



HCLS Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2024 ♦ 10:30 am
Virtual

Board members present were: Kelly Smith, Chair; Sabina Taj, Vice Chair; Elizabeth Banach; Phillip Dodge; and Antonia Watts. Also present were staff members/citizens including, Angela Brade, Christie Lassen, and Stephanie Shane.

Kelly called the meeting to order at 10:31 am.

I announced the County Executive's desire to expand the Elkridge Branch, noting that his office reached out in January, thereafter requested a rough estimate on several options, which we provided from DPW. In so doing, I reiterated our priorities remain the Downtown Branch and a new Southwest Branch, and that we hadn't received requests from the community around an Elkridge Branch expansion, nor had we engaged community around expanding the Elkridge Branch.

The Board discussed the proposal, expressing discomfort since there is little information given for its reasoning other than the population growth in Elkridge and the Elkridge Branch was just significantly renovated in 2018.

I showed the three options presented to the County Executive for an Elkridge expansion, relaying that the first option was the one selected by the County Executive. We were not provided information on this, but this option was presented at the Planning Board meeting last evening. We need to follow up on this to see if this is the same project.

The Board unanimously approved a motion to maintain the course of the previous allocation of capital funds. A response will be shared with the County Executive and the County Council and Trustees, who were copied on the County Executive's letter. Desired messaging includes thanking the County Executive for the offer, explaining feedback from the Elkridge community which points to a community center rather than an expansion of a library branch, and the desire to apply any funding to our existing master plan priorities. In the future, the library would like to be informed prior to public presentation of a capital project.

The Board closed by discussing union matters. I explained that I was in discussion with Senator Lam's office to see about getting Howard County falling under current collective bargaining legislation since our process is underway, rather than legislation currently being considered in the state legislature.

Kelly adjourned the meeting at 11:08 am.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7 pm on **Wed., March 20, 2024**, and will be virtual unless otherwise noticed.

Respectfully submitted,

Tonya Aikens
President & CEO