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**BALTIMORE COUNTY PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
*Sheldon S. Epstein, Chair*

--APPROVED APRIL 25, 2017--

**MEETING NOTES**  
**Tuesday, November 15, 2016**  
**4:00 p.m.**

**Attendees:** Chair Sheldon Epstein, Jared Barnhart, Nate Evans, Jim Kelly, Charlie Murphy, Francis Taylor, Mike Filsinger, Linda Grossman (arrived late), Pat McDougall

**Absent:** Harry Bhandari, Grace Bristol, Ted Levin, Allysha Lorber, Myron Williams, Robert Barrett

Department of Planning staff present included Kathy Schlabach and Janice Graves.

**1. Introduction of Members and Announcements**

Mr. Sheldon Epstein opened the meeting at 4:07 p.m. Mr. Epstein asked the members to introduce themselves. Mr. Epstein then made the following announcement:

- The Department of Planning invites you to attend its annual Holiday Event for Volunteer Boards and Commissions on Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm. An invitation is provided at your seats. Please RSVP by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

**2. Review of Today's Agenda**

Mr. Epstein stated that there were no changes to the agenda that had been previously sent to the committee members.

**3. Approval of Meeting Notes of September 13, 2016 Meeting**

Mr. Epstein called for a motion to approve the meeting notes from the September 13, 2016 meeting. Mr. Jim Kelly made the motion and Mr. Charlie Murphy seconded. The approval was unanimous.

#### **4. Staff Report Introduction and Vote: Draft FY 2016 Annual Report**

Mr. Epstein asked Ms. Kathy Schlabach to present staff's recommendations. Ms. Schlabach proceeded to go through a quick overview of the report speaking to the various sections, including development projects and physical improvements that the county has made.

During the discussion, committee members made the following points:

Mr. Murphy asked when the County was going to begin the Number Nine Trolley Trail repairs. Mr. Pat McDougall stated that he would find out. Mr. Murphy also asked if there was going to be a bypass by the boardwalk area around the construction.

Mr. Nate Evans wanted to add to page 12 in Appendix B that Baltimore City did not respond to the questionnaire. Ms. Schlabach explained that Appendix B contains the report on a funding comparison of regional jurisdictions that had been approved by the PBAC in FY 2016. She noted that the purpose of the Annual Report is to document the work that the committee completed in the previous fiscal year, and that making changes to the committee's work products would have been appropriate before their initial approval.

After much discussion, several motions were then made by various committee members. Mr. Evans made a motion to remove Appendix B from the Draft FY 2016 annual report due to incomplete or inaccurate information. Mr. Jared Barnhart seconded. The approval was unanimous.

Mr. Fran Taylor then made a motion to update Appendix B to reflect current figures spent by the jurisdictions in FY 2016. Mr. Evans seconded and added that the number of miles of bikes lanes and trails constructed should also be included. The approval was unanimous.

Mr. Epstein then called for a motion to approve the Draft FY 2016 annual report minus Appendix B. Mr. Taylor made the motion and Mr. Murphy seconded. The approval was unanimous with Mr. Jim Kelly abstaining.

#### **5. Other Business**

Mr. Epstein asked if any members have any other business to bring to the attention of the committee. Mr. Evans passed out a packet with various material, the first being a report that he had created listing the FY 2017 grant awards for the Maryland Bikeways Program and the Transportation Alternatives Program totaling 5.3 million dollars. Mr. Evans noted that Baltimore County was absent from either list. Ms. Schlabach explained that this was discussed at a previous meeting and it was decided that the County would not apply for any more grants until the existing projects were completed.

Mr. Evans went on to explain that there are UPWP monies administered by the Baltimore Metropolitan Council that are awarded yearly for planning personnel or programming and he put together an application that Baltimore County can submit for a bicycle and pedestrian planner position. The position would pay \$65,000.00 a year and there would need to be a 20% match from the County of approximately \$15,000.00. This way the County could have a person dedicated to making sure that the Eastern and Western Bicycle and Pedestrian access plans are implemented. Mr. Evans then made a motion to submit this application for a bicycle and pedestrian planner to the County administration to be considered for the County's next fiscal year UPWP program. It was seconded by Mr. Kelly and the approval was unanimous.

Mr. Evans then went on to discuss a project using the same type of funding (UPWP) for a feasibility study totaling \$100,000.00 for a trail connection between the Jones Falls Trail and the Torrey C. Brown (NCR) Trail. There would also be a 20% match required from the County. After some discussion Mr. Evans made a motion to approve the transportation trail connection between the Torrey C. Brown Trail and the Jones Falls Trail UPWP feasibility study be submitted to the County for consideration for the next fiscal year. It was seconded by Mr. Murphy and the approval was unanimous.

Mr. Evans also included in his packet a concept plan titled the Villages of White Marsh, which is a proposed development in White Marsh adjacent to the White Marsh Mall, White Marsh Boulevard (MD Route 43) and Perry Hall Boulevard. He stated that as many as 12 community associations have worked hard to have the developer agree to propose part of the Northeast Trail go through the development. Mr. Pat McDougall stated that this would count for their open space requirements and that the various developers along Perry Hall Boulevard have done a nice job building sections of the trail. Ms. Schlabach stated that this alignment is not ideal since it does not provide direct access to the mall and that the County would still like the developer to provide enough right-of-way for a shared use path to be constructed along Perry Hall Boulevard.

Mr. Epstein left the meeting at 5:05 p.m. and Mr. Evans assumed the chair.

Mr. Evans then went on to discuss a stream restoration project along White Marsh Boulevard, where the County re-stabilized the stream, but did not add any natural surface trails. Ms. Schlabach stated that trails were not included in the project due to environmental constraints. Mr. Evans stated that the County is about to start a new stream restoration project along White Marsh Run and that he would like to know what happens to the construction road bed after they are completed and if natural surface trails could be added. Mr. Evans made a motion to have the County's Environmental Protection and Sustainability (EPS) Department come in to present on how trails can be incorporated into stream restoration projects. Mr. Murphy seconded and the approval was unanimous.

Mr. Evans then shared that he is working as a consultant for Baltimore Metropolitan Council on a concept plan matrix for the Patapsco Regional Greenway. They are studying the concept of a transportation trail from the Inner Harbor to Sykesville. There was a kick-off meeting the week beforehand and there was good representation from the surrounding jurisdictions and the state.

Mr. Evans pointed out that there was no representation from Baltimore County and that Ms. Schlabach was invited. Ms. Schlabach replied that she had not received any information on the meeting and that Baltimore County would be more than happy to participate. The project is supposed to be completed by the end of June of next year.

## **9. Adjournment**

There was then a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kelly made the motion and Mr. Taylor seconded. The approval was unanimous and the meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.