

# Baltimore Metropolitan Council



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## **BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL (BMC) BOARD OF DIRECTORS APRIL 24, 2012**

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Honorable Kevin Kamenetz, Baltimore County Executive and Chair, Baltimore Metropolitan Council  
Honorable John Leopold, County Executive, Anne Arundel County  
Honorable Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Mayor, Baltimore City  
Honorable Haven Shoemaker, Vice-President, Board of County Commissioners, Carroll County  
Honorable David R. Craig, Harford County Executive

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Lt. Robert Maloney, Director, Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, Baltimore City  
Sam Moxley, Assistant County Attorney, Baltimore County Executive Office  
David Nitkin, Director of Policy & Legislative Affairs, Howard County Executive Office  
Ryan O'Doherty, Director of Policy & Communications, Baltimore City  
Steve Powell, Chief of Staff, Board of County Commissioners. Carroll County  
Aaron Tomarchio, Chief of Staff, Harford County

#### **BMC STAFF PRESENT**

Larry W. Klimovitz, Executive Director  
Victor Bonaparte  
Dunbar Brooks  
Lyn Farrow Collins  
Barbara Herron  
Michael Kelly  
Todd Lang  
Eileen Singleton  
Sandy Spears  
Sandi Stroud

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

County Executive Kamenetz and BMC Chair called the meeting to order at 2:50 p.m.

## PRESENTATIONS

### Urban Area Working Group UAWG Overview and Update

County Executive Kamenetz introduced Lt. Bob Maloney, Director, Office of Emergency Management, Baltimore City to report on this item.

Lt. Maloney first reported that the purpose of the FY 2012 UASI is to provide a primary funding mechanism for building and sustaining national preparedness capabilities. He stated the 47% decrease is in line with all Tier II UASIs in the country which have a 40-50% decrease). Unfortunately, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Norfolk, and Pittsburgh were all eliminated from FY 12 UASI funding. He then reported on the FY 12 funding trends. He added that opposed to previous fiscal years, the FY 12 grant will have a two year performance period, not a three year. Lt. Maloney then reported on the FY 2013 UASI budget. The Administration is announcing a new grants program to assist in creating national preparedness capacity based on cross-jurisdictional and readily deployable State and local assets.

Lt. Maloney then reported on the Star-Spangled Sailabration. This will be an international maritime festival in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, featuring more than 40 tall ships and gray hulls from more than 12 nations, an air show starring the Blue Angels, and the world premiere of "Overture for 2012" by Philip Glass. In addition to the Inner Harbor, events will also take place in Fell's Point, North Locust Point and Harborview (TBD). This type of event will require security and emergency personnel.

The next item Lt. Maloney discussed was the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station plume exercise. He stated this will require a coordinated effort. Primary stakeholders are: Departments of Environment, Natural Resources, Health and Mental Hygiene, Agriculture, Human Resources, and the Emergency Management Agency. He further stated that in the event of an accident, issues for protective action for the State are: shelter/evacuate, ingest potassium iodide, shelter animals, and close water ways and air space.

Lt. Maloney also reported on the high rise full-scale fire training and exercise. This will take place in October at the Legg Mason building in Harbor East. This is a regional exercise involving numerous stakeholders at the local, state, and federal levels.

### Overview on Regional GIS Initiative

County Executive Kamenetz introduced Sandi Stroud to discuss this topic. Ms. Stroud briefed the Board on her background and how it will benefit this initiative. She then reported that the Baltimore Regional GIS Committee or the BRGISC is comprised of all of the jurisdictional GIS managers and any other GIS participants that they deem would benefit. Ms. Stroud stated that she is happy to report that after meeting with everyone, she has full participation from all the jurisdictions. She stated that one of the things that she has done is to become an information broker in what is going on at the State level GIS with all the local jurisdictions. She added that she prepares minutes for these meetings so that everyone is apprised of what is going on there.

Ms. Stroud further stated that currently the group is initiating a data-sharing project. This is very difficult between the local jurisdictions up to the State level. She stated that the pilot data project is a regional, seamless road network and address layer. The reason this is necessary is that most disasters and incidents are completely disrespectful of any jurisdictional boundary. In order to have the

most effective response, we need to have data that crosses those jurisdictions in a seamless fashion. This reclaims all of the local jurisdictions as being the authoritative source of the addressing and location data, which is important because of the issues going on at the State level. Ms. Stroud added that we are the first in the State to do this. There are very few states in the country that have seamless networks. The State made several attempts to do this, but we are the first organization to successfully put this project into a pilot state and we are moving forward rapidly. Ms. Stroud also stated that we are working with Northern Virginia who has an acclaimed version of this project. We will be traveling there and learning from their best practices.

Ms. Stroud then reported that we have a new State Geographic Information Officer (GIO) who came into the office. He was the former GIO for the District. He revised and had a new Executive Order signed within his first four months of office. This order took the MDI Map Executive Committee, which was comprised of State Secretary level participants and expanded this to include all of the local governments. He broke up the State into regions that took the BMC region, but put Anne Arundel County in the southern region and Frederick County in the west. This gives us the opportunity of having two jurisdictions represented and sitting on the Board. This Board will eventually form the policy for State level GIS and will have a big impact on what the State does with GIS going forward in the future. Ms. Stroud then discussed what projects this group would be working on.

Ms. Stroud concluded by reporting on the initiative in the NCR that WashCOG has championed called the GO Spatial Data Exchange. The Spatial Exchange used UASI money to build an information exchange primarily for use during a disaster. She stated that she was able to facilitate an initial stakeholder meeting for Maryland jurisdictions. She further stated that over the next year she will be helping to facilitate this and bring it to Maryland at no cost to local jurisdictions. She stated that she would report on this as the project moves forward.

#### Approval of Minutes of January 31, 2012

County Executive Kamenetz called for the approval of the minutes from the January 31, 2012 BMC Board meeting. He stated the Management Committee was presented with the minutes on April 11, 2012 for corrections/edits. As there were none, the minutes are presented for approval. Mayor Rawlings-Blake called for a motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by County Executive Kamenetz. As there were no corrections, the minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.

#### Request for Attorney General's Opinion – Escorted Motorcycle Rides

County Executive Kamenetz introduced Eileen Singleton to report on this topic. Ms. Singleton reported that the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB) is coordinating a task force to examine the appropriate response to requests for police escorts. She stated that these events impact the transportation system, strain law enforcement resources in the area, and present potential safety issues for roadway users. She further stated that the goal of the Escorted Motor Rides Task Force is to prepare a set of recommendations that will be used across the Baltimore region to appropriately respond to requests for this type of event.

Ms. Singleton added that during the initial meeting of the Task Force, several legal issues have arisen regarding the authority for law enforcement such as: authority to provide escorts in emergency status, the ability of law enforcement agencies to share resources in order to effectively handle these events, and insurance. She continued by saying that it is a consensus of the group that an opinion from

the Attorney General is necessary to clarify these issues. This will enable the Task Force to make appropriate recommendations to the Board regarding this topic.

After a brief discussion, County Executive Kamenetz called for a motion to request the Attorney General's opinion. Commissioner Shoemaker motioned for approval and it was seconded by County Executive Craig. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **Program Updates**

### **Financial Update**

Mr. Klimovitz reported on the March 31, 2012 income statement. He stated that this includes the HUD Sustainable Housing Grant, which will continue to show on future statements throughout the duration of the project. It will be accounted for as a separate item. The \$7 million grant will extend over a three-year period. He then reported on BMC's revenue. He reported that Mr. Kelly submitted our first expense report to HUD and it was approved on Friday and returned to us on Monday. He stated that this was a fast turnaround. Mr. Klimovitz also stated that with the Board's approval, we have established and maintained an emergency fund in the event of Grant interruption.

### **BRCPC Update and Annual Report**

Mr. Klimovitz called attention to the April 9<sup>th</sup> BRCPC update for the first quarter. The 2011 Annual Report is also attached. He then reported on the electricity program. He stated that we are 12% under budget. Natural gas costs are dropping. Heating oil contract will expire in June, 2012. Baltimore County Public Schools is again the lead agency for the new regional fuel oil contract and is preparing a bid for the region. Mr. Klimovitz also reported that the BMC/BRCPC agreement with HGAC is planned to accommodate Baltimore City's purchase of automotive shop lifting equipment in the near future. Baltimore County is also exploring a vehicle purchase under this arrangement. This is one of the most active committee's that we have.

### **Scheduled MPO Certification – June 26-28, 2012**

Mr. Klimovitz stated that every four years, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) conduct a required three-day Certification Review of the official Baltimore Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), ours being the Baltimore Regional Transportation Planning Board (BRTB). Last completed in 2008, this re-certification review period has been set from June 26, 2012 through June 28, 2012. As part of the review, there will be an elected officials BRTB meeting where FHWA and FTA representatives will present information on the formal Certification process and observe regular BRTB business items and procedures. BMC and MPO staffs have already provided response to over 100 questions in a pre-certification questionnaire. This information was transmitted April 9, 2012. He stated that the elected officials BRTB meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 27, 2012 at the BMC Offices following the regularly rescheduled BMC Board meeting, which will begin at 2:30 p.m. that day. Mr. Klimovitz emphasized that it is imperative that we have good attendance from the elected officials at this meeting. He also stated that in December, 2009, the Maryland Administrator of FHWA met with him and Todd Lang and stressed involvement and engagement of the elected officials in BRTB business.

## FY 2013 Budget Development and Outlook for FY 2013

Mr. Klimovitz stated that normally it would be at this meeting he would be asking for approval of the FY 2013 budget. However, Federal Transportation funding remains unsettled impacting our budget process. It has been several years since the Federal Surface Transportation Act was reauthorized. Unable to reach an agreement, on March 29, 2012, Congress passed the ninth extension, valid until June 30, 2012.

Mr. Lang stated that the Senate is trying to work out a new authorization before the next Presidential election. Mr. Klimovitz stated that something will have to be done. Rather than have the BMC budget proposal in April, it will be ready in June. We will be budgeting anywhere from 7-9% less in federal revenues. We will be holding dues flat and we will also have increases in rent, insurance, and service supplies. He stated that he briefed the Management Committee and will be proposing some type of staff salary increase whether through merits, COLA, etc.

## Sustainable Communities Grant Update

Mr. Klimovitz introduced Mr. Mike Kelly to report on this item. Mr. Kelly stated that he was going to review the workplan update, which has been submitted to HUD, and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which all of the consortium members, including all of the jurisdictions represented here and as part of the BMC and BRTB will be asked to sign in the next two months. Mr. Kelly introduced Lyn Collins as Project Manager for the project. He stated that she joined us from the City of Annapolis where she was the Grants Manager. He further reported that we are preparing to hire a Coordinator for the Regional Analysis of Housing Impediments Program. One update to this is that the jurisdictions involved, except Carroll County, because they are not an entitlement jurisdiction, have contributed additional funds for this position and its support. The workplan was submitted to HUD on April 16<sup>th</sup>. He stated that it has eight phases. Phase 1 highlights are:

- Scope of work determined
- Sub-grant programs established
- Engagement strategy planned
- Kick-off event

Mr. Kelly then gave the MOU Update. He stated the following:

- Due on June 16<sup>th</sup>
- Among consortium members
- Sets operating procedure going forward

He stated it is a 26-member plus consortium. This consists of: BMC, BRTB, Baltimore City, Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties, City of Annapolis, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, Maryland Department of Planning, Maryland Department of Transportation, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Associated Black Charities, Baltimore Integration Partnership, Baltimore Neighborhood Collaborative, Citizens Planning and Housing Association, Baltimore Regional Initiative Developing Genuine Equity, Central Maryland Transportation Alliance, Enterprise Community Partners, Greater Baltimore Committee, Innovative Housing Institute, 1,000 Friends of MD, Morgan State University, and National Center for Smart Growth.

Mr. Kelly reported that the next steps would be:

- MOU signed
- Demonstration projects will be announced
- Workforce fund will be announced
- Kick-off event
- Phase 1 milestone meeting

This was followed by a brief discussion on engaging businesses.

#### BMC Retirement Plan Conversion

Mr. Klimovitz reported that on April 9<sup>th</sup> the conversion took place and all accounts flowed from Smith Barney over to The Principal. All accounts were reconciled.

#### Ending Comments

Mr. Klimovitz welcomed Dunbar Brooks back from a long absence.

County Executive Kamenetz called for any further comments. Mayor Rawlings-Blake stated that there is a new study published by the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program discussing Baltimore's next economy. The study is being released this week. She stated that her office reached out to Brookings and was able to get an advanced copy. She also stated that they got permission to share the report. Mayor Rawlings-Blake also commented that it makes a number of key recommendations that the Board should look at, including working to develop a strategy that eliminates the major barriers to exporting and finding a way to tap overseas markets as well as setting concrete export goals. The Greater Portland region came together recently to develop such a goal. She stated that perhaps there would be some ideas that we work on together to strengthen the region's economy.

As there was no further business, County Executive Kamenetz entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by County Executive Leopold and seconded by Commissioner Shoemaker. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Larry W. Klimovitz  
Executive Director