

Minutes
December 13, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

President Matt Zaborsky called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m. and the delegates introduced themselves. Arnie Gordon moved to approve the agenda, and Barbara Falcigno seconded. The agenda was unanimously approved. Barbara Falcigno moved to approve the November minutes, and Arnie Gordon seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The delegates discussed the county bag law, scheduled for enforcement beginning in January 2012; more information can be found at: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/pio/bag/bag_law_basics.pdf. The Montgomery County Library will place a kiosk in Longwood Recreation Center during renovations of the Olney library. Norbeck Montessori School will remain at its current location at the church on Muncaster Mill Road. The Emory Road property slated for the school relocation is now for sale. There will be a public hearing on January 3, 2012 from 7-8:30 p.m. at Farquhar Middle School regarding the modernization of the school. Sandy Spring Museum will host a concert series on Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. The Olney Relay for Life will be held on June 9, 2012 at Good Counsel High School. A resident who lives near Harris Teeter complained of noise from the trucks backing up at the loading docks at the store in the morning hours. The resident was reminded that Montgomery County has a noise ordinance and that the matter could be reported using the non-emergency police phone number.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

Dr. Charles Smith, Manager of Evaluation and Planning for the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services and adjunct professor of social work at the University of Maryland, discussed recent trends and forecasts regarding seniors aging in place in Olney and throughout the country. Currently in Montgomery County, most seniors aging in place (living independently in their own homes) reside near the beltway. However, over the last 20 years, the greatest residential growth has been in the outer suburbs, including Olney. Experts believe these outer suburbs will experience the greatest growth in seniors aging in place. Olney is expected to see a 285% growth in senior adults over the next 20 years.

Providing services to rurally residing seniors is more expensive (i.e. a \$20 for delivery charge of a \$5 a Meals on Wheels meal). Historically, 80% or more of services for older adults have been provided by family and friends, a circumstance which may be inhibited as more families live further away from each other. Further, with the baby boomers reaching retirement, seniors will be a larger percentage of the overall population, leaving fewer able-bodied people to care for seniors (lowering the dependency ratio). A chief concern among gerontologists is social isolation of seniors, a concern likely to be exacerbated by an increase in seniors living in more rural areas without nearby family ties. Highly socialized older adults experience 60% lower rates of dementia. Finally, the senior population is becoming increasingly ethnically diverse, though the diversity in affluence has become more pronounced.

All of these factors have led to a scenario where the higher educated and well-off seniors have compressed morbidity – a shortened existence at the end of life in a highly disabled state. Other seniors live at this highly disabled state for a longer percentage of their end years.

As in the general population, the obesity epidemic in the United States is likely to have bearing on the older population in the future. Further, the number of seniors afflicted with dementia is likely to increase. To combat these problems, Dr. Smith recommends strength training, social interaction, walking, and living/moving closer to destinations. For those young enough to take advantage of it, long term care insurance could be an option. The village model also works toward meeting these objectives.

The aging in place concept (seniors living independently in their own residences longer into old age) has recently be rebranded through the “village” model. Villages are a network of individuals

committed to assisting seniors in their endeavor to remain in their own homes, largely through transportation assistance, but also with light maintenance help, visitations, etc. Originally started in Boston, MA, the village concept is expanding nationwide, with some established chapters in Montgomery County.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board

Gam Wijetunge, Chairman of the Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB), discussed the recent actions of the MCCAB with GOCA delegates. MCCAB advises the County Executive on relevant issues regarding the mid-county region, defined as the GA corridor from roughly Route 29 east to the Howard County line. This year, MCCAB has written letters on the Farquhar Middle School modernization, Buehler Road closure, supporting establishment of an Olney community center, and opposing the relocation of First Wheaton Baptist Church to the Emory Church Road site. Recent issues currently under review have included the county youth curfew proposal, bus rapid transit, budget issues, and traffic at Georgia Avenue intersections. Gam wanted to attend this GOCA meeting and listen to Olney issues of concern in lieu of holding a MCCAB regional meeting, thought unlikely to occur due to the limitations on the 1 support staff member. GOCA members encouraged and invited MCCAB members residing in Olney to attend GOCA meetings regularly.

Delegates first discussed concerns regarding the traffic on Georgia Avenue, and questioned the methodology for county prioritization of traffic intersections of importance. Delegates encouraged MCCAB to ask Montgomery County to raise the priority of the Georgia Avenue/Norbeck Road intersection. Delegates also noted the increase in traffic on Emory Road due to the ICC opening.

Delegates also discussed the rewriting of the county's housing policy, opposing the provision sanctioning apartment dwellings within private residences without requiring special exceptions, as currently required. Further, objecting to the loophole that developers could forgo payment of impact taxes for providing 25% or more MPDUs in their plans.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

a. President's Report

GOCA remains concerned regarding the relocation of the First Baptist Church of Wheaton to Emory Church Road. GOCA continues discussions with the MD State Highway Administration concerning the intersection of Routes 97 and 28 (Georgia Avenue and Norbeck Road), and the installation of the proposed traffic light at Bowie Mill Road and Route 108 scheduled during 2012. Howard Grief will be monitoring the county's progress of the installation of the traffic light at Cashell Road and Bowie Mill Road.

Matt recognized many GOCA members for their efforts in 2011: Helene Rosenheim for organizing Olney Days, Bob Beard for implementing the OTCAC mission, Jodi Finkelstein for organizing the community memorial for Olney homicide victims, Punyasara Gedara and Nazir Ahmed, Joe Buffington for the tree planting in their memory, and GOCA delegates and officers for their service.

b. Correspondence Report

Kathy Curtis noted that the GOCA correspondence binder includes an article on the youth curfew and letters regarding the library kiosk at Longwood, the Montgomery County bag law, the holiday concert at Sandy Spring Museum, the Farquhar Middle School community meeting, and donation requests. There is also a letters regarding special exemptions for modification of Montgomery General Hospital and a wireless tower in Sunshine. Kathy has not received any notice concerning a day care center (presumably the Goddard School) possibly locating to Spartan Road and Georgia Avenue.

c. Chamber of Commerce Report

Joe Buffington announced the "I buy Olney" campaign and encouraged all to do their holiday shopping with local merchants.

d. Olney Town Center Advisory Committee

Helene for Bob Beard reported that OTCAC discussed youth issues at their November 29, 2011 meeting. OTCAC meeting was attended by FMS and RPMS principals, Project Change, OBGC and Councilmembers Craig Rice and Nancy Navarro to discuss ideas and plans to address the lack of youth activity facilities in the town center. A while before youth facility, but as interim maybe utilizing Longwood Rec. OTCAC forming subcommittee to design and program requirements for a multi-use civic center and a task force to provide some services for teens at Longwood, perhaps on Friday nights. GOCA asks not focus on Youth center for multi-use community center. Brad Branch and Della Dorsey volunteered to serve on the Teen Task Force.

e.

f. Civic Federation Report

Arnie Gordon reported that the Civic Federation passed a resolution against County Bill 3911, by which developers forgo paying impact taxes when building over 25% MPDUs. The Federation opposes a proposed revision in county's housing policy, which would allow accessory apartments (with separate entrance and kitchen) within a private residence without obtaining the special exemption currently mandated. Such apartments can increase county services, impacting schools, roads, and parking. GOCA, in a spring 2011 letter, is on record opposing accessory residences.

g. Membership Report

Jodi Finkelstein will be emailing 2012 dues notices to associations this month.

h. Transportation Report

Paul Jarosinski reported that Senator Manno notified him of an agreement to reestablish a second turn lane northbound on Route 97 at the intersection with Route 28. On November 28, 2012, GOCA leaders met with Cedric Ward of the MD State Highway Administration concerning the intersection. SHA was unaware of any agreement to reroute traffic with a 2nd left turn lane. Mr. Ward acknowledged that the left turn lane fails five times per hour during rush hours, a greater than 20% failure rate. Apparently, SHA may review a land acquisition to increase lanes at this intersection. SHA does not expect to make any alterations to the left turn lane for at least 6 months. The Transportation Committee disagrees with this anticipated delay and asked the State to implement the configuration they used from March 1 - 19, 2011 (2 left turn lanes and three through lanes in the existing right of way).

i. Treasurers Report

Ruth announced that the current bank balance is \$14,723.92. GOCA received \$225 for 3 banner fees. In January, GOCA will have projected 2012 budget figures.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

GOCA actions regarding the First Baptist Church of Wheaton

The First Baptist Church of Wheaton (FBCW) had a site plan approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board this fall. The Montgomery County Planning Board is scheduled to issue their approval on the relocation of the FBCW on December 15, 2012. Within 10 days from that date, an entity can file a reconsideration request to the Planning Board. Matt Zaborsky and Barbara Falcigno met with Attorney Dave Brown, who advised that GOCA should file the request; SEROCA will also pursue reconsideration working through their attorney, Michelle Rosenfeld. It is hoped that Mr. Brown and Ms. Rosenfeld can coordinate legal strategy. The 1st consultation with Mr. Brown cost \$825. The First Baptist Church of Wheaton has been renamed Streams of Hope Church by the congregation.

Barbara Falcigno made a motion, seconded by Troy Kimmel, for GOCA to authorize up to and additional \$1,000 for legal advice in accordance with the reconsideration request to the Montgomery County Planning Board concerning the site plan approval for the First Baptist Church of Wheaton to Emory Church Road in Olney.

Motion passed unanimously.

Olney Assisted Living

The site plan for the Olney Assisted Living facility, located on Georgia Avenue across from the fire station, was approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board. Have opinion by beginning of year, and then move forward.

NEW BUSINESS

GOCA Giving Guidelines

In the past, GOCA has given seed money for non-profit organizations which benefit Olney. In order to give some structure to these activities, Jodi Finkelstein drafted guidelines, which read as follows:

Non-profits in the community may request funding from GOCA if:

1. They serve the greater Olney area
2. They are a 501 (c) (3) or are prepared to become a registered non profit with the State of Maryland.
3. Are providing a unique service that is not provided elsewhere in the community.

GOCA will not fund:

1. Advocacy or political organizations
2. Groups seeking sponsorships
3. Debt assistance

GOCA grants vary in size and are **ONE time only gifts.**

Non-profits seeking assistance should:

1. Provide a cover letter to the GOCA Board President highlighting the amount needed and purpose of the funds
2. Provide documentation that they are a 501 (c) (3) or are in the process of becoming registered with the state
3. A list of officers, budget, and mission of the organization
3. A report on how GOCA money was spent.

A recommendation was made that organizations provide a list of other funding sources when providing documentation. As per a Delegate's inquiry, GOCA cannot support religious institutions. Perhaps GOCA could raise funds, such as through hosting a golf tournament, to fund seed donations to non-profits. Delegates are asked to provide feedback on the guidelines within the next 2 weeks, and the guidelines will be considered for approval at the January 2012 meeting. As GOCA is a 501(c)(4) organization and the IRS is considering amendments to how 501(c)(3 and 4) organizations can retain from year to year, GOCA needs to carefully consider its finances.

Olney/GOCA Input into Montgomery County Housing Policy Update for 2012

Howard Greif reported on his recent involvement into the Montgomery County housing policy, which is currently under review, as it is about every 10 years. The concerns expressed at the meeting only pertain to the subdivisions containing mixed-use development. The primary concern is the clustering of affordable housing (which may promote segregation), as opposed to scattered layout of affordable residences throughout the subdivision (which may promote better integration). The county is seeking comments on the housing policy revisions until December 15, 2011. The following resolution was proposed:

Whereas the Greater Olney Civic Association's mission is to study plan coordinate and promote the overall civic economic ecological and cultural welfare of the community within the Olney Master Plan area,

And whereas the DHCA is currently authoring the 2012 Montgomery County Housing Element and Housing Policy,

And whereas Olney lies within districts 2 and 4 of Montgomery County;

Now therefore it be resolved that GOCA supports the following addition to the Montgomery County housing policy - within subdivisions containing mixed-use housing, prohibit the building of back to back, piggy back, or two over two style structures in which all encompassing units are designated entirely for affordable housing.

Motion made by Howard Greif, seconded by Barbara Falcigno. Motion passed, 16 for, 0 against, and 3 abstentions.

Nominating Committee

Helene Rosenheim and Matt Zaborsky announced that the Nominating Committee is currently seeking nominations for GOCA officers for 2012, and through the January GOCA meeting for 2012 GOCA awards recipients; awards include citizen of the year, GOCA worker of the year, and Olney heritage award. The GOCA Awards ceremony will be held on March 4, 2012.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ike Leggett will be at the next GOCA meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2012. There will be a fundraiser on January 3, 2012 for Joe's Ride at the Green Turtle.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was duly adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Goodwin, Recording Secretary

GOCA Executive Board

Danny Benn (Fair Hill Farm), Kathy Curtis (Lake Hallowell), Della Dorsey (Camelback Village), Barb Falcigno (past president), Jodi Finkelstein (Hallowell), Lori Goodwin (Hallowell), Arnie Gordon (Norbeck Meadows), Howard Greif (Norbeck Grove), Paul Jarosinski (Cherrywood), Jeff Kahan (Christie Estates), Andrea Keller (Fair Hill Farm), Troy Kimmel (Lake Hallowell), Caroline Knight (Olney Oaks), Ruth Laughner (Williamsburg Village), Lydia Rappolt (Camelback Village), Helene Rosenheim (past president), Ann Marie Saporito (James Creek), Louis Saporito (James Creek), Carol Sullivan (Cherrywood), John Webster (Manor Oaks), Lori Wilen (Cherrywood), Matt Zaborsky (Norbeck Meadows)

Invited Guests

Dr. Charles Smith (Montgomery County HHS), Gam Wijetunge (MCCAB), Terri Hogan (Gazette)

Elected Officials and Staff

Selena Mendy Singleton (Office of Congresswoman Donna Edwards),

Public

Peter Kirk (boy scout), Meg Pease-Fye (SEROCA), Barbara Rey (SSGS), John Salzberg (SSCA), William Sanchez (boy scout), Marlene Zaborsky (Norbeck Meadows)