

Minutes of the September 18, 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: Themar Long; Rich Badmington; Veronica Crosby; Jill Donaldson; Jasmine Esteve; Chris Firehock; Quinn Fowler; Pastor Alvin Gwynn; Karin Lundquist; Bill Reuter, proxy for Quincy Goldsmith; Noah Smock; and Jacob Witmer. SBGP staff members in attendance: Brad Rogers, Executive Director; Acacia Asbell, Community Grants Director; Liz Cornish, Deputy Director of Programs; Ashley Davis, Community Grants Manager; Colline Emmanuelle, Senior Communications and Outreach Manager; Neal Friedlander, Senior Community Development Manager; Khadeen Grant, Enhanced Services Manager; Lauren McDade McLaughlin, Operations Manager; Erica Pitkow, Deputy Director of Operations (recording minutes); and Liz Van Oeveren, Senior Community Grants Manager. Other attendee: Stephen Mackall, SB & Company.

Mr. Long called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm and presided. A quorum was present.

Welcome and Overview

Mr. Long highlighted the meeting agenda. Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

Minutes of the July 17, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting

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

Report of Independent Public Accountants for the Year Ended June 30, 2024

Mr. Mackall, audit partner from SB & Company, presented and reviewed the audit results, Financial Statements Together with Report of Independent Public Accountant for the Year Ended June 30, 2024, 2024 Single Audit, and required communications. SB & Company issued an unmodified (clean) opinion on the financial statements and Single Audit, did not discover any instances of fraud or material weakness in internal controls, received full cooperation from management, and assessed the control environment to be effective in all areas.

The Board accepted the FY24 audit report.

Executive Director and Staff Reports

Mr. Rogers provided staffing updates, including plans for additional positions, and new staff members introduced themselves.

Mr. Rogers shared updates on the opening of the Jumbo Fresh grocery store at the Mt. Clare Junction Shopping Center and the ribbon cutting and opening of the Carroll Park Recreation Center. He also provided fundraising updates and presented the resolution to authorize SBGP to accept and repay loan funds from the Maryland Water Quality State Revolving Loan program. The resolution was approved by the Board. Ms. Donaldson recused herself from voting.

Ms. Asbell and Ms. Van Oeveren provided Community Grants updates, reviewed open community grants, and highlighted several projects, the benefits of summer programs and community activations, and the fall 2024 workshops. They also discussed the current grant cycle, for which the review process is underway, and updates to the letter of support requirement for grant applicants. Ms. Van Oeveren returned full-time from parental leave over the summer.

Ms. Emmanuelle provided communications and outreach updates, including the upcoming Westport and Smith Cove Waterfront Parks public meeting and recent press coverage. Responses to the RFQ for website development services are under review.

Ms. Pitkow reviewed ethics requirements and outstanding compliance.

Committee and Officer Reports

Governance and Nominating Committee

Ms. Pitkow reported that the committee has not met since the last Board meeting. She provided updates on the current Board application cycle.

Communications Committee

Mr. Badmington reported on the September 5, 2024 committee meeting. He noted Ms. Emmanuelle's update on the RFQ for website development services earlier in the meeting.

Finance Committee

Ms. Pitkow reported on the September 12, 2024, committee meeting. Ms. Pitkow reviewed the July 2024 financial statements and reports.

Mr. Rogers reported that since SBGP is now doing more fundraising from foundations and private donors, who are not used to dealing with public authorities, SBGP has opened a donor-advised fund with the Baltimore Community Foundation. SBGP is exploring the potential for future 501(c)3 status. The Board discussed the donor-advised fund and potential 501(c)3 status in detail.

Ms. Pitkow provided an update on the ACH payment fraud. The bank investigation is ongoing and insurance claims were submitted and are pending review. SBGP's auditors were informed and indicated that SBGP has already taken the appropriate steps to remediate the situation and that it is not material from a financial statement perspective and does not need to be disclosed.

Ms. Pitkow discussed the proposed changes to SBGP's signing authority procedures discussed at a previous Board meeting. She plans to discuss the proposed changes with the auditors now that the audit has been completed and will provide an update at the next meeting.

Program Committee

Mr. Smock reported on the August 5, 2024, committee meeting and September 9, 2024, Unconscious Bias and Grant Review Training and provided updates on the Community Grants application cycle. Grant review is underway.

Strategic Planning Committee

Mr. Rogers reported on the August 6, 2024, and September 3, 2024, committee meetings. He provided updates on Reimagine Middle Branch and the Community Development Fund.

Public Comments

Mr. Firehock shared that Mr. Reuter and his wife, Sharon, are being featured as Hometown Heroes at this Saturday's Orioles game.

Mr. Witmer alerted the Board that the Maryland State Lottery & Gaming Control Agency is proposing a tax increase on certain casino expenditures. Currently, casinos can provide free promotional play up to a certain amount without it being taxed. Under the new proposal, taxes would be levied on all free promotional play, which he believes would shift some customers to other states and might trigger an effort by the industry to renegotiate their contribution to the Local Impact Grants. That could eventually impact SBGP. The Board discussed the matter.

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

Other Business

Mr. Long reviewed the schedule of upcoming meetings.

Ms. Pitkow reported that the calendar of 2025 Board and committee meetings is being developed, and she invited staff and Board members to participate in the Sowebo Landmark 5k as part of the SBGP team.

Adjournment

There being no further business or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.