

# Howard County Citizens Association

## Minutes of the Board of Directors

January 6, 2022

### **Location: Virtual**

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

Treasurer JD Smith presented the Treasurer's Report. Alan Schneider presented the minutes for approval.

1. County Council Bills scheduled for January 15 were discussed. After discussion a motion was made, seconded and passed for Board members to testify for HCCA. The Council Bills and others are:

**CB3** - Setting annual salary for County Council. *Compensation Committee*

**CB4** - Setting Annual setting for County Executive. *Compensation Committee*

**CB5** - Setting Annual setting for Zoning Board. *Compensation Committee*

**CB6** - Citizens Election Fund - *Yungmann*

**CB7 / 8** - Moderate Income Housing to be required in PGCC zone which is Turf Valley. *Walsh*

**CB9** - Requiring developers to meet with the school system regarding capacity solutions APFO. *Jung*

**CB10** - Having employees who have been laid off due to COVID emergency: recall. *Walsh*

**CB50** – Those wishing to testify were not permitted to testify.

**CB78**- Discussion on forest conservation was disappointing.

2. Stu Kohn reported on the status of the pending article in the Business Monthly raising HCCA concerns about the Howard County General Plan, assessment of development regulations and timetable changes.
3. Topics for the 3 PM February 15 meeting with the Department of Planning and Zoning. Hiruy Hadgu discussed the continuing misinformation that development will pay for itself and discussed public transport. Susan Garber discussed staffing needs for effective management. Budget shortfalls can be overcome with penalties for environmental noncompliance, and increased fees for projects which require more extensive review. Advance guidelines would be helpful.
4. Hiruy Hadgu reported on the proposed Candidates Pledge which was discussed at HCCA's annual meeting.
5. Report on status of Zoning Board Erickson Living case. No decision has been released yet. Numerous appeal issues await review of the published opinion. Alan Schneider.

6. Grave injustice to the protection of the Patuxent River, Howard County's watershed, and Chesapeake Bay is evidenced by the dismissal of renowned Riverkeeper Fred Tutman and Barbara Solner-Web from the Patuxent River Commission. Implications are possible retaliation against those who testify against uncontrollable damage at public expense resulting from proposed developments; remember Ellicott City damage and deaths. Howard County Watershed Protections were limited to a portion of Ellicott City. Environmental protection saves great public cost of later remediation affecting all taxpayers.
7. Stu Kohn discussed solar revisions in CR140-143. Ag funding should be repaid to taxpayers when ag land is repurposed for solar revenues.
8. Paul Verchinski discussed the BWI Roundtable report to be completed in 30 days, and additional effort needed. Paul is on the legislative and technical committee of the Maryland Aviation Administration. 70% of all departures from Runway 28, the major runway, unnecessarily go over Columbia. Changes suggested in 2020, and thought to be implemented by now, have not been implemented, reportedly restrained by DCA and Dulles. Deb Jung is a very helpful advocate for recommended improvements. Interesting that the proposed 8,000 new housing units in Gateway will be impacted, but apparently this is not being considered in the DPZ planning process. Should there be a requirement that Realtors notify prospective purchasers of the airport noise which is already a problem without increasing air traffic?

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Alan Schneider, Secretary

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## Minutes of the Board of Directors

January 23, 2022

**Location: Virtual**

**Board Attendees:** Stu Kohh, President, Lisa Markovitz, Vice President, JD Smith, Jervis Dorton, Howard Johnson, Susan Garber, Hiruy Hadgu and Alan Schneider, Secretary. Lisa Markovitz presided.

Paul Verchinski and Brian England were unable to attend. Meeting commenced at 7:15 PM.

Treasurer JD Smith presented the Treasurer's Report. Alan Schneider presented the minutes for approval.

1. Zoning Board Rules. HCCA testimony on points including subpoena of witnesses, due process time requirements, mediation only if both parties agreed to mediation, and other clarifications were reviewed.
2. Status of pending land use zoning requirement waiver requests were reviewed: Lawyers Hill and Taylor Service property.
3. Coalition with other groups on zoning and land testimony was discussed. Various alternatives were reviewed.
4. Organization with common interest include those prioritizing water quality, smart growth, environmental protection, ethics, conservation, and sustainable buildings.
5. Electrify Howard County, CB5, was favorably reviewed.
6. Bylaw revisions and membership dues were discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.

Alan Schneider  
Secretary