

MINUTES

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

A virtual meeting of the Board of Directors (Board) of the City of Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) was held on Thursday, August 19, 2021 beginning at 7:35 a.m. **Board Members on the call were: Chair, Augie Chiasera; Chair Emeritus, Arnold Williams; President, Colin Tarbert; Elda Devarie; Jeff Fraley; Miriam Fuchs; Henry Raymond; Paul Taylor; Michael Walton; Angela Wells-Sims; and Christy Wyskiel.**

Staff on the call were: Kimberly Clark, Nancy Jordan-Howard, Dan Taylor, Larysa Salamacha, Susan Yum, Kristin Dawson, John Brock, Shevon Kaintuck, and Beverly Lanier (as Recording Secretary).

Also in attendance: Melody Simmons, *Baltimore Business Journal*; and Annie Milli, Live Baltimore. Due to COVID-19, all attendees may not be listed as it was virtual and open to the public.

The meeting was called to order by the chair, A. Chiasera at 7:35 a.m.

- I. Minutes of the BDC “Special” Board Meeting of July 16, 2021 were approved as written.
- II. Chairman’s comments
 - i. Chiasera mentioned the following:
 - Commended BDC on the milestone reached with the first draft of the Baltimore Together plan released and made available to the Board and the public for review and comments;
 - Thanked all involved in the progression of this project.
- III. President’s Report
 - i. Tarbert reported on the following:
 - The Baltimore Together rollout and how board members can assist;
 - The ruling on the open meetings complaint – BDC was found to be in full compliance by the Open Meetings Compliance Board;
 - Federal money available including \$670M in ARPA funds; additional funds rolled out from EDA, and how BDC will assist in determining how Baltimore can utilize these programs; and
 - Praise for the Bloomberg Challenge Team’s efforts to compete with fourteen cities for a \$1M prize.
- IV. Baltimore Equity & Inclusion Initiatives
 - i. Tarbert provided the following updates:
 - BDC is supporting Black Business month by highlighting African American-owned businesses throughout the city on social media;
 - BDC’s annual report now shows data aggregated by race. The 2020 Annual Report shows 63% of grants went to minority-owned businesses, 57% to women-owned businesses, and 66% to city-owned businesses; and
 - Internal equity efforts continue at BDC.
- V. Baltimore Together Update
 - i. Tarbert provided the following updates:
 - The final draft will be aggressively pushed on social media over the next six weeks with a September 30th deadline for public comment;
 - Digital ads, partners, and influencers will help get the word out through various platforms – social media toolkits will be available;
 - In-depth profiles of Baltimore businesses will be released over the next 12 months;

- Next steps, including ARPA funds and the need for personnel dedicated to champion Baltimore Together were discussed;
- The correlation of a CEDS plan on file and fund eligibility; general objectives and how board members might be of assistance; and CEDS alignment with public policy and the link to public safety were also addressed.

VI. Census Results – Anni Milli of Live Baltimore

- i. Presented an overview of the census results
 - Provided perspective on recent headlines concerning the City’s decline in population and increase in housing units;
 - Provided solutions including the need for significant housing production to increase the population or number of households – 16,000 households to return to 2010’s population – and the positive effect of tax credits;
 - Explained how an increase in housing units and the population aligns with the mayor’s objectives, positively effects the economy, correlates with the addition of new schools (27 in two years), and how vacant properties factor into the equation;
 - Discussed next steps including residential growth strategies; inter-agency collaboration;
 - Questions, including how Baltimore Together aligns with the goal to regrow the city’s population by 2030 were addressed.

A Motion was made to adjourn the meeting, the vote was unanimous.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:56 a.m.