

MINUTES

Of the Board of Directors Of the City of Baltimore Development Corporation

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors (Board) of the City of Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) was held on Thursday, October 17, 2019 beginning at 7:40 a.m. at the Corporation's offices at 36 S. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD. **Board Members present at the meeting were: Chair, Augie Chiasera; Michael Braverman; Greg Cangialosi; Elda Devarie (via phone); Jeffrey Fraley; Miriam Fuchs; Jeffrey Hargrave; Carolyn Mozell; Henry Raymond; Colin Tarbert; Michael Walton; Angela Wells-Sims; and Christy Wyskiel.**

Staff who attended the meeting were: Kimberly Clark (via phone), Nancy Jordan-Howard, Larysa Salamacha, Deb Tillett, Dan Taylor, David Adamski, Joanne Logan, Ira Kowler, Christina Moore, Beverly Lanier, and Renee West (as Recording Secretary).

Also in attendance: Douglas Kington, Re/MAX Commercial Logic; Melody Simmons, *Baltimore Business Journal*; Thibault Manekin, Seawall Development; Adam Bednar, *Daily Record*; Jalal Greene, Baltimore City Department of Housing & Community Development; and Bill Cole.

The meeting was called to order by the chair, Augie Chiasera at 7:40 a.m.

I. Chairman's Comments

- i. It was reported that Johns Hopkins University kicked off their annual Baltimore Homecoming activities.
- ii. It was noted that the Board members will be participating in more conversations related to strategic planning and policy thinking.

II. President's Report

- i. The passing of Congressman Elijah Cummings was noted as well as the acknowledgement of his contributions and service to Baltimore City and its residents.
- ii. It was noted that business outreach is a priority with a goal of speaking with 50 businesses by the end of the year. Five of the larger employers, (including anchor institutions) and several startups have been contacted.
- iii. A common positive note from these businesses is the strength of the workforce and talent in the area.
- iv. A presentation was made on business attraction activities noting that two firms with a significant presence in Baltimore – Duane Morris, an international law firm and Grant Thornton, an international accounting firm – have both moved to larger spaces in the City.
- v. Staff efforts to provide a grocery store tax credit aided in the expansion of Aldi's Grocery Store (Orleans Street), which resulted in hiring additional employees.
- vi. The Liberty Harbor East project will include the ground floor expansion of Whole Foods market.
- vii. Area events of interest were noted for the group, including Beta City, Baltimore Innovation Week and the Baltimore Homecoming kick-off event.
- viii. BDC recently hosted the Opportunity Zone Summit with bankers, CDFI's, developers, et al., in attendance.
- ix. An overview of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) process was provided, including a more strategic approach to business outreach and attraction, more time allotted for public engagement, and a series of metrics to ensure benchmarks are met. Nine workgroups will meet between November 2019-January 2020. The second phase will include feedback from community stakeholders, followed by community feedback with a release date in fall of 2020. A local firm has been hired to brand the effort ensuring broader participation. A \$120,000 EDA grant was awarded to BDC for the development of the CEDS.

- x. Staff promotions were noted including Kristin Dawson to Senior Director of Business Development, Ira Kowler to West Team Director, and Christina Moore to East Team Director.

III Presentations

Lexington Market

- i. A presentation on the redevelopment of historic Lexington Market, the oldest continuously running public market, was given.
- ii. Seawall Development spent the last year engaging the community and planning the project, and was able to get the support to move the project forward.

Pimlico Update

- i. A presentation was given on the Pimlico project.
- ii. Carolyn Mozell and Colin Tarbert were acknowledged for their team effort to help find solutions for the project.
- iii. Existing conditions, challenges and solutions were presented.
- iv. Meeting was adjourned at 8:56 a.m.