

Community Advisory Group Notes

Thursday, November 17, 2016 from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Community Advisory Group Members

Present

Senator James N. Robey
Ron Peters
Andy Hall
Reverend Joan King
Lori Lilly
Gary Maule
Ken McNaughton
Debbie Slack Katz
Melissa Metz for Beth Woodruff
Angela Tersiguel

Not Present

Tammy Beideman
Kevin Bloom
Frank Durantaye
Simon Cortes
Mark Hemmis
Timothy Kendzierski
Don Reuwer
Bruno Reich

County Staff

Maria Bernadzikowski
Kate Bolinger
Jeff Bronow
Beth Burgess
Lisa Crow
Mark DeLuca
Joseph Herr
Samantha Holmes
Jessie Keller
Tom McNeal
Phil Nichols
Karitsa Norman
Kristin O'Connor

Discussion Topics

Welcome – Chair, Senator James N. Robey

- Welcome from CAG Chair, Senator Robey.
- Senator Robey introduced Steve Brigham from Public Engagement Associates (PEA.)

Approval of Meeting Minutes – Chair, Senator James N. Robey

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- Approval of meeting minutes for 11/10/16.

Discussion of 11/10 Community Meeting and Future Meetings – PEA, Steve Brigham

- The second Community Meeting was held at Roger Carter Center on 11/10.
 - 11/10's meeting was focused on rebuilding in the environment.
 - The speaker on 11/10 was from the EPA and shared how they have done flood recovery in Vermont and Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
 - The meeting 10/18 was held there as well.
 - Great facility and good turnout.
 - Attendees felt very engaged.
 - Gary commented that he felt the meeting went well and looks forward to the next two.
 - Attendees were asked a series of polling questions to garner audience demographic and general feedback.
 - ¾ of folks who attended were from Ellicott City, ¼ regularly visited on a weekly basis, etc.
- As a reminder, each Community Meeting will be based on one of the four recovery pillars.
- CEPZEM and PEA debriefed following the meeting and discussed the following areas for improvement:
 - Meeting length – the 11/10 meeting ran long.
 - Will make the presentation on 12/1 more streamlined.
 - Will get to the 'meat' of the presentation quicker.
 - Will "coach" speakers so their presentations are more relevant/relatable to Ellicott City.
 - There was competition with the Ravens game for the meeting – people either stayed home or left early.
- The CAG gave their feedback on the 11/10 meeting.
 - Commented that the majority of attendees were new and felt there needed to be a balance between new and old attendees.
 - Asked if PEA was looking for more a repeat audience or new or combination of the two?
 - A combination of the two.
 - Felt that the resiliency list and economic impact of Ellicott City were very important documents that were given out (and unrelated to the speaker presentations.)
 - Need more copies of handouts - felt there were very few given out at the meeting.
 - Acknowledged that it's important to be aware of the diversity of impact on the attendees.
 - Two business owners felt helpless because the theme was about moving forward but their businesses hadn't reopened yet – so they didn't know how to talk about the future yet.
- 12/1's meeting will focus on economic development
 - The Economic Development Director from the city of Fredrick will be presenting on historic preservation.

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- Kristin reminded CAG members that they will stay to a strict schedule to get everyone out in time for lunch and encourage attendees to have lunch on Main Street.

CAG's Final Deliverable/Brainstorm Session – Chair, Senator James N. Robey

- Senator Robey discussed the implications of the sunset date for the CAG – February 1st, 2017.
 - An Executive Order was signed to create CAG.
 - Set to end on February 1st by Executive Order.
 - CAG has a couple of weeks to complete their final deliverable.
- Discussion of CAG's accomplishments:
 - They have done the short term work and have been very instrumental on immediate and mid-range planning post-flood.
 - Helped solved many short term problems.
 - High praise from the County and from Senator Robey.
- Next phase of Recovery – Intermediate/Long term
 - Master Plan Process will begin in February/March.
 - Kristin O'Connor from DPZ went over a PowerPoint explaining what a Master Planning Process is.
 - Slides sent out to members with meeting minutes.
 - A Master Plan is any amendment to Plan Howard 2030 (the County's long range general plan.) An example is the development of Downtown Columbia and/or the Watershed Plan.
- Master Plan specifications/criteria?
 - Provides detailed recommendations on:
 - Land use
 - Zoning
 - Transportation
 - The natural environment
 - Urban design
 - Historic preservation
 - Public facilities
 - Implementation techniques.
 - Meetings will involve full public engagement.
 - More long range.
 - Will utilize case study results.
 - Much larger than a flood specific recommendation document – will provide recommendations on a lot of uses and serve as a guide.
 - Process that takes years.
 - Gathering ideas, synthesizing a variety of recommendations.
 - This includes the entire watershed – will include storm water mitigation projects.
- What would prevent this plan from getting stuck on a shelf?

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- Response: the high level of visibility in terms of funding, the federal activity Ellicott City had, top priority of administration – there have been many studies but this one is different because it's always been identified as a project from the top down.
- There's high visibility now but how do you keep that message going? (Due to change over in administration or for various other reasons.)
 - Once you get the approval for the Master Plan it becomes its own guiding document (the reviewing document for each document / change moving forward) – once it's been vetted and approved it becomes the standing document regardless of changeover in administration.
 - Community input is important to keep the project sustainable.
 - The approval of City Council is also important and the community needs to keep after the administration to assure that it's a priority.
 - Senator Robey reminded CAG members that Executive Kittleman is committed to this and will do what is needed.
- CAG members discussed the need to figure out how to continue to be involved, and how to best champion this community.
 - Have to find more ways to champion Ellicott City other than calling it historic.
 - Ellicott City needs to be able to educate and promote the resources that are in this area.
 - Important to have a collective community voice behind projects.
 - Ellicott City Partnership is trying to fill this role, but are also multitasking with a variety of roles - tourism, chamber of commerce, and champion for the community
- How long does the Master Plan Process take?
 - It's a 9-14 month process.
- Discussion of CAG Deliverable, Subgroups, and Brainstorm
 - Over 270 projects proposed.
 - Senator Robey discussed developing 5 subgroups (for each pillar) to work on these projects to get rid of those that are duplicative and give back what can be put into the deliverable/report after they're synthesized.
 - When we come back next week – asking for the CAG members to buy into the idea of getting into subgroups.
 - Senator Robey reviewed the draft outline for the deliverable (different topics that should be included in the report to the County.)
 - Project ideas are available online and will also send them out.
 - What belongs in the Master Plan and what doesn't?
 - Think about who the right person from the County is to help guide some of these conversations.
 - Suggestion to add a category called "Community" about how we can move together stronger, move forward stronger – one that better articulates community value, the spiritual aspect of the community.

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- Needs to be an emphasis on making the relationship between the West End and the business area stronger.
- Dec. 31st – deadline for the community to submit ideas – and then the subgroups will go through and vet them out.
- CAG members will get the draft copy of the deliverable to review.
- Tell the County what you liked, didn't like, what can the county take away from CAG, what can it learn from CAG that it can apply to future issues – all hazards.
- This is the first time that the County has taken this approach in a recovery process – so all feedback is greatly appreciated.
 - Question: would it make sense to ask the members of the CAG to bring issues in the community that people are still struggling with that are unaware of?
 - Response: It would be welcome as things are progressing forward the County needs to keep hearing these kinds of things; the Long Term recovery Committee is coming to fruition to discuss those unmet needs – and if there's still a void to see what we can get done so please bring those forward.
- 35 issues were addressed, 5 are in progress, and a few have been documented to keep following up on.
- Encourage CAG to bring issues forward – good or bad
- The County is working on all these issues as they come.
- The Flood Resilience Check List will go to the Flood Work Group.
- Introduction of Maria Bernadzikowski, Disaster Recovery Specialist for Howard County OEM – taking over Lisa Crow's role.
- Question for Mark DeLuca: Of the 7 projects underway, do those involve private and public property and how are they going?
 - All projects are in some stage of either design or planning – if you ever have any questions about projects feel free to call Mark. They are both public and private.
 - Mark can communicate information through groups and press release.
- Melissa Metz, World Bank, opening up to the CAG to meet with her and her colleague to discuss methodologies for community engagement, economic development, impact of disasters etc.
 - Phil, Joe, and Lisa met with Melissa and felt that it was very insightful, very beneficial, and advised if CAG members have the opportunity to meet they should do it.
 - Phil can send an email out to the group with Melissa's information.
 - Melissa and her colleague are doing this as individuals who are interested in assisting, not representing the World Bank.

Future Meeting Schedule – CAG Members

- No meeting next week due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.
- The next CAG meeting will be held on December 1st – McCormick Taylor will be presenting.

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Closing – Chair, Senator James N. Robey

- Jim reminded members to look over deliverables, decide subgroups, and be ready to discuss at the next meeting.