

Howard County Citizens Association

Minutes of the Board of Directors

February 8, 2024

Location: Virtual

Board Attendees: Stu Kohn, President, Lisa Markovitz, Vice President, Brian England, Howard Johnson, Paul Verchinski, JD Smith and Alan Schneider, Secretary. Lisa Markovitz presided. Meeting commenced at 7:00 PM. Kristy Mumma and Karina Fisher attended. Jervis Dorton and Susan Garber were not present.

1. Treasurer JD Smith reported balance at the end of December is \$6,122.38.
2. Minutes of the January virtual meeting were approved.
3. **Introduction of Kristy Mumma and Karina Fisher.** Moved and approved unanimously the number of Board Members. Welcomed Kristy Mumma and Karina Fisher as new board members.
4. **Membership Status.** Discussion of membership growth, including membership support of potential referendum.
5. **Potential Legislative Testimony.**
 - a. **CB8. Stream Water Restoration.** Environmental goals are not achieved.
 - b. Testimony was discussed. Brian England was authorized to testify for HCCA.
 - c. Paul Verchinski was authorized to testify on **House Bill 505 - Limitations on Cost Recovery by Public Service Companies** excessive rate increases justified PJM, the transmission operator. There is strong automatic rate increases by many lobbyists including BGE.
 - d. Discussed was the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 to reduce emissions.
 - e. Delegate Chao Wu sponsored state legislation for Transfer Tax Distribution.
 - f. Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary sponsored legislation for a commercial building excise tax to fund needed school maintenance.
5. **Columbia Town Center** covenants were discussed. Stu Kohn and Lisa Markovitz were quoted in a HoCo by Design article in Business Monthly.
 - a. Final Development Plan is required to be followed.
 - b. Better utilization of limited available land in Howard County is needed.
 - c. Transportation is a necessary element of planning and authorizing growth.
6. **Gateway Masterplan.** HCCA requested a review of New Town zoning. Stu Kohn was asked to be on the new Advisory Board. Stu asked that Brian England be appointed instead.
7. **Hospital ER wait times.** Meeting with hospital administration was discussed. Adequate Howard County Hospital facilities funding should be included in planning (APFO) as part of required infrastructure planning ahead of growth.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.