



Howard County Council

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

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 8, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 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

Keith Bowers (Bio Habitat, Inc.) described GGP's Sustainability Program, consisting of land and community frameworks, which will be implemented through the Community Enhancement Plan and Program Enhancements (CEPPAs). There was a discussion of maintenance standards, LEED certification and the roles of the Design Advisory Panel and the Environmental Sustainability Board. Ned Tillman and Mark Southerland emphasized the need for implementation of the vision and monitoring. There was also a discussion of Symphony Woods, including a description by Phil Nelson of the alternate vision of the Columbia Association. The Council requested a memorandum from the Department of Planning and Zoning addressing Forest Conservation. Marsha McLaughlin indicated that the impending State regulation on stormwater management would apply to Downtown. There was a discussion of the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund Local Implementation Grant. There was further description of the three phases of the Merriweather renovation. Todd Brown summarized the Primary Open Space Framework Diagram and the Downtown Open Space Preservation Plan. There was consideration of the language allowing replacement of Downtown Parkland for other uses. Marsh McLaughlin summarized the monitoring requirements in the CEPPAs and the

Planning Board criteria. Finally, Messrs. Hamm and Brown and Gabrielle Koeppel responded to the members inquires concerning covenants.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.