

Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
October 14, 2014

**CALL TO ORDER**

President John Webster called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. and the GOCA representatives, alternates, and members of the public then introduced themselves. A motion was made and seconded to approve the September 2014 minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

The October agenda was modified to add the correspondence report. This was approved unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The following announcements were made. GOCA is in need of a volunteer for the Montgomery County Civic Federation. Monday October 20<sup>th</sup> is community night to be held at Good Counsel high school. The Sherwood PTA will be holding a meeting regarding teen alcohol and drug abuse on Tuesday October 21<sup>st</sup>. October 27<sup>th</sup> there is an At-Large County Council debate held at the Buffington Building starting at 7 pm. On November 9<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm at Good Counsel High School, the Olney Civic Fund will be awarding a grant to Project Change and announcing a fundraising partnership with Olney Adventist Preparatory School.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE**

Commander Laura Lanham, Lt. Marc Yamada, Sgt. Andy Loudermilk and Det. Kim Bonato Update from the Financial Crimes Unit. Biggest issues in Olney are phone scams, mail box thefts and credit card scams. Best protection is to mail items with checks, directly from the post office. Report phone scams. Active investigations are ongoing. Call the non-emergency number with info, 301 279-8000.

2 Pedestrian and motor vehicle reports were made since January of this year, in the Olney foot print. Speed cameras are very active in the Olney area. They have slowed traffic down. The county has embraced a program called Street Smart. Street Smart is an annual public education, awareness and behavioral change campaign in the Washington, DC, suburban Maryland and northern Virginia area. Information on the program can be found at the following website <http://bestreetsmart.net/index2.php>. An issue regarding cyclist safety was raised. Sgt. Loudermilk requested that he be notified about specific, recurring locations, involving motor vehicles and cyclists. When notified, he will take an active role.

**STORM WATER MANAGEMENT POND SAFETY**

Amy Stevens, Manager, storm-water Facilities for Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection. Ms. Stevens provided an update to the storm-water maintenance work being done in the Olney area. The county takes on all structural responsibilities of storm water facilities. HOAs are responsible for non-structural issues such as landscaping and mowing. The HOA is responsible for signs and fencing. Montgomery County inspects signs and fences. The county can provide signs to the HOA

who is responsible for installing and maintain the signs. Publicly accessible ponds, which are permanently wet – 18 inches deep and 20 feet wide - are required to have signs. Ms.Stevens will work with any HOA with questions. She can be reached on 240-777-7766 or via email [amy.stevens@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:amy.stevens@montgomerycountymd.gov)

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

- 1. Correspondence Report**, Jackie Benn reported. The correspondence binder has been circulated through the reps. A proclamation was presented to GOCA and GOCA president Webster from the town of Brookeville. The proclamation thanked GOCA and president Webster for their support during the town's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.
- 2. Mid-County Citizen's Advisory Board**, Greg Intoccia reported that the board did not meet.
- 3. Chamber of Commerce Report** ([www.olneymd.org](http://www.olneymd.org)) Joe Buffington thanked GOCA for their work on transportation and specifically on the resolution not supporting the BRT, as presented by the SHA. He mentioned the Taste of Olney, at Good Counsel, will start slightly earlier than in years past.
- 4. Olney Town Center Advisory Committee**, Kathy Curtis presented. At the July Olney Town Center Advisory Committee meeting, the members approved the workplan for 2014-2016. The approved plan has 2 goals:
  1. Develop a concept plan for a Civic Center and Town Commons to serve as a focal point in the Olney Town Center and
  2. Review redevelopment proposals in the town center as they arise and make recommendations to the Planning Board on behalf of the Olney community. The most recent proposal is that of Chick-Fil-A.

The Civic Center / Town Commons will be the major focus for committee in the coming two years. Community requests for these facilities go back as far as mid-1990s when the Chamber and GOCA focused heavily on achieving a civic center and the 2005 master planning process that articulated the need for both a civic center and town commons to be a focal point and civic heart of the community. Our goal is to reassess the community's need and resolve to make this a reality.

In general we need to clearly define what we'd want from the facilities, who will be the major champions/Partners in the community (e.g., Community Band would champion a town commons band shell), establish communications with major land owners to assess future opportunities for a site, establish communications with state and local government for public support. Our output in two years will be a Civic Center / Town Commons plan that is supported by all stakeholders.

We will need GOCA's input and support on all of these activities and will clearly articulate a request for GOCA's input and support once we finalize the work plan, which should be by our next meeting.

At the meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Committee members reviewed the BRT resolutions of GOCA and the Chamber of Commerce and agreed that OTCAC would also develop a

resolution to be approved at a future meeting. Members also discussed open issues that remain with the Chick-Fil-A development proposal. The major concern is the traffic flow across the side of the building facing Georgia Avenue which also passes close to the outdoor seating area. OTCAC will continue to work with CFA on options.

The next meeting of the Committee is November 25<sup>th</sup> in this room at 7:30. The public is welcome to attend. If you would like to be added to the email list for the Committee, please give me your emails tonight and I will have you added to the list.

- 5. Library Advisory Committee,** Della Dorsey provided an update on the programs being held at the library. A pumpkin decorating time for ages 6 and up. This will be October 15<sup>th</sup>. There will be a program called the Parenting App Chat on Saturday October 18<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. Halloween teen celebration is planned for the October 23<sup>rd</sup> which will include scary movies. October 28<sup>th</sup> there will be an opportunity to improve Spanish speaking skills starting at 6:30.
- 6. Legislative Committee,** Bob Reel reported that the county Council at-Large Debate will occur on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October. The Montgomery County Government Operations Committee is planning a work session event to identify funding alternatives to resolve transportation infrastructure issues. Looking for private/public partnerships. Looking to amend the ethics laws for public officials to match the state laws. Looking to make sure public employees have similar laws. This deals with acceptance of gifts rules. Landlord tenant relations Bill to resolve the issue of non-payment of HOA dues when the occupier is not the owner. Question was asked regarding county bill 45-14 in front of the county council, what is it? Requires any member of a Common Ownership Community to take a qualifying class that the CCOC will create. More information to come. Hearing is October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- 7. Transportation Committee,** John Webster reported the Transportation Committee met on September 15 to develop the 2015 Transportation Priorities list. Members of the Transportation Committee are Perry Buckberg, Sharon Dooley, Barbara Falcigno, Howard Greif, Amy Harbison, Benson King, Barbara Ray, Daniel Rubenstein, Jerry Simpson, Emmet Tydings, Bill Wanatosky, and Anthony Watkins. The Priorities list is being drafted for Committee approval in October. The Priorities list will be presented to GOCA's Executive Board for approval at the November meeting. The Planning board approved the purchase of the parcel of land need to build the grade separated intersection at routes 97 and 28.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Matt Quinn, Recording Secretary

## **GOCA Executive Board**

John Webster, President -Manor Oaks, Greg Intoccia, Executive Vice President - Ashley Hollow  
Yale Tankus, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Oak Grove, Bob Reel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Victoria Springs  
Matt Quinn, Recording Secretary – Cherrywood, Jackie Benn, Corresponding Secretary - Fair Hill Farm  
Kathy Curtis, Treasurer - Lake Hallowell. Barbara Falcigno (Immediate Past President, Olney Oaks),

John Blachere (Ashley Hollow), Lydia Rappolt (Camelback Village), Jodi Finkelstein (Hallowell), Leisa Sarecky (Manor Oaks), Larry Solomon (Norbeck Grove), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres), Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks), Louis Saporito (James Creek), Ann Marie Saporito (James Creek), Ruth Laughner (Williamsburg Village)

**Invited Guests**

Terri Hogan (The Gazette),

**Public**

State Senator Karen Montgomery, Vivian Malloy, Kevin Mell, Frank Sparber, Cmdr. Laura Lanham, Lt. Marc Yamada, Sgt. Andy Loudermilk and Det. Kim Bonato , Della Dorsey, Alice Ortizar, Joe Buffington, Sharon Dooley (Past President)