

Howard County Citizens Association

Minutes of the Board of Directors

March 6, 2024

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, Paul Verchinski, Kristy Hartman Mumma, Karina Fisher, and Alan Schneider, Secretary. Lisa Markovitz presided. Meeting commenced at 7:10 PM., JD Smith, Jervis Dorton, and Susan Garber were not present.

1. Treasurer JD Smith reported the account balance and his report was approved.
2. The February 8, 2024 minutes were approved.
3. **Membership.** Stu Kohn reported positive response to membership reminder posted on HCCA's list serve. Other outreach methods were discussed. Social media is an option.
4. **Bylaws.** Amendments to bylaws were discuss. Amended bylaws were unanimously adopted.
5. **HCCA Testimony.** Brian England testified on CB8, Stream Restoration, proposed by Council Member Liz Walsh. The implementation of stream restoration needs to be revised to actually achieve environmental restoration, rather than County approval of stream restoration projects which actually cause unnecessary, unreasonable long term environmental damage. Council Members purporting to protect the environment, Opal Jones, David Youngmann, and Christiana Rigby, voted against proposed stream restoration protections in CB8.

Brian England also testified in favor of Maryland State House Bill 1284 introduced by Delegate Jen Terrasa, District 13 Howard County. Delegate Terrasa was primary or co-sponsor of [94 bills in the current legislative session](#).

The Howard County School Board budget process was also discussed. Former School Board President, now District 9a Delegate Chao Wu, proposed and supports improved state funding for Howard County Schools. [Delegate Wu's 62 legislative bills can be found here](#).

6. **Library Survey.** Lisa Markovitz reported the HCCA survey results. Of the 105 responses 47% preferred the existing location. The next largest percentage was 25% preferring the available space at the Columbia Mall. This location survey was meant to broaden possible site suggestions for the County to hopefully pursue, as they address costs, mixed uses, and competing budget resources and expenses.
7. **Gateway Masterplan Advisory Committee.** Brian England is a member of the Committee. Its first meeting is March 14th.

Brian England is concerned that the Gateway proposal is not following any plan for development. There is no definition of the redevelopment process. In 1964 the Howard Research and Development Company which was the authorized authority for approving development in that area, assigned its responsibilities to Columbia Association. The CA President's salary is more than the salary of the President of the United States.

Columbia Association has not responded to Brian's inquiries regarding its responsibilities which were transferred from HRD.

The land also has covenants governing land use in the area, as well as Final Development Plans which restrict land use in the area. Comprehensive Zoning may also apply.

Suggestions were discussed regarding the Gateway Masterplan process.

8. **Hospital.** Stu Kohn reported disappointment at the hospital administration's avoidance of a fully advertised, open to all, and video recorded town hall meeting. The hospital responded to HCCA's questions by noting that they will not be answered. The hospital must be included as part of the General Plan infrastructure planning, including measureable progress.

Stu Kohn asked the Hospital President to be a special guest at HCCA's annual meeting. Board members were asked to consider other invitees.

9. **Archives.** Converting HCCA's printed records to searchable electronic storage was discussed. Paul Verchinski will research available guidance and will report at the next meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 3 for later confirmation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM