

# Howard County Citizens Association

## Minutes of the Board of Directors

November 3, 2021

### **Location: Virtual**

**Board Attendees:** Stu Kohn, President, Lisa Markovitz, Vice President, Brian England, JD Smith, Jervis Dorton, Paul Verchinski, Susan Garber, Hiruy Hadgu, Howard Johnson and Alan Schneider, Secretary. Meeting commenced at 7:10 PM.

Treasurer JD Smith presented the Treasurer's Report.

Howard County Council legislation was discussed. A motion authorizing testimony by HCCA officers was moved, seconded and unanimously passed. Discussion included testimony on the following.

**CB82** -- Establishing a local minimum wage for employees working in Howard County; and generally relating to Howard County minimum wage requirements.

**CB83** – Police Body Cameras

**CB86** -- Providing that the Fee-in-Lieu for Moderate Income Housing Units and the Building Excise Tax shall be paid at the time of building permit issuance in order to align with the timing of payment of the School Facilities Surcharge; and generally related to fees collected by the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits.

**CB87** -- Amending the Howard County Zoning Regulations pertaining to Age-Restricted Adult Housing conditional uses by reducing the maximum number of dwelling units allowed per net acre in Residential: Environmental Development (R-ED) and Residential: Single (R-20) zoning districts; limiting the square-footage of a certain number of Age-Restricted units; increasing the square-footage of required community buildings in certain circumstances; and generally relating to Age-Restricted Adult Housings.

**CB88** – To prohibit the willful failure to do specified maintenance and repair of certain historic structures thus prohibiting certain demolition by neglect of those structures; allowing the Historic District Commission to waive compliance in certain cases of financial hardship; providing for a hearing and an opportunity to cure specified violations; and generally relating to historic structures, historic sites, and historic districts in the County.

**CB89** -- Establishing a “lookback” provision for the disturbance of certain trees; providing for enhanced enforcement measures and penalties for violations of the Forest Conservation Act of Howard County; and generally relating to forest conservation in the County.

Alan Schneider provided an update on the status of Zoning Board Case ZB 1118M Erickson at Limestone Valley on a proposal to change a Rural Conservation zone to permit building 1440 Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC) units on land zoned for agriculture.

Stu Kohn presented suggested Amendments to CB77.

Discussion ensued regarding County Council votes on proposed legislation after testimony.

**CB69/70** – PASSED – 5 to 0 -- Regarding purchasing Ag Preserve property. HCCA testimony was ignored regarding the rationale for Howard County funding if the PSA was not going to be extended.

**CB77** -- TABLED –Improvement of the Zoning Process.

**CB78/79** – TABLED -- Forrest Conservation.

**CB80** – Harassment of County Employees – PASSED—none of HCCA’s suggested Amendments were introduced. The Bill is weak. The Council stated they wanted to show their support of County Employees.

**CB64** – Previously TABLED – Forrest Conservation -- It was PASSED this evening.

**CR140-143** – Remains TABLED – Tax breaks for Property Owners on Ag Preserve land where Solar Facilities are located.

The next Board Meeting will be December 1, at 7 PM

Meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.

Alan Schneider, Secretary