

Minutes
January 10, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

President Matt Zaborsky called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Delegates observed a moment of silence in memory of Ron Berger, past president of GOCA and long-time resident of Olney. Delegates then introduced themselves.

Arnie Gordon moved to approve the agenda, and Jackie Benn seconded. The agenda was unanimously approved. Paul Jarosinski moved to approve the December 2011 minutes, and Kathy Curtis seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett will hold a budget forum on Tuesday, January 17th at 7 p.m. at the Mid County Community Center. Citizens are encouraged to volunteer on Martin Luther King's Day. Olney Home for Life is seeking volunteers to assist seniors aging in place in the Olney area.

Deputy District Commander Yamada has contacted GOCA concerning recent unruly behavior at the Green Turtle restaurant.

Walmart will hold a community meeting on January 18, 2012 at 7 p.m. at the Aspen Hill Library concerning the possible construction of a Walmart store in Aspen Hill.

Fair Hill Farm seeks assistance with recurrent truck noise from the Fair Hill shopping center across the street. GOCA has been contacted by Harris Teeter that no deliveries happen between midnight and 7 a.m. Perhaps a different store, perhaps the Grill Marx restaurant, could be receiving deliveries.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

County Executive Ike Leggett on the State of Montgomery County Heading into 2012

In his opening remarks, Executive Leggett acknowledged the loss of Ron Berger and his service to Olney over the past many years.

County Executive Ike Leggett addressed delegates on the state of the county at the dawn of 2012. The Executive will be hosting a series of budget forums across the county, the local forum scheduled for January 17th at the Mid-County Recreation Center. Over last 4 years, the Executive credits his administration with closing a \$2.2 billion budget gap, eliminating 1400 government employees, and restructuring pension and eliminating COLAs (cost of living adjustments) on the current workers, adjusted pensions and furloughed workers. Further, the county budget has not increased since Leggett took office, as compared to a 42% increase to the county expenditures in the four years prior to his taking office. Leggett sited his funding priorities as: education, public safety and support for the most vulnerable.

The County Executive noted that his \$4 billion, 6-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and fiscal 2013 CIP budget would be announced the following week. Budgets will be requested at a \$25 million reduction per year in the proposed CIP. The County has been challenged to manage their debt prudently, while also taking advantage of low building costs in recent years. But Leggett suggests slowing down the recent government-funded construction now.

To address a \$100 million shortfall in the budget, Leggett hopes to apply the FY12 reserve toward budgeting for FY13. Leggett is gravely concerned about a state proposal to shifting teacher pension payments to the counties. However, the state may charge Montgomery a \$26 million penalty for violating the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) law, for allocating less to education last year than required by law. Also, the state may change income taxes which could result in \$20 million less in revenue for the county.

Leggett noted that serving as President Pro Tem of the County Executives of America organization has given him the perspective that Montgomery County has fared better than all but 1 other county in the nation. Montgomery has maintained its AAA bond rating throughout the economic crisis.

The County Executive fielded delegates' questions ranging from budget to traffic concerns. Paul Jarosinski, Transportation Committee Chairman, noted that Emory Road was in really bad shape due to all the heavy construction traffic using the road during the construction of the ICC. Paul asked whether the County or the State would be responsible for paving Emory Lane. The Executive responded that Arnie Gordon had already mentioned this problem prior to the meeting and that he would look into that. Paul also pointed out the State has acknowledged more than 20% failure rate for left turning cars northbound on Routes 97 turning onto Route 28. He thanked the Executive for his letter of support of this issue last June and noted that the State promised to reassess the intersection upon completion of the ICC. Now that the full ICC is opened and the problems continue, what is the next step? The Executive said that it was time to look into this issue again.

Comments were made regarding the 14-15% decline in assessed real estate values over the last 2 years. The Executive's office is reviewing concerns regarding the intersection of Spartan Road and Route 108 since the renovations concluded at the Fair Hill Shopping Center. Concerning the delay in building the Olney library, Leggett noted that the administration is reviewing the permitting process to avoid similar future delays. The Sandy Spring Civic Association recommends a shared use path along Dr. Bird and Norwood Roads, and recommended renaming an ICC sign.

The Executive is reviewing recent GOCA and Olney Town Center Advisory Committee correspondence regarding potential uses for the Safeway policy area mobility review (PAMR) mitigation payment. Delegates serving dually on GOCA and OTCAC discussed recent meetings concerning the lack of teen activities in Olney. Though the County Executive supports youth activities, those programs are difficult to fund in slim economic times. Currently, the Executive has no position on a bill sponsored by MD Delegate Waldstreicher, which would hold each individual engaged in a flash mob liable for the total damages of the event. He believes that a youth curfew policy would reduce the potential for youth crime by reducing the number of children out late at night. Though some data suggests that crime is up in areas of Montgomery County which abut other jurisdictions with youth curfews, no direct studies have been conducted.

GOCA supports retaining the police satellite station in the Giant shopping plaza. Leggett noted that an officer using the satellite station recently apprehended a suspect due to his proximity to Olney. Although Montgomery County has maintained a high candidate pool, the department needs to increase the number of Asian and Latino officers on the force. Also, included in the police budget, the County does purchase police tactical clothing and gear for multiple uses, and proposes \$100 million for cutting-edge police technological equipment.

Though Leggett admitted that the County could not presently accommodate the requirements of the Affordable Care Act, he did say \$26,000 is currently spent on health care for the uninsured, with hopes of reaching \$40,000, as projected in long-range county planning.

Regarding compliance of liquor license holders, Leggett agrees the oversight programs could be reexamined for improvements, perhaps through privatization. However, the current program provides an income source for the county.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

a. President's Report

Matt began by noting the passing of Ron Berger and remembering his many years of dedicated service to Olney and to GOCA. GOCA will continue to monitor traffic concerns on 108, at the Routes 97/28 intersection and to review the need for a traffic light on Emory Church Road. GOCA will monitor land issues (Georgia Avenue, Batchellors Forest, Bowie Mill, Old Baltimore and Emory Church Roads) and new zoning requirements. GOCA delegates are encouraged and reminded to participate, especially on committees and events such as the GOCA Awards and Olney Days.

b. Correspondence Report

Kathy Curtis noted that the GOCA correspondence binder includes tributes to Ron Berger, notices of an OTCAC community outreach meeting, GOCA membership dues, a county budget forum, an Emory Church Road traffic light, GOCA budget notes, a GOCA resolution on housing policy, and a Board of Appeals letter concerning housing amendments in Olney Mill.

c. Chamber of Commerce Report

Joe Buffington announced that COC Athena Awards nominations are due by March 2, 2012; the award is given to a living woman who has had a significant impact to the Olney area. A suggestion was made for the Chamber to recognize Olney businesses which do a good job clearing snow for patrons; perhaps similar recognition can go to well landscaped businesses.

d. Olney Town Center Advisory Committee

Bob Beard announced the OTCAC will hold a public outreach meeting on January 31, 2012. Their regular meeting will be held on January 24, 2012; the Goddard school will present their site development plan. A community presentation was held on December 15, 2012. Safeway plans to open on February 22, 2012. There is no update on the use of Safeway mitigation money.

e. Civic Federation Report

GOCA members are encouraged to join the Civic Federation. Arnie Gordon reported that the Civic Federation passed a resolution opposing MARC trains skipping stops in Montgomery County. The Federation discussed cell tower rules and procedures, noting that a homeowners association must file an application to oppose the tower within 30 days of application to construct. Cell companies are increasingly attempting to locate towers on school sites, which would allow them to bypass some zoning requirements though still being subject to mandatory Park and Planning review.

f. Membership Report

Jodi Finkelstein emailed 2012 dues notices to associations in early January.

g. Transportation Report

Darrell Mobley, Deputy Secretary of Maryland Department of Transportation, cancelled a meeting with the Transportation Committee to discuss the Road Show Route 97 and 28 data. Maryland Highway conducted traffic studies at that intersection on December 5 and 6, 2011, which just surveyed traffic .3 miles north of the intersection and did not at all survey the northbound cars turning left.

Matt Zaborsky, Arnie Gordon and Paul Jarosinski have sent a letter to Cedric Ward, Assistant District Engineer for the State Highway Administration, to recommend referral of the Route 97/28 intersection issue to the Maryland Attorney General. They plan to avail information to any plaintiffs bringing suit against the state as a result of traffic accidents incurred at the intersection. GOCA has repeatedly raised concerns regarding the dangers posed by the northbound left turn situation at that intersection. In their reply, Maryland Highway claims due diligence in the matter. The state data shows only a 10% traffic reduction based on the study conducted on Rosh Hashanah. No objective data supports the 50% capacity reduction by removing the second left turn lane.

Delegates briefly discussed concerns for traffic exiting westbound and eastbound onto the ICC from Georgia Avenue.

h. Treasurers Report

Ruth announced that the current bank balance is \$14,866.42. Budget comments on the projections (attached) should be forwarded to Ruth as she is preparing an end of year balance sheet for review at the February GOCA meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee members Sharon Dooley, Helene Rosenheim and Matt Zaborsky announced the nominating slate of GOCA officers for 2012-13:

President -	Barbara Falcigno
Executive Vice President -	John Webster
1 st Vice-President -	Meg Pease Fye
2 nd Vice-President -	Kathy Curtis

Corresponding Secretary - Howard Grief
 Recording Secretary - Mark Hill
 Treasurer - Ruth Laughner

The 33th Annual GOCA Awards ceremony is scheduled for March 4, 2012. Awards will be given in the following categories: Olney Heritage Award, President's Award, Citizen of the Year, GOCA Worker of the Year. Ballots will be distributed to delegates in February.

Update on GOCA actions regarding the First Baptist Church of Wheaton

The Planning Board is meeting in closed session on January 12, 2012 regarding application of the Private Institution Facility (PIF) policy. Churches and houses of worship tend to be the primary entities categorized by term "private institution facilities." Due to their non-profit status, they often buy inexpensive and undesirable land for building, sometimes lacking all the necessary requirements for building. The PIF policy provides the County Council guidance for allowing special exemptions to the water and sewer regulations for PIFs.

When the First Baptist Church of Wheaton applied for the water/sewer authorization, they failed to disclose the current ineligible sewer status of neighboring residences. The Council approved the category change. The Planning Board approved the site plan on legal counsel basing authorization on Council acceptance. However the Council directed the Planning Board to consider PIF policy, which they did not. The Planning Board cancelled a December 2011 meeting when filing of their decision on the matter was expected. A party has 10 days from the filing of that decision to file an appeal.

SEROCA is hosting a meeting at Oakdale chapel to hear from Attorney Michelle Rosenfeld at 7 p.m. on January 12, 2012.

Motion to empower the GOCA Officers Committee to act on behalf of GOCA to join SEROCA as a party of interest should this dispute concerning PIF policy interpretation proceed to further legal action. GOCA will not be responsible financially beyond what has already been approved (\$1000.00).

Moved by Chuck Graefe and seconded by Barbara Falcigno. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Traffic Light at Georgia Avenue and Emory Church Road

Delegates discussed the merits of a possible traffic light installation at Emory Church Road and Georgia Avenue. Chuck Graefe, Ted Strahan, and Alden English noted that the intersection is difficult to cross and does not have crosswalks or pedestrian signals. They suggested that the signal could be a blinking red at night, similar to the signal at Old Baltimore Road and Georgia Avenue. The MD State Highway Administration recently scheduled traffic counts at the intersection.

Proposed Renaming of the Olney Heritage Award to the Ron Berger Olney Heritage Award

To mark the passing of Ron Berger and in memory of his years of dedicated service to GOCA and Olney, delegates considered renaming the *Olney Heritage Award* to hence be known as the *Ron Berger Olney Heritage Award*. Delegates recalled Ron's years of service to GOCA, serving as president and in various other positions.

Motion by Arnie Gordon and seconded by Ed Weisel to rename the Olney Heritage Award as the Ron Berger Olney Heritage Award. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next GOCA meeting will be on Tuesday, February 14, 2012; the Toll Brothers are proposing development of the Trotters Glen golf course, which is under contract. The GOCA Awards Ceremony will be held on Sunday, March 4, 2012 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Longwood Community Center.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was duly adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Lori Goodwin, Recording Secretary

GOCA Executive Board

Barbara Barry (Perspective Woods), Bob Beard (Homeland Village), Danny Benn (Fair Hill Farm), Jackie Benn (Fair Hill Farm), Keith Carlson (Hallowell), Steve Cohen (Oak Grove), Joe Corbett (Williamsburg Village), Kathy Curtis (Corresponding Secretary, Lake Hallowell), Sharon Dooley (past president), Della Dorsey (Camelback Village), Barb Falcigno (past President), Jodi Finkelstein (Vice President, Hallowell), Lori Goodwin (Recording Secretary, Hallowell), Arnie Gordon (Norbeck Meadows), Chuck Graefe (SEROCA), Mark Hill (Camelback Village), Paul Jarosinski (Cherrywood), Jeff Kahan (Christie Estates), Andrea Keller (Fair Hill Farm), Troy Kimmel (Lake Hallowell), Caroline Knight (Olney Oaks), Ruth Laughner (Treasurer, Williamsburg Village), Lydia Rappolt (Camelback Village), Anne Rood (Lake Hallowell), Helene Rosenheim (past President), Jim Smith (Oatland Farm), Carol Sullivan (Cherrywood), Dennis Twombly (Olney Mill), John Webster (Manor Oaks), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Lori Wilen (Vice President, Cherrywood), Matt Zaborsky (President, Norbeck Meadows)

Elected Officials and Staff

The Honorable Ike Leggett (Montgomery County Executive), Joy Nurmi (Office of County Executive),

Invited Guests

Joe Buffington (Olney Chamber of Commerce), Ted Strahan (Landpoint), Alden English (SEROCA), Terri Hogan (Gazette)

Public

Bob Barry (Perspective Woods), Art Brodsky (Cherrywood), Tom Callahan (Norbeck Grove), Katherine Farquhar (Brookeville Town Commissioner), Meg Pease-Fye (SEROCA), Barbara Ray (GSSGS), Anna Rosario (Cherrywood), John Salzberg (SSCA), Bess Teller (Shaare Tefila), Jack Teller (Brookeville), Louis Wilen (Cherrywood)

Attachment: Budget Projections

GREATER OLNEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION	2012 BUDGET PROJECTIONS
INFLOWS:	
MEMBER DUES	\$2,400.00
FIREWORKS CONTRIBUTIONS (CORPORATE + MEMBERS)	\$10,000.00
BANNER FEES (150 DAYS x \$ 15.00)	\$2,250.00
TOTAL PROJECTED INFLOWS*	\$14,650.00
OUTFLOWS:	
AWARDS CEREMONY	\$1,000.00
OLNEY DAYS	\$9,500.00
BBQ	\$500.00
LEGAL FEES	\$3,000.00
TOTAL PROJECTED OUTFLOWS*	\$14,000.00
TOTAL PROJECTED DEFICIT/SURPLUS	\$650.00

* SEE ACCOMPANYING NOTES REGARDING ASSUMPTIONS FOR THESE PROJECTIONS

NOTES ON 2012 BUDGET PROJECTIONS

Our 2012 Projections are based on these assumptions:

INFLOWS:

Member dues are projected to be flat

Fireworks donations from Fletchers, Joe's Ride, Graeves, Safeway, Montgomery General and our members are expected to remain constant

Banner fees are based on 150 days - an increase from 2011 which was 121 days

OUTFLOWS:

Awards ceremony is expected to be constant

Olney Days expected to increase slightly due to increased fees from Montgomery County. Note - this category consists of fireworks, park rental, insurance, signage, printing, and a donation to the Olney Big Band.

BBQ expense to remain constant - not yet determined if this will occur in 2012

Legal Fees - NEW EXPENSE from last year - this is strictly an estimate based on what has occurred over the last 2 months.

NB: Projected surplus based on data available a/o 1/10/2011 and is subject to change.