

Howard County Citizens Association

Minutes of the Board of Directors

February 5, 2020

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

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

Treasurer's Report meeting was approved. Minutes of last meeting to be submitted later.

Membership Mailing. Howard Johnson presented the dues reminder letter scheduled for mailing to members.

Charter Review Commission. Stu Kohn reported on the Charter Review Commission. Charter Revisions must be included on the ballot for voting by Howard County residents. One possibility is increasing the Howard County Council from 5 to 7 members. Another proposal is for an independent Zoning Board instead of all Council Members also comprising the Zoning Board. Proposals must be approved by the County Council before submitting to be included on the ballot.

BWI Airport Noise/BWI Community Roundtable. Paul Verchinski and Howard Johnson reported on BWI Roundtable meetings. Different arrival/departure options to reduce aircraft noise in heavily populated areas were approved. Those suggestions include expanding flight paths to less densely populated areas, spreading air traffic noise over a larger area rather than a concentrated path and requiring planes to fly at higher altitudes for longer periods before descending for landing, which could reduce noise. The recommendations were forwarded to the FAA by the Maryland Aviation Administration. An FAA working group periodically reviews, and can make changes to the airport landing/takeoff design program. BWI has been expanding runways and terminal space for Southwest Airlines. Southwest reported that the NextGen air traffic changes made a few years ago resulted in more noise over congested areas, also cost Southwest more because more fuel had to be used. New proposed expansion is a large BWI midfield cargo area with 93 bays for Amazon tractor trailers.

Litigation. Phoenix won a court ruling in citizen's favor. One issue is whether an Environmental Impact Statement is required. Maryland has joined other states in litigation against the FAA requiring changes. Hearings are scheduled in the 4th Circuit Court.

Legislation. Maryland HB310 and SB184 would require the University of Md to conduct a study on the health effects of noise around the BWI airport since implementation of the NextGen air traffic system. SB184 is scheduled for a hearing on March 18 at 1 PM in the House Appropriations Committee. The appropriations would be \$100,000 and the report would be due by September 1, 2022. MIT is looking at an algorithm.

The next BWI Community Roundtable meeting is scheduled for 7 PM Tuesday, March 17 at MDOT MAA Offices 991 Corporate Boulevard Linthicum MD 21090 in Assembly Rooms A & B. The agenda, presentations and minutes will be posted on the MAA Community Relations- DC Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable site. Senator Chris Van Hollen sends a representative to the meetings.

Community Input. The Maryland Aviation Administration established a Community Outreach Program for the Office of Noise, Real Estate and Land Use Compatibility Planning. Groups include Quiet Skies Coalition. Noise complaints are recorded. Noise monitors have been installed. An additional 24 noise monitors have been added to the BWI area.

Board of Appeals. Brian England reported on the status of a Board of Appeals Complaint. Concerns were discussed regarding the conduct of a Board Member, and the inability to view portions of publicly recorded meetings. Discussion included other concerns regarding the process, mission, and decisions of the Board.

Spending Affordability Advisory Committee. Hiruy Hadgu reported on the meetings of the 22 member committee. The Urban Analytics report used to justify ongoing development in Howard County does not include all cost elements which should be taken into consideration. The math is seriously flawed. Unsupported is the conclusion that new development provides all the revenue needed for responsible infrastructure planning. Another meeting will be held next week which will include a discussion of APFO.

Board of Education Candidates Forum. Stu Kohn will be the monitor. The event will be live streamed.

Tour of Hospital Expansion. Stu Kohn reported on a tour of the impressive addition to the hospital. Hospital funding and planning for Howard County's growing and aging population continues to be a major concern.

Planning for Annual Meeting. County Executive Calvin Ball will attend and will speak and answer questions. Other co-sponsors and organizations will attend.

Separation of Residential and Commercial Development. Susan Garber spoke on the advantages of pre-submission meetings that would effectively resolve community concerns in advance of submission of development plans to the Department of Planning and Zoning.

Pending Legislation. Discussion of testimony on CB 8 and other legislation at the February 18th County Council meeting was discussed. Motion was made, seconded and approved authorizing HCCA testimony.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 PM. The next meeting will be March 5.

Alan Schneider, Secretary