

Minutes
March 08, 2011

President Matt Zaborsky called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Steve Cohen approved the minutes and Lori Wilen seconded. Lori Wilen approved the agenda and Ellen Bogage seconded.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Matt Zaborsky reminded us about the Good Counsel's 4th Annual Falcon 5K Run beginning at 8:30 a.m. on April 9, 2011. Those interested need to register by April 1st to avoid the late fee. For further information, go to: <https://www.olgchs.org/page.cfm?p=1909&LockSSL=true>.
2. Former treasurer Roy Peck expressed his concern about the salt in the drinking water and offered to pass out handouts, which he later did, ensuring legislators present received the materials. He then gave financial materials to Ruth Laughner, the new treasurer.
3. Reaction to the opening of Contract A of the Intercounty Connector (ICC) was mostly positive due to the shorter time traveling on the ICC and the three lanes for the drivers going north on Georgia Avenue at Route 28.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

1. **Williams Gas Pipeline: Tim Rich, Maryland District Manager, introduced Jim Hutchins, John Roebuck, Tom Hoelscher, and Joshua Price.**

With a clear, concise, and graphic power point presentation, Mr. Rich gave an overview about the Williams' pipeline. There are three interstate pipelines totaling 300,000 miles: Transco, Northwest Pipeline, and Gulfstream. The 10,500 mile Transco pipeline, which Williams purchased in 1995, runs from the Gulf Coast in southwest Texas, along southeastern United States, through Maryland counties Montgomery, Howard, Hartford, and Baltimore, and into Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New York. Pipes are made of high strength large diameter (up to 48 inches) welded steel and have automatic mainline and remote shut-off valves, which the exploded pipeline of the Pacific Gas & Electric Company lacked. Gas is transported from the compressor station at 300 pounds per square inch. At meter stations, the distribution company receives gas from the transmission, and gas flow is measured.

The Integrated Management Program is designed to protect public safety. The greatest cause of pipeline failure is outside-force/ third-party damage, therefore Williams has easements, markers, public awareness outreach, and strict regulations for developers. The easements are 50 – 175 feet, with width depending upon the number of pipelines and terrain, but large trees block the view from the air to the ground, and tree's roots seek the warmth and water of the pipelines. In the past 20 years, many pipelines have reclaimed right-of-ways, often clearing trees in the path. Pipeline markers, which post the operator and emergency contact, are near roads, rails, fences, water crossings, and curbs. The company has six educational brochures including a developers' handbook. Homeowners are encouraged to be aware of pipeline locations and to use the one-call system (Miss Utility – 1-800-257-7777). A pipeline leak is recognized by a hissing sound, dust, water, bubbles, or blowing, and a smell (the gas itself is odorless).

Pipeline integrity is monitored 24-hours per day by plane patrol, and annually by foot. Corrosion rates are low due to steel coating and impressed current cathodic protection. A "smart pig", pushed by the gas pressure, travels 15 – 20 miles per hour, but is slowed for data collection. The pig has discovered problems previously undetected by other probes.

The Olney section of the pipeline was built in 1949, but many sections have been replaced with higher design pipelines. Mr. Rich explained that the helicopter like noise neighbors sometimes hear is caused by out-of-phase hydraulic pressure waves. For more information about the Williams Pipeline, call 1-800440-8475 or search the website, www.williams.com.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEE/LIASON REPORTS

President's Report: Matt Zaborsky reminded us about the top issues (transportation, education, environment) identified by residents in the GOCA survey in the fall of 2009. Transportation issues will continue to be a priority, but we will also address education and environmental issues with Board of Education member Phil Kauffman giving a presentation later this year and various speakers addressing environmental topics. GOCA will continue to monitor land use and zoning issues of the proposed developments at the intersection of Georgia Avenue & Owens Road, along Emory Lane, and the First Baptist Church of Wheaton on Emory Church Road.

Respect at meetings will be emphasized. Invited speakers will be informed of our time constraints, and GOCA members will respect speakers and each other as we conduct our meetings in an efficient and businesslike manner. To respect those who rise early, meetings will end at 9:30 p.m.

This year we will be looking at possible changes for Olney Days in 2012 and begin planning our 35th GOCA Awards Celebration. An August event will be discussed later.

Mr. Zaborsky thanked the 2010 GOCA Officers and those who have volunteered to do committee work and then expressed special appreciation for Roy Peck for his treasurer services, Jim Haddow for his vice presidential duties, Paul Jarosinski for his leadership on the Transportation Committee, and Bob Beard for his leadership of the Olney Town Center Advisory Committee.

Corresponding Secretary: Kathy Curtis asked members to communicate with her and pointed out the letter of appreciation for Ron Berger.

Treasurer: Ruth Laughner reported the \$14, 007.79 balance and said GOCA has paid for half of the fireworks for Olney Days. Outgoing Treasurer **Roy Peck** gave Matt Zaborsky the financial reports from 2010 to February, 2011.

Chamber of Commerce: Joe Buffington is not present, but the scholarship committee is seeking applications.

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee (OTCAC): Bob Beard is not present, but Safeway is asking for variances in sign sizes for the two "S" signs on the high towers. A public hearing is scheduled for March 10. An ordinance dictates total square footage and heights; OTCAC will submit an application. Goddard school is looking at Morningwood Road near Shang Hai Restaurant, and Helene will contact them.

Membership Committee: Jodi Finkelstein indicated ten homeowners organizations have not submitted their dues or forms.

Civic Federation: Arnie Gordon is not present.

Transportation Committee: Paul Jarosinski noted the near misses caused by the two left turn lanes on northward Georgia Avenue approaching the Intercounty Connector (ICC), instead of the promised one at the February GOCA meeting. And, unexpectedly, the right turn lane on 97N/Route 28 had become the through lane, but traffic congestion remained because the signs instructing motorists to turn right at Route 28 had not been removed. In addition, on eastbound Route 28, traffic was backed up three miles from the ICC intersection past Bel Pre Road. An on-site investigation revealed that the light at the ICC and Route 28 was staying green for the ICC traffic long after traffic had cleared through the intersection. The county has re-timed the lights for the location, but the requested arrows on Georgia Avenue for lane clarification are not there. Additional signs have been promised. According to Mr. Jarosinski, Maryland Senator Karen Montgomery reported there are similar problems related to uncompleted work on the ICC in the Shady Grove area. She had inquired about keeping the ICC closed until Contract A was finished and the promised Georgia Avenue improvements were completed but was told that the ICC needed to open now to collect revenue to pay the interest due on the Garvee bonds, and Maryland has no other funds to pay the interest. However, there were 36,000 cars on the ICC on the first free day, February 22, and a drop of 63% participation occurred after tolls began yesterday, March 7.

Four cameras have been installed at the intersection of Routes 97 and 28, and Roy Peck reported a traffic light will be installed at Route 200 (ICC)/Georgia Avenue. Emory Lane is backed up more than usual from the new traffic configurations, and residents are concerned about the possibility of constructing a Montessori school on the road.

Lee Lofthus, resident of the Oatlands community, noted newly installed traffic lights are slowing traffic. While some of these lights are necessary, some community members think others, such as the recently installed light at Emory Lane/Cashell Road and the one to be installed at Bowie Mill Road and Cashell Road, are unnecessary. Mr. Lofthus thinks these two intersections functioned adequately with 4-way stops and suggested GOCA should be concerned with the installation of signals that restrict traffic flow.

Unfinished Business

1. The Lien Priority Bill (#1246) hearing will be on March 17, and homeowners are hoping to get six months of dues. The three Montgomery County District 19 delegates are cosponsors.
2. The proposal for the Brookeville Preserve at Georgia Avenue and Owens Road has been changed from 19 to 13 houses.
3. Homeowners associations are concerned about the relocation of the Norbeck Montessori School (40 students). The school will need a special zoning exception.

New Business: The Olney Day survey will be ready by the next meeting and volunteers are needed for the event.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Theresa Kyne Robinson, Recording Secretary

People in attendance: Barbara Barry (Perspective Woods), Ron Berger (Norbeck Meadows), Ellen Bogage, (Victoria Springs), Keith Carlson (Hallowell), Steve Cohen (Oak Grove), Joe Corbett (Williamsburg Village), Kathy Curtis (Lake Hallowell), Neeta Datt (Office of Senator Karen Montgomery), Sheila Dunn (Manor Oaks), Jodi Finkelstein (Hallowell), Lori Goodwin (Hallowell), Terri Hogan (Gazette), Tom Hoelscher (Williams Gas Pipeline), Jim Hutchins (Williams Gas Pipeline), Paul Jarosinski (Cherrywood), Aleica Kapatou (Tanterra), Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks), Ruth Laughner (Williamsburg Village), Walter Lee (Townes), Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres), Lee Lofthus (Oatlands), Roy Peck (Texas), Joshua Price (Williams Gas Pipeline), Tim Rich (Williams Gas Pipeline), Theresa Kyne Robinson (Olney Oaks), John Roebuck (Williams Gas Pipeline), Helene Rosenheim (Highlands of Olney), Ann Marie Saporito (James Creek), Louis J. Saporito (James Creek), Leisa Sarewky (Manor Oaks), Selena Mendy Singleton (Office of Representative Donna Edwards), Larry Soloman (Norbeck Grove), Sharon St. Peirre (Office of Councilmember Craig Rice), Lisa Stancik (Homeland Village), Carol Sullivan (Cherrywood), John Webster (Manor Oaks), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Matt Weiss (Office of Delegate Bonnie Cullison), Lori Wilen (Cherrywood), Louis Wilen (Cherrywood), Robert Wilson III (Brooke Manor Estates), Matt Zaborsky (Norbeck Meadows)