

Howard County Citizens Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors
November 7, 2019

Location: BA AUTOCARE, 9577 Berger Road, Columbia, Maryland 21046

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

Treasurer's Report and the minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Community Hospital Town Hall Meeting Nov. 19. In HCCA's continuing support of the Hospital, Stu Kohn discussed the town hall meeting to be held at 7 to 8:30 PM on Tuesday, November 19.

Enterprise Redevelopment, Affordable housing and Land Use. Jervis Dorton, Susan Garber, Brian England, Hiru Hadgu and Stu Kohn discussed numerous unresolved land use issues. Resolutions of several underlying issues are missing in land use issues. Issues include consideration of surrounding development, energy efficiency, preservation of historic areas, the relative size of proposed developments, profitability and who profits, a comprehensive analysis of affordable housing options, the use of affordable housing to justify density increases without fully disclosing associated costs of density increases, and the inclusion of disability housing.

Partnership with Other Organizations. Susan Garber reported on Preservation Maryland and Smarter Growth Alliance. There is a great need for Smarter Growth Decisions. Many other groups support Howard County Citizen's advocacy to restrict or eliminate waivers, fee in lieu, and to protect existing Forests, specimen trees, tree cover and watersheds. Other groups have greater financial resources to achieve their objectives. Susan Garber will circulate mission statements of other organizations. Discussions included Susan Garber speaking on Tree Equity. Brian England spoke on State Forest mitigation on further widening of Route 32. Signs were put up on the wrong place on Shaker Drive.

Continuing Tracking Executive and County Council Votes on Legislation. Board Member Hiruy Hadgu continues tracking of votes on legislation on Howard County.

Status of HCCA Recommendations for Planning Board Improvements. HCCA continues to advocate Planning Board improvements for smarter growth consistent with Plan Howard.

Status of the Lawyers Hill Development Proposal. Litigation in opposition is under consideration.

Aging in Place. Paul Verchinski proposed a letter to the County Executive regarding tax credits for aging in place. After discussion, sending the letter was unanimously approved.

Charter Review. Meetings are continuing. Changes are required to be approved by voters.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM. The next meeting will be December 12.

Alan Schneider, Secretary