

Meeting of the HCCA Board of Directors - June 1, 2016

Present: Stu Kohn, President
 Lisa Markovitz - Vice President, took minutes
 Brian England
 Paul Verchinski

A quorum was not present thus; we had our meeting for informational purposes, but did not make any motions or calls for voting.

I. Speak-outs:

John McMahon, re: Problems with the Sheriff election and office operating under Fitzgerald.

Dan O'Leary, Highland Greater Crossroads Assn. and Ted Mariani, Concerned Citizens of Western Howard County

Each spoke on the following issues regarding ZRA-164 to allow large increases in solar panel usage on Agriculturally Preserved (AgPres) land. Comp Rezoning allowed solar as an accessory use but limited it to either 2% of acreage or 1 acre. Ball's current bill amends regulations to no % max, and up to 75 acres.

Mariani and O'Leary: AgPres land paid for by taxpayers, large solar usage isn't farming, and in Mariani's Agpres contract covenants, industrial and commercial uses are forbidden. The lucrative nature of solar usage will give incentive not to farm, or lease to other farmers. Very few large farms left, lease rates are 15X less than solar company offers. Agpres is considered best land for farming and needs to be retained for that.

Paul V. believes that farming can be done along with solar and stated that you would need to be within a mile of a sub-station to do much solar. Mariani said there isn't the type of farming done in HoCo much that could get around large solar panels. He will get numbers together on total acreage and prices paid in AgPres. This ZRA hasn't been introduced to the Council yet, so HCCA will vote at a later date to oppose or support.

II. Old Business

1. Treasurer's Report - emailed by JD
2. Minutes - April meeting not yet received from Schneider.
3. NT - Paul wants a meeting on concerns. Brian wants to add open space to the meeting topics to get more attendance. Amran and JD are on NT committee with Brian, and Brian invited Paul.
4. Chapelgate - Stu said it's been 16 mos. and counting. 3/21 was last meeting and there is no date set for closing statements.
5. Ethics Complaint re: Rutter testimony on Chapelgate – We filed for reconsideration regarding the grandfathering issue that does not seem to follow appropriate regulations.

III. New Business

1. DPZ - 4/18 meeting - Val wants to edit regulations. Stu will schedule a meeting for Fall and ask for unanswered questions to be addressed.

2. HCCA Annual Meeting - lessons learned. Lisa said we should always have our HCCA business handled first, as it only takes 15 mins, then immediately after have the County Executive speak and take questions. Lisa felt we should get online sign-up only, with ticketed entry (due to over-capacity issues that occurred) and get questions in advance, timed to 2 mins. No duplicates will be asked. Limit to one, 1 min. follow-up question. In the future, likely we might only have one guest, and maybe do a separate meeting for other guests.
3. Healthy Howard - Brian - connecting people to ins.
4. MPP - Stu sent an email to HoCo delegation, Atterbeary responded she would get back to us. Ebersole and Lam said they would look into having a meeting to possible take place. Article by Andrew Michaels in local paper.
5. FB likes up. List Serv. digesting will help to get less emails. It was down for 7-8 hours with no help available. Lisa expressed concern about losing List Serv members because of too many emails and wants to ask Russ about a tutorial post on digesting.
6. Affordable Housing in Downtown Columbia - The People's Voice is testifying in favor of Jen Terrasa's ZRA and not the County's because there are too many favors in the County's plan, like a waiver of a \$30 million fee, less affordable housing than required elsewhere, lucrative TIF financing, and less parking required. These bills are not going to be heard until next month though, so HCCA can decide what to do then.
7. Solar on Ag. Pres. - Review of speak-out issues. We couldn't vote so will address next month.
8. Bethany Glen - Erskine development – Member of community approached HCCA after our Annual Meeting seeking support. It is a proposed 340 age-restricted units. Regulations need updating, haven't been in over 10 years. Huge traffic concerns. They had to postpone pre-submission hearing because over 500 people attended including Paul V from our Board.
9. CAC zoning. Stu- Ball introduced bill, Sang Oh developer client being helped here. Too much reduction in commercial, vetoed, overturned.
10. MD-PIRG - Public Information Research Group - Question will be on the Ballot in November to make Council form a public finance account to match small donations to candidates that agree not to take large donations. Speak out next month coming from Emily Scarr, per Lisa. The People's Voice is supporting.
11. BWI flight changes. Paul V is concerned if NextGen changes are permanent given changes to Elkridge patterns that were done after organized protest efforts there. New and near constant noise in Columbia near 103/29. Drew Roth has documents from MD Aviation Adm, Lisa will get them.

Next Board Meeting 14 July.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:50