



MINUTES
HOWARD COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
50TH ANNUAL MEETING

May 14, 2012

President Cathy Hudson called the meeting to order at 7:20PM at the Hawthorn Center, Columbia.

The agenda was adopted as presented. Secretary Bridget Mugane read the Minutes for the May 9, 2011 Annual Meeting, which were approved. Treasurer, Walter Carson presented the expenses for 2011-2012 and the proposed budget for 2012-2013, which was approved after a discussion of way to reduce rental costs.

Angie Beltram, reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee comprised of herself as chair, Lloyd Knowles and Valerie McGuire. The Committee's nominees were elected by acclamation to the following one-year terms: President – Cathy Hudson (Elkridge); Vice-President – Stu Kohn (Laurel); Secretary – Bridget Mugane (Columbia); Treasurer – Walter Carson (Woodbine); At-Large Directors – Brian England (Columbia), J.D. Smith (Columbia), Ros Williams (Ellicott City). The board thus has seven members; the Bylaws permit up to nine.

The president presented a plaque to Angie Beltram, who is leaving the county. It commemorates her decades of public service; she received a standing ovation.

Cathy Hudson gave the president's annual report, attached herewith. She highlighted HCCA's improved website as well as the continuing effort to implement the PELU recommendations. She advised that HCCA should monitor the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) because it is likely to be changed. She observed that the Howard County Plan 2030 (the "General Plan") website is useful.

A general discussion on public affairs was then held, to help guide HCCA's activities in the coming year. Attendees cited these concerns: impact of development on traffic and public services; need for a comprehensive county plan to facilitate aging in place; stormwater management, and possible contamination of well water; need for bicycle lanes/paths to facilitate commuting; the relatively weak role of the Citizens Task Force in the General Plan process; affordable housing; better access to land use information including dates of hearings; and transparency of government processes.

President Cathy Hudson adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget Mugane
Secretary