

**MINUTES – February 21, 2008**  
**(Originally scheduled for February 12th, but rescheduled due to inclement weather)**

The meeting was called to order by President Barbara Falcigno. The minutes were approved with 2 corrections (Terri Hogan and Arnie Gordon were not in attendance and there was no Civic Federation report) and no additions. The agenda was accepted with no additions.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Barbara Falcigno introduced Sgt Price who recently moved to District 4 from Bethesda and wants to learn more about the Olney community, so she invited people to let him know of any particular locations that seem to be trouble spots.
- Barbara also noted that the upcoming Tuesday would be Thanksgiving in February and many local restaurants donate a portion of their proceeds to various organizations such as Manna and Olney Help.
- Jimmy Mayo apologized to Barbara Falcigno for the way he had handled the situation with the banner he had hung in the intersection recently advertising the opening of his business, and Barbara accepted his apology.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Interim MD 28 Improvement Update & Tabled Resolution**– Barbara Falcigno noted that GOCA has been looking at the proposed interim MD 28 improvement or mitigation necessitated by the State Highway Administration (SHA) plan to open Phase A of the Inter-County Connector (ICC) between I-370 and Georgia Avenue as soon as its completed and while Phases B & C are constructed. She noted that a motion made by Roy Peck at the January with an alternative proposal had been tabled to this month's meeting so that we could wait to see what the response would be to Senator Mike Lennett's inquiries about this and other alternatives that had been proposed. The motion was read so that people could consider it as they listened to a presentation by the SHA.

Odessa Phillips introduced the staff members with her, Barbara Hoage and Ken Briggs. The following are some of the points made during the discussion with the SHA staff:

- The staff noted that the design of the interim proposal is approximately 50% complete.
- They are still accepting input on the plans.
- They noted that the purpose of the project is to mitigate traffic on Georgia Avenue generated by the use of Phase A of the ICC.
- It was noted, in response to a question, that this interim project does not go through the same kind of legally mandated public comment process a regular SHA road improvement project is subject to under NEPA.
- They did seek out comments from communities immediately surrounding the area of the interim road.
- They looked at 9 options for mitigating the traffic impact before arriving at the proposed solution.
- In response to a question about the schedule, the interim improvement is scheduled to go out to bid in August, 2008, with a Notice to Proceed issued in fall, 2008. It would be expected to open in summer, 2010.
- The plan currently calls for 2 lanes in each direction (east and west) and there will be a traffic light where the road intersections with Georgia Avenue that will be synchronized with the light at Rte. 28.
- The road design accommodates emergency vehicles.
- They plan to extend the 2 eastbound lanes beyond Norbeck Blvd to accommodate the additional traffic on Rte. 28 and then Rte. 28 will then narrow down to 1 lane again.
- There was concern expressed that the new ICC traffic will fill up the extended lanes and when the lights allowing eastbound Rte. 28 traffic to proceed, there will not be any place for them to go.
- The response indicated that they are adding northbound lanes to Georgia that would take traffic turning right onto Rte. 28 sooner than now happens, and the traffic lights will moderate the flow better, and that along with the extra lane capacity they are adding they feel will accommodate the extra traffic.
- The goal of this interim road is to maintain the level of service at the Rte. 28/97 interchange, not improve it.

Barbara Falcigno noted again that the motion tabled at the January meeting read as follows:

**Roy Peck moved that:**

**GOCA RESUBMIT ITS REQUEST FOR THE SHA TO CONSIDER CONNECTING THE INTER-COUNTY CONNECTOR TO A DETOUR OF RTE. 28 AND INSIDE THE EXISTING FOOTPRINT OF THE ROAD.**

Following a brief discussion,

Arnie Gordon moved that the tabled motion be reopened for consideration and that the motion be amended to read as follows:

**GOCA ENCOURAGE SHA TO CONTINUE ITS CONSIDERATION OF EXTENDING THE INTER-COUNTY CONNECTOR TO A DETOUR OF RTE. 28 BEFORE THE OPENING OF PHASE A TO GEORGIA AVENUE.**

**The motion to un-table the amendment was seconded by Paul Jarosinski and passed unanimously.**

The amendment was accepted as a friendly amendment, and, so does not require a second. The amended motion passed unanimously, with 1 abstention.

#### **OFFICERS/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Treasurer's Report** – Roy Peck reported that the current balance is \$7,863.41.

**Correspondence Report** – Barbara noted that all of the correspondence related to land use issues she planned to discuss under President's Report.

**Olney Chamber of Commerce Report** – Bob Beard reported that the Olney Town Center Advisory Committee had made a presentation on the draft Illustrative Concept Plan for the town center at the Chamber's last meeting.

**Civic Federation Report**– Arnie Gordon noted that Civic Federation is sending a letter to the County Executive requesting that there be more transparency in the decision process relating to the Silver Spring Music Hall. They are also continuing to follow a number of State bills including several introduced by Delegate Manno, one of which would permit civic associations to intervene in environmental issues that impact their areas even when the association does not own the land. He also encouraged GOCA's individual member homeowners and civic associations to become members of Civic Federation. They are also considering merging with the Montgomery County Civic Federation.

**Olney Town Center Advisory Committee** – Bob Beard reported that since Gina Angiola will no longer be an officer of GOCA after the election at the end of this meeting, both Barbara and Sharon Dooley have accepted Bob's offer to serve as the representative for GOCA on the Advisory Committee. He also noted that he has copies of the handout from the presentation made at a previous GOCA meeting and encouraged people to visit their website at [www.olneytowncenter.org](http://www.olneytowncenter.org).

**Membership Committee** – Bob Beard noted that we have had 12 associations that have paid their 2008 dues so far for a total of \$1,075 along with donations for Olney Days fireworks of \$725.

**Land Use/President's Report** – Barbara Falcigno noted that

The proposal for a Sunrise Senior Living facility on Rte. 108 between Prince Philip Drive and Old Baltimore Road has gone through its Special Exception hearing and a recommendation from the hearing examiner is expected within 30 days. There were concerns raised by the Lake Hallowell HOA and they continue to work with the Sunrise Corporation. GOCA never took a position on the proposal, and she expects it will be approved.

She testified on several issues before the Planning Board:

- The State Highway Administration's statement that they would try to abide by the requirements of the Upper Rock Creek Special Protection Area but acknowledging that what is currently planned involves a 30% impervious surface that does not comply with the requirements for development in that area.
- Opposing the sewer and water category change requested by the First Baptist Church of Wheaton for the Doherty property on Emory Church Road that they acquired to build a new church on. GOCA had passed a motion some time ago opposing the category change because it exceeds the 9% impervious cap imposed in that area by the rural neighborhood cluster zone approved in the current Olney Master Plan. She had to leave before the Planning Board took any action, so did not know the final outcome. But the staff had

recommended deferral until submission of their site plan. It goes to the Council next week and she will continue to follow this.

As outgoing President, she expressed a great deal of thanks to everyone that served with her this year, noting that they had all done a fabulous job and that she will continue to work with and for GOCA.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Extension of MidCounty Highway (M83)** – Sharon Dooley noted that the MidCounty Highway is scheduled to be extended towards Germantown and Clarksburg. It will extend this road from Montgomery Village Avenue through Seneca Creek to meet roads currently being built in Clarksburg. DPWT has come up with several alternatives for this project that would be a joint State/County project, including a no-build option, a local road improvement option, and several options extending the road as proposed through the area where Butler's Orchard is located or along Ridge Road or along Wrightman Road. The residents in Montgomery Village do not want this road because they are concerned it will bring additional traffic into their community. The environmental impact statement on these options have not been completed yet and SHA has extended the period for accepting comments from March 1<sup>st</sup> to March 8<sup>th</sup> due to some hearings being postponed due to inclement weather. She encouraged people to go the DPWT website at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov) and providing comments on the various options. It will eventually connect with the ICC. This is an issue GOCA will need to deal with in the future and that it should be addressed now.

**2007 GOCA Awards Balloting** – Ron Berger noted that we had received more ballots than in recent previous years, so he thanked everyone for taking the time to complete and return their ballots. He tallied the ballots and the voting for Contribution to Community was very close. The results of the balloting were as follows:

Howard J. Garber Memorial Citizen of the Year Award: Janet Terry

Contribution to Community Award: Bill Caldwell

Friends of Risa Pyles

Our House

GOCA Worker of the Year Award: Roy Peck

Olney Heritage Award: Harry Fletcher

Ron noted that the awards will be presented at GOCA's Annual Awards Ceremony on Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2 pm at Longwood Recreation Center and he encouraged everyone to attend, noting that a large number of our elected officials attend and it is a good opportunity both to express appreciation to the award winners and to speak to the elected officials.

**ELECTION OF 2008 GOCA OFFICER** – Ron Berger noted that according to the GOCA By-Laws, officers are elected at the conclusion of the February meeting and those election immediately take office at the conclusion of the meeting. He thanked the outgoing officers for their service during the past year.

**Arnie Gordon moved that the following slate of officers for 2008 be elected by acclamation:**

**President – Sharon Dooley**

**Ex. Vice President – Matt Zaborsky**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Steve Cohen**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Lisa Stancik**

**Treasurer – Roy Peck**

**Recording Secretary – Kathleen Donodeo**

**Corresponding Secretary – Bob Beard**

**The motion was seconded by Ed Weisel and passed unanimously with one abstention.**

Following a few announcements, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Danny Benn*

Danny Benn, Recording Secretary