The Council met at 6:30 p.m. at King’s Contrivance Restaurant. The following Section Council members were present:

Steven J. Orens, Chair
Carol Rubin, Vice Chair
Cynthia G. Peltzman, Secretary/Treasurer
Kevin Best
Laura Swisher
Rob McCord
Chuck Thompson
Adam Snyder
Tom Yeager
Lynn Robeson

Approval of Minutes
Minutes from the April 22, 2014, meeting had been sent to all Council Members by email on April 29, 2014, with instructions to note any objections. The approved Minutes were posted on the MSBA Website Section page. Copies of the approved Minutes from the February 18 and April 22 meetings were also distributed at the meeting.

Agenda
Members present introduced themselves and Steve Orens welcomed new Section Members. The Chair encouraged Section Members to become familiar with the Section Website and encouraged its use for communication among members. Steve noted that responsibilities delegated to Section Members will be posted on the Website. After the introductions, the Council discussed the following Agenda items from the Agenda prepared by the Chair:

1. Bar Journal Articles

Steve Orens reported that the January/February MSBA Bar Journal will include up to eight articles on topics of interest to the Section membership. So far, there are six confirmed articles. Steve will contact Patrick Tandy, MSBA Director of Communications, to get the final count and hopes that the issue will help to generate interest in the Section’s activities.

2. November Social Event

The Council Members present engaged in an extended discussion about the planned November social event, including location, cost, and ways to entice Section Members to attend the event. The decision was made to try to hold the event in a central location, such as Annapolis or Howard County, to make it easier for a larger number of people to attend, and to try to find a venue either with some government significance or that would give a good price for a meeting room and food, with a cash bar. The Council Members present tentatively agreed on Wednesday, November 12, or Thursday, November 13, as possible dates. Laura Swisher
volunteered to search around for an appropriate venue. Several Council Members suggested possibilities for speakers. Lynn Robeson volunteered to check with several people to see if they would be available to speak on a subject of interest to the Section Membership.

3. **Newsletter**

The Section Council hopes to produce two newsletters per year to distribute to the Section Members and discussed whether to distribute the newsletters by email or by hard copy through the mail and the pros and cons of both. Rob McCord questioned the cost of postage for mailing and whether it would be paid by the MSBA or from the Section budget. Carol Rubin suggested that however distributed, it should also be available on the Section Website. Laura Swisher noted difficulties in getting people to submit articles when she had been the editor of the newsletter that had previously been issued to the Section Members. Steve Orens suggested that the content of the newsletter could include information on legislation and decisions by the courts (including significant decisions by circuit courts, which are not generally available) on issues important to State and Local Government practice. Kevin Best suggested that the newsletter include information on ordinances, with a focus on those that are problematic or innovative. Steve Orens suggested that the Newsletter be used to request Section Members to alert the Council to these types of issues for inclusion in the newsletter. Cynthia Peltzman volunteered to work on the Newsletter.

4. **Communication with Section Members**

The Section Council Members present discussed the best way to communicate with the Section Membership – listserv, email list, an accessible portal on the MSBA website, or blog. Chuck Thompson and Steve Orens both pointed out the necessity to use discretion in communicating on certain issues to a wide group to avoid conflicts of interest. Lynne Robeson suggested that there might be some way to have multiple groups focused on different interests/topics, such as ordinances or other special topics. Adam Snyder, the Section Council’s “Webmaster,” volunteered to obtain information on some of the options available through MSBA. Carol Rubin suggested that the question of how best to communicate with the Section Membership be included in the first Newsletter.

5. **Conference Call and Meeting Schedule**

Steve Orens suggested the following schedule: conference call – October 21, 12:30 pm; social event – November tba; Section Council meeting – December 17, 6:30 pm; conference call – January 20, 12:30 pm; conference call – February 17, 12:30 pm; Section Council meeting – March 18, 6:30 pm; nomination committee meeting – April tba; conference call – May 19, 12:30 pm; annual meeting (MSBA) – June. Steve will send the conference call information for the October 21 meeting to the Council members.

There was some discussion about how to increase attendance of Section Members at the MSBA Annual Meeting. According to the Section By-Laws, the Section Council is required to hold a meeting every year at the Annual Meeting, but it is often difficult for government attorneys to get their employers to pay the costs of attendance. Steve Orens wanted suggestions as to how to
increase attendance, such as the possibility of the MSBA lowering the registration fee for government attorneys.

6. **CLE Program**

The Council Members present discussed the planned CLE program, which will be held in February 2015, possibly a breakfast meeting. One of the topics discussed was using social media to communicate during an emergency. Cynthia Peltzman suggested two possible speakers on the topic and will contact them. Another possibility is to hold a panel discussion on social media issues. Laura Swisher suggested she may be able to obtain space at WSSC, which is centrally located.

7. **2015 Legislative Session**

Steve Orens volunteered to be the legislative liaison for the Section Council. He explained the legislative review process and asked for volunteers to review the weekly packets containing bills that may be of interest to the Section Membership. Steve explained that the Section Council may take positions on bills so long as those positions do not conflict with any positions taken by the MSBA Board of Governors. Steve would like Section Council members to consider between now and December if they would volunteer for bill review.

**New Business**

Adam Snyder reported that a new revision of the Public Information Act Manual issued by the Office of the Attorney General would be available on the Attorney General’s website starting October 1.

Kevin Best reminded Members to register for the State’s first electronic filing in Anne Arundel County.

**Next Meeting**

The next dinner meeting will be held at King’s Contrivance at 6:30 pm on December 17.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm.