS

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

Minutes (approved)
Legislative Work Session
June 21, 2012

The work session was called to order by Chairperson Sigaty at 4:07 pm 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 25-2012 AN ACT amending the process for comprehensive zoning; defining certain terms; clarifying the County Council authority related to comprehensive zoning, clarifying the purpose of zoning districts and zoning regulations; requiring certain notice of a comprehensive zoning plan; requiring certain procedures before the Planning Board and the County Council; allowing for the consideration of certain requests; making certain technical corrections; and generally related to comprehensive zoning in Howard County.

Marsha McLaughlin provided a flow chart showing the existing process for purposes of comparison to the flow chart of the proposed process previously provided. The members discussed a series of potential amendments to the bill. Ms. McLaughlin will provide an estimate of the number of petitions DPZ might anticipate from the public. Paul Johnson will provide information concerning requirements of State law as to the time between adoption of the General Plan and Comprehensive Zoning.

Council Bill No. 24-2012 AN ACT creating the Downtown Columbia Partnership; defining certain terms; establishing the Downtown Columbia Management District; setting forth the composition, qualifications and term of the Partnership's Board of Directors; establishing the powers and duties of the Board; requiring that the Board adopt bylaws and that the bylaws contain certain provisions, including ethical standards and disclosure requirements; requiring the Partnership to perform certain duties; setting forth the powers and duties of the Partnership; providing for certain funding and certain payments required by the Downtown Columbia Plan; providing that the Partnership serves as the Downtown Columbia Housing Foundation and that certain funds shall be used to make affordable housing more available; requiring certain transportation initiatives; requiring that the Partnership prepare certain reports and keep certain records; allowing the Partnership to use certain methods of procurement; requiring Partnership compliance with the State Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act laws; setting forth the Partnership's legal advisor; providing a method to terminate the existence of the Downtown Columbia Partnership; providing for staggered terms for the initial members of the Board; and generally relating to the Downtown Columbia Partnership.

The members reviewed the rationale for establishing a commercial district management authority with Mark Thompson, John DeWolf and Paul Johnson. Topics of discussion included the collection of fees, partnership responsibilities, composition of the Board of Directors, start up phase, and comparisons to the Bethesda Urban Partnership. The members also reviewed the housing component of the bill with Mr. Thompson, Tom Carbo, Carol MacPhee, Tim Sosinski, Mr. Johnson, Bob Jenkins, Paul Revelle and Sherman Howell. Topics of discussion included the structure under the General Plan Amendment and the option of establishing a statutory basis for a non-profit entity that would serve as the Downtown Columbia Housing Foundation.

Council Bill No. 26-2012 AN ACT adopting PlanHoward 2030 as the general plan for Howard County, Maryland, for the purpose of planning for land use and land conservation and multiyear development planning for transportation, public facilities, water, sewerage, parkland, housing, human services, and environmental protection; and generally relating to planning, zoning, and land use in Howard County, Maryland. (Please note: topic for discussion will be Section IV Community).

The members reviewed several policies with Marsha McLaughlin and Bill Mackey.

The work session adjourned at 7:03 pm.