

**Howard County Citizens' Election Fund Commission
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043**

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

A duly advertised public meeting of the Howard County Citizens' Election Fund Commission was held virtually via WebEx on June 10, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

Commission Members Present:

Suzanne Geckle
Mary Marker
Wendy Slaughter
Douglas Miller
David Loeffler
Ginna Rodriguez-Panqueva
Lillian Norris-Holmes

Staff Members Present:

- Brenna Punté-Pinos, Chief - Bureau of Water/Sewer & Misc. Revenue, Department of Finance, assigned to assist the Commission pursuant to Code Section 10.310 (h).
- Kristen Bowen Perry, Deputy County Solicitor, Attorney for Finance
- Joanne Egnell, Administrative Analyst, Department of Finance

Special Guest Present:

- Joanne Antoine, Executive Director, Common Cause Maryland

As the Chair of the Commission, Ms. Geckle called the open meeting to order at approximately 6:04 p.m.

The following items of business were discussed in open session:

1. Approval of January 14, 2020 meeting minutes:
 - Ms. Marker motions to approve the minutes as amended, Mr. Loeffler seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes.
2. Schedule next meeting:

This was moved to the end of the agenda and subsequently not scheduled prior to the end of the meeting.
3. Montgomery County's Public Election Fund user feedback :
 - Dale Tibbitts, treasurer for the Montgomery County Executive describes the process of utilizing the fund as labor intensive. If he decided to use it again; he would delegate entering the information for donations received.
 - Mr. Tibbitts used "Action Network" to raise funds; he describes it as inexpensive and he had reporting issues.

- Some other options include “Act Blue” and PayPal. Use of PayPal is not encouraged as it could easily be abused.
 - Some users experienced issues with counting of the contributions raised compared to the State Board of Elections.
 - Candidates underestimated the amount of time it would take to raise qualifying contributions.
 - Ms. Antoine offered the possibility of setting up a round table training with Montgomery County as well as reaching out to Councilman Glass to share his experience.
 - The State Board of Elections will not be as involved with Howard County’s Citizens’ Election Fund as they were with Montgomery County’s Public Election Fund.
4. Summary Guide & FAQ review:
- Montgomery County’s Summary Guide & FAQ were used as a reference and updated with specifics to Howard County’s code.
 - The Summary Guide & FAQ were updated with the requested changes from Commission members and presented with several items that needed clarification. Each item was reviewed and updated based on the outcome of the discussion.
 - Updates from the remaining items will be incorporated and sent out to the Commission member’s final review by June 29, 2020.
 - The State Board of Elections will review the Summary Guide & FAQ prior to it being published online. Print copies will also be made available.
5. Digital Signature requirement:
- Will be discussed at the next meeting.
6. Closed Meeting Requested 7:50 pm:
- Upon motion by Ms. Geckle and seconded by Mr. Loeffler, the Commission voted unanimously to close the meeting for Legal Counsel.

Closed Meeting: Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, minutes of this open session are required to include the following:

Date of Closed Meeting: June 10, 2020

Time of Closed Meeting: Approximately 7:50 p.m.

Place of Closed Meeting: WebEx

Purpose: To seek legal advice regarding interpretation of the County Code related to the Commission.

Authority to Close: 1) Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. Art. §3-305(b)(7): To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter; attorney-client privilege.

Listing of topics discussed:

The Commission sought legal advice regarding the interpretation of the County Code related to the Commission (Section 10.310(c)).

Persons present: Attorney Perry; Members: Suzanne Geckle, Mary Marker, Wendy Slaughter, Douglas Miller, David Loeffler, Ginna Rodriguez-Panqueva, Lillian Norris-Holmes; Staff: Brenna Punté-Pinos, Joanne Egnell

Actions taken: Deliberated, consulted with counsel, discussed interpretation of the Howard County Code related to the Commission.

Closed Meeting Adjourned and Opened Meeting Reopened 8:00 pm:

- Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the closed meeting and re-open the open meeting.

7. Adjournment:

- Upon motion by Mr. Loeffler and seconded by Ms. Marker, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at approximately 8:03 p.m.