

Minutes  
September 11, 2012

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Barbara Falcigno called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and delegates then introduced themselves. Arnie Gordon moved to approve the July 12, 2012 minutes and Barbara Falcigno seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously. Kathy Curtis moved to approve the amended agenda (without Sandy Spring Civic Association presenting) and Paul Jarosinski seconded.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Barbara Falcigno commemorated the Event of September 11<sup>th</sup> and announced that there will be a groundbreaking ceremony on September 12, 2012 at the 32 acres of Olney Springs from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm with Ike Leggett. (Invitation Only). Next month's GOCA meeting will have a debate for the 3rd District for Congress: John Sarbanes and Eric Knowles (awaiting confirmation for Paul Drgos) as well as a listing of the ballot initiatives. In November, the manager of the speed cameras in Montgomery County will be speaking. However, this is not confirmed.

Paul Jarosinski announced that the new legislation introducing gambling into Maryland is causing a substantial expense to Maryland in building infrastructure, while not recouping costs in revenue. Further, no funds from revenue have gone to supplant education costs as advertised. Maryland citizens need to go to the polls to voice their opinions on this legislation.

Arnie Gordon announced that Saturday, September 8, 2012, was the dedication of the Ron Berger Park Memorial Playground with special thanks to Senator Montgomery, GOCA President Barbara Falcigno, Olney Chamber of Commerce, GOCA, Norbeck Meadows Civic Association, and Cherrywood HOA for their support.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**

**Maria Bhatti, representative from the State Highway District 3 Traffic Office**

At the start of the presentation, Ms. Bhatti thanked the GOCA president, introduced herself, and began with the most pressing traffic concerns of GOCA.

Starting with Maryland 97 at Maryland 28 at the northbound left turn lane, Ms. Bhatti stated that there was a concern that some of the traffic counts that were conducted were done when school was not in session. She was able to confirm that four counts were done (two in 2011 and two in 2012) and all of these counts were done while school was in session. However, the Traffic Office is still monitoring this location in lieu of issuing a decision. Paul Jarosinski vehemently disagreed with these findings, stating that the days

chosen were not the average school days. The first study in June of 2011 was done on a make-up exam day, a day when most high school students were not in school because the public school senior students were already out of school and the private high schools were closed for the summer. The other 2011 study was done on Rosh Hashanah when the public schools were closed. Barbara Falcigno confirmed Jarosinski's facts. Ms. Bhatti said she would look into the issue further.

The next issue of concern was the eastbound highway 28 lane striping. The Traffic Office is looking into this section of roadway to determine if additional signage or pin marking changes are needed for traffic safety, checking for lane distance for turning, operations in the lane, and the like.

Ms. Bhatti then mentioned the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) through the intersection. This idea is still in concept stage and the Montgomery County Park & Planning Commission is taking lead in this effort. However, there is no specific design model at the moment. The next issue for discussion was highway 97 and Emory Church Road. At this intersection, a fully functioning full color traffic light was approved by the Traffic Office and construction will begin Feb 2013. However, this date is tentatively based on no major right of way or utility conflicts. Additionally, APS/CPS signals (audible and countdown pedestrian signals) will be constructed at the crossing of the intersection.

The intersection of Route 108 and Bowie Mill Road will see the construction of a new fully functioning traffic light and an eight foot bike trail which will extension of the existing bike trail to the northside of Route 108. Therefore, both bike trails on the northside and southside of Route 108 will connect. Further, existing pedestrian ramps will be upgraded to meet the current ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards. Lastly, there will be designated right and left turn lanes on the approach to Bowie Mill Road intersection.

At Spartan Road and Route 108, there will be a left turn arrow in both directions and construction has begun as of May 2012 with completion in the fall.

Currently at the intersection of Dr. Bird Road and Route 108, the Traffic Office is studying traffic counts while school is in session to find a solution to best alleviate the traffic and school congestion at that intersection. At this time, police traffic enforcement is the best "temporary or short term solution" for the problem of congestion. Lastly, on the resurfacing of Georgia Avenue, the section between Emory Lane and Old Baltimore Road is being done and is expected to be completed in summer of 2013. Please contact Kate Mazzara, Assistant District Engineer for the State Highway District 3 Traffic Office, for any roadway repaving and pothole issues. GOCA asked for an explanation on why all of Georgia Avenue, from Randolph Road past the County line, was being repaved but for a small portion of the road in the center of Olney. Ms. Bhatti said she would look into the issue further.

Ms. Bhatti was encouraged to hear the "Do Not Block the Box" section of Route 108 near the Bagel Place was working effectively to reduce traffic problems and reduce speeding in that area. After her presentation, Ms. Bhatti fielded inquiries from the delegates during a lengthy question and answer session.

### **Deanna Archie, Ride-On Transit Services**

A year ago, Ride-On Services came to GOCA seeking advice on how to improve their on-time transit service. Ms. Archie came back seeking further advice on restructuring Route 53 to improve on-time service. As a solution for improved service, Ride-On has proposed to split the route at Montgomery General Hospital (MGH) where one route would operate from MGH to Glenmont Station while the other route would operate from MGH to Shady Grove Station. Feedback received from this plan was that riders did not like the additional transfer and the elimination of express service form Norbeck Station to Glenmont Station.

As such, Ride-On has newly proposed that the morning service would consist of bus travel bus from Glenmont Station towards Shady Grove. Afterwards, the bus would leave Shady Grove Station and travel along the ICC towards Norbeck Station, express travel towards MGH, and then continue towards Glenmont Station. In the afternoon rush hour, the bus route would act in reverse. Lastly, as a small change, Route 52 would now incorporate the new neighborhood of Queen Elizabeth to increase ridership.

A public forum to discuss these changes will be held on Thursday, September 27, 2012 at the 6:30 pm at the Executive Office Building in Rockville. During a question and answer session, the delegates present were not pleased with the new proposal, citing that the concept caused more confusion.

## **OFFICERS/COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS**

### **a. President's Report**

The dedication of the Ron Berger Park Memorial Playground was a success with special thanks to Arnie Gordon. Additionally, the GOCA dinner at the Urban Barbeque was a success. Kensington and Glenmont are trying to organize a civic association similar to GOCA to achieve an identity like Olney and Barbara Falcigno will be helping these communities in their efforts. Awards ceremonies will occur in the spring. Please keep in mind those who you believe deserve a special commendation. New officer elections will be held in March. Next month's GOCA meeting will have Congressman John Sarbanes and Eric Knowles for a debate as well as a listing of the ballot initiatives. Please have questions ready beforehand. Finally, the Circuit Court ruled in favor of SEROCA and GOCA essentially reversing the ruling of the Planning Board's site approvals for the development of the Doherty property by the First Baptist Church. One reason included that the plan was against the intent of the Olney Master Plan. As part of the President's report, Barbara Falcigno introduced the following groups:

#### **i) Sandy Spring Museum**

The new Director, Alison Weiss, of the Sandy Spring Museum announced new community outreach programs for artists, children, and volunteers at the museum.

#### **ii) Olney Farmer's Market**

Janet Terry of the Olney Farmer's Market announced that the season ends the first Sunday in November but, there will be a special one day holiday market on the first Sunday in December, hours 11 am – 3 pm. The biggest event this season will be the Farm-to-Table Dinner on Friday, September 14, 2012, which consists of "eating under the stars" and a farm tour. Upcoming events will include "An Old Fashioned Picnic" in July, A Pie Bake-off in October, and a Chili-Cook-off next year.

#### **iii) Olney Home for Life**

The Olney Home for Life (OHFL) serves the transportation needs of seniors and the elderly in Olney. OHFL should grow three fold in the next 20 years. Thus far, 614 rides for the elderly have been provided this year, usually for medical appointments or groceries. Currently, OHFL has 60 volunteers with nineteen drivers. However, more volunteers for driving and scheduling are needed as well more awareness of OHFL. Further, OHFL is developing a telephone reassurance program, which is a daily phone call to seniors to make sure they are safe and sound, particularly through the winter months.

#### **iv) Project Change**

Project Change is a youth organization, which has been around since 1998. The goal of this group is for positive youth development and community service. Consisting of satellite clubs at local high schools in Montgomery County, called "You Have The Power Clubs," Project Change partners with Department of Recreation to sponsor youth activities and end of school year events. In particular, Project Change is proud to have partnered with the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County to put on a "Team of Stars" summer program (a 5 week camp program) which stresses student theatre in resolving issues. Please spread word about this organization and adult and youth volunteers are needed.

#### **b. Olney Town Center Advisory Committee**

Lydia Rappolt reported that the Goddard development is on hold while the Maryland Park & Planning Commission negotiates certain aspects of the plan. A connection from the Olney Library to the adjacent shopping center is in the concept stage as construction is underway. Due to the work of OTAC, RightTime signage will be scaled down considerably. Lastly, the Maryland Park & Planning Commission has moved OTAC's website and may be difficult to access at this time.

#### **c. Correspondence Report**

Howard Grief stated the following was in the GOCA correspondence binder: Information on the Bus Rapid Transit system and the new routes for the Ride-On Transit as was discussed during the special presentation.

#### **d. Chamber of Commerce Report**

The Chamber of Commerce is proud to report that the Olney Police Satellite Station has received \$10,000 in grant monies. However, there is currently a fundraising campaign to match those funds, which stands at \$6,000. A special thanks is given to Manor Oaks HOA for donating \$500 to the campaign and Senator Karen Montgomery for donating \$100.

#### **e. Civic Federation Report**

The Civic Federation is investigating ideas in alternate energy usage.

#### **f. Membership Report**

One more HOA has signed onto GOCA membership.

#### **g. Transportation Report**

Paul Jarosinski was great concerned with the issues brought up by the representative of the state Highway District 3 Traffic Office. Additionally, there is a new program in Montgomery County called "Speed on Green" whereby a traffic light, which is lit green, can time the speed of a driver while going through that green light as well as ticket a driver going through a red light.

#### **h. Treasurer's Report**

Ruth Laughner announced that as of August 31, 2012, GOCA had a bank balance of \$10,233.88. GOCA's biggest expenses to date were Olney Days and the dedication of the Ron Berger Park Memorial Playground. A special thanks goes to Matt Zaborsky for donating his winnings of the 50/50 Raffle to GOCA during the GOCA Annual Dinner at Urban Barbeque.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next GOCA meeting will be on Tuesday, October 9, 2012.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Barbara Falcigno made a motion to adjourn, Paul Jarosinski seconded by at 9:34 p.m.  
The meeting was adjourned.

## **Respectfully submitted,**

Mark K. Hill, Recording Secretary

## **GOCA Executive Board**

Barbara Barry (Perspective Woods), Joe Corbett (Williamsburg Village), Sharon Dooley (past president, Janus Creek), Della Dorsey (Camelback Village), Barbara Falcigno (President), Kathy Curtis (2nd Vice President, Lake Hallowell), Meg Pease-Fye (1st Vice President, SEROCA), Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks), Chuck Graefe (SEROCA), Mark K. Hill (Recording Secretary, Camelback Village), Paula Kahan (Christie Estates), Andrea Keller (Fair Hill Farm), Howard Grief (Corresponding Secretary, Norbeck Grove), Ruth Laughner (Treasurer, Williamsburg Village), Lydia Rappolt (Camelback Village), Helene Rosenheim (past President, Highlands), Jim Smith (Oatland Farm), John Webster (Executive Vice President, Manor Oaks), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Greg Intoccia (Ashley Hallow), Mike Greenhut (Olney Village), Vicky Aceto (Olney Square), Aleka Kapaton (Tanterra), Paul Jarosinski (Cherrywood HOA).

## **Invited Guests**

Maria Bhatti (State Highway District 3 Traffic Office), Deanna Archie (Ride-On Transit Services), Terri Hogan (Gazette)

## **Public**

Barbara Ray (Brookeville), Ann Marie Saporito (James Creek), Lou Saporito (James Creek), Judy Brosckir (Brookeville), Alden English (SEROCA), Arnold Gordon (Norbeck Meadows), Allison Weiss (Sandy Spring Museum), Joe Aceto (Olney Square), Della Dorsey (Camelback Village), Eliot Rosenheim (Highlands), Jackie Benn (Fair Hill Farm), Lee Lofthus (Oatland Farm), Robin Holstein (Project Change), Dennis Twombly (Olney Mill).



