

**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 October 6, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

Commission Members Present:

Suzanne Geckle
Wendy Slaughter
Douglas Miller
David Loeffler
Ginna Rodriguez-Panqueva
Lillian Norris-Holmes
Jennifer Bevan-Dangel

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
- Diane Zagorski, Chief – Bureau of Tax & Specialty Services, Department of Finance

As the Chair of the Commission, Ms. Geckle called the open meeting to order at approximately 6:06 p.m.

The following items of business were discussed in open session:

1. Approval of August 11, 2020 meeting minutes:
Mr. Miller motions to approve the minutes as amended, Ms. Geckle seconded the motion. There was a unanimous vote to approve the minutes.
2. Schedule next meeting:
Ms. Geckle confirmed date of next meeting scheduled for November 17, 2020 at 6:00p.m.
3. Summary Guide review:
 - o Ms. Bevan-Dangel suggested an addition of a hyperlink from MD State Board of Elections website to reference dates/deadlines for candidates. Exhibit B will be removed from page 33, Section XXVII of the Summary Guide.
 - o Ms. Geckle pointed out that CEF email address was added to the Withdraw Form.
 - o Ms. Geckle indicated the commission is waiting on dates from Jared. Once these are received and added to the Summary Guide, it will be sent to the Board of Elections for approval.
 - o Motion to forward Summary Guide to State Board of Elections once we hear back

from Jared was made by Ms. Geckle and seconded by Ms. Rodriguez-Panqueva. There was a unanimous vote to approve the Summary Guide.

4. FAQ's

- There were no changes made to this document.
- Highlighted name of new Director of Finance

5. Rules of Procedure:

- Mr. Miller inquired about the definition of “Open Campaign Account” in section II, subsection b. Attorney Perry to resend memo to Commission for review.
- Ms. Bevan-Dangel inquired about changing language in section VII, subsection c if a complaint is filed within two weeks of the election. Commission agreed not to make any changes at this time.
- All remaining items in brackets were approved by the Commission.
- It was agreed to amend section V, subsection b, to say, “Any such amendments to the Rules of Procedure should be considered at a public meeting” and delete the need for a public hearing to update the Frequently Asked Questions or the Summary Guide.
- Motion to approve Rules with changes discussed by Ms. Geckle and seconded by Mr. Miller. There was a unanimous vote to approve the Rules of Procedure.
- Attorney Perry discussed the Howard County Administrative Procedure Act (APA), which outlines to steps required after the Commission has adopted the Rules of Procedure.

6. Preparation for Budget

- Each commissioner to reach out to the County Council representative who appointed them, as well as contacts at their Democratic/Republican Clubs to solicit preliminary interest in participating in the Citizen Election Fund for the 2022 election. The purpose of this inquiry is to gather preliminary information on the interest level to determine if there are enough funds requested to support the candidates. The candidate names should be sent to Ms. Geckle by November 1st and will be kept confidential.
- Howard County Office of Budget to be invited to the next scheduled meeting on November 17, 2020.

7. Adjournment:

Upon motion by Mr. Loeffler and seconded by Mr. Miller, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at approximately 6:57p.m.