

Howard County Citizens Association

Minutes of the Board of Directors

October 6, 2025

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

Board Attendees: Stu Kohn, President, Lisa Markovitz, Vice President, Kristy Hartman Mumma, Treasurer, Brian England, Ryan Powers, Paul Verchinski, Howard Johnson, Jarvis Dorton, and Alan Schneider, Secretary.

Board meeting commenced at 7:10 PM.

1. Kristy Mumma's treasurer's report was presented and approved. The official address for HCCA will be changed from its current Post Office Box to 8815 Centre Park Drive, Columbia, Md. 21045 effective October 25, 2025.
2. Minutes of the September 10 Board meeting were approved as amended for posting.
3. Howard Johnson reported on HCCA's pay pal account. Discussion ensued regarding communications with members as well as with others for distribution of HCCA's newsletter and information updates.
4. CR182. Reappointment of Board of Appeals member. Board members commented on HCCA testimony 3 years ago. HCCA recommended publication of bios and applicable qualifications for all Commission and Board members. Available information should include financial information related to matters voted on by the board or commission to which the person is recommended for appointment, and information regarding relationship to the elected official nominating the person for the position.
 - a. The Board approved Stu Kohn to testify for HCCA on October 20th.
5. CB68. Reduced Setbacks for Nursing Homes. Discussion on this ZRA included whether this constitutes a zoning change which should be a part of comprehensive zoning, should conditional use criteria be included, "buffering" should be defined, should community input be accorded greater weight, who has standing to oppose application of the reduced setback in each community, if applied to all nursing homes in Howard County how many qualify for the setback, what standards should be considered, prioritize updating design guidelines, and if the applicant is a LLC all primary owners of the LLC should be identified including primary owners of LLC owners of the LLC applicant.
 - a. The Board approved Lisa Markovitz to testify for HCCA.
6. CR186. Solid Waste Management Pilot Program for "Pay as You Throw". Ryan Powers pointed out the lack of available information. Reduction of solid waste is admirable but how will it work, how will it be promoted, how are consumers benefited, and would a task force be helpful to enable more public support.
 - a. The Board approved Ryan Powers to testify for HCCA in support of CB186. Ryan will obtain and circulate further CR186 details.

7. Ryan Powers and Lisa Markovitz discussed proposed ADU legislation. Ryan will follow through on a virtual meeting with DPZ explaining the proposed zoning change and answering questions from registered attendees.
 - a. Compare with state HB1466. Howard County bill goes way beyond state ADU law.
8. Response to inquiry from County Executive's office: What do you think the administration should do in the next 14 months before the end of the County Executive's term of office.
 - a. ADU's.
 - b. Land Trust: permanent and affordable housing on land owned by county.
 - c. What has been done in response to input from previous listening sessions. There were 700 public comments to Clarion report on comprehensive zoning years ago.
 - d. Collect input from HCCA list serve for submission to County Executive.
 - e. Others were contacted by the County Executive's office. What was their input?
9. Discussion on candidate forum in March or April. To be added to next month's agenda.
10. For further discussion. Will potential candidate pledge facilitate campaign election reform, to provide helpful voter information, to identify candidates who may be beholden to big donors who are identified with profit over public policy. How does the public identify with those who support infrastructure development ahead of excess development; HCCA supports APFO and improved quality of life in Howard County.
11. Discussion to be continued on Newsletter contents, social media outreach, member/coffee hour gatherings, internships to assist with communication.

The meeting concluded at 9:05 PM.

Alan Schneider, Secretary