

Date: 28 August 2016

Subject: Letter to the Editor

The August 25 “Savage Residents Oppose Parkland Swap” article warrants some elaboration so those interested can understand the failed communication link between the developer, Bozzuto Homes and citizens of Savage and surrounding neighborhoods.

The developer states they have “been working closely with the County and neighbors to include their input throughout the process.” Unfortunately, this is not true.

At a hearing conducted by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) on July 2, 2015 numerous aspects of the developer’s submitted plan were looked upon unfavorably. Bozzuto was advised to meet with the community before returning with revisions. When they returned to the HPC on October 1, 2015 the community stated the developer had completely ignored the advice of the HPC and had NOT met with them.

To our dismay the HPC indicated that since they are only an “advisory board” and therefore the developer does not have to adhere to their requests. This apparent lack of enforcement and accountability is why for those citizens wanting to participate in the development process are baffled with the process and is why the Howard County Citizens Association (HCCA) is strongly recommending that both the HPC and the Design Advisory Panel (DAP) become a “Regulatory” body to provide greater authority than the current designated “Advisory” Boards.

Stuart Kohn

North Laurel

HCCA, President