

HCCA Board Meeting: 25 Aug 2015

Attendees: Stu Kohn, Brian England, JD Smith, Lisa Markovitz, Howard Johnson, Amran Pasha, and Alan Schneider.

Guests: Russ Swatek, Marian Alvarez, Jane Weiner, and Carol Galbraith

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM.
2. The minutes for the July meeting were approved.
3. The Treasurer's report was approved.
4. Merriweather Post Pavilion Sound Levels Discussion. County Executive Allan Kittleman was commended for his response to HCCA's letter bringing to attention to the disturbing sound levels from Merriweather on May 30-31. None of our Legislators responded. Allan Kittleman reported that Merriweather was issued citations, and its management promised to take corrective action, and that it would comply with all ordinances.

Continuing problems are upsetting several surrounding communities. Phones are not being answered by Merriweather. Sound readings are not accurately recorded, violations are not coordinated with compliance, the measurement standards are inadequate to measure the actual impacts on the community, and existing regulations are not well defined to protect surrounding communities. Questions were raised regarding the economic benefit compared to the consequences. The County hospital emergency room is overwhelmed by the surge of concert goers suffering from drug overdoses, which is detrimental to the delivery of timely hospital care to residents. Drug arrests, recently recorded as arrests of persons from distant places, challenge existing police resources and distract from existing protection priorities. Fire department ambulances are hit with burst peak usage. Discussions included a recommendation for complete analysis of all staffing and infrastructure needs which would accommodate Merriweather's existing and potential programs. The purpose of the full analysis would be to proactively plan and to budget for any undisclosed burdens that outweigh any benefits.

Lisa Markovitz commented that the issues raised by the guests would be of interest to others who may circulate the information to their communities. A pre-submission meeting is scheduled for September 8 before the Planning Board.

5. The proposed Royal Farms project on Snowden River Parkway was reviewed. Discussion included whether the proposed project complied with covenants restricting land use, enforcement of covenants, and the benefits of adjudicatory hearings before the Planning Board. Improvement of the Site Development Plan process would be beneficial to all stakeholders.
6. Deferred: A report on the 20-year aging plan, and a proposal to clarify State Legislation regarding Continuing Care Retirement Communities was deferred until the next Board meeting as Paul Verchinski was not present.
7. Stu Kohn provided a status report on the proposed Chaplegate CEF. Ongoing substantive and procedural problems continue to plague this new land use zone, which was enacted immediately before comprehensive zoning last year.
8. An agenda for discussion with County Executive Chief of Staff, Diane Wilson was reviewed for

our future meeting scheduled for 15 Sept 2015 with her.

9. JD Smith, Brian England, and Amran Pasha reported on their meeting with Valdis Lazdins, Director of the Department of Planning and Zoning. Future meetings will hopefully continue to build on a strong relationship between DPZ and Howard County citizens.

10. Plans were reviewed for hosting a community social networking for lunch on October 7th. Final plans to be circulated for additional suggestions and approval.

11. Stu Kohn and Lisa Markovitz reported on the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) Task Force meetings. It is important that citizens participate and their input be included in the final report. Minutes and audio recordings of the APFO task force meetings report can be found at <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/exec.aspx?id=6442479635>. It is not understood why the audio portion of the discussions on infrastructure costs is missing from the audio recordings.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.