

**Planning Advisory Board
Meeting Summary
April 10, 2019**

Attendance:

Board Members:

Geoffrey Close (Chair)
Maria Terry
Beth Boyson

P&Z Staff:

Joel Galihue
Jennifer Freeman

Also in Attendance:

Len Parrish, Community & Economic Development

1) The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

2) **Minutes/Summary**

The PAB members approved the summary of the February 2019 PAB meetings.

3) **Other Business**

Mr. Galihue presented about Planning and Zoning news. They are excepting sponsorships for Bike to Work Day. There are 4 dates. Mr. Parrish said they are in Bel Air, Aberdeen, Havre de Grace and APG. Mr. Galihue said BRTB is working on a Master Plan called Maximize 2045. Planning and Zoning and DPW have contributed to the draft. They will present the draft on May 20th. Ms. Boyson asked about the express lane. Mr. Galihue said the lane will go up to Route 24. There are other components beside the express lane. Mr. Parrish said public transportation is part of it. Mr. Galihue talked about the Floodplain Insurance voluntary program the County does. Mr. Galihue talked about the Critical Area map update. It will have to get County Council approval.

4) **Community & Economic Development**

Len Parrish presented about Community & Economic Development. Community Development oversees everything housing related, community development, economic development, transit, and tourism for the County. They have an office in Bel Air and Havre de Grace. They have a Transit office in Abingdon. They oversee housing for homeless services to homeownership programs. For Transit, in January, they got new routes, new technology upgrades and extended their hours. In tourism they generate over a million dollars a day.

For Economic Development, our number one industry is defense. AMAMP is moving into the HEAT Center. Def Tech Commercialization Center opened last year in Swan Creek Business Center. Health Care is our second biggest industry. Manufacturing and Ecommerce and Distribution are also big industries. Professional services and Agribusiness are also a focus of Economic Development. Home Grown Harford is a GIS database that is being developed to show where local farms are.

Harford County has a great location to use for Economic Development. We are close to or between several large areas. They are working to make transportation easier. Aberdeen is our biggest employer. 45% of Harford County workers commute out of the county for work. Vacancy rates for office/warehouse space has been going down. Retail is driven by the residential growth. They are hoping that goes up a bit per year. Mr. Parrish went over a few specific projects that are coming to Harford County.

Mr. Close asked about the office building right outside APG. Mr. Parrish said that is one of the buildings that may be more occupied soon. Contractors are starting to be pushed off Post and will be going into vacant office space. The Economic Development office is doing different marketing. They are focusing on Technology. Ms. Boyson asked if they highlight the HUB zones on the website. Mr. Parrish said they are probably not going to continue to do so because not many people ask about them. He also talked about the various zones in Harford County.

Mr. Close asked if 924 was going to be repaired sometime. Mr. Parrish said it is a State Highway. Mr. Galihue said it was not in the priority list. But is hoping to have a larger list. Ms. Terry asked what is being built at the Swan Creek Village Center. Mr. Parrish said it is a 2 story State office building. It is moving out of Aberdeen. Mr. Galihue asked about affordable housing being on Transit. Mr. Parrish said they are looking at that but are not requiring it. Mr. Close asked if they are through the apartment phase. No one builds condos anymore. Mr. Parrish said it is because of liability.

Ms. Terry asked if the PAB meetings could be changed to the 1st Wednesdays of the month.

This meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.