

Howard County Citizens Association Minutes

Board of Directors Meeting

September 26, 2023

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

Board Attendees: Stu Kohn, President (by telephone conference call); Lisa Markovitz, Vice President; Brian England, Howard Johnson, Hiruy Hadgu, and Alan Schneider, Secretary. Lisa Markovitz presided. A quorum attended. Meeting commenced at 7:15 PM. Paul Verchinski, JD Smith, Jervis Dorton, and Susan Garber were not present.

1. **Treasurer JD Smith's Treasurer's Report** was received by all in advance of the meeting, and was approved.
2. **Minutes.** The annual meeting was an overflow crowd at the Hawthorne Center. There was a lively discussion with our elected officials, Delegates Vanessa Atterbeary, Jen Terrasa and Chao Wu, and Council Members Deb Jung and Liz Walsh.
3. **Rent Stabilization Presentation.** Jake Burdett spoke for a coalition advocating enactment of a bill that would limit exorbitant annual rent increases adversely affecting Howard County. Protections against predatory practices have been enacted in other counties. Landlord's bad practices were the subject of an Attorney General lawsuit against numerous landlords. Howard County's General Plan envisions an increase in the percentage of renters. County legislation is needed. A motion was made, seconded and passed to join the coalition. HCCA supports actions that regulate abusive practices and procedures. It is important to incorporate penalties and enforcement provisions which enhance the lives of citizens in Howard County. A one-page points summary is attached. The following is a [link to the WBAL TV news on the coalition press event](#).
4. **HCCA Transition.** Jervis Dorton has become a nonvoting member. Susan Garber is also a nonvoting member. Discussions will continue before the next meeting regarding Board membership and officer roles and responsibilities.
5. **HoCo by Design Amendments** were discussed. It is greatly distressing that there will be no opportunity to testify on a large number of substantive amendments. There are substantive omissions in the proposed new 10 year general plan. APFO, the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, is not strengthened to reduce school overcrowding and the increasing number of outside classrooms. Population growth is not balanced by planning for coordinated hospital capacity, police, firefighting, environmental protection, roads, and transportation safety.
6. **Pre-filed legislation regarding stream restoration**, and proposed testimony was discussed. CB40, Brian will draft HCCA testimony.

7. Thanks was extended to Stu Kohn on his excellent testimony for HCCA regarding HoCo by Design, and other Board members who also testified individually or representing other organizations.

8. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 19th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.