

Minutes of the February 21, 2024 Board of Directors Meeting for the South Baltimore Gateway Community Impact District Management Authority dba South Baltimore Gateway Partnership (“SBGP”)

The hybrid meeting was held at City Garage, 101 W. Dickman Street, Suite 1000, Baltimore, MD 21230 and by Zoom.

Board members in attendance: Councilwoman Phylicia Porter, Vice Chair; Randy Conroy; Veronica Crosby; Jill Donaldson; Diante Edwards; Chris Firehock; Pastor Alvin Gwynn; Jen McLaughlin, proxy for Rich Badmington; Kelly Quinn; Bill Reuter, proxy for Quincy Goldsmith; and Noah Smock. SBGP staff members in attendance: Brad Rogers, Executive Director; Ethan Abbott, Transformational Projects Manager; Acacia Asbell, Community Grants Director; Liz Cornish, Enhanced Services Director; Ashley Davis, Community Grants Manager; Colline Emmanuelle, Communications and Outreach Manager; Neal Friedlander; Community Development Manager; Jeff La Noue, Enhanced Services Manager; Erica Pitkow, Deputy Director (recording minutes); Samantha Rose, Restoration Manager; and Liz Van Oeveren, Community Grants Manager.

Councilwoman Porter called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm and presided. A quorum was present.

Welcome and Overview

Councilwoman Porter highlighted the meeting agenda.

Minutes of the January 17, 2024 Board of Directors Meetings

The minutes of the January 17, 2024 Board of Directors meeting were presented and unanimously approved by the Board.

Executive Director and Staff Reports

Mr. Rogers provided general updates. New staff member Ashley Davis introduced herself. She is serving as a temporary Community Grants Manager in preparation for Liz Van Oeveren’s parental leave. The many board members who joined today’s tour of the progress on the Carroll Park Recreation Center construction site were thanked. Tomorrow, SBGP will be recognized on the floor of the Maryland General Assembly for its great contributions to the State of Maryland.

Mr. Rogers presented an organizational growth and staffing update. He shared an overview of SBGP’s growth and evolution to date and discussed current limits to future growth, including funding and staffing. SBGP has been testing its capacity to and he believes it can raise additional funding. Therefore, there have been ongoing conversations about SBGP’s staffing model and potential future staffing models in order to enable the staff to achieve more. Mr. Rogers proposed including three new staff positions in the FY25 budget.

The Board discussed organizational growth, staffing, and the proposal in detail. The Board was supportive of the vision and proposal. Several Board members noted SBGP’s strengths that it should work to maintain as it grows, including being nimble and responsive, having a focused approach, and being accessible to small and grassroots groups. Mr. Conroy suggested SBGP consider how to structure its growth based on certain indicators.

Mr. Rogers presented an update on Stage 1 of the MBRI work, including the current status of minimum commitments and the maximum scale if all funding is secured including for optional elements.

Ms. Asbell provided an update on Community Grants and highlighted several projects. She also provided an update on the current application cycle, including several early submissions, outreach, new video guidance, and the upcoming grant review meeting. Ms. Asbell reviewed Keys to Capacity workshops attendance and the quarterly grantee networking meeting.

Ms. Emmanuelle provided communications and outreach updates, including the MBRI Launch Celebration scheduled for April 19, outreach for the Baltimore Black Sox Memorial project, an upcoming Keys to Capacity workshop, and recent press. She also reported on the axe-con 2024 Digital Accessibility Conference she has been attending.

Ms. Pitkow reviewed ethics requirements and outstanding compliance.

Committee and Officer Reports

Governance and Nominating Committee

Councilwoman Porter reported that the committee has not met since the last Board meeting. Board members were asked to inform Ms. Pitkow by May 1, 2024 if they do not plan to continue to serve on the Board in calendar year 2025 so that SBGP has plenty of time to fill any open Board seats. Board members were asked to share the names of any community members that may be interested in serving on the SBGP Board.

Communications Committee

Ms. McLaughlin reported on the January 25, 2024 committee meeting and the website redevelopment project. Mr. Badmington and Ms. Emmanuelle have been meeting with each SBGP department to get input into the project. The committee is also having internal discussions about its role and scope and how it can be most helpful.

Finance Committee

Ms. Pitkow reported on the February 8, 2024 committee meeting and reviewed the December 2023 financial statements and reports.

Program Committee

Mr. Smock reported on the February 5, 2024 committee meeting and the current grant cycle and grant review dates. He commended the Community Grants staff on the unconscious bias and grant review training. Board members were reminded that each Board member is expected to help with grant reviews at least once per year.

Strategic Planning Committee

Mr. Rogers reported on the February 6, 2024 committee meeting. Two applications were received for the Community Development Fund and are being reviewed by the third-party consultant. They will then be considered by the Strategic Planning Committee, and updates will be provided to the Board.

Public Comments

There were no comments or questions from members of the public or other meeting attendees.

Other Business

Councilwoman Porter reviewed the schedule of upcoming meetings.

Mr. Edwards informed the Board that he is being sent on a deployment as a Navy reservist so will be attending meetings virtually for the foreseeable future.

Adjournment

There being no further business or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.