

Howard County Citizens Association
Minutes of the Board of Directors
April 25, 2023

Location: Virtual

Board Attendees: Stu Kohn, President, Lisa Markovitz, Vice President, Paul Verchinsky, Brian England, Howard Johnson and Alan Schneider, Secretary. Lisa Markovitz presided. A quorum was on line. Meeting commenced at 7:15 PM. JD Smith, Jervis Dorton, Susan Garber, and Hiruy Hadgu communicated separately.

1. Presentation by Chris Alleva on the \$144 million new library funding, including:
 - a. Downtown Columbia. Public Infrastructure Financing Plan and Request for Tax Increment Financing. The Howard Research and Development Corporation applied for legislation for the creation of a Downtown Columbia Development District, the creation of a Crescent Special Taxing District, and approval of special obligation bonds not to exceed \$90 million. Its stated goals include 6,400 residential units, 640 hotel rooms, 1.25 million square feet of retail use, 4.3 million square feet of office use, and structured public parking.
 - b. Proposed use of the \$90 million bonds.
 - c. Does the request accomplish TIF goals to achieve County goals, to limit County exposure, and to generate income from the developer to pay for the bonds. Does it meet industry standards for TIF funding. What are risks to Howard County. What steps are needed to mitigate risks to Howard County.
 - d. Relationship of the proposed 30 year Development Plan to the 2030 Ten Year General Plan adopted by the County Council on 2/1/2010.
 - e. The Developer Rights and Responsibilities Agreement,
 - f. The Affordable Housing commitment and underachievement to date,
 - g. The library design by Howard Research and Development Corporation (President Jay Cross) selected London based Heatherwick Studio architect which designed the proposed library (its website pictures high-cost buildings worldwide in London, Singapore, Shanghai, Cape Town, Hong Kong, Jeddah, Kagoshima, and Masdar),
 - h. Howard Hughes proposal to be the sole source contractor,
 - i. A previously approved library design for the same square footage at a different location at a much lower price; \$60 million for the building. The \$144 million is partially funded by \$12 million for the Rt 29 access road and \$10 million grant.
 - j. The Tax Incentive Financing (TIF) benefits to Howard Hughes Corporation and its relationship to financing the new library and relationship to Howard County taxes.
 - k. The location of the proposed new library, and proximity to schools and users.
 - l. The timing of the announced new plan.
 - m. The replacement of the library with a new library is to provide more direct access from Route 29 to the Howard Hughes Corporation development.
 - n. Can the \$10 million state contribution be used for other Howard County needs?
- Chris Alleva left the virtual meeting at the end of his presentation.

HCCA discussed position on library. Subsequent to the April Board meeting, Board continued discussing, via email, putting together a position on the \$144 million

Lakefront library proposal. Board Members agreed with the testimony sent to County Council by The People's Voice and voted to espouse that as HCCA position to support. April 2023.

2. Treasurer JD Smith's Treasurer's Report was received by all in advance of the meeting, and was approved. Minutes of the February meeting were posted on the website. March 29 meeting were approved.
3. Discussion on preparation for the Annual Meeting Preparations: Notice of annual meeting, and discussion of activist awards. The Board voted approving activist awards to Joan Pontius and Joel Broida.
4. Discussion on upcoming legislation CB21/22/25, CR72/74/84/87/88/89. The Board approved board members to testify. Any questions regarding proposed testimony would be reviewed and/or coordinated with other Board members.
5. BWI Noise update – Paul Verchinski HB204. Howard Johnson K committee, round table updates. Sb162/hb204 was passed it adds 4 community members to the Md aviation commission this bill was sponsored by Senator Lam and Guzzone and Delegate Hill 2 community members are each nominated by HoCo and AA senators to Governor Moore and he makes the appointments. This will help to get community issues including noise considered when changes are considered at BWI by the MD Aviation Commission
6. Noted was the County Council work session tomorrow at 9:30 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.