

MINUTES – June 9, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Sharon Dooley at 7:45 p.m. The minutes from the May meeting were approved. The agenda was accepted.

Public Comments

- Matt Zaborsky handed out flyers and brochures regarding deer, deer management and Lyme disease that had been left from the Community Conversation prior to the meeting.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Sherwood High School: Two representatives from Sherwood High School gave a very brief overview of the fashion show that had come to fruition at Sherwood High School on April 17, 2009. The proceeds from the evening were to benefit families in need. The show raised \$590 in ticket sales and \$50 in donations. GOCA had agreed to help with distribution of the funds so Sherwood High School presented a check in the sum of approximately \$395 for GOCA to use towards charitable needs in the Olney Community.

Montgomery General Hospital: Pete Monge, President of Montgomery General Hospital talked briefly about the proposed construction at Montgomery General Hospital. There are plans to build two buildings. One of the buildings housing medical offices is owned by Foulger Pratt and we were expecting a representative from the company to come and talk in detail. The other building is to be owned by the hospital and one proposed use is outpatient services. Questions were asked about any changes that might have been made to the first building from the original plans and Mr. Monge stated that the buildings were being moved more towards the thrift shop and they had been lowered more to street level. Construction had not yet begun. The first building is approximately two years away from being completed and the second would follow at a later time.

Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning proposal for Marian Father's property: Representatives from Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning outlined a proposal submitted to them by the developers for the Marian Fathers property adjacent to Manor Oaks. They outlined a preliminary development proposal to build 56 houses which would comprise of single family and attached duplex homes on 23-acre property at 19191 George Avenue in Brookeville. The proposal called for leaving the current Marian Fathers facility as it is. Some questions that were raised included concerns regarding the proximity of the attached homes to Georgia Avenue; the unit mix; access to the homes and guest parking for the attached homes. Representatives did state that the elementary school for this proposed development was not over capacity and that there were no plans currently for improving the Owens and Georgia Avenue intersection. It was also suggested that the developers consider more recreational areas within the development besides the one small proposed playground. GOCA officers plan to submit their specific concerns in writing to Parks and Planning.

OLD BUSINESS

Tabled Resolution on First Baptist Church of Wheaton:

For those who had not been present at the May meeting and for those who needed a little reminder, Bob Twerkowski, President of SEROCA, gave a brief overview the area and proposed development by the First Baptist Church of Wheaton. Sharon Dooley, President of GOCA said she had written to the church inviting them to present at the June meeting and had received a detailed reply which she read in full to the meeting. After the reading of the response, Ellen Bogage, Second Vice-President made a motion seconded by Roy Peck, Treasurer that: **The motion of May 12, 2009 become untabled.** The May 12 motion was read by Matt Zaborsky. In the discussion that briefly followed Dave Eskenazi wanted it to be recorded that GOCA is not anti church. The motion was voted on with 18 votes for the motion; 0 against the motion and 0 abstentions. The motion to untable the motion of May 12, 2009 passed unanimously. During discussion it was agreed that in writing our objection GOCA state that our objection is to date based on the information received to date and should include mention of the First Baptist Church of Wheaton refusing invitations to present their case at a GOCA meeting. The motion that : : **GOCA oppose the proposed construction by First Baptist Church of Wheaton as (1) being the cause of an excessive amount of traffic, (2) not in keeping with the Master Plan and (3) creating a park lot in the middle of a residential community** was voted on. With 20 votes for the resolution, 0 against the resolution and 0 abstentions the motion passed.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – PART 2

Mike Knapp, Councilmember for District 2 spoke to the meeting. He gave an overview on what had been happening in the Council with regards to budget issues. He talked about the collaborative efforts being made between Montgomery County Council and Montgomery County Public Schools. He told the meeting that Police and Fire Rescue services had not been added to and neither would they be cut so they would be maintaining at their current level of manpower. Mr. Knapp talked of the 2 year review of the Growth Policy. We had previously had an in depth presentation at our GOCA meeting in March so were familiar with the issues being discussed by Mr. Knapp. He told us that the Twinbrook master plan had been finalized last year and that this year the Council was focusing on finalizing the master plans for Germantown, Gaithersburg and White Flint. Mr. Knapp told us that the Council was looking at Rosslyn-Ballston corridor as a model of a community with a good infrastructure where jobs, amenities and property values had all increased and traffic problems had decreased. Mr. Knapp then answered questions including the police being allowed to take their police vehicles home with them; speed cameras and the 28 Norbeck Road and 97 Georgia Avenue intersection. Sharon Dooley thanked Mr. Knapp for taking time out of his busy schedule and for leaving a Council meeting to join us tonight.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Treasurer's Report:

Current checking account balance stands at \$8848.36 with all bills including fireworks paid in full. There is an outstanding bill for Mr. and Mrs. Olney but Roy was waiting for an amount and he had received and made a deposit of \$215 from an unknown source. Our checking balance includes a \$500 donation from Sandy Spring Bank, a \$500 donation from Graeves and a \$3000 donation from Fletchers.

Correspondence Report:

Ruth advised that there was nothing new to report.

Chamber of Commerce Report:

Joe Buffington told the meeting that the Chamber had installed their new officers for the coming year and given out awards including 4 x \$1000 scholarships to local students. He asked that there be more applicants for Chamber scholarships.

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee Report:

Helene told us that the current focus is guidelines for aesthetics e.g. benches, signage, lamp posts, etc. It was hoped that a representative from Carl Freeman would be at the next GOCA meeting to present and give an update on Town Center.

Civic Federation Report:

Arnie did not run for another term as President at the meeting the previous night and Peggy Downs was the new President. Civic Federation learned from Jim Humphrey, Citizens Zoning Advisory Program that zones were being allowed to change within the Master Plan without an m p revision.

Membership Report:

Matt Zaborsky reported that we were still awaiting one or two checks from associations wishing to become GOCA members.

Transportation Report:

Dave Eskenazi reported that the walking tour along the ICC proposed for Thursday was likely to be rained out as had several prior dates. Dave said that he was in constant email contact with the 15 or so folks proposing to walk.

President's Report:

Sharon reported that unfortunately she had been unable to attend a Manor Oaks meeting that had taken place concerning the Marian Fathers proposed development. She had also learned of a meeting that the Oak Grove community had scheduled but again she was unable to attend. Sharon told us that Parks and Planning were conducting interviews of 8 potential applicants for 1 board position. Sharon told us at future meetings along with a representative from Carl Freeman, we were hoping to hear from Council members Nancy Floreen and Marc Elrich also Joseph Eagan of the Olney Library with an update on their proposed construction.

OLD BUSINESS

Olney Days 2009 Report:

Helene thanked everybody who helped to make Olney Days 2009 a great success. Even with the rain starting later the fireworks went off a little earlier than originally scheduled but completed before the downpour. Rocketeria had paid for the concert and it was enjoyed by all who came.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Oaks Landfill generator was proposed to be up and running in 30 days. Roy Peck was taking names of those who would like to be included in the bulb dig. These would be back up names because of the delay in the dig taking place it was likely that some would drop out.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous motion at 10:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Wilen

Lori Wilen, Recording Secretary

PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE:

Ellen Bogage (Victoria Springs); Roy Peck (GOCA Treasurer); Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows Civic Association); Charles Kuebler (James Creek Homeowners Association); Dave Eskenazi (Norbeck Meadows Civic Association); Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres); Barbara Falcigno (Olney Oaks); Paul Jarosinski (Cherrywood Homeowners Association); Louis Wilen (Cherrywood Homeowners Association); Brad Branch (Olney Mill Community Association); Sheila Dunn (Manor Oaks); Leisa Sarecky (Manor Oaks); Joe McKenna (Manor Oaks); Linda McKenna (Manor Oaks); Robert Twerkowski (SEROCA); Erin Ruane (Manor Oaks); Carol Sullivan (Cherrywood Homeowners Association); Khalid Abdul (Montgomery County Planning Department); Walter Lee (Townes); Lee Kidd (Cherrywood Homeowners Association); Mike Kelley (Hallowell); Joe Buffington (Olney Chamber of Commerce); Richard "Benny" Bienvenue (Our House); Joe Corbett (Williamsburg Village); Terri Hogan (The Gazette); Helene Rosenheim (Mid County Regional Services Center); Ron Berger (Norbeck Meadows Civic Association); Ruth Laughner (Williamsburg Village); Jim Haddow (Hallowell); Matt Zaborsky (Norbeck Meadows Civic Association); Sharon Dooley (James Creek); Lori Wilen (Cherrywood Homeowners Association); Molline Smith (Montgomery County Planning); Shahriar Etemadi (Montgomery County Planning); Jackie Benn (Fair Hill Farm Homeowners Association); Danny Benn (Fair Hill Farm Homeowners Association)