

Minutes of the November 20, 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; Brittany Banks; Diante Edwards; Chris Firehock; Quinn Fowler; Robert Idlett, proxy for Councilwoman Phylicia Porter; Jazmin Kimble; Karin Lundquist; Nancy Mead; and Bill Reuter. SBGP staff members in attendance: Brad Rogers, Executive Director; Ethan Abbott, Reimagine Middle Branch Manager; Liz Cornish, Deputy Director of Programs; Colline Emmanuelle, Senior Communications and Outreach Manager; Neal Friedlander, Community Development Manager; Khadeen Grant, Enhanced Services Director; Jeff La Noue, Enhanced Services Manager; and Erica Pitkow, Deputy Director of Operations (recording minutes). Other attendees: Robert Baity, and Lisa Hodges-Hiken, Westport CEDC; and Austin Firehock.

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

Welcome and Overview

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

Minutes of the October 16, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting

The minutes of the October 16, 2024, Board of Directors meeting were presented and unanimously approved by the Board.

Executive Director and Staff Reports

Mr. Rogers provided organizational updates. SBGP has three open job postings for a Communications and Outreach Manager, a Community Grants Manager, and a Restoration Manager. The Reimagine Middle Branch Plan won a national planning award from the American Planning Association. The City Council completed the 4-year renewal of SBGP and the SBG District. The Mayor has signed off on the location for a NorthBay Middle Branch Campus. MBRI fundraising continues. The school board may decide in January to close the Southwest Baltimore Charter School. The Board discussed the charter school issue and the community’s advocacy to keep the school open.

Ms. Grant, Mr. La Noue, and Mr. Abbott provided Enhanced Services and other program updates. Capital projects underway include Conway Street Park, Paca Street Park, and Paca Street Park Pavilion. Sports services include programming, equipment, and improvements to parks and facilities across the district. Waste management services are expanding. Reimagine Middle Branch programming continues, including planning for the next year of Boat Around the Middle Branch and the winter activation of ice-skating at Middle Branch Park. SBGP also sponsored the Youth Resiliency Institute’s 106th Maryland Emancipation Day Celebration.

Ms. Emmanuelle provided communications and outreach updates, including upcoming Keys to Capacity workshops, the upcoming announcement of the Summer 2024 Community Grants awards, and recent press coverage. Interviews are underway with the respondents to the RFQ for website development services.

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. Board members were invited to contact Ms. Pitkow if they are interested in having a proxy.

Communications Committee

Mr. Badmington reported that the committee has not met since the last Board meeting. He noted Ms. Emmanuelle's update on the RFQ for website development services earlier in the meeting and discussed next steps in the process.

Finance Committee

Ms. Pitkow reported on the November 14, 2024, committee meeting and reviewed the September 2024 financial statements and reports. She also reported on the bi-annual renewal of the Investment Policy Guidelines and the investment portfolio performance.

Program Committee

Mr. Reuter reported on the November 4, 2024, committee meeting. The committee debriefed on the last grant cycle and planned for and discussed the upcoming grant cycle.

Strategic Planning Committee

Mr. Rogers reported on the November 5, 2024, committee meeting, including discussions about establishing an affiliated 501(c)(3) organization, programming FY25 Transformational Projects funds, and the Community Development Fund.

Public Comments

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. He noted that the schedule of 2025 Board and committee meetings was distributed by email.

Adjournment

There being no further business or comments, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.