

# Howard County Citizens Association

## Minutes of the Board of Directors

January 7, 2025

### Location: Virtual

**Board Attendees:** Stu Kohn, President, Lisa Markovitz, Vice President, Brian England, Paul Verchinski, Howard Johnson, Kristy Hartman Mumma, Karina Fisher and Alan Schneider, Secretary. Board meeting commenced at 7:05 PM.

1. Treasurers report and November minutes to be sent electronically for approval.
2. Board Membership. Members discussed filling open board position. Suggestions were discussed. Further evaluation to be undertaken. By laws to be reviewed for clarification of non-voting board member and retiree status.
3. HCCA testimony.
  - a. CB6 – 8 regarding Inspector General Qualifications and Pay Grade. Transparency is needed. Motion unanimously approved authorizing Stu Kohn to testify.
  - b. CR161 & 162-2024 Long Ridge Urban Renewal. Motion was unanimously approved authorizing Paul Verchinski to testify.
4. HCCA budget testimony on December 8. Paul Verchinski reviewed his testimony. Age related housing regulations and requirements need better structure for thoughtful, overall Howard County long range budget planning and quality of life improvements.
5. New Town and Gateway Development. Brian England reported on his communications. His requests for additional information from Columbia Association were unanswered. It was agreed that a formal request by HCCA would be sent. The next Gateway public meeting is January 15.
6. APFO Task Force. Lisa Markovitz reported on the APFO Task Force Committee. Twice a month meetings will continue through April. A major issue is what data and measurements are used to achieve goals. Does affordable housing achieve APFO goals.
7. CB59-2024. Favorable result. A conditional use for outdoor storage was approved in B2 zone. A Normandy conditional use case will come in the future before the hearing examiner.
8. Airport Noise. Paul Verchinski reported that the noise evaluation study will continue and the FAA will issue a report after the study is concluded. Howard Johnson report on an Airport Functionality Group. It will be the source of additional information regarding noise after aircraft flow changes were initiated this past summer.
9. Board of Appeals Rules of Procedure. HCCA previously testified. The Board unanimously approved Stu Kohn to testify at the next step.

10. Go Cart and WR Grace ongoing cases. Arguments make no sense in support of approving zoning violations for a Go Cart track in Highland. A required permit was never granted.
11. Board of Education. Karina Fischer noted that there were 10,000 responses to the Board of Education survey. The 8080 Board of Education policy regarding the use of personal technology in schools is forthcoming. Operation and Capital School budgets are in process before the Board, then the County Council, and then the County Executive. The HB 1440 Task Force Report has been issued. Funding where needed requires more attention.
12. Archives. Brian England and Paul Verchinski continue to work on HCCA archives.
13. Jervis Dorton was unable to attend and will later provide a report on affordable housing.

The meeting concluded at 8:45 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for February 6.

Alan Schneider, Secretary