

Prince George's County House Delegation

MINUTES

Feb 13 2015

Delegation Room
House Office Building Room 150
Annapolis, MD

Delegates present:

1. Delegate Jay Walker, Chairman
2. Delegate Angela Angel
3. Delegate Ben Barnes
4. Delegate Darryl Barnes
5. Delegate Ereka L. Barron
6. Delegate Will Campos
7. Delegate Dereck E. Davis
8. Delegate Diana Fennell
9. Delegate Barbara Frush
10. Delegate Tawanna P. Gaines
11. Delegate Anne Healey
12. Delegate Marvin E. Holmes Jr.
13. Delegate Carolyn J.B. Howard
14. Delegate Michael A. Jackson
15. Delegate Tony Knotts
16. Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk
17. Delegate Jimmy Tarlau
18. Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith
19. Delegate Kris Valderrama
20. Delegate Michael L. Vaughn
21. Delegate Alonzo T. Washington

Absent:

- Delegate Joseph Vallario
- Delegate James Proctor

Staff:

Daniel Valentine, Legislative Director
Jodie Chilson, Delegation Counsel

Meeting convened approximately 930 a.m. Prayer and Welcomes made.

I- Speakers

The Delegation received a briefing on tourism from Matt Neitzey, Director of the Prince George's Conference and Visitors Bureau on the important of tourism. After he was given five minutes to speak, Neitzey invited several other people to address the delegation about the issue for an additional 15 minutes.

Delegate Healey asked if there was an increase in tourism with UMD's addition to the Big 10.

Delegate Knotts asked about the benefits of tourism.

After Neitzey spoke of the many visits with emphasis on National Harbor and Gaylord Hotel, Delegate Howard asked for the CVB to submit reports on the revenue generated across the county.

Delegate Washington asked about branding for the county. Neitzey said budgets prohibited expensive television advertising. Washington mentioned social media as a strategy.

Delegate Valentino-Smith asked about whether legislation might be needed for festival permits to help the county in the future.

II – Request for letter of Support

Delegate Mark Korman of Montgomery County asked the delegates to support HB 300, a bill calling for ridership study of WMATA facilities. Delegates affirmed support in a voice vote with no objections.

III - Subcommittee Reports /Bills For Discussion:

A. Bi-County Affairs: Delegate Michael L. Vaughn, Chair

- **MCPG 113-15 – MNCPPC – Prince George’s – Certified County-Owned Business Participation Program**

Delegation voted unanimously to adopt MCPG 113-15 with an amendment.

B. County Affairs – Delegate Howard PG 417 – Municipal Tax Setoff – Report (FAV)

Delegation voted unanimously to adopt a favorable report.

IV. Late-Filed Bill:

PG 319-15 – Underage Individuals at Special Entertainment Events.

Delegates considered PG 319, a bill requested February 6th from Senator Victor Ramirez for late introduction. A draft was received the afternoon before.

After initial presentation, Delegate Davis moved that the legislation be rejected due to its lateness.

“With all due respect, we have a guarantee date. This is getting out of hand,” said Davis, who noted that 13 bills were introduced late the day before in a special session.

“This is our 14th late file. Those deadlines mean nothing,” Davis said. “This is nothing that couldn’t wait until next year. At this time, all our work should be focused on the standing committees. At some point, deadlines have to mean something. Everything doesn’t have to be done in the first year.”

“Delegate Davis expressed my sentiments exactly,” said Delegate Howard, adding that the delegation was setting precedents for what they do as a group and that they were leaving out the public.

“I hope next year, (you) will know bills might get voted down if they can’t get them in on time. “

Chairman Walker said that the delegation tried to include the legislation in the previous day, but it was not yet ready.

“I wanted to get it before the body as a courtesy,” Walker said.

Delegate Valentino-Smith asked about the bill, which would allow anyone between 18 to 21 to attend shows that have a special entertainment permit, so long as they do not consume alcohol. The legislation was first requested in December – the deadline is October.

“We should be clear when we mean deadlines,” Davis said. “December is not a deadline.”

He also said that local bill proposals would face opposition in the full legislature if filed late.

“I can assure you it will die in the house without a Prince George’s hearing.” Davis said. “This is probably something that deserves fuller debate at home.”

Howard said she was “very conflicted” about rejecting this bill after other late bills were allowed the day before.

“I think all the late files should be rejected,” she said.

Delegate Gaines told the group that members need to follow proper process and procedure.

Delegates voted 9-12 on the introduction, with Howard abstaining. The bill did not receive the necessary 16 votes for late introduction.

Meeting concluded at approximately 10:30 a.m.

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