

DRAFT MINUTES – February 18, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Sharon Dooley at 7:35 p.m. The minutes from the January 2010 meeting were approved. The agenda was accepted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

When asked for public comments those present all wanted to discuss snow removal and power outages. Sharon said that she had received and also read on the Olney Brookeville Exchange many complaints of state roads not being plowed. She had contacted the legislators, State Highways directors, directors of the road crews and had mentioned to them the gridlock encountered and the abysmal job that had been done. Sharon was told of the priorities; those being hospitals, schools, etc. While we all understand the need for priorities we also feel that there should be a tiered system to deal with forgotten roads. Many of the Olney neighborhoods did not see a plow after the first storm and didn't see one until well after the second storm.

Members of the Norbeck Meadows community praised the private contractors that had handled their neighborhood. According to Arnie the private contractor had done a really great job.

Jim Haddow said that Hallowell did not see plows until the Sunday of the 2nd storm in some parts of the neighborhood and fire trucks couldn't get in to some streets.

Lori wanted on to go on record that while she understood the need and requirement to keep sidewalks she didn't appreciate comments where those living adjacent to sidewalks were called lazy and uncaring for not shoveling them clear. She reported that in Cherrywood, her neighborhood the plows had come through and plowed the snow on to the sidewalk and in some areas there was a 6ft or higher wall of ice covering the sidewalks.

It was agreed that while there were some folks that needed to take a step back and cool off, most residents of the Olney area were neighborly, kind and helpful. People had to realize this was a once in a lifetime storm.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Montgomery General Hospital speakers were unable to attend our rescheduled meeting but wanted to let everybody know that there would be a grand opening of their new Emergency Room shortly that they were hoping to invite GOCA board members to attend.

Update on Olney Farmers Market and their search for a new temporary location

Janet Terry was very happy to report that as of the day prior to this GOCA meeting a location had been found. Thanks to some very hard work, Montgomery General had agreed to the Farmers Market using the area in front of the Thrift Shop. Neighbors in the surrounding areas had been approached and there had been nothing negative said but Janet was able to report completely positive feedback.

Janet asked that we get the word out of the new location and that the market was set to open for a new season on Mother's Day. It was hoped that this time there would be a meat farmer in attendance.

Janet wanted to publicly thank Montgomery General for all their help in securing this new location and wanted to thank Peter Mong who had provided the attorney and paid \$1500 personally to the attorney. Janet said that as a result of this new partnership with the hospital it was hoped there would be a Get Fit component and was excited about announcing more details of this in the future.

We were all asked to look out for information regarding the main fundraising event of the Olney Farmers Market which is their Farm to Table Dinner. This year it will be held in Laytonsville featuring all farm fresh foods and weather permitting will be held outdoors.

For more information on both the Farmers Market and the Farm to Table Dinner we were all invited to visit the Farmers Market website at olneyfarmersmarket.org.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEE/LIASON REPORTS**Treasurer's Report:**

Roy Peck reported that the current balance is \$13,190.46 minus a \$500 error where he had listed a check being deposited twice.

Correspondence Report:

Several checks had been received from HOA's who were paying dues. Ruth said that she had received a calendar from Zambelli which featured the whole year on one sheet and this was available for anybody who would like to have it. We had also received a 4th district booklet from Donna Edwards.

Chamber of Commerce Report:

No report.

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee:

Jim Haddow said that guidelines were being produced for developments coming in so that there would be consistency. He advised that Olney Town Center Advisory meetings were held on the 4th Tuesday of every other month in the Buffington Building.

Civic Federation:

No meeting due to the weather so no report.

Transportation:

No report.

Membership:

Matt reported having received dues from 20 associations amounting to \$1775 and was happy to say that we were ahead of last year. He was delighted to announce that to date he had received \$1250 in fireworks donations compared to a total of \$825 last year. When asked, Matt said that the GOCA website showed which associations had paid and that those associations who do not pay may send delegates to the GOCA meetings but those delegates may not vote.

President's Report:

Sharon was wondering why there were new traffic lights at the intersection of 108 and 97 that were covered with canvas. Brian Young who had worked with us on the banners was now in charge of our district for State Highways.

Sharon wanted to thank everybody for their support in making her tenure as GOCA president so successful. Twice we had gone to bat for the ride on buses that serve our community and with the help of petitions, speakers at hearings, posters and signs, the community had rallied and the buses had been saved.

Sharon encouraged all those who were not members to join the OBX – Olney Brookeville Exchange yahoo group. The group had been started by Linda Silverstein also an award nominee and was now a group that had a membership of over 1000.

Finally Sharon wished Matt and the incoming board every success for their next year and hoped to see everybody at the GOCA Awards at Longwood Community Center on March 7 which was her last official event as GOCA President.

When asked Sharon did confirm that she will be running for the District 2 council seat against Mike Knapp and was making a formal announcement in the next day or two.

NEW BUSINESS

Sharon turned the meeting over to Ron Berger for the announcement of the GOCA Award recipients and the election of officers for the coming year.

2009 GOCA Awards – Ron Berger reported the following winners of the 2009 GOCA awards:

2009 Howard J. Garber Memorial Citizen of the Year Award

LINDA SILVERSTEIN

2009 Contribution to Community Awards

JOE COLANDREO

JOY TURNER

OLNEY BIG BAND

2009 GOCA Worker of the Year

MATT ZABORSKY

2009 Olney Heritage Award

BARRY SCHWARTZ

The recipient of this year's Special President's Award who is selected by GOCA President will be announced at the Award's Ceremony. that ceremony will take place on Sunday, March 7, 2010 at Longwood Recreation Center with a reception that a number of elected officials attend at 2:00 pm and the awards presentations at 3:00 pm. The public is encouraged to attend.

ELECTION of 2010 GOCA OFFICERS – Ron Berger noted that, as required in the By-Laws, a slate of officers for 2009 had been presented at the January meeting.

Since none of the offices were contested, the Nominating Committee moved that the following slate be voted in by acclamation.

President: Matt Zaborsky
Executive Vice President: Jim Haddow
1st Vice President: Ellen Bogage
2nd Vice President: Lori Wilen
Treasurer: Roy Peck
Corresponding Secretary: Ruth Laughner
Recording Secretary: Theresa Kyme Robinson

The motion did not require a second and passed unanimously.

Following the election of officers the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Wilen
Lori Wilen, Recording Secretary

PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE:

Lori Wilen (Cherrywood), Louis Wilen (Cherrywood), Matt Zaborsky (Norbeck Meadows), Ron Berger (Norbeck Meadows), Arnie Gordon (Norbeck Meadows), Jim Haddow (Hallowell), Janet Terry (Olney Farmers Market), Lisa Stancick (HUCA), John Webster (Manor Oaks), Theresa Kyme Robinson (Olney Oaks), Buck Parr (Tanterra), Anne Stretch (Cherrywood), Roy Peck (Norbeck Meadows), Terri Hogan (The Gazette), Ellen Bogage (Victoria Springs), Barry Newton (Olney Farmers Market), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Ruth Laughner (Williamsburg Village), Sharon Dooley (James Creek)