

Minutes
April 10, 2012

CALL TO ORDER

President Barbara Falcigno called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m and announced that GOCA's objective was to study, plan, coordinate, and promote the overall civic, economic, ecological, and cultural welfare of the community within the Olney Master Plan area. Delegates then introduced themselves.

Arnie Gordon moved to approve the corrected agenda with new business, and Kathy Curtis seconded. The agenda was unanimously approved. Arnie Gordon moved to approve the corrected March 20, 2012 minutes, and Kathy Curtis seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Assistant Principal of Rosa Parks Middle School announced a Career Day for the students. Volunteers from all walks of life are needed. There are links on the GOCA website. Project Change and the Montgomery County Department of Recreation are planning an I-Party Teen Lounge in Longwood on April 13, 2012 from 7 p.m to 10 p.m. Matt Zaborsky announced that his group, Olney Home for Life, would like to disseminate a brief description of their organization to all the HOAs in Olney for informational purposes. Barbara Falcigno reminded everyone that the County Council was holding a public hearing on their operating budget from April 10th through April 12th at 7:30 at the County Council Building on the third floor. Additionally, the County Council is seeking candidates for a planning board position.

The Athena Awards are on May 4, 2012 at the Brookville Retirement Home and all are welcome to attend the Tea. The Affordable Housing Conference is being held at the North Bethesda Marriot on Monday May 7, 2012. Chris Van Hollen and Ike Legget will be attending.

Arnie Gordon announced that Norbeck Meadows will be holding two cleans up on Earth Day, April 21st, 2012. The areas to be cleaned are Cashell Road and Norbeck Meadows Park Stream Valley. Kick-off is at 3:15 pm. All are welcome. Lori Goodwin announced that Hallowell is also having a clean up day on Saturday from 9 pm -12 pm. SSL Hours will be honored for students who are affiliated with Project Change.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

1) Janet Terry with an update on the Farmers Market in Olney, MD.

Janet Terry introduced her presentation with announcing that the 5th season of the Farmer's & Artists Market would be open on Mother's Day on the field by Montgomery General Hospital Thrift Shop grounds from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Fifty local farmers will be present with local produce (not on Mother's Day). On Mother's Day, there will be a grouping of local artists and chef's olive oil and sea salt tasting with Atwaters Bread at 11:00. The chef is Chef Enzo from Alizia Restaurant.

There will be a special emphasis on fitness so the first 15 people to walk or bike to the Market will receive a free coffee and pastry. There will be live music and new food items for sale such as waffles, crepes (from Eat A Little Something), and breakfast burritos. Top chef, Carla Hall, will be selling her delicacies as well. Frankly Pizza will be opening a vending stand at the Market.

Community tents and tables are being offered by the Market for \$10 to non-profits. Sales of labeled pies, cookies, cupcakes, and brownies are permitted. Call Janet Terry of Barbara Espinozo for more information. There will be a “Be Fit and Be Healthy” Tent sponsored by The Market and Montgomery General Hospital where there will be yoga, acupuncture, zumba, and other activities. Additionally, the Market is asking for fitness and nutrition experts in the community to volunteer for one hour on Sunday during the season to teach a fitness and/or nutrition class. The Market will supply any equipment as needed. There will be a Kid’s Tent where crafts will be taught to the children for fun and educational purposes.

Lastly, there will be a School Progressive Dinner at the shopping center at Georgia Avenue and Norbeck Road. There will be valet parking. The cost is \$40. The funds go to people in need who will get double the normal cost of the produce from the local farmers.

There was an idea for an Old Fashioned Picnic” with live music, food vendors, and grills during the day on July 4th. On the other hand, a block party on Georgia Avenue was also proposed.

For more information, go to www.olneyfarmersmarket.org. Please spread this information to all HOAs in Olney.

2) Linda Silverstein’s Presentation on New Website Idea

Linda Silverstein introduced herself as the founder of the Olney-Brookeville Exchange (OBX), created as a social experiment in the Olney community. Based on this, Linda came up with the idea of “Impact-Olney” as a new website, or home, for people in Olney who want to volunteer in the community. Volunteer organizations could be found on the site such as Project Change, The Never Back Down Foundation, Relay, OBX, the Lyme’s Disease Club, and the Social Impact Club.

Linda, who would monitor the site, is seeking to collaborate with GOCA for direction and support as to how to design the new website so the site is interactive with other websites in the virtual Olney community such as the GOCA website and the Olney Chamber of Commerce. Ultimately, Linda is seeking to create a searchable central website that all the citizens of Olney can visit to find all things happening in Olney, whether they are volunteer work, school activities, entertainment, or civic events.

Currently, the main question to consider on building the website is how to motivate people to attend events and volunteer.

One issue that was brought up was that the site was not connected to the OBX. Another issue that was brought up was that GOCA has a firm policy that GOCA’s email chain of members would not be used for commercial purposes or, in other words, advertisement, but for local schools. Thus, the advertising of Impact-Olney on GOCA’s email chain of members would be contrary to policy.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

a. President’s Report

GOCA needs help with someone who is computer-savvy for information distribution to the delegates of the HOAs. Spring Arbor Development is arguing for their special exception before the planning board in October. Meg Pease-Fye will be heading GOCA’s subcommittee on this topic. GOCA needs volunteers to be a part of this committee. Next month’s GOCA meeting, there will be a legislative update from the state senators and state delegates. Please email all questions to Barbara Falcigno. In the June meeting, GOCA will look at the new Montgomery County zoning code. The draft is already

available. Open house for discussion of the code will be on Tuesday, April 24 at the Wheaton Library from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

In July, GOCA will have a roundtable discussion on the aspects of handling the myriad of issues within each HOA and civic association. Arnie Gordon was commended on his efforts to have the park in his HOA dedicated to Ron Berger.

Lastly, GOCA is holding debates in September and October for the November election. Volunteers are needed to organize the event. Please contact Barbara Falcigno if you would like to help.

b. Correspondence Report

Howard Greif stated the following was in the GOCA correspondence binder: Goddard School, opening on Morningwood Drive, Olney Estates community, and follow-ups to last month's reports on the First Baptist Church of Wheaton.

c. Chamber of Commerce Report

The Chamber of Commerce scholarship applications deadline is April 20. To apply for the scholarship go to www.olneymd.org for applications.

d. Olney Town Center Advisory Committee

OTCAC is monitoring a development proposal for the Goddard School and plan to provide input at the first meeting of the planning committee in April.

The four community priorities for PAMBR that OTCAC, GOCA, and the Chamber of Commerce agreed upon have seen considerable progress. One priority, pedestrian connections for the Olney Library, is among the planning priorities used for the Library development committee. In particular, a pedestrian path is planned to be built from the library to Homeland Village as well as a path from the library to the adjacent shopping center on Georgia Avenue and Route 108. Further, the Montgomery County Department of Transportation plans for a pedestrian crosswalk between Safeway and Giant Foods, a traffic signal on Spartan Road and Route 108, and a safer crosswalk at the end of North High Street near Moringwood Drive.

Each project will be in phases. Phase 1 will be the pedestrian crosswalk between Safeway and Giant Foods and the traffic signal on Spartan Road and Route 108. Phase 2 will be a traffic calming north of Route 108 near Appomatix Avenue and the Fairchild Town Center. Phase 3 will be the crosswalk at the end of North High Street near Moringwood Drive.

The end of the third Officer's term is approaching and new officers will be elected. The list of new officers are Helene Roesenheim as Chairperson, Lydia Rappolt as Vice-Chairperson, Audrey Pardington as Secretary.

e. Civic Federation Report

Arnie Gordon reported that there was a briefing on the operating budget from Jennifer Hughes, director of OMB. The highlights of the budget are that real estate taxes will be going up by 1% and there will not be a repeal of the energy tax. Overall, there will about a 5% increase in the budget. The Country Executive is also offering county employees a \$2000 one time bonus for the furloughs and lack of pay raises over the years.

Police staff will be going up by 43 positions. There will be a DCAT Team for each district, which is a special operations unit that focuses solely on particular districts. The library funding will be increased by 10%.

One development occurred which threatens home rule in Montgomery County. Each member of the County's Legislative Council, but for Senator Frosh (Feldman?), voted to rescind the income tax funds given to the County by the State and transfer those monies to the Board of Education if State mandated funding levels for education are not met.

f. Membership Report

John Webster reported that 8 HOAs have not registered out of 35 for 2012. 4 out of those 8 HOAS have asked membership forms.

g. Transportation Report

Paul Jarosinski reported on a national, non-profit transportation group (TRIP) listed the top 10 transportation for Maryland. The 97/28 Interchange was the only project exclusively in Montgomery County to make the list and it stands as the second cheapest project on the list. Arnie Gordon and Matt Zaborsky have already sent e-mail messages to elected officials concerning this issue.

Barbara Falcigno, Matt Zaborsky, Ed Weisel, and Paul Jarosinski met with Darrell Mobley to discuss errors in the annual State Transportation Document. Cedric Ward and Brian Young were also in attendance.

During the meeting, the Transportation Committee re-established the error in 2011 Road Show Document, mainly the 42,625 count for "usage impacts" at the 97/28 Interchange in 2011. The most recent count at the 97/28 Interchange on June 8th prior to the Road Show Document was 59,694, which was a make-up exam day after the private schools were already closed. This artificially low count was still 40% higher than what was recorded in the Road Show Document. The count on 9/29/11, Rosh Hashanah, another day that schools were closed, was 66,276, a count that was 55% higher than the number recorded in the Road Show Document. The State promised to correct the number this year and the Transportation Committee promised to check with them to make sure it was corrected.

The Transportation Committee learned of another count done on 2/1/2012. This count was based on the number of left turns from 97N to 28W, which showed an increase of 10% over the last traffic count on 9/29/2011. This finding further supports our contention that the volume of left turns are NOT decreasing, despite traffic cutting through the neighborhoods (using Rosecroft or the service road). Furthermore, the PEAK PM peak traffic counts for left turns (5-6 PM) were up 20% over the last count on 9/29/11. These numbers back up the numerous complaints of congestion due to left turns from the through lane and weaving complaints The Transportation Committee has have been receiving.

The next intersection assessment will NOT occur until after Spring Break and will be done on a Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday during the week of the 16th or 23rd of April Do not take short cuts in April. Within weeks, a follow-up discussion will occur on the counts.

The State will paint lines for the 28E to 97 N turn to funnel traffic into the through lanes and will attempt to improve signage at that location. The light at Emory Church Road/97 was discussed at the meeting. Numbers don't justify a light, but Brian and Cedric were finishing their analysis to make a decision. Although the light was only needed for the three weekend services, Cedric and Brian were inclined to have it operate 7 days a week over GOCA's argument that yet another light between Olney and 28 will further delay everyone's commute and waste more gas.

GOCA asked when there would be further discussion and Brian Young stated he didn't need any further discussions with GOCA. Darrell Mobley chided him, noting that he listened to the organization's request for the light and he owed it to the community to speak with GOCA before going forward. A formal response has been promised.

Repaving of 97 from Randolph to Route 28 should begin any day now when temperatures remain consistently above 50 degrees. Missed area of repaving between the ICC and Brookeville would be done_____. Installation of the signal at Bowie Mill and Route 108 will begin in April. This project will also widen the northbound Bowie Mill Road approach to provide two lanes at the intersection. Pedestrian crosswalks with Countdown Pedestrian Signals will also be provided along the south and west legs of the intersection. This work is scheduled to be complete by September of 2012.

Lastly, the promised signal improvements at Route 108 and Spartan Road are scheduled to take place in May.

h. Treasurers Report

Ruth Laughner announced that as of February 29, 2012 the current bank balance is \$19, 071.36. In the month of February, Ruth has received \$345 added for the banners on Route 108 and Georgia Avenue.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Sandy Springs Shared Use path

Barbara Falcigno gave a brief summary of the issue and the presentation. County Executive, Ike Leggett, placed the issue for discussion in the operating budget.

Motion to have study in shared use bike path included in the budget. Arnie Gordon made a motion. Lydia Rappolt seconded.

Motion passed with one opposed and one abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS

The discussion centered on Righttime Medical Center. Righttime Medical Center has created a wrap-around sign which is at variance with OTCAC Sign Variance Guidelines. As such, Righttime Medical Center is expected to appear before the Sign Variance Board.

Motion to have OTCAC speak as and for GOCA in this and future sign issues before Sign Variance Board, provided that OTCAC brief the GOCA Executive Board beforehand. Arnie Gordon made a motion. Lydia Rappolt seconded.

Motion passed with one abstaining.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next GOCA meeting will be on Tuesday, May 8, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT

Arnie Gordon made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kathy Curtis at 9:31 p.m. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark K. Hill, Recording Secretary

GOCA Executive Board

Barbara Barry (Perspective Woods), Steve Cohen (Oak Grove), Kathy Curtis (2nd Vice President, Lake Hallowell), Della Dorsey (Camelback Village), Barbara Falcigno (President), Lori Goodwin (Hallowell), Arnie Gordon (NMCA), Chuck Graefe (SEROCA), Mark Hill (Recording Secretary, Camelback Village), Meg Pease-Fye (1st Vice President, SEROCA), Paul

Jarosinski (Cherrywood), Troy Kimmel (Lake Hallowell), Howard Grief (Corresponding Secretary, Norbeck Grove), Caroline Knight (Olney Oaks), Ruth Laughner (Treasurer, Williamsburg Village), Lydia Rappolt (Camelback Village), Helene Rosenheim (past President, Highlands), Jim Smith (Oatland Farm), Carol Sullivan (Cherrywood), Dennis Twombly (Olney Mill), John Webster (Executive Vice President, Manor Oaks), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Matt Zaborsky (past President, Norbeck Meadows)

Invited Guests

Janet Terry (Olney Farmer's Market), Bobbi Espinoza (Olney Farmer's Market), Linda Silverstein (Olney-Brookville Exchange)

Public

Barbara Ray (Brookville), John Salzberg (SSCA), Danny Benn (Fair Hill Farm), Joe Fitsch (Highlands), Terri Hogan (The Gazette), Greg Intoccia (Ashley Holllow), Joy Nurmi (Oatlands), Carol Frenkel (Olney Mill), Michael Frenkel (Olney Mill) Shawn Krasa (Rosa Parks Middle School) Anne Marie Saporito (James Creek), Lou Saporito (James Creek), Jim Fitz (Hallowell)