

Howard County HCCA Board Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2015

Attendees: Howard Johnson, Paul Verchinski, Jackie Sentell, Lisa Markovitz, Alan Schneider, Ros Williams, JD Smith, Brian England, Stu Kohn

Guests: Barbara Schnackenberg

The meeting was called to order at 7:08PM.

1. Barbara Schackenberg provided an update regarding matters concerning the Maryland Public Information Act HB 755 which was passed & is awaiting signature of the governor.
 - HCCA has been invited to join the Maryland Open Government Group which is seeking to ensure that the act is properly implemented. There has been some concern because organizations have closed meetings that should not have been closed, or identified material as confidential that should be open to the public. The board voted and agreed to participate with the group. Alan Schneider & Lisa Markovitz will represent the group at the first meeting.
 - Barbara passed out HB 755, the document supporting this act. This act has been supported by 56 diverse organizations.
 - The organization will be meeting on April 27th at the office of MD Non-Profits on Union Street in Baltimore, and HCCA is invited to send a few representatives.
 - This act establishes a Public Information Compliance Board which would mirror the Open Meetings Compliance Board (already there). These boards offer an option to people (vs. going to court) where they can appeal decisions requiring organizations to pay more than \$350.
 - In Howard County the issue has been getting information from the Dept. of Planning & Zoning as well as the Board of Education.
2. The minutes were approved with a minor correction
3. JD Smith gave the Treasurer's report. The ledger balance as of March 31st is \$5,021.26. One of the members (Levy) hasn't received a cancelled check and is wondering if the membership has been processed. JD Smith will check into it and provide a report back to Stu in the next week.
4. We have two new members who will be on the board, Lisa Markovitz and Alan Schneider for next year. The board approved the appointment of Lisa Markovitz. Alan volunteered to serve as secretary for the next year.
5. Annual Meeting - Allan Kittleman will arrive at the annual meeting at 7:45PM. We will plan to have pizza and water. JD will check into getting a microphone. JD and Brian will plan to give a brief statement re: status on Columbia NT. Paul will cover aging. Lisa will cover HCCA & TPV coalition. Jackie is interested in discussing her work on Transportation as an upcoming initiative for HCCA. Stu is interested in having some of the community organizations provide testimony. Paul suggested a membership table & volunteered to man it. We will have a sign-up sheet for questions (Ros).

6. Quarterly Meetings with County Executive - Review HCCA Priorities (Brian to refine & send out agenda – topics & results)
This should include: Newtown, Infill, & Affordable Housing (Growth & Development and Jobs)
7. Paul gave a summary of status re: topics discussed at the Oakland Mills Town Hall Meeting. He discussed Bridge Columbia (linkage to downtown) and discussed the public private partnership being pursued.
8. The Board approved Business Cards for Board Members
9. Stu provided an update re: the Highland & Chapelgate. He will be attending upcoming meetings on both topics.
10. Brian provided an update re: NT Status (Brian & JD met with MaryKay) & the Fueling Task Force Recommendations.
11. Paul reported that there has been no action regarding the aging groups he's active on.
12. Stu provided an update re: the Southeast Area Workgroup {Rt. 1} – It's been 2 ½ years and there has been no action taken. A group met recently & they discussed sidewalks and bike paths.
13. There has been a majority and minority report issued re: status of Mulching, Composting, Wood Processing Task Force. Kittleman has come out and said that he is not in favor of mulching on ag preserves.
14. The next HCCA Board meeting is planned for Monday, May 4, 2015.