

March 10, 2015

Buffington RE/MAX Olney Community Room
3300 Olney-Sandy Spring Road

7:30 CALL TO ORDER

1. Introductions (Name, Association, Representative/Alternate/Guest)
2. Approval of February Minutes
3. Approval of March Agenda

7:35 PUBLIC COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Della Dorsey, Library Update

7:45 CHICK-FIL-A DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

Stacy Silber, Attorney - Lerch, Early & Brewer

8:15 INDEPENDENT TRANSIT AUTHORITY RESOLUTION (see page 2)

Barbara Falcigno, Transportation Committee

8:45 OFFICERS/COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Transportation Committee
Mid-County Citizen's Advisory Board
Public Policy & Community Affairs Committee
Olney Town Center Advisory Committee
Bylaws Committee (see page 3)
2015 Membership Renewals
Correspondence Report
Chamber of Commerce Report (www.olneymd.org)
GOCA Awards Ceremony

Barbara Falcigno
Greg Intoccia
Matt Quinn
Kathy Curtis
Kathy Curtis
Greg Intoccia
Jackie Benn
Joe Buffington
Barbara Falcigno

9:25 NEW BUSINESS

9:30 ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: **April 14, 2015**

Although the County Executive pulled MC 24-15 following a special public hearing on January 30, 2015, Transit and, specifically, how to fund transit construction remain relevant and unsolved issues for Montgomery County. For this reason, GOCA fully expects the ITA issue to be revisited in the future. Therefore, it is in GOCA's best interest to have a formal position on the ITA proposal already on record so we can respond quickly and with authority the next time this issue is brought up for consideration.

GOCA RESOLUTION
Montgomery County Independent Transit Authority (County Bill 24-15)

Whereas the County has proposed a new politically-appointed Independent Transit Authority (ITA) with unspecified borrowing and eminent domain powers; and

Whereas the ITA will not be directly accountable or transparent to County voters; and

Whereas the ITA proposal separates County decision-making and prioritization for transit projects from road projects; and

Whereas the ITA disenfranchises County elected officials; and

Whereas GOCA supports carefully informed planning and fiscal management with full accountability and transparency to the voters; and

Whereas the County proposes to grant itself the power to impose special taxes without limitation to fund County transit functions; and

Whereas the Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) is on record strongly opposing any special taxing of residents for transportation projects with broad regional benefit; and

Whereas ITA debt will ultimately be the responsibility of County taxpayers through the aforementioned special taxes; and

Whereas the ITA will have power to exceed the County's authorized debt limits; and

Whereas the County still has debt obligations remaining from a debt burden that recently threatened its AAA bond rating

Now therefore be it resolved that GOCA opposes the creation of the ITA as currently proposed. Furthermore, GOCA strongly urges the County's elected officials to pursue transit projects in a fiscally responsible manner with full and direct accountability and transparency to County voters by adhering to the following general principles:

Transit projects shall be funded by existing Federal, State, and County funds and not by special taxes or bonds that exceed existing authorized borrowing limits

Transit and road projects shall both remain the direct responsibility of the County Executive, who is the elected official responsible for deciding trade-offs and prioritizations for all transportation projects and expenditures

Transit projects shall be developed in fiscally responsible phases with proof of operational viability, ridership, and ongoing fiscal self-sufficiency being requirements for proceeding to the next phase of development

Transit projects shall not proceed beyond the conceptual stage without first obtaining documented and published citizen input

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Bylaws Committee Report on Cherrywood HOA's Proposed Bylaws Amendment

March 10, 2015

Cherrywood HOA has proposed amending GOCA's Bylaws. The Bylaws Committee is tasked with (1) putting the amendment in the proper language, (2) favorably or unfavorably reporting the amendment to the Executive Board and (3) identifying where else the Bylaws would need to be amended to accommodate this proposal. This is the proposed amendment as submitted by Cherrywood HOA:

Committee chairs are appointed and removed by the president with simple majority consent of the delegates at an open meeting of the GOCA members. If a committee chair position is unfilled for more than 30 calendar days, then any delegate may nominate himself / herself or any other delegate to a committee chair position. The GOCA delegates shall then, by simple majority, approve or disapprove appointment of the nominated delegate to the committee chair position.

(1) This is the amendment after the Bylaws Committee put it in the proper language without changing anything substantively:

Committee Chairs are appointed and removed by the President with simple majority consent of Representatives at an Executive Board meeting of the GOCA members. If a committee Chair position is unfilled for more than 30 calendar days, then any Representative may nominate himself/herself or any other Representative to the committee Chair position. The GOCA Representatives shall then, by simple majority, approve or disapprove appointment of the nominated Representative to the committee Chair position.

(2) The Bylaws Committee:

- a. favorably reports the Cherrywood position that the Executive Board should have a voice in the appointment and removal of committee leadership
- b. unfavorably reports the position on restricting the election of a Chair from among the current Representatives and on electing someone who has not been nominated by the President.

(3) Article VII – Committees #5 would have to be rewritten to accommodate the specific issue in this proposed amendment.