

Minutes
March 12, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

President Barbara Falcigno called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and the GOCA Board and delegates, alternates, and members of the public then introduced themselves. Arnie Gordon moved to approve the February 12, 2013 minutes and Matt Zaborsky 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 the 2013 GOCA Awards Ceremony went well and was well attended by citizens and county officials. On March 13th the County Council will have a Town Hall Meeting at 8 p.m. at the Silver Spring AFI Theatre. In addition, Congressman John Sarbanes will also attend. Mr. Sarbanes is creating an outreach program to facilitate communication between his office and his constituents. As such, he has “Outreach Hours” at the Longwood Recreational Center on the first Monday of each month from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. and at the East County Community Center in the evening on the first Wednesday of each month. A schedule will be posted on the GOCA website.

Matt Zaborsky announced that the Olney Home for Life is introducing Telephone Reassurance Services to reach out to seniors who are home bound. Volunteers are needed to make these calls. More information is available at www.olneyhomeforlife.org and on the GOCA website.

SPECIAL DISCUSSION

Presentation with County Executive Ike Legget, Sonny Segal, and Dieter Clinger on the new interactive County website to provide for open government and a commentary by County Executive Ike Legget on the annual State of the County Address.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

a. President’s Report

GOCA Officers took a position on SB0689 in order to have testimony in for the hearings (2/28 and 3/6): The link for Senate Bill SB0689 (Property Tax Credit for Retail Service Stations using Alternative Power Sources) is <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?id=sb0689&stab=01&pid=billpage&tab=subject3&ys=2013RS>

Articles of Incorporation are now on website.

b. Correspondence Report

Notices include incoming letter from Senator Mano thanking Helene Rosenheim for her activism in the community, a copy of SB1055, and outgoing correspondence for Delegate Murphy in support of SB0817.

c. Olney Chamber of Commerce

The ATHENA Awards nominations are closed.

d. Olney Town Center

Construction on the Hillcrest property has been approved by the Planning Board. Additionally, OTCAC is working with the county government to create pedestrian connections between the Olney Library, the Olney Shopping Center, and Homeland Village. The next OTCAC meeting will be on April 2, 2013.

e. Civic Federation Report

The Civic Federation voted unanimously to oppose SB1055.

f. Membership Report

The grace period for membership form and dues ends on March 31, 2013. After March 31, 2013, the GOCA website and the Representative sign in sheets will be updated to reflect the current membership status.

g. Transportation Report

The Transportation Committee has reviewed the website on the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). The Transportation Committee has further reviewed a study of the BRT done by the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, New York firm commissioned by the County Council. The results of the study show that Rte. 355 (Rockville Pike corridor) was the only cost-effective use for the BRT. Next, the transportation tax is before the state legislature whose passage will make Maryland the fifth highest gas tax in the nation with no guarantee that the funds will go to fix local transportation problems. The hearing on the transportation tax is on Friday, March 15th at 1. p.m. at the Ways & Means Committee Room in Annapolis. Further, data is being collected on the speed cameras in and around Olney.

Lastly, there has been correspondence about improprieties at the State Highway Authority using taxpayer funds, namely parties. In addition, there have been a number of complaints about the traffic light on Emory Road and Georgia Ave such as accidents and phantom traffic at the light.

h. Treasurer's Report

The current amount in dues from HOAs, LCAs, and civic groups stands at \$2,050. The community has contributed \$1,000 for Olney Days and \$375 for the police substation.

OLD BUSINESS

Arnie Gordon moved for the adoption of the GOCA bylaws as amended and seconded by Matt Zaborsky. The GOCA bylaws as amended was approved unanimously by the delegates.

GOCA is trying to develop a “GOCA Foundation,” spearheaded by John Webster, to raise funds for charitable and educational purposes in the Olney community. Committee volunteers to assist with planning, organizing, incorporating, obtaining 501(c)(3) status, fundraising, and selecting projects for funding are needed. Please send feedback and expressions of interest to GOCAfoundation@gmail.com. The background for the foundation is as follows:

Concept: GOCA creates a 501(c)(3) entity consistent with the Bylaws objectives (“...to promote the overall civic, economic, ... and cultural welfare of the (Olney) community...”).

Rationale: Operating a charitable foundation would position GOCA to raise tax-deductible funds (other than Association member dues) to be used in various projects that improve the quality of life in the Olney community.

Potential Beneficiaries: Olney Days, Olney entrance monument, Olney schools, Olney playgrounds, local law enforcement, structured activities for teens, anti-drug and crime efforts, assistance to the elderly, local arts, education; project funding proposals from the Olney community.

Fundraising: corporate sponsors, individual Olney residents, annual golf tournament; we welcome fundraising ideas from the Olney community.

NEW BUSINESS

SB1055, drafted on March 4, 2013, requires each county, beginning in 2015, to appropriate at least the same amount of local funds to specific categories of critical services as the county appropriated in the prior fiscal year. The Secretary of Budget & Management will withhold state aid if a county does not meet the “maintenance of effort” level in those services.

Arnie Gordon has moved to resolved to oppose SB1055, seconded by Jackie Benn. The motion was approved unanimously by the delegates

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jodi Finkelstein announced that the hearing on SB1055 will be on March 20, 2013. The next GOCA meeting will be on Tuesday, April 9, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

Barbara Falcigno made a motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:18.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark K. Hill, Recording Secretary

GOCA Executive Board

Sharon Dooley (GOCA Past President, James Creek), Barbara Falcigno (GOCA President, Olney Oaks), Kathy Curtis (2nd Vice President, Lake Hallowell), Greg Intoccia (Corresponding Secretary, Ashley Hollow), Howard Grief (1st President, Norbeck Grove), Mark K. Hill (Recording Secretary, Camelback Village), Ruth Laughner (Treasurer, Williamsburg Village), Helene Rosenheim (Past President, Highlands), John Webster (Executive Vice President, Manor Oaks), Paul Jarosinski (Cherrywood HOA), Ann Marie Saporito (James Creek), Jim Smith (Oatland Farm), Jackie Benn (Fair Hill Farm), Andrea Keller (Fair Hill Farm), Judy Broseker (Brookeville Knolls), Jodi Finkelstein (Hallowell), Arnie Gordon (Norbeck Meadows), Steve Cohen (Oak Grove), Barbara Ray (Brookeville), Joe Corbett

(Williamsburg Village) Janice Fothergill (SEROCA), Bob Reel (Victoria Springs) Andrea Keller (Fairhill Farms) Clayton Englar (SEROCA), Matt Zaborsky (GOCA Past President, Norbeck Meadows).

Invited Guests

County Executive Ike Legget, Sonny Segal, and Dieter Clinger.

Public

Tim Stemann (Williamsburg Village), Ken Silverman (Councilmember Navarro), Kim McCrary (Cherrywood), Liz Symonds (SEROCA), Maria Bender (Brookville Knolls), Mary Kerr (Brookville Knolls), Mary Howard (SEROCA), Martin Saia (SEROCA), John Loudon (SEROCA), David Reile (SEROICA) Aleka Kapaton,(Tanterra), Marti English (SEROCA), Peggy Shaw (SEROCA), Terry Peters, Alden English (SEROCA), Bruce Erwin (SEROCA), Liz Erwin (SEROCA), Brian Townsend (SEROCA), Vicky Aceto (Olney Square), Steve Saia (Olney Square), Barbara Jackson (SEROCA), Claudia Jackson (SEROCA), Danny Benn (Fair Hill Farm).