

HCCA Board of Directors Meeting– October 3, 2017

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

Guests: China Williams, Hiruy Hadgu, and Russ Swateck.

Guests China Williams and Hiruy Hadgu spoke on issues of concern and answered questions regarding their candidacy for County Council. Details are available on their web sites; www.hiruyhadgu.com and www.chinawilliams.com.

1. The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved.
2. Minutes from September 5 were reviewed and approved.
3. **The Settlement at Savage Mill.** Susan Garber reviewed the status of the proposed development and the upcoming Planning Board meeting. Issues include requirements for the preservation of Historic areas, steep slopes and protection of the Patuxent River from stormwater runoff, erosion and sediment flowing into the Patuxent River from removal of the protective forest, designation of the area as environmentally protected, recognized endangered species in this area, ownership of the land proposed to be swapped by Howard County to the developer for additional housing units. Also at issue is the transparency of the value of the land proposed to be swapped by Howard County to the developer. Discussion included whether General Plan values are being adequately protected in land use proceedings. Generally quasi-judicial proceedings give citizens a far better opportunity for active participation in the process.
4. **Chapelgate.** Stu Kohn updated the status of Chapelgate. Citizens have 30 days to appeal. Discussion arose regarding when the 30 day period begins.
5. **The Film: Preserving the Vision of New Town Columbia—the last 50 years and the next 50 years.** Rave reviews have been received at its initial showings. Brian England and JD Smith are continuing their incredible work in promoting, gathering resources and support, and arranging viewings of this illuminating film. The film captures the 50-year history, and expresses the special values needing preservation to achieve the vision for the future.
6. **Proposed 15 story buildings in Downtown Columbia.** Issues include the impact caused by the reduction of the area used for public gatherings such as weekly lakeside movies, the further reduction of limited public parking, the compliance with previously disclosed high limitations, and the sight restrictions produced by taller buildings.

7. **Upcoming County Council action on the following were discussed:**
 - a. **Repeal of the TIF (tax incentive financing).**
 - b. **Permitting industry on rural roads in Western Howard County. Who benefits and who loses by enactment of the proposed legislation.**
 - c. **Revision of the Adequate Public Facilities Act. How are schools and the public impacted by the proposed revision.**
8. **Airplane Noise in Howard County.** Paul Verchinski reported on initiatives and meetings to reduce aircraft noise in Howard County. Changes in Air Traffic Control impact the quality of life in Howard County. Howard Johnson showed maps of traffic pattern changes since government changes were made. Litigation has been requested.
9. **Planning for Business and Industrial Parks.** Brian England discussed gaps in planning for business and industrial parks. Health and safety must be better protected.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

The next meeting is November 7.