

Howard County Citizens Association

Minutes of the Board of Directors

December 1, 2021

Location: Virtual

Board Attendees: Lisa Markovitz, Vice President, Brian England, JD Smith, Jervis Dorton, Paul Verchinski, Susan Garber, Hiruy Hadgu and Alan Schneider, Secretary. Stu Kohn and Hiruy Hadgu were unable to attend. Meeting commenced at 7:20 PM.

Treasurer JD Smith presented the Treasurer's Report.

1. Lisa Markovitz reported on the progress of the Webinar Series. Two of the three films have been completed. The film production is supported by cosponsors The Peoples Voice, Smarter Growth Alliance of Howard County, Progressive Democrats, and Howard County Sierra Club Group.
2. Next Thursday, December 9 at 7 PM the Board is scheduled to meet with the Business Monthly for a discussion of important issues. Topics will include HoCo by Design, the Age Friendly Plan, the Climate Action Plan, and the status of the Roundtable discussions on BWI airplane departure patterns which needlessly burdens existing residential life in Howard County and is detrimental to the proposed additional 8,000 housing units in Columbia Gateway which is directly below 70% of the airplane departures from BWI.
3. Report on Zoning Board Case ZB 1118M Erickson at Limestone Valley. The hearing was concluded. The Zoning Board voted 4 to 1 to approve the petition for rezoning a Rural Conservation (RC) parcel to Community Enhanced Floating Zone (CEF) to permit a Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC). The case is not over. The decision by the Zoning Board should be published by the Office of Law within 90 days, and subject to further review pursuant to Zoning Board and Administrative Law Rules of Procedure, and any state or federal appeal. Further discussions are continuing regarding next steps.
4. Good Morning Howard will be on line tomorrow. Anyone can attend via Zoom. Details are available at The Village in Howard.
5. Paul Verchinski reported on HoCo by Design. Details will be presented to the County Council probably after the November 2022 County Executive and Council Election. Unresolved were concerns regarding proposed excessive housing units and scheduling of deferred maintenance on schools and necessary infrastructure repairs and upgrades.
6. Testimony on Minimum Wage Legislation was discussed. A second hearing was held for the 11 people who were unable to testify at the first hearing. Procedural issues continue. Lisa commented on needed revisions to existing hearing procedures should include consideration of those who are lined up to testify. Witnesses should know when they will be called to testify. Another problem was that those who attended the second hearing were allowed to testify only if they attended the first hearing at which their testimony was not permitted.

7. Corruption continues. Those who speak up to provide information regarding proposed development are targeted for retaliatory actions affecting their careers and recognition of dedicated public service. Discussions to continue.
8. Citizens Election Fund Candidate Campaign Pledge. Amendments were agreed and would be circulated for further review.
9. Ned Tillman requested permission to use HCCA's video "**Columbia at 50 – A Bridge to the Future**". It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved authorizing Ned Tillman to use the video as he requested.

The next Board Meeting will be January 5, 2022 at 7 PM

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Alan Schneider, Secretary