

**REVENUE AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Tuesday, December 9, 2008**

**MINUTES**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Michael Jack, Chairman  
Irfan Malik, Vice-Chairman  
Christopher Merdon  
Edward Waddell, Secretary-Treasurer  
Celeste Wooten

**Others in Attendance:** Gary Arthur, Director of Recreation and Parks  
Steve Lafferty, Deputy Director, Planning & Zoning  
Chris Sikora, Business Owner, Sweet, a Bakery & Cafe

1. The December 9, 2008 meeting of the Revenue Authority (RA) was called to order by Michael Jack, Chairman, at 4:10 p.m. A motion was made by Mr. Waddell to accept the October 28, 2008 minutes. Seconded by Ms. Wooten. The minutes were adopted.
2. **Ellicott City Parking-Feasibility Study** - Desman Associates has collected and analyzed data for the feasibility study. The preliminary report should be ready soon (hopefully by the end of December). The next phase will be one or more community workshops to get more hopes, dreams, plans, wishes where Ellicott City, Main Street is headed, also to be included in final recommendation of a parking structure, if any. Mr. Lafferty was asked if Desman had been in touch with him regarding a workshop. Mr. Lafferty informed the authority that Aaron Greenfield would be asking Eileen Weber to coordinate a meeting with representatives from the Department of Public Works, the Budget Office and the Office of Finance. Mr. Lafferty will advise Ms. Weber who the attendees from each department should be at the meeting. Mr. Malik asked if the holiday traffic had been taken into consideration when performing the traffic study. Mr. Jack stated he was not certain but given the current economic situation, he did not believe it would reflect a typical holiday season. Mr. Malik believes the holiday season should be part of the study and asked if information extracted from the last study conducted could be used. Since the last study was done nearly 10 years ago, the authority does not believe it would be accurate information and would not make an impact on this study.
3. **Aquatic Facility – Recreation and Parks** – Mr. Arthur presented five copies of the Executive Summary and two copies of the 158 page study to the RA members (study can be viewed in full at [http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP/RAP\\_HomePage.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP/RAP_HomePage.htm)). The Recreation and Parks Board has approved the study. The consultants' results are for one of four options to consider. While favoring Alternate B *Combined with Community Center*, no plan should be considered in the immediate future due to the current economic situation. Mr. Arthur suggested the authority partner with Department of Recreation and Parks to make a new pool facility a reality with the Recreation and Parks Department

giving land to the RA and the RA leasing this facility back to the Department. Whether this creates a conflict of interest for the RA or the Recreation and Parks Department is a question to be answered by the Office of Law. While some of the public's original request was for a 'competitive pool' to be constructed, the results of the study does not support this because it would be difficult to be a self-sustained facility and a pool of this caliber would only support four high schools, forcing the construction of more pools to accommodate the students in the other high schools. Mr. Arthur is to meet with government officials in Montgomery County, including the chair of their RA, to see how their competitive pool continues to work in their county. Mr. Arthur is to bring back to the Howard County RA this information, hopefully by the next regularly scheduled meeting (January 13, 2009). Mr. Arthur will also contact the Columbia Association (CA) and inquire about under-utilized pools located in Columbia; possibly leasing back from CA. Mr. Merdon advised that this still would not serve the people outside of the Columbia area. Locations discussed for the possible construction of a pool are Rockburn, North Laurel or Western Howard County.

4. **Public Comments** – Chris Sikora, business owner of Sweet, a Bakery & Café, told the RA that the free parking on Main Street, Ellicott City, granted by the County Executive for the holiday season, was welcomed by all. The annual Midnight Madness event held in downtown Ellicott City was also a success. The court house parking lot was used for shuttling shoppers back and forth to Main Street. The Ellicott City Business Association paid the \$750 for the shuttle service. Mr. Sikora also wanted to state that as a resident and tax payer, he would be against a competitive pool, carrying a price tag of \$28 million dollars.
5. No new business.
6. The next meeting of the Authority will be on Tuesday, January 13, 2009.
7. The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Jack at 5:25 p.m.