

## **PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, December 5, 2018  
Baltimore Metropolitan Council  
5:38 to 7:35 P.M.

### **MINUTES**

Mr. Eric Norton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:38 P.M.

#### **1. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2018 MINUTES**

The PAC approved the November 2018 minutes.

#### **2. ELECTION OF 2019 PAC OFFICERS**

The PAC elected Mr. Norton as Chair and Ms. Taffy Gwitira and Mr. Mark Lotz as the Vice Chairs.

#### **3. SUBCOMMITTEES REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS**

- **Membership** – The PAC Membership Subcommittee reviewed new member applications for terms beginning January 2019. Over 20 applications were received for 12 openings.

After reviewing the applicant pool and weighing various components such as organization represented, interested parties affiliated with, geography, demographics, experience, etc., the subcommittee recommended a slate of 12 applicants to fill the open spots. In addition, the subcommittee recommended four individuals be appointed as non-voting alternates to fill voting seats when openings become available.

Mr. Dick Ladd raised concerns that the applicant from Queen Anne's County was not approved. Mr. Norton explained the subcommittee's decision and after discussion the PAC voted to recommend the slate as presented to the BRTB for their consideration. At this point Mr. Ladd chose not to continue his membership with the PAC.

- **Policy and Legislation** – The subcommittee did not meet. Mr. Norton reminded members that a chair is needed for this subcommittee and volunteers should notify him or staff.
- **Public Involvement** – The subcommittee did not meet, however the group would like to convene a conference call this month to discuss plans for two Every Voice Academies in Spring 2019. The BRTB would like to work with the PAC to host one academy south of

Baltimore in Howard or Anne Arundel County and one north of the city in Harford Baltimore County. Mr. Paul Kowzan will reach out to committee members to set up a meeting date and time to begin planning.

- **Transportation Equity** – Mr. Norton reported that the BRTB approved the updated PAC bylaws on November 27, making the Equity Subcommittee a formal standing committee. In addition, several members of the public spoke on the topic of equity at the November meeting. A summary of [comments from November 27](#) is available at [baltometro.org](http://baltometro.org).

#### **4. DISCUSSION: LOOKING BACK ON 2018 + DISCUSSING FUTURE PAC ACTIVITIES**

PAC members reviewed key issues raised during the survey of current and former PAC members and discussed the following ideas for improvements:

- *Orientation of new members* – Members recommended a stand-alone orientation for new members to go into better detail about the planning process and the PAC's role in the process. Members also suggested the orientation packet include glossary of acronyms and the Every Voice Counts booklet or handouts. PAC Chairs agreed to work with staff to organize the 2019 orientation but members recommend a mid-year check in with members and the Public Involvement Subcommittee work in the fall to develop an improved orientation in 2020.
- *Subcommittees* – Some members recommended moving subcommittees to a standing time of 4:30 before the monthly meetings. Some felt this is too early and recommended subcommittees from 5 to 6 p.m. and the meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. Others raised concerns about insufficient time to review information and to follow-up on discussions and action items in advance of the PAC meeting. Members agreed to work with new members and Chairs to decide subcommittee meeting schedules in January.
- *Role of the PAC and member expectations* – Members discussed ways in which they could be more impactful and proactive. Members requested a calendar of upcoming comment periods and opportunities for engagement.

#### **5. OTHER BUSINESS**

The following announcements were made:

- The January PAC meeting has been rescheduled to January 9, 2019.
- The [December BRTB meeting](#) has been rescheduled to December 18 due to the Christmas holiday. The agenda features presentations by MDOT MTA about their partnership with *Transit*, a cloud-based mobile app; a briefing by MDOT MTA about the Chapter 352, Acts of 2018 (House Bill 372), the Maryland Metro/Transit Funding Act, that mandates the development of a Central Maryland Regional Transit Plan; and MDOT SHA will brief the BRTB on the I-695/I-70 (Triple Bridges) Interchange project.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **Members**

Michael Davis – Resident, Carroll County  
Janet Eveland – Resident, Baltimore City  
Ben Groff – Resident, Baltimore City  
Tafadzwa Gwitira – Resident, Baltimore City  
Paul Kowzan – Broadway Area Business Association  
Dick Ladd – Resident, Anne Arundel County  
Mark Lotz – Resident, Harford County  
Eric Norton – Central Maryland Transportation Alliance  
Karin Olsen – Resident, Baltimore County  
Arthur Peterson – Resident, Baltimore City  
Audrey Sellers – Accessible Resources for Independence, Inc., (ARI)  
Sharon Smith – Partners In Care  
Paul Verchinski – Resident, Howard County  
Jennifer Weeks – Resident, Baltimore County  
Daniel Yi – Resident, Howard County

*Proxy Designated by: Mark Howard*

*Proxy Designated by: Jed Weeks*

### **Staff and Guests**

Monica Haines Benkhedda – BMC