

MINUTES

HOWARD COUNTY CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Continuation of a Meeting Which Began on February 15, 2010)

22 FEBRUARY 2010

PRESENT: Bridget Mugane, President; Cathy Hudson, Vice President; Stephen Meskin, Treasurer; Walter Carson, Secretary; Angie Beltram, Brian England, Barbara Russell, Richard Tufts, and, Joel Yesley.

Guest: Mike Berla.

A continued meeting, which originally began on February 15, 2010, of the Howard County Citizens' Association (HCCA), was held on Monday, February 22nd, 2010, at the home of Brian England. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m., President Mugane, presiding.

It was VOTED to adopt the Agenda, as amended.

Treasurer Stephen Meskin provided a brief report regarding HCCA finances.

It was VOTED to hold HCCA's annual Members, Candidates, & Elected Officials reception on April 18th, from 4 – 6 p.m. Further details regarding the event, including its location will be presented to the Board at a later date.

Following a discussion initiated at the request of Barbara Russell concerning the importance of effective communications among HCCA Board Members and HCCA Board Members, it was agreed: (1) any HCCA testimony before public and legislative bodies would be shared with Board Members for their review and consideration; and, actual presentation would remain consistent with the draft shared initially with Board members; (2) such testimony would – where necessary – clearly distinguish between positions on behalf of HCCA; and any other testimony or comments representing the personal opinion or views of the person testifying; and, (3) HCCA leadership was encouraged to reach out to other persons and organizations to take advantage of their expertise in presenting HCCA testimony.

VOTED to authorize Angie Beltram to testify before the HC Planning Board in opposition to a request to increase the size of the Turf Valley shopping center. The opposition was based on the fact that the initial proposal from the developer is the subject of a referendum, which in turn, is in litigation in the Howard County Circuit Court; creating a situation where the Planning Board may grant the construction request, only to have a Court decision allowing the referendum which challenged the initial authorization to proceed. The proposal also requires an updated traffic study; reflects inappropriate public policy; and, raises unanswered environmental concerns.

Angie Beltram provided a report concerning Council Bill 4-1010 that would permit the County to enter into a Development Rights and Responsibilities Agreement, as permitted by Article 663. Section 13.01 of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

Following a report from Richard Tufts regarding a proposal to relocate a High's convenience store at the intersection of State Route 32 and Interstate 70, and because of pedestrian and traffic safety concerns, it was VOTED, to testify in opposition to ZB-1080M. President Mugane will testify on behalf of HCCA.

Stephen Meskin was asked to supervise the selection of HCCA's Nominating Committee for the selection of a slate of Officers and Board Members to the Annual Meeting. Board members were encouraged to contact Meskin with the names of persons who might serve on such a Committee.

It was VOTED to authorize Angie Beltram to testify in support of Senate Bill 240, pending in the state legislature. The legislation, if passed, would ease the current strict voter identification standards required of referendum petitioners by the recent Maryland Court of Appeals decision of Doe v. Montgomery County Board of Elections (2008).

Mike Berla reported on efforts by Taxpayers Against Giveaways to obtain sufficient signatures on its referendum petition which seeks to place Council Bills 58 and 59 before the voters of Howard County on the November ballot.

The Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Walter E. Carson, Secretary