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Elizabeth Rosborg
Chair, Citizen Advisory Committee

Plan2040
Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)
Meeting Notes
January 15, 2020 - 5:00 PM
Chesapeake Conference Room, 2nd Floor
2664 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD

CAC members present: Elizabeth Rosborg (Chair), Cate Bower, Anthony Brent, John Clark, Bill Dodd, Thomas Fahs, Joel Greenwell, Melanie Hartwig-Davis, Patricia Huecker, Matthew Korbela, Amy Leahy, Elizabeth Ysla Leight, Patricia Lynch, Charles Mannion, Gary Mauler, William Moulden, Ellen Moyer, Kristin Pauly, Allan Straughan

County staff present: Christina Pompa, Deputy Planning and Zoning Officer; Cindy Carrier, Long Range Planning Administrator; Holly Simmons, Long Range Planner; Mark Wildonger, Long Range Planner; Don Zeigler, Long Range Planner; Rich Bowen, Recycling Program Manager, Department of Public Works; Ross Dinkel, Deputy Fire Chief; Karissa Gouin, Director of Programming, Department of Aging and Disabilities; Ann Heiser Buzzelli, Community Education, Department of Health; Rudy Rodela, Chief of Support Services, Anne Arundel County Public Library; Jennifer Schneider, Deputy Director of Disease Prevention and Management, Department of Health; Sarah Stein, Director, Aging and Disability Resource Center Planning and Programming, Department of Aging and Disabilities; Greg Stewart, Senior Planning Manager, Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Trisha Wolford, Fire Chief

Attendees: Steve Miller, Jon Korin, Phil Green

Introduction:

Ms. Elizabeth Rosborg, Chair

Ms. Cindy Carrier, Long Range Planning Administrator

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m.

Ms. Carrier introduced Ms. Simmons as the newest member of the Long Range Planning team. She will assist in finishing up the GDP and will work on the Region Area Plans after the GDP. Ms. Carrier thanked the CAC members who provided constructive comments. She reminded the CAC that the first part of the document is background information and context and that comments should be focused on the goals, policies, and strategies. She also encouraged the CAC to avoid editorial comments and that constructive comments are more helpful. She emphasized that County

agencies have spent a considerable amount of time putting thought into the goals, policies, and strategies to address issues that have been identified during this process. The GDP outline has already been shared with CAC as reference for additional sections.

Finalize draft textual context, goals, policies, and strategies for “Planning for Healthy Communities”:

Ms. Elizabeth Rosborg, Chair

Mr. Don Zeigler, Planner

Ms. Carrier addressed Mr. Mauler’s comment that, as noted in the GDP outline and discussed in previous meetings, the GDP will include a section on how the goals, policies, and strategies will be measured. These include an annual report, a citizen implementation committee, and a four-year report that monitors the performance of the GDP. Mr. Mauler said the various sections and chapters do not read the same. Ms. Carrier said it will and re-emphasized that comments should be focused on the goals, policies, and strategies, and not the formatting. She also reiterated the fact that some Vision Statements have been included for context and that these should not be edited because consensus has already been reached at a prior meeting.

In regards to Mr. Mauler’s comments about the State Visions and State Policies, these have been approved by the State and cannot be modified by the County.

Ms. Carrier clarified that the 2009 GDP did not include a process for continuation of Small Area planning. Plan2040 will determine the process for the Region Planning process to identify goals, policies, and strategies at the community / regional scale. The Region Area Plans will also help to implement the Plan2040. Mr. Mauler felt that too much of the document was dedicated to the State and County framework that guides and identifies requirements for the GDP. He also felt that this information would be dated by the time the GDP is adopted. Ms. Carrier noted that this information is for the benefit of the CAC and that this context and framework section may be moved to an appendix. Ms. Bower appreciated the context and history.

Mr. Stewart said that approximately 3,000 students enrolled in the Centers of Applied Technology represent about 10% of the high school population. Schools is very confident in their enrollment projections, especially one-year out. For example, they were recently off by less than a half a percent. He also noted between 2,500 and 3,500 homes generate enough demand for an elementary school that costs roughly \$50 million. Ms. Moyer referenced a Schools plan that recommended the need for 26 new schools in the next 10 years. She asked if the locations have been identified. Mr. Stewart has a map of general areas where those schools will be needed. He shared a concern that some zoning districts and overlays permit residential in commercial and industrially zoned areas and this makes it difficult to project future needs. Ms. Moyer suggested that underutilized commercial areas should allow schools. Mr. Brent asked how the Land Use Market Analysis projection of 28,000 housing units figure into their projections. Mr. Stewart’s yield study assumes zero residential units within the commercial and industrial zoning districts. Ms. Hartwig-Davis asked if the required acreages per type of school were recently analyzed. Mr. Stewart said they have and collaborate with the Department of Recreation and Parks to co-locate parks and facilities in order to reduce the burden of land acquisition between the two agencies.

Ms. Pauly asked if other departments will analyze the Planned Land Use Map, which indirectly takes into account the projected 28,000 housing units. Ms. Carrier confirmed that County departments

will test for impacts. Ms. Huecker asked what the yield factor is for an elementary school. Mr. Stewart said the yield factor can range between 0.06 to 0.4 students per dwelling, but it also depends on the area. For example, Annapolis has a lower yield factor than Severna Park.

Mr. Moulden asked what the legislative remedy is for not allowing residential in non-residential zoning districts, including the zoning overlays. Mr. Stewart said that would require rescinding legislation that enabled it. Mr. Moulden asked if the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) protects schools from being overcrowded. Mr. Stewart said a grandfathering provision was removed, and added that County Council needs to remedy the expiring APFO law before the GDP is adopted. Mr. Moulden asked if Schools has looked in into acquiring land from the federal government at Fort Meade. Mr. Stewart said there are already several schools on Fort Meade property. Mr. Moulden noted that the County is a tax-cap county, has a school budget of \$2.1 billion, and may need to contribute almost \$100 million over 10 years for state education funding. He asked how the County plans to budget accordingly. Mr. Stewart said the budget officer is aware and the plan is still to be determined. Mr. Moulden asked if Schools is planning not only for sea level rise impacts to the actual school facility, but also the public infrastructure, like roads, that support the school. Mr. Stewart confirmed Schools is already seeing those impacts and will plan accordingly, especially for the peninsula areas.

Mr. Mauler asked whether, that despite adequate tools for modeling, projections can be a moving target. Mr. Stewart said Schools receives birth rates from the State annually. This helps Schools understand the number of kindergarteners. As a student's age rises, the curve flattens due to uncertain variables. At that point, Schools works with the Office of Planning and Zoning to obtain information on the number of subdivisions and ultimately the potential number of students. Schools also works with developers to learn their build rates based on sales. Mr. Stewart said this information is reflected in their annual school master plan.

Ms. Moyer asked if Schools has a relationship with the Department of Recreation and Parks and whether they have looked at joint needs comprehensively. She also asked who is responsible for the federal Safe Routes to Schools grant program as it relates to sidewalks. Mr. Stewart said they do collaborate with the Department of Recreation and Parks, specifically expanded gyms and the School Age Child Care (SACC) program. They have partnered with them on the acquisition of land, but the Safe Routes to Schools program is operated through the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Dodd asked how redistricting is factored into school capacity and funding. Mr. Stewart said redistricting must occur before the State can provide funding. Ms. Huecker noted that some schools are expanding only the classrooms, but not the core areas of the school and she would like to see this policy changed. Mr. Stewart said Schools is looking into this issue.

Comments regarding the Anne Arundel Community College will be deferred to a future meeting.

Mr. Rodela said the Libraries Facilities Master Plan addresses the issues relating to community engagement and providing welcoming spaces. Libraries has about \$350,000 per year in their budget for library repair and renovation. He characterized the staff at the library as their brand. If there are staff issues, individuals are encouraged to talk with the branch manager. Libraries has a robust capital improvement plan. The Capital Oversight Committee is generally supportive of Libraries goal of providing 0.55 square-feet of library space per capita Countywide. Libraries is aggressively pursuing additional spaces to meet that goal. For example, the 12,000 square-foot Discoveries space

in the Annapolis mall will be reopening soon. Libraries looked at retail facilities in the Glen Burnie area, but did not find anything within budget and will continue with plans to build on the existing site. Ms. Moyer asked if the 12,000 square-foot Discoveries space is included in their calculations for additional space. Mr. Rodela confirmed it is. Mr. Mauler expressed concern that Libraries is focused on the square-footage per capita, but not the staffing, new mission, and training. Mr. Rodela explained that staffing levels depend on the programming, operating hours, and security; and not necessarily the square footage of the facility. There are, at a minimum three staff, at each library. He also explained that the new mission and training are components of their strategy. Mr. Mauler also asked what the return on investment is for Libraries. Mr. Rodela said the return on investment is \$6.41 for every \$1 spent, which is above the national average. Ms. Moyer asked if Libraries will include modern amenities, such as cafes. Mr. Rodela said new facilities and renovations will include cafes and more community space.

Ms. Schneider said the Health Department currently operates a mobile facility, called the Maryland Mobile Wellness. It is located in the northern part of the County two days a week. The Department of Health is exploring opportunities to expand the program to other areas, such as Annapolis City.

Ms. Carrier noted there are strategies to address food deserts. Mr. Clark was surprised to see the northern part of the County be considered a food desert given the number of retail stores. Ms. Buzzelli explained there is a formula developed by experts to determine the geographical extent of a food desert based on the distance between a house and a food source, such as a grocery store. Mr. Mauler explained there are gun ranges and may be live ordnances on Fort Meade and asked why that is considered a food desert. Ms. Buzzelli explained that the map refers to data and the formula did not remove uninhabited areas, such as target ranges.

Comments regarding the Department of Recreation and Parks will be deferred to a future meeting.

Ms. Carrier noted that individuals are asked to contact the Bureau of Waste Management at the Department of Public Works if there are issues with curbside collection.

Comments regarding the Office of Emergency Management will be deferred to a future meeting.

Ms. Carrier said that Strategy D under Policy HC1.1 will include the words “implement the recommendations of the feasibility study.” Ms. Moyer felt that “weasel words” such as “feasible” should be removed from the document. Ms. Carrier disagreed saying that some of the recommendations will require a study to determine the viability of moving forward with the suggested recommendation. The County cannot commit taxpayer dollars to implementation of recommended projects if there is a question of its feasibility and therefore, the strategy needs to allow flexibility.

Ms. Gouin explained that the County hired an ADA expert to analyze County buildings to ensure they are ADA accessible. The 132 County buildings referred to in Strategy B under Policy HC5.1 were identified based on a rigorous matrix and criteria that include buildings that are most frequently used by the public and that are in need of ADA improvements. This will be clarified in the document.

Ms. Bower was concerned that the term “economic climate” in Goal HC6 is something the County does not have control over and could set the County up for failure. Ms. Buzzelli explained the

language is from the Maryland Food Charter, but it could be removed from the Goal and still be a strong statement. The term will be removed from the Goal.

Mr. Mauler suggested gardening skills be taught in schools or other outlets and that gardening spaces be required in future developments so citizens can raised vegetables onsite. Ms. Buzzelli noted that idea is addressed in Strategy C. Mr. Mauler advocated for stronger language that requires developments to provide garden space. Ms. Carrier suggested this would be better addressed during the Region Plan process. Mr. Mauler disagreed. Ms. Buzzelli noted that Policy HC6.2 also addresses this concern. Policy HC6.2 will be changed to a strategy.

Mr. Bowen said the Bureau of Waste Management is continually exploring opportunities to expand programs as new markets are identified. Mr. Clark asked if there has been outreach and education at schools. Mr. Bowen confirmed the Bureau does outreach to schools and they encourage schools to purchase only what they need. They also promote backyard composting. Mr. Clark asked if the Bureau recycles plastic bags. Mr. Bowen said they do not collect them curbside, but they can be dropped off at their facilities or at local grocery stores. Ms. Leahy asked what homeowners can do with food waste. Mr. Bowen said the Bureau recommends composting and they also provide food pails and free compost bins. Ms. Bower asked to clarify the term “long into the future”. Mr. Bowen said the Millersville facility is the only active landfill in the County and will need to last long into the future.

Ms. Wolford explained that the Fire Department has a robust peer support team that is trained in supporting other members in the fire service community if there is a traumatic event. All members receive this training and some pursue additional training. The Fire Department ensures that at least one member with additional training is on a shift and battalions at all times. The Fire Department does not have any socioeconomic bias training, but is interested in providing it during recruitment training. The Fire Department’s mission is to provide help to those in need, regardless of demographic.

Ms. Bower asked what the context is for “consolidating services”. Ms. Wolford said the idea is to consolidate the fire and police dispatch centers and headquarters as well as call takers to avoid redundancy of facilities. Ms. Bower asked if there are other ways to increase efficiency besides consolidating services. If so, she suggested removing the word “consolidation”. Ms. Wolford concurred with removing the word to avoid pigeonholing the policy. Ms. Lynch asked if consolidation would decrease efficiently. Ms. Wolford explained that research shows consolidation would increase efficiency.

Comments regarding the Department of Detention Facilities will be deferred to a future meeting.

Administrative items: Adopt December 18, 2019 meeting notes; Next steps

Ms. Rosborg reminded the CAC that the February 5th meeting will be to discuss Transportation and Mobility, Economic Development, Community College and Recreation and Parks. She stressed the importance of reviewing and commenting on the documents prior to the meetings and if members need help, they are encouraged to reach out to the Office of Planning and Zoning. She reminded the CAC to make meaningful comments and not provide opinions.

Ms. Bower motioned to approve the December 18th, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Clark. The motion passed 19-0. Mr. Brent made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Bill Dodd. The motion passed 19-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.