

Sayers, Margery

From: Stu Kohn <stukohn@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 07, 2015 9:43 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Kittleman, Allan; Wilson, B Diane; Susan Garber; Brian England ; Howard Johnson; lmarkovitz@comcast.net; jacquiesentell@hotmail.com; ajs333@aol.com; Smith JD; Ros Williams
Subject: HCCA Fully Supports Approval of Susan Garber as Planning Board Member
Attachments: Susan Garber.docx

Dear Council,

The HCCA Board fully supports the appointment of Ms. Susan Garber, see attachment as a member of the Planning Board.

Sincerely,

Stu Kohn
HCCA, President

Cc: HCCA Board – Brian England, Howard Johnson, Lisa Markovitz, Jacquie Sentell, Alan Schneider, JD Smith, and Ros Williams



HCCA

Howard County Citizens Association

Since 1961...

The Voice Of The People of Howard County

Date: 7 May 2015

Subject: Appointment of Susan Garber to Planning Board

We, the HCCA Board are dismayed by the fact that pre-testimony is being posted on the Howard County website prior to Susan Garber's nomination as a Planning Board (PB) member is heard before the County Council. This should not be permitted as it is our opinion a very poor decision and should be dismissed because it is "choosing civility" at its worst. We are better than this. Whether anyone is for or against any nominee should only be documented at such time after testimony is heard. We would appreciate an explanation of the rationale. Is this the norm and has this ever been done in the past?

Since the qualifications for a prospective PB are apparently not posted on the County website we see no reason why Ms. Garber should not be approved to be a PB member. She is as qualified as anyone else especially when you review her resume. Her resume is impressive and stands on its merits. She has been involved as an activist for many years in the community and is extremely well versed on zoning policies, rules and regulations. Ms. Garber was selected by the County Executive to be DPZ/DILP Transition Team which HCCA was also a member. I can tell you first-hand that contrary to one critic; Ms. Garber was positive and not "nasty" towards DPZ staff. If one associates asking direct questions to the DPZ staff being negative then they are simply wrong in their analysis. It is tough questions that should and need to be required to articulate at PB meetings. I find it interesting because during our Transition Team meetings the developers and builders who were part of our team were educated by citizen's concerns and as a result we learned from one another. We were all respectful of each other opinions and although we agreed to disagree we often compromised which resulted in an outstanding comprehensive report. There is no doubt that Ms. Garber would be more than impartial, dedicated, and a good steward of fair play and follow the law as established by policy and regulations.

In conclusion, Ms. Susan Garber should be unanimously approved based on her good character, zoning knowledge, and not being timid by asking very germane questions. She would be a major asset as a PB member. Her appointment would be a very positive step for all and beneficial for the future of Howard County.

Sincerely,

Stu Kohn
HCCA, President