

## **HCCA Board of Directors Meeting- January 11, 2017**

**Board Attendees:** Stu Kohn, President, Lisa Markovitz, Vice President, Alan Schneider, Secretary, JD Smith, Treasurer, Brian England, Paul Verchinski, Amran Pasha, Jervis Dorton, Howard Johnson, and Susan Garber.

**Guests:** Richard Krantz, Cyril Paumier, John McMahan, Ralph Colavita and Russ Swatek.

**New Town Columbia:** Work is continuing on preparations for New Town's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this summer; where we started, where we are, and where we are going in the next 50 years. Next steps were reviewed on the HCCA video being produced by Pilot Productions.

**Symphony Woods:** Cy Paumier, Urban Design Consultant, gave a presentation including background information on Symphony Woods, revisions to the plan, and fundamental concepts in development of center city parks. Board members agree that more information is needed and consideration given to alternatives to resolution of questions raised by citizens.

Treasurer's report was reviewed and approved.

Minutes of the December meeting were distributed for approval.

**MPP Noise.** HCCA offered suggestions to the Howard County Delegation at its December 20 meeting. Delegate Hill has proposed a bill for further consideration and presentation to the General Assembly. It was again noted that the Howard County Council has not taken action despite detailed information submitted which would have resolved the documented complaints submitted to the Administration and County Council over the last two years. Decibel levels have increased and extend much further than in the past. Sound levels do not meet safe health standards. Decibel levels need to be lower. Even when noise exceeds current limits, enforcement is ineffective. HCCA's detailed letter to representatives on this issue is available on its website.

**Chapelgate Status and Mediation:** The development proposal has been referred back to the Zoning Board. No date has been set.

**By-laws change.** The increase in the number of Board members warranted a change in the number of votes required. A change was unanimously approved by the Board.

**Sanctuary Bill:** The Sanctuary Bill was reviewed and discussed at length. Communications from members were reviewed. Due to a split in our membership regarding testimony, HCCA will not testify.

**Savage Update:** Savage update: Community members are very disappointed that the County Executive has given permission for the proposed land swap to proceed over their objections. The land swap bears no resemblance to the community's suggested swap in order to protect the environmentally sensitive slopes to the Little Patuxent River. The area of disturbance is now larger and the amount of tree cover lost is no different. The builder is receiving not only land for an access road, but also single family lots, including one made possible through density exchange. The 6 single family lots on the R-20 parkland necessitates jamming 29 townhouses and duplexes

on just 2.9 acres--a density not consistent with the homes in the adjoining National Historic District which are on quarter and half acre lots.

HCCA will continue to support the citizens on the Settlement at Savage Mill case, due to appear before the Planning Board on March 16.

Further details in letters to our elected officials will be available on HCCA's website.

**Listing County Council Meetings on HCCA's website.** The Board agreed that County meetings should be posted on HCCA's website to expand citizen access to decision making activities.

**Meeting with DPZ.** HCCA's meetings with DPZ have provided good conversation and understanding on both sides regarding community dissatisfaction with achieving the vision promised by the Administration and County Council. The next meeting for an opportunity to grow a working relationship will be in February, and will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

**Senior Citizen Action Item.** Paul Verchinski will testify at the next County Council meeting.

**Status of Attorney Grievance Commission Against Susan Gray and Allen Dyer for their** community pro bono legal work in drafting the Referendum signed by about 7,000 Howard County citizens, for defending against delays and legal challenges by those who did not want the referendum issues on the 2014 ballot, and their representation of petition collectors against subpoenas for video depositions of petition collectors. Oral argument in the Court of Appeals was held on January 5. At trial, the Judge asked on several occasions for a list of charges against Gray and Dyer. He said it would help him organize the testimony as the trial proceeded. Lydia Lawless refused to provide a list of charges. She said she would provide the charges in her closing statement. Not knowing the charges against them until the end of the trial against their law licenses was not only procedurally unfair to Gray and Dyer, but it was discourteous to refuse a reasonable request from Anne Arundel Circuit Court Judge Silkworth. Judge Silkworth is highly regarded. His extensive and detailed factual findings after 16 days of trial concluded that there were no ethical violations by Susan Gray and Allen Dyer. Lydia Lawless appealed Judge Silkworth's findings and conclusions that there were no ethical violations.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM. The next meeting is February 1.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

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