

MINUTES – October 13, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Sharon Dooley at 7:50 p.m. The minutes from the September meeting were approved. The agenda was accepted.

Public Comments

- Girl Scouts Council of the Nation's came to GOCA to request GOCA's support in helping them to obtain the funding for \$1.5 million in capital projects planned at Camp Brighton Woods, a 60-acre property where 90,000 girl scouts throughout the region go for overnight trips, school break day camps, weekend troop camping, volunteer meetings, training courses and council events.
- Ruth Laughner handed out cards on behalf of Plein Air's culminating Auction and Gala planned for October 24, 2009 at the Sandy Spring Museum from 5:00 p.m. A portion of the benefits from the auction will benefit the Olney Farmer's Market and Sandy Spring Museum.
- Matt Zaborsky brought flyers with him and invited all to attend the November 17, 2009 of the Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board at the Sandy Spring Ballroom, 17921 Brooke Road, Sandy Spring MD 20860 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. The agenda at this meeting will include an extended period for community concerns. Matt also mentioned a meeting to be held at John F. Kennedy High School on October 21, 2009 regarding the ICC toll schedule. Matt asked that folks email him for more information.
- Roy Peck report on the bulb recovery dig that had occurred on Georgia Avenue on October 3, 2009. This event had been rescheduled several times. Roy reported that many thousands of bulbs were successfully recovered and that it was hoped there would be a second dig scheduled. Roy also asked that GOCA write a letter to Park and planning requesting that a 25 ft. buffer of trees be reestablished to buffer the bright night lights from the driving range.
- Arnie asked that an item be added to the agenda to consider the ICC toll structure in advance of the upcoming hearings.
- Lori passed along comments from Lisa Stancick who could not be present at the GOCA meeting. Lisa wanted all to know that the October Olney Loop is entirely dedicated to showing viewers the discussion of the Bowie Mill Road proposed development at last month's GOCA meeting. Lisa also wanted it passed along that the November Olney Loop will feature every business and organization that provided a sound bite at the October 7, 2009 Longwood Community Center Chamber of Commerce event. Viewers will also be encouraged to "buy local" for their every day needs and holiday shopping. Sharon Dooley went on to give a brief explanation of the Olney Loop.
- Danny Benn wanted to give the date for year 5 of the Relay for Life event at Sherwood High School which would be June 12-13, 2010. Danny can be contacted for more information on the event.
- Paul Jarosinski was in receipt of a letter from Nancy Navarro regarding transportation issues and in particular a property at 155 Georgia Avenue in the ICC right of way was listed for sale but after suggestions that the property be acquired the owner had told County representatives that he was not interested in pursuing sale of the property by is still listed in the MLS for \$22,000 which is way under market despite Nancy Navarro's office being told this was not for sale. Matt Zaborsky confirmed that the property was still an active listing in the MLS.
- Sharon Dooley wanted to advise that flyers were available on recycling and on the upcoming 2010 Census.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

PEPCO Tree Management Emergency Procedures

The first presenter of the evening was Mr. Daniel Landry, a Staff Forester with PEPCO. Mr. Landry gave some information on his background and qualifications to introduce himself. Mr. Landry went on to explain the routine inspection cycle and maintenance program. Mr. Landry stated that all inspections are performed by independent contractors. All inspectors are foresters and degreed arborists. It is actually the tree contractor who goes out and performs the work using maps, etc. that have been prepared from the inspection. The tree contractor performs work in accordance with the Maryland Roadside Tree Law and also the Maryland Tree Expert Law. Contractors are all licensed. Mr. Landry stated that he performs a 100% inspection on all completed work. PEPCO responds to approximately 5000 customer work requests every year in Montgomery County. PEPCO also works with County government to remove between 500 and 1000 trees per year that the County identifies on public right of ways. Mr. Landry also explained the restoration work that is done mostly as a result of trees falling during storms and effecting power lines.

Mr. Landry then went on to ask for questions. One specific case was the Williamsburg Village incident and Mr. Landry answered to exactly what had occurred and explained why the Cherry trees were removed. Mr. Landry admitted that the crews did cut too much removing more than 25% as per the law. Mr. Landry said that the contractor involved no longer worked for PEPCO.

After several more questions Mr. Landry concluded his presentation by advising the community what to do when they see wires down. He stressed that these wires not be touched and stressed that it should be left to the experts to identify. Mr. Landry suggested that if anybody sees a wire down they stay as far away as possible and call PEPCO. Mr. Landry also urged those present to call PEPCO more than once when the power is it so the outage can be more specifically pinpointed.

Joseph Eagan – Update on Olney Library Renovation and Expansion

Mr. Eagan started by saying that not only is he working with the County but also the Library Advisory Committee and the Friends of the Library to get feedback on the proposed plans. Mr. Eagan said that a public meeting was being proposed for the very end of 2009 or beginning of 2010 where all could come and give comments and feedback. Mr. Eagan stressed that the plans we would be seeing at the meeting tonight did not represent the final plans and at this point they are nowhere near a final plan. Mr. Eagan said it was a plan in progress and he was just showing us a draft.

Mr. Eagan stated that the County believes that after 25 years a library needs a total renovation. Libraries are very heavily used and after 25 years the furniture, lighting, carpets, etc., are worn out. The furniture in the Olney Library goes back to 1982 and is original.

Mr. Eagan then talked about the new building. They wanted the new building to be environmentally friendly. The building size is to be increased from 16,000 square feet to approximately 22,000 square feet allowing better access to resources, materials and technology. This would allow for more seating, more meeting space, an improved children's section and a new area for teens. It was hoped that besides being environmentally friendly the new building would have better lighting in terms of more natural light minus glare. The new building would be more visible from the street and surrounding areas.

In answering questions Mr. Eagan said that the library would not be moving locations. He stated that the library was scheduled to close in September 2010 and would be closed for approximately 1-2 years. He said that the library would not become a two floor building and also confirmed that no parking spaces would be lost. Mr. Eagan also answered that the front loop would be eliminated and that the memorial garden may be moved but the person responsible for the garden had been informed that this may happen. Questions were asked about the outside of the building and Mr. Eagan said that the existing outdoor furniture would be retained.

Mr. Eagan concluded by stating that he would stay around to answer further questions and invited everybody to come and see him at the Olney Library or to call or email him if they had any additional questions that he hadn't answered in his presentation.

Lyme Disease and H1N1

The first speaker on this topic was Delegate Karen Montgomery who began by describing what Lyme Disease is. Delegate Montgomery stated that in our area Lyme Disease is epidemic. It is an underreported disease and the biggest problem is getting the doctors educated about the disease. Delegate Montgomery described how the disease is spread and stated that field mice are the main carriers of the disease. Delegate Montgomery stated that in her neighborhood in Brookville or 48 homes, there had been noted cases of Lyme Disease in 47 of the homes. Delegate Montgomery was hoping to sponsor a couple of bills one along with a delegate from Prince George's County and was hoping for Delegate Manno's support.

Delegate Montgomery described the symptoms of Lyme Disease. Some people get all of the symptoms and others just some of them. It was hoped that the medical profession would look to diagnose based on symptoms rather than on the blood test which wasn't always conclusive. Lyme Disease is not only in woods but people can get it from grasslands too, so as Delegate Montgomery stated you can even get it from your hobby if gardening is your hobby. Undetected Lyme Disease can effect the mental functioning of a person.

Delegate Montgomery was hoping that a bill would be passed allowing for antibiotics to be given for more than 28 days in cases where it was deemed necessary to do so. Currently doctors will only prescribe antibiotics for a 28 day period although there are some doctors who feel it should be continued beyond 28 days. Delegate Montgomery was also hopeful that a bill would be passed allowing Glaxo Smith-Kline to put the vaccine for preventing Lyme Disease in humans back into production. Delegate Montgomery finished her part of the presentation by telling us that Connecticut had passed a bill allowing for doctors to prescribe antibiotics beyond 28 days and not be prosecuted for doing so.

Marilyn Piatti of the Department of Health and Human Services in Montgomery County was the second speaker on the topic of Lyme Disease. She stated that the best prevention of the disease was for everybody to check themselves daily for ticks. Not every tick found would be infected but she suggested treating each tick as if it were. Ms. Piatti instructed that if a tick were found it should be placed in a jar or freezer bag with the date found on it and put in the freezer. If symptoms of the disease occurred within the next 30 days then the tick should be taken to the doctor with the person who has the symptoms. If nothing happened within 30 days then the bag or jar should be removed from the freezer and thrown away.

Ms. Piatti in answering questions stated the most active infection time is mostly late spring or early summer. One of the best preventions was to cover up when outside and if using a repellent to use one containing DEET.

Ms. Piatti went on to speak briefly about H1N1 which is a new kind of flu and is a swine flu. It is different from the season flu and requires a separate immunization. Ms. Piatti said that the group most affected by the disease was those in the 2-24 year age group and that it was recommended that folks in those groups avail themselves of the flu mist or flu shot for H1N1.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEES/LIASON REPORTS

Treasurer's Report:

Roy Peck confirmed that we had approximately \$11,282 in the bank before today's meeting.

Correspondence Report:

We had received correspondence regarding the Elm Street Development on the Bowie Mill site and information on 17 lots on Batchellor's Forest Road near Good Counsel.

Chamber of Commerce Report:

Joe Buffington thanked all who attended the Community Night at Longwood Recreation Center and confirmed that it had been an overwhelming success and he looked forward to the upcoming Olney Loop segment featuring the event.

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee Report:

Jim Haddow reported that OTCAC had tables at the Community Night at Longwood Recreation Center and had received some very good feedback there about what was going on. Harris Teeter had still not signed. Moss Chiropractic was looking for more tenants in their proposed building and was also currently redesigning the facility. The previous month's OTCAC was cancelled because Jim Smith testified before the County where it was suggested Olney be a pilot for the bus transit system that was being proposed. At the upcoming meeting on 10/27 one of the discussions OTCAC would be featuring would be the capital improvements projects.

Civic Federation Report:

Arnie had left so Sharon reported having been at the Civic Federation meeting the previous night where a couple of resolutions were put in one of which was to oppose the CR zone the way it was written. Recommendations had been made to reopen the Clarksburg Master Plan 4th section only to deal with water quality issues. The Civic Federation had voted at the meeting last night to go against the water quality group.

Membership Report:

Matt confirmed that 8 new potential GOCA members and waiting for responses. The membership committee was also in the process of touching base with a number of long time GOCA member communities.

Transportation Report:

Dave was not at the meeting and Arnie had left. Paul was not in a position to discuss the toll structure but Sharon said that it was proposed to charge a toll of 25c – 35c per mile at peak times making a round trip of \$12 only using EZPass. It was suggested that EZPasses could be purchased from other states without fees. Paul said that State Highways has plans to redesign toll booths along other roads including the Bay Bridge and tolls would likely to be increased.

President's Report:

Sharon mentioned that she had testified at the Growth Policy Hearing. Sharon also testified at the Gaithersburg West hearing where she said that she basically felt have a science center was a good idea but jobs were needed in Germantown and the east party of the county not just in Gaithersburg west.

The question was asked about the Public Comment presentation that had been made by Girl Scouts and what GOCA's stand was on this. We all agreed that while we were in favor of their plan and liked idea we felt that there was no funding at this time. GOCA's position is that while we are behind the idea in concept but it would not be our first priority this year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

No new announcements at this time.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous motion at 10:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Wilen

Lori Wilen, Recording Secretary

PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE:

Joe Corbett (Williamsburg Village); Lori Wilen (Cherrywood); Louis Wilen (Cherrywood); Roy Peck (Norbeck Meadows); Karen Montgomery (Delegate D. 14); Arnold Gordon (Norbeck Meadows); Paul Jarosinski (Cherrywood); Terri Hogan (The Gazette); Walter Lee (Townes at Environ); Danny Benn (Fair Hill Farm); Charles Kuebler (James Creek); John Webster (Manor Oaks); Martin Muller (Tanterra); Brennan Torpey (Norbeck Meadows); D. J. Pahygiannis (Olney Mills); Amanda Partington (Congresswoman Donna Edwards); Theresa Kyne Robinson; Tim Morris (Hallowell); Brad Branch (Olney Mill); Joe Buffington (Olney Chamber of Commerce); Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows); 27 members of BSA Troop 264; Sharon Dooley (James Creek); Matt Zaborsky (Norbeck Meadows); Ruth Laughner (Williamsburg Village); Jim Haddow (Hallowell); Helene Rosenheim (Mid County Regional Center); Ron Berger (Norbeck Meadows); Michael Sullivan (Christie Estates); Barbara Barry (Perspective Woods); Dolly Kildec (Councilmember Navarro); Robert H. Wilson II (President Brooke Manor Estates); Audrey Partington (Project Change/Olney Library LAC); Benny Bienvenue (Our House/Olney Chamber of Commerce); Kathy Morris (Hallowell); Dan Landry (PEPCO)