



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
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COUNCILMEMBERS

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

Minutes (approved) Legislative Work Session December 7, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 8:11 pm in the Board Room, Board of Education, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City.

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

Discussion: The members discussed the following items related to the following bills:

Council Bill No. 58-2009 – Introduced by The Chair at the request of General Growth Properties - Adopting the Downtown Columbia Plan, a General Plan Amendment for the purpose of revitalizing and redeveloping Downtown Columbia; and generally relating to the Downtown Columbia Plan, a General Plan Amendment

Council Bill No. 59-2009 (ZRA-113) – Introduced by: The Chair at the request of General Growth Properties - Amending the Howard County Zoning Regulations to create a new Downtown Columbia revitalization process in the New Town District; defining new terms; establishing a new residential density for Downtown Columbia; establishing new land use percentages for open space in Downtown Columbia; establishing an affordable housing provision for Downtown Columbia revitalization; establishing new off-street parking requirements for Downtown Columbia revitalization; and generally relating to the New Town zoning district

Frank Aquino, other members of the Board of Education, Sydney Cousin and Joel Gallihue discussed the County wide pupil generation model. Other jurisdictions have experienced lower generation from urban development similar to the Downtown proposal. The school representatives suggested a predevelopment evaluation with monitoring prior to the first building permit and continuing through the development program. There was also a discussion of existing facilities and sites and the potential need for an additional site. The Council suggested further input from the school system by early January, 2010.

Chief Goddard indicated that the Fire Department wants to consider alternative locations to the existing Banneker Station, which has limited opportunities for updating. This is especially the case for combined usage as a community center and police substation. The development phasing schedule includes an appropriate check point for a decision on the site.

Chief McMahon indicated that additional personnel needs are dependent on the phasing and types of units. The development model and environmental design offer opportunities for crime prevention. There was a discussion of a new court decision allowing enforcement of motor vehicle laws on private property.

Jim Irvin indicated that sufficient capacity exists at the treatment plant but the margin of error narrows as build-out approaches. There was a discussion of promoting reuse of effluent. Greg Hamm indicated that reuse and regional storm water management are components of the sustainability program.

Marsha McLaughlin described the proposal for a transit hub and shuttle. There was a discussion of the need for specificity for several of the Community Enhancements, Program and Public Amenities (CEEPAs).

Mr. Hamm summarized GGP's affordable housing proposal, followed by presentations of the Administration's recommendation by Stacy Spann and the housing advocates' suggestions by Tim Sosinski.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 pm.