

Minutes of the April 16, 2025, 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: Rich Badmington; Brittany Banks; Councilman Zac Blanchard; Natalie Cohen, proxy for Chris Firehock; Veronica Crosby; Jill Donaldson; Diante Edwards; Jasmine Esteve; Quinn Fowler; Jazmin Kimble; Karin Lundquist; Nancy Mead; Kelly Quinn; Noah Smock; and Katie Wunderlich. Staff members in attendance: Ethan Abbott, Brad Rogers, Liz Cornish, Ashley Davis, Jessica Diaz, Lauren McDade McLaughlin, Erica Pitkow (recording minutes), Samantha Rose, and Alexandria Sweeney. Other attendee: Darius Beckford, Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention and Policy.

Mr. Rogers called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm and presided. A quorum was present.

Welcome and Overview

Mr. Rogers highlighted the meeting agenda.

Minutes of the March 19, 2025, Board of Directors Meetings

The minutes of the March 19, 2025, Board of Directors meeting were presented and unanimously approved by the Board. The minutes of the April 9, 2025, Annual Spring Public Meeting were also distributed to the Board.

Executive Director and Staff Reports

Mr. Rogers provided staffing updates. He reminded the Board that Community Grants Director Acacia Asbell is currently out on parental leave and shared that Senior Community Grants Manager Liz Van Oeveren and Senior Communications and Outreach Manager Colline Emmanuelle are both out on leave. Deputy Director of Programs Liz Cornish is supporting the Community Grants team, and SBGP is hiring for a new Communications and Outreach Manager.

Mr. Rogers provided a federal funding update. FEMA is ending the BRIC program and cancelling all BRIC applications from fiscal years 2020-2023. Grant funds that have not been distributed will be immediately returned. SBGP is waiting to receive more details and planning for how to adjust its work accordingly.

Ms. Grant and Mr. Abbott provided updates on Enhanced Services. Ms. Grant discussed team building efforts and tools developed as well as the winter mixer hosted in collaboration with Development Director Jim Longenecker. Ms. Grant and Mr. Abbott highlighted and provided updates on projects, including Conway Street Park, waste management, Westport Waterfront Park community engagement, sports, Pigtown and Federal Hill Main Streets, Boat Around the Middle Branch summer tours, and park programs and events in collaboration with BCRP.

Ms. Pitkow provided communications and outreach updates, including upcoming Keys to Capacity workshops and recent media coverage.

Ms. Pitkow reviewed ethics requirements and outstanding compliance. All board, proxy, and staff members must complete the annual financial disclosure filing for calendar year 2024 by April 30, 2025. Financial disclosure filing instructions and reminders will continue to be provided to those who still need to complete their filing.

Committee and Officer Reports

Governance and Nominating Committee

Ms. Pitkow reported that the committee has not met since the last Board meeting. She reviewed the proposed bylaws amendments that clarify provisions related to the composition of the Board, appointment and removal of Board members, Officers, and quorum and voting.

The proposed bylaws amendments were unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Pitkow provided an update on the Vice Chair selection process. At the end of each calendar year, the SBGP Board normally selects its Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary for the upcoming calendar year. Since the amended bylaws state that ex officio members may not serve as Vice Chair, Treasurer, or Secretary (a grace period is provided for replacing any current officers), SBGP must select a new Vice Chair. Following the last Board meeting, Board members were invited to express interest in serving as Vice Chair, and three Board members expressed interest. Following tonight's meeting, the names of the three candidates and candidate statements will be circulated to the Board along with a link to a voting form. The overall results of the voting will be shared and the Board will be asked to vote to ratify the selection of the next Vice Chair at the May 21, 2025, Board meeting.

Board members were reminded to inform Ms. Pitkow by May 1, 2025, if they do not plan to continue to serve on the Board in calendar year 2026.

Communications Committee

Mr. Badmington reported that the committee has not met since the last Board meeting. Mr. Badmington and Ms. Pitkow provided updates on the scoping and contracting process for the website project. Implementation is currently on hold.

Finance Committee

Ms. Pitkow reported on the April 9, 2025, committee meeting and reviewed the February 2025 financial statements and reports.

The Finance Committee recommended the Board approve the proposed FY26 Financial Plan (budget). Ms. Pitkow presented SBGP's proposed FY26 budget compared to the FY25 budget, including revenues, expenses, and assumptions. She noted formatting changes to make SBGP more transparent and effective in its budgeting and financial reporting. When SBGP was first founded, its funding came exclusively from its core casino revenues. Therefore, its annual financial plan focused exclusively on these casino funds. Since SBGP has successfully leveraged its core funds to attract new outside funding, these supplemental funds have now been incorporated into the financial plan. Program expenses are budgeted to be 98 percent of total expenses, and operating expenses are budgeted to be just 2 percent of total expenses. Looking only at SBGP's core casino funds, program expenses are budgeted to be about

85 percent of total expenses, and operating expenses are budgeted to be just 15 percent of total expenses, which is still an incredibly lean overhead rate. The original target for emergency reserves of \$1.5 million has been met, so SBGP has not budgeted to reserve any additional funds. Ms. Pitkow reviewed the budget development and approval timeline. The FY26 budget was also presented at SBGP's annual Spring Public Meeting on April 9, 2025, and provided to the Local Development Council (LDC) for comment. There were no specific comments on the budget at the Spring Public Meeting or from the LDC.

The Board discussed the budget in detail and unanimously voted to approve the proposed FY26 budget. The FY26 budget will be submitted to the Board of Estimates for approval by April 30, 2025.

Program Committee

Mr. Smock, Ms. Cornish, and Ms. Davis reported on the April 5, 2025, Program Committee meeting and the grant application review process. Mr. Smock discussed lessons learned. Ms. Davis discussed application trends, and on behalf of the committee, she presented and reviewed the portfolio of grant awards recommended for Board approval. Of a total of 50 applications requesting over \$2.5 million, the Board was asked to approve awards for 24 grants totaling \$660,645. Ms. Davis also reviewed and discussed the applications that were not awarded funding.

Mr. Rogers reminded the Board of the disclosure and recusal process and that the Board is being asked to vote on the entire slate. He noted that approximately \$20,000 of the grant awards are in memorium of South Baltimore resident Vincent Andrews.

The recommended portfolio of grant awards (attached) was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Smock noted that staff will send out grant award acknowledgment letters and declination letters on approximately May 1, 2025, and decisions should not be shared before then. The Community Grants staff, Mr. Smock, the Program Committee, and the review team were thanked for their work.

Strategic Planning Committee

Mr. Rogers reported on the April 1, 2025, committee meeting. The committee is developing a plan for the commitment of remaining FY25 Transformational Projects funds, which it plans to finalize soon and then recommend to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

Public Comments

Darius Beckford from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy introduced himself and discussed his office's work. He invited SBGP and its communities to reach out as needed. Mr. Beckford will also share available grant opportunities with SBGP.

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

Other Business

Mr. Rogers reviewed the schedule of upcoming meetings.

Adjournment

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

Grantee/Project Manager	Project Title	SBGP Funding Amount
Federal Hill Preperatory PTO	PREP Transportation Funds	4,600.00
Riverside Neighborhood Association Inc.	Placemaking Leverage	4,925.00
Thomas Johnson Elementary Middle School PTO	TJ Outdoor Shed and Tools	4,998.00
Gifts for the Great Inc.	25/26 Back to School Bash	5,000.00
South Creek Community Development Corporation	Community Eating Together	5,000.00
Fishes & Loaves Pantry, Inc.	2025 Community Resource Fair	7,005.00
Scrap Creative Reuse	Pigtown Arts	12,125.00
Living Classrooms Foundation Inc.	SLURRP	19,500.00
Federal Hill Main Street, Inc.	Annual Traditions	20,000.00
Cherry Hill United Methodist Church	CHUMC Food Ministry & Pantry	21,352.10
Pigtown Main Street Inc	Promote Pigtown	23,380.00
Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service	Legal Services	26,225.00
Pigtown Climbs Inc	Pigtown Climbs Inc	30,000.00
South Baltimore Learning Center	Adult Literacy is The Answer	30,000.00
Business Volunteers Maryland	Capacity Build Initiative	32,043.00
Elev8 Baltimore, Inc	Student Support - SBAHS	33,750.00
A Prosperous Tomorrow	Future Tech Pioneers	35,000.00
Black Yield Institute	BYI Marketplace Expansion	40,000.00
Media Rhythm Institute Studios Inc.	Soundtracks to Success	40,000.00
Taste Wise Kids Inc	Food Literacy & Healthy Kids	41,640.00
Southwest Partnership	Pigtown Odds & Ends - POE	49,103.00
Baltimore Community Rowing, Inc.	Reach High Baltimore	49,999.00
Paul's Place, Inc.	PP Community Health Nursing	49,999.99
Baltimore Community ToolBank	Empowerment through Access	75,000.00
Total		\$660,645.09