

Minutes
January 8, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

President Barbara Falcigno called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. and the GOCA Board and delegates, alternates, and members of the public then introduced themselves. Kathy Curtis moved to approve the December 11, 2012 minutes as amended and Arnie Gordon seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously by the delegates. Matt Zaborsky moved to approve the amended agenda and Arnie Gordon seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously by the delegates.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Falcigno announced that County Budget Forums will be taking place throughout the month. See the Montgomery County government website for times and dates. The Farmer's Market is now indoors at the Sandy Spring Museum from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Sundays. An MCPS Operating Budget Forum will be held on January 10 and January 17 in Rockville. Those interested in speaking at the forum need to sign up beforehand. There will be a Day of Service for Martin Luther King, Jr. To find out more, go to www.montgomeryserves.org. Lastly, at the Sandy Spring Museum, there is an "Artist of the Friends' House" Art Exhibit.

Matt Zaborsky announced that he has forms for those who wish to nominate individuals in the community for the 2012 GOCA Awards. Nominations are available on the GOCA website for a few days only.

Arnie Gordon announced that NMCA is holding a general meeting for its community and is also hosting Councilmember Andrews and Delegate Cullison Thursday January 17 at Cashell Elementary School at 7 pm for a question and answers for pending state legislation. There is also a public hearing on January 17 with the County Council at 7 p.m. on the Montgomery County Urban Canopy Bill (Bill 35-12).

A representative of Councilmember Navarro announced that she is in constant contact with the Department of Transportation on the importance of pedestrian safety in Montgomery County and is on top of the issues concerning "Accessory Apartments" (Bill 31-12) in Montgomery County.

SPECIAL DISCUSSION

- 1) An introduction to the Stride Legislation for energy regulation and pricing by Robert Glidewell of Washington Gas and Brian Quinn of Venable Law Firm.
- 2) David Reile's proposal for state agencies to pay legal costs if a citizen/association wins in court over an agency where the agency is found to have violated follow its own laws.

Motion by GOCA:

GOCA, in principle, supports legislation allowing courts to award compensation for costs (including legal fees), to litigants who have substantially succeeded in an action against municipal or state agencies which have knowingly violated county or state laws or regulations which are the subject of such litigation.

The term, "litigants," should include parties or co-litigants who have participated in the expense of such litigation.

The motion was made by Arnie Gordon, seconded by Matt Zaborsky, and approved unanimously by the delegates.

- 3) A GOCA discussion on a new bill for Montgomery County at the state level (MC 7-13) that changes membership of the Board of Education representation. Currently, the Board of Education is made up of seven members, which includes five district members and two At-Large members. The new bill changes the representation to nine members with five district members and four At-Large members. The issue will be revisited in the February GOCA meeting.
- 4) A GOCA discussion on amending the GOCA by-laws concerning delegates and alternatives. A motion was made to table the issue by Matt Zaborsky and seconded by John Webster. The motion was approved unanimously by the delegates.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

a. President's Report

There has been a rash of thefts of outgoing mail from the mailboxes of homes in the Olney area. Although two suspects have been arrested, there have been copycat incidences. Please be on notice for any slow moving cars near mailboxes in your area, please take down the car license plate number and call 911.

Next, several cars were broken into during the holidays. If your neighborhood is interested in having a Neighborhood Watch or hiring a security firm, please contact Arnie Gordon.

The preliminary plan for the Olney Assisted Living Community was approved in December of 2012. The Circuit Court made a ruling on the property adjoining the Farquhar Middle School, remanding the plotting of the rural open space plot whereas the easement on that land will be separate from the deed of dedication due to the density of the homes nearby.

Lastly, the vacant land immediately north of the Sandy Spring Fire Department has been donated to the Sandy Spring Fire Department for future expansion.

b. Correspondence Report

No new issues to report.

c. Olney Chamber of Commerce

No new issues to report

d. Olney Town Center

OTAC is continuing to call attention for pedestrian connections from the Olney Library to Homeland Village and the shopping center, using county funds.

e. Civic Federation Report

The Civic Federation supports Urban Canopy Bill (Bill 35-12 and Bill 41-12).

f. Membership Report

The 2013 GOCA Membership form is on the website. The Membership form and dues were due on January 8, 2013 with a grace period up to March 31, 2013. Dues from 4 HOAs have been collected thus far.

g. Transportation Report

There may be an agreement with the Jerry's Sub shop parking where by Jerry's will have the full parking lot for customers. The issue should be resolved by end of January. There was a serious accident on Rte. 97 & Rte. 28. Lastly, after much discussion, the Department of Transportation will not decrease ICC tolls.

h. Treasurer's Report

The copies of the details of GOCA's Income and Expense Reports for 2012 for the last year were presented along with the 2013 GOCA Budget.

i. Nominating Committee Report

The Committee has a list of candidates for the GOCA Board members. The list of candidates are Barbara Falcigno for President, John Webster for Executive Vice-President, Howard Greif for 1st Vice-President, Kathy Curtis for 2nd Vice President, Mark Hill for Recording Secretary, Ruth Laughner for Treasurer, and Greg Intocchia for Corresponding Secretary. Elections for GOCA Board Members will be held next month at the February 12 meeting. March 3 is the GOCA Awards ceremony.

OLD BUSINESS

There are development plans for Trotter's Glen Golf Course (Polinger Property). One issue is the congested traffic where the golf park is being used as a road, or thru-way. One issue is cut through traffic through Olney Manor Park for those wishing to go southbound on Georgia Ave from Batchellors Forest Road and Emory Church Road. GOCA has tabled the matter until they can hear more from SEROCA.

Motion by GOCA:

GOCA is authorized to consult with Park and Planning on the issue of traffic congestion at the southbound access to Georgia Avenue off Batchellors Forest Road.

The motion was made by John Webster and approved unanimously by the delegates.

NEW BUSINESS

GOCA will study the Montgomery County Urban Canopy Bill (Bill 35-12) and have a response forthcoming from officers of the Board.

Motion by GOCA:

GOCA supports the STRIDE legislation for refurbishing the gas pipes for Montgomery County and the two dollar (\$2) surcharge on residences.

The motion was made by Arnie Gordon, seconded by Carolyn Knight, and approved with twenty-one supporting, two opposed, and one abstention.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next GOCA meeting will be on Tuesday, February 12, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

Barbara Falcigno made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 10:04.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark K. Hill, Recording Secretary

GOCA Executive Board

Sharon Dooley (Past President, James Creek), Barbara Falcigno (President, Olney Oaks), Kathy Curtis (2nd Vice President, Lake Hallowell), Meg Pease-Fye (1st Vice President, SEROCA), Mark K. Hill (Recording Secretary, Camelback Village), Howard Grief (Corresponding Secretary, Norbeck Grove), Ruth Laughner (Treasurer, Williamsburg Village), Helene Rosenheim (Past President, Highlands), John Webster (Executive Vice President, Manor Oaks), Greg Intoccia (Ashley Hollow), Paul Jarosinski (Cherrywood HOA), Ann Marie Saporito (James Creek), Dennis Twombly (Olney Mill), Carol Sullivan (Cherrywood), Jim Smith (Oatland Farm)), Danny Benn (Fair Hill Farm), Judy Broseker (Brookeville Knolls), Jodi Finkelstein (Hallowell), Arnie Gordon (Norbeck Meadows), Edward Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Steve Cohen (Oak Grove), Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks), Joe Corbett, (Williamsburg Village).

Invited Guests

Robert Glidewell (Washington Gas), Brian Quinn (Venable Law Firm), David Reille

Public

Barbara Ray (Brookeville), Tim Stemann (Williamsburg Village), Ken Silverman (Councilmemeber Navarro), Kim McCrary (Cherrywood), Janice Fothergill (SEROCA).