

Executive Board Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

President John Webster called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. GOCA representatives, alternates, invited guests and members of the public introduced themselves.

Greg Intoccia made a motion to approve the April 14, 2015 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Matt Quinn, and the minutes were approved.

A motion was made by Matt Quinn to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded and the May agenda was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Police Station Update

Lt. Joseph Onderko introduced himself to the group as the new commander of the 4th District of the Montgomery County Police taking over for Lt. Marc Yamada. He said that Olney has a great reputation and he looks forward to meeting everyone. He lives in Poolesville and he has been a Montgomery County resident for almost 25 years. Regarding the major issue in Olney, he said that traffic seems to be the largest concern. He said that Olney is a good place to live without too many burglaries and robberies and drug issues don't seem to be a big problem. He said quality of life and neighborhood concerns are more an issue. Greg Intoccia asked about theft from mailboxes to which Onderko said that in general identity theft and fraud are big problems nationwide, including theft from mailboxes. He advised not to mail checks from the mailbox with the flag up since thieves see this as a signal and steal mail this way. He said he would look into this in more detail. He said that identity theft is very prevalent nationwide right now and difficult to combat. The US is behind Europe regarding the newest technology for credit card safety. He said that credit cards will be changed in the near future to combat theft.

Library Update

Della Dorsey said there is nothing to report. There is a new Library manager who is forming her plans now. Dorsey will report on this when her plans are final.

Other Announcements

Matt Quinn said that Our House is looking for help from mentors and tutors to help young men who have been abandoned or are in foster care prepare for the GED.

Jim Smith invited everyone to the Olney Days Rock the Lot Block Party from 4:00 – 8:00 pm on Sunday, May 17, in front of Rocketeria. There will be live music and a beer and wine garden.

Ruth Laughner said there will be a free paper shred from 12:00 to 3:00 pm behind the Sandy Spring bank. This is for paper only, two boxes maximum, and no media materials, i.e. discs.

Bill Calomeris said that at the July GOCA meeting there will be an HOA Forum to discuss different topics. He has several people from the County lined up and asked for input from the group. Topics will include permitting services, zoning, landlord/tenant code enforcement, property management and how to set up an HOA. He asked that any input or proposed questions on these topics be emailed to him.

On May 28, there is a meeting of the Community Liaison Committee at MedStar Montgomery Medical Center.

LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

- **Senator Karen Montgomery**

Senator Montgomery said that the purpose of the latest legislative session was to provide a budget for the State. Montgomery County provides a lot of money for the State and the GCI is an important part of return on our money. The GCI was fully funded and we will be looking to make sure that the Governor releases the funds that were passed. A tax amnesty period was also passed. The Augustine Commission, headed by Mr. Augustine, generates ideas to bring money to Maryland by fast forwarding ideas into money-making businesses. We are going to try to bring ideas from our universities and are starting some apprentice programs for students who don't go to college. There will be some pilot programs that will be expanded, e.g. plumber apprentice and mechanics to repair today's highly technical vehicles. The State is making a new effort to improve its customer service to be more polite and positive. She said Olney doesn't have as big a heroin problem as some parts of the area but there still is some. The heroin coming in today is a higher grade, and there is a problem with overdose. If it is not counteracted rapidly, death can result. There were 156,000 first time users of heroin in 2012 which is double the number of users in 2006. We are trying to give these users treatment and we are going to allow legal antidote for use by trained medical people because it is important to catch overdose quickly before the person dies. We are also trying not to have the highest incarceration rate per population but most of our incarcerations are due to drug use. Because of this, we are trying to look more toward treatment rather than incarceration. She said that there was also discussion regarding small business opportunities.

- **Senator Roger Manno**

Senator Manno serves on the Budget and Taxation Committee and is also the Chair of the Spending/Affordability Committee. The budget process begins with the budget affordability recommendations in December before the Governor submits his budget and the legislature fixes it. The Committee looked at the large structural budget deficit. In his opinion, there is a "revenue projection" problem. In 2014 we had a balanced budget, but within nine months, in January, we came back with a \$650 million deficit/hole because the Board of Revenue Estimates had projected too much revenue. Because of sequestration, the money was not coming in at the levels projected. The Board of Public Works made mid-year cuts, and the Governor did not spend money that was allocated to help balance out the budget. The Spending Affordability Committee made recommendations to reduce the \$650 million on-going deficit by reducing spending while saving many core services. The Legislature resolved 65% of the structural problem. Constitutionally we must balance the budget every year and fund education for grades K through 12. We are not spending more than we are taking in, but we will if we continue to

spend more than revenue. Legally we can't spend more than we take in. This year the budget had significant savings over last year's budget's projected rate of growth. The Governor submitted three supplemental budgets and the final budget he submitted was \$200 million over-budget. We resolved most of the structural problems. The disagreement was over the K through 12 education funding, Medicaid provider reimbursements and other issues regarding employee COLAs. In the end, we don't know exactly what will be funded. There is \$200 million to resolve some of the unfunded issues. We can't constitutionally require the Governor to spend money but we "fenced off" some money that can be used only for a specific purpose. The State is in good shape financially and can raise money if we need to. There is a "90-day report," which is 450 pages and is on-line for more information.

- **Delegate Anne Kaiser**

She is Chair of the Education Subcommittee and is now Majority leader of the House of Delegates. There are 62 new delegates now and she mentors them. The Governor has a list of nine priorities, and all of them are top priorities all of which he wants funded. Education funding is one priority, and there was a lot of debate about increasing spending on education. She believes that when you increase spending but the number of students increases at a faster rate, the per student funding decreases. The Governor also wanted to reduce the gas tax but did not suggest which projects to cut in order to do this. The Governor also cut tolls but simultaneously raised tuition at the University of Maryland. She felt this brings into question his priorities and questioned whether this is the right thing to do. She would like to hear ideas on this and any other legislative issue and asked the group to call her. She also mentioned that ICC tolls are supposed to pay for the bonds and questioned whether we will be able to pay for the bonds with a reduction in tolls. Is this the right thing to do?

- **Delegate Eric Luedtke**

Delegate Luedtke serves on the Ways and Means Committee and chairs the subcommittee on resources, which involves the gaming industry. He oversees the lottery, horse racing, and casinos. The Governor signed into law a bill that will fund the government financing program. It had bipartisan agreement on how to fund it. He also introduced a series of bills on education. He is involved with legislation on people with disabilities, and special education as well as issues on improving workforce retention around these issues. None of the bills passed, but there were good discussions, and he hopes to get some of these through next year. He was more successful on bills regarding sexual abuse of students in schools. Three bills were introduced to require background checks on contractors before they can work in the schools. One of these bills was successful. Another issue concerns business competitiveness and the Augustine Commission for improving selling of Maryland economic development within the State. They also looked at tax policy. Most businesses in the state are small businesses and not Marriott sized. They want to find ways to improve the small business climate. Customer service is a big part of that. They also want to get rid of old regulations and are pursuing some issues related to the amusement industry in the State.

- **Delegate Craig Zucker**

Delegate Zucker is the chair of the Health and Human Services Subcommittee looking at the budget relative to waste, abuse, and fraud. The Governor's budget slashed family planning services for 150,000 women, eliminating health care services for pregnant women making

between \$21,000 and \$25,000 a year and completely eliminating a program for severely autistic and medically fragile children which would have been \$100,000 just for Montgomery County. Funding for heroin prevention and treatment programs was slashed by about \$500,000. Funding was also cut for providers of care for the disabled. The Subcommittee wanted to restore funding for these without raising taxes so the Subcommittee found \$200 million in savings and “fenced off” \$50 million to provide for these things. They also got \$50 million for school construction, \$150,000 for Brooke Road, and \$50,000 for the Olney Dog Park. They also got \$400,000 to fund Route 1 project and the Route 97/28 Interchange for the design phase and adding left and right turn lanes. Overall, \$1.5 million was funded for the whole project. He believes this will pass. Also passed was a state-wide Able Act (Achieving a Better Life Experience) for the disabled which, when enacted, will add savings accounts for the disabled who can use that money for their needs.

- **Delegate Ben Kramer**

Delegate Kramer said that Olney has eight representatives in the State legislature. He serves on the Economic Matters Committee, which has jurisdiction over many areas including utility companies, insurance, and banking industries. He said that legislation was passed that is important because the County is losing federal jobs and we must support private sector businesses to ensure private sector jobs which are our future. The government budget focuses on funding tax credits for business, especially small business, and hiring citizens with disabilities who traditionally have much higher unemployment rates than the general population. He has also worked on smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke issues because both produce “class A” carcinogens with no safe level of exposure. He sponsored a bill, which passed, that will direct the (Maryland National Park and Planning Commission) MNPPC, starting next year, to prohibit smoking in park facilities in Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties. The tobacco industry fought it, but it passed.

- **Delegate Bonnie Cullison**

Delegate Cullison was not present. Her representative highlighted two bills that were passed, which Delegate Cullison is proud of. One bill set up the Maryland Council on Advancement of School-based Health Centers to deliberate on how to make school-based health centers part of the health network in the County and maximize their effectiveness and value to the community. The Council consists of high level health agencies, practitioners, hospitals, and school personnel who will assess how the services are currently working and make recommendations on how to improve, with the goal of having these centers become an integral part of the public health safety net.

Another bill completely revised the existing Information Act, which had not been revised in 45 years. The Public Information Act (PIA) standardizes the way information is collected and will provide transparency for constituents on how their money is being spent by elected leaders. It will also provide elected leaders with the feedback essential for making informed policy. The new bill standardizes and provides guidance on how to request information and sets up a PIA Compliance Board. Previously, there was no recourse other than legal if you did not get the information requested.

- **Delegate Marice Morales**

Delegate Morales serves on the Judiciary Committee. She addressed four issues that she follows, including combating sexual assaults on campus and domestic violence, preventing police brutality, criminal justice reform, and combating the heroin epidemic. Regarding the campus sexual assault issue, she said that protective orders for victims of domestic violence were expanded, even if the incident was outside the State of Maryland. The issue of regulating DNA evidence was addressed with DNA evidence/rape kits. She said that women's issues are being taken more seriously on the Judiciary Committee and are a priority. Regarding criminal justice reform, a number of bills were introduced including the Second Chance Act, which can shield certain nonviolent convictions, one time, from public records so people can reincorporate themselves back into society. The mandatory 10-year minimum sentence for drug crimes was repealed. One of the biggest successes of this committee was to pass legislation to establish the Justice Reinvestment Coordinating Council, which works with the PEW Center to make Maryland eligible for Federal funds. Regarding the police brutality issue, the Committee introduced a bill enabling the use of body cameras in police departments across the state. She asked the group to contact her for more information.

John Webster asked for questions from the group.

Barbara Falcigno asked about the future of transportation funding by the governor, specifically road projects (such as 97/28) versus transit projects (such as Purple Line and BRT). Delegate Luedtke said that we need a transportation structure for business development and economic health. The Governor has proposed a decrease in gas tax that would have eliminated some projects. We need to know which specific projects would be cut and, regarding tolls, he felt the tolls on the ICC need to be reduced, but responsibly. He doesn't know how toll reductions will affect other projects and future funding of transportation projects. Delegate Kaiser said that in terms of the purple line, there was no answer from the Governor, and they are still waiting to see if the purple line will be funded. She said the Brookeville by-pass, however, is fine. Senator Montgomery noted that there is \$1 million in the budget for the MD 97 to 182 project and the Olney Mill Road to Sharp Street project starting in 2016. She also said that there are many other transportation projects slated for Olney. Delegate Luedtke said he doesn't know when the 97/98 intersection work can be done because of the reduction in ICC tolls. He noted that Melinda Peters, Former State Highways Administrator, has gone, and she was the key to getting things done in Olney. Delegate Morales said that she voted for the gas tax because everyone wants roads.

Sharon Dooley asked about the economic outlook for Montgomery County since the average income in the County has decreased due to sequestration. She said that County incomes are now 20-25% lower because of lower paying private industry jobs. Delegate Kramer said that the County will have to focus on economic development for many years because we have been dependent on the Federal government jobs to support our local economy. The Augustine Commission focused on how to make Maryland more business friendly. That will be our focus in the future – making sure that Maryland is more business friendly to insure that big companies come to Maryland, not to Virginia, and bring those high paying jobs with them. Also, how do we keep these big companies in Montgomery County with the appropriate taxation and incentives to stay? The Commission is focused on this and is making suggestions on tax issues related to business, e.g. reducing taxes to incentivize businesses to stay here.

Delegate Luedtke noted that Chick-Fil-A said that Maryland does not go out its way to keep businesses. He suggested talking to area businesses, specifically about what they need in order to grow their businesses.

Senator Montgomery said that when we do give breaks to businesses, we should make sure the wages businesses pay their employees are high enough to live on and not put back onto the State through benefits when a lot of things should come out of their own salaries. But, they should also earn a living wage to support a family. It's a "two-way street". She said that Maryland is not "business unfriendly" and we are way ahead of Virginia on a number of things. Virginia is not the only "star". Maryland is also the "star" in many ways. A living wage is important so that people do not have to depend on public charity.

Matt Quinn asked since the area is multi-jurisdictional, whether Montgomery County, with its own transportation authority (ITA), would have to go to the legislature to approve that. Delegate Kramer said that since Montgomery County is multi-jurisdictional, there are entities starting to look at this idea and we are all very competitive. He asked how we can make Montgomery County more marketable than Howard, Fairfax, and DC. He suggested that the region should market regionally as opposed to competing against one another. Maybe we should begin thinking about a global development entity that promotes the region rather competing against each other. There are conversations going on about that now. Also, the County Executive wants a transit authority that is independent of the government (ITA) because the County has tax limitations. The ITA could have taxing authority and also issue bonds. He questioned how this would work with an ITA that is independent of the government and staffed by County Executive appointees. How would this taxing authority work? Quinn asked whether Annapolis would have to approve this. Delegate Ben Kramer said state authority would be needed. He said he is concerned that this new government entity would be huge with a huge budget is worried that we will not have the ability to affect the outcome and decisions made. We should get it into a form that we are comfortable with. He said that we do have transportation needs, but he doubts this is the way to go. Senator Manno said that he does not feel that we should give them a blank check for this and that average folks and those on fixed income should not be responsible for paying for road work. We haven't even identified who is responsible for this problem before we write a blank check. Senator Montgomery noted that everyone is already being taxed by transportation authorities in Maryland, Howard, Virginia and Washington. She said that Virginia does not want to fund any transportation projects, especially not in Montgomery County. Others are making tax decisions for Maryland. She said this is not a new idea and other jurisdictions are doing this already. Jim Smith asked about an unsuccessful bill regarding private school busing. Senator Manno said that private school busing is a County and not a State issue.

Bill Calomeris noted that senior citizens can't afford to stay here and are leaving the County and State. He asked whether there is any thought on how to retain our seniors. Delegate Luedtke said that this topic comes up every year. He said that the State maintains limits on property taxes and has provided double exemptions for income tax on retirement income and doubled the exemptions for military retiree pay. There is no easy solution. He said there is already a huge hole in the State budget. Calomeris noted that "snowbirds" spend six months and a day per year in Florida to avoid paying Maryland state taxes. Delegate Kramer said that there are requirements and procedures in place to handle this issue.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Transportation Committee

Barbara Falcigno reported that this committee has three subcommittees – bikeways, roads, and transit. The Bowie Mill bikeway resolution is done and we are trying to get it into the Capital Improvement Plan. The Master Plan on bikeways is under review to get better access in and out of Olney on bikes.

She reported that Toll Brothers' has an approved site plan with a trail through the neighborhood that comes out onto Bachellors Forest Road at a dangerous location. Any changes to the design of the trail requires a site plan amendment (costly), but Toll Brothers is willing to work with Park & Planning and the community. However, any trail along Bachellors Forest also needs to conform to the requirements for a rustic road, so it cannot be paved. The community is working with the Rustic Road Advisory Committee to find an acceptable design of the trail.

The Roads Subcommittee will tour the Transportation Management Center in June for signal and light timing issues and to see what they can do.

ITA update – Ike Leggett has asked the Transit Taskforce to look into how to implement the BRT and how to make it financially feasible. The Taskforce will meet every Wednesday until September 30 and will then make a recommendation. All meetings are open at the County Council Building for recommendations. On June 17 at 6:00 pm there will be a Forum regarding the ITA on the 3rd floor of the County Council Building. It is not a hearing.

A 5-minute Commuter Survey is now public. She asked all HOAs to send the survey out by email to all their homeowners to answer. Anyone over 16 years old in the household can answer. A link is on www.goca.org. She hopes to receive 1000 responses. She said that her committee would welcome new members.

Mid-County Citizens' Advisory Board

Greg Intoccia reported that traffic incidences are down although the budget is up by 14% and any additional funding should come only after additional education is provided to the Council demonstrating a clear public safety purpose. There has also been reference to a possible revenue generating motive for the traffic cameras.

The Mid-County Advisory Board will write a letter to the County regarding the predatory towing bill. The bill just wants to eliminate the predatory aspects of towing that would prevent someone from sitting in watch like vultures in order to tow the vehicle. There is more of a problem with this in Wheaton than in Olney.

Public Policy & Community Affairs Committee

Matt Quinn reported that the Committee now has eight members. He said that his committee is also looking at predatory towing especially relevant to some HOAs. His committee will look at how the rule is written. His Committee is also looking at the pesticide bill.

Regarding County legislative issues, the team met with four at-large members including Nancy Floreen, George Leventhal, Hans Riemer and Mark Elrich. They have rescheduled to meet with Nancy Navarro on June 17th. Elrich felt that the State did a poor job with the BRT. The Committee will meet with State representatives at next month's meeting.

Quinn, Matt Zaborsky and Mark Hill met with Fred Boyd, county manager for zoning with Park and Planning. The County will not be able to meet the funding request for MCPS due to the additional funds required for pension payments.

Jonathan Arias accompanied Quinn to a meeting with local school principals to get a better understanding of their needs. The Committee is planning to utilize existing infrastructure, e.g. Longwood. The Committee met with local Clergy and Richard "Benny" Bienvenue of Our House to better understand their needs.

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee

Jim Smith reported that the next Olney Town Center Advisory Committee meeting is two weeks from tonight. We will have Anna van Balen from County services to speak to us about County support for our planning efforts on the Town Center and Town Commons.

2015 Membership Renewals

Greg Intoccia reported that dues collected to date total \$2575. Three HOAs have dues outstanding. He has collected \$1364 for Olney Days and \$337 for the Police substation. A question arose about how the police substation donations are used. That question was answered at the last meeting.

Correspondence Report

Jackie Benn reported that there was no new correspondence this month.

Chamber of Commerce Report

Joe Buffington was not present, and there was no report.

NEW BUSINESS

Helene Rosenheim said that Olney Days is this weekend. You can go to olneycivicfund.org for the schedule. She is still looking for volunteers, especially for the parade. She needs marshals along Georgia Avenue and judges. You can sign up by email, go to Montgomeryserves.org, or call Helene.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Judy Broseker, Recording Secretary

In attendance:

GOCA Executive Board

John Webster, President - Manor Oaks; Greg Intoccia, Executive Vice President - Ashley Hollow; Matt Quinn, 1st Vice President – Cherrywood; Bill Calomeris, 2nd Vice President - Olney Mill; Judy Broseker, Recording Secretary – Brookeville Knolls; Jackie Benn, Corresponding Secretary - Fair Hill Farm; Kathy Curtis, Treasurer - Lake Hallowell; Barbara Falcigno, Immediate Past President - Olney Oaks

Danny Benn (Fair Hill Farm), Helene Rosenheim (Highlands of Olney), Leisa Sarecky (Manor Oaks), Perry Buckberg (Manor Oaks), Matt Zaborsky (Norbeck Meadows), Dave Miller (Norbeck Meadows), Jim Smith (Oatland Farm), Lee Lofthus (Oatland Farm), Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres), Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks), Jay Feinberg (Olney Oaks), Alden English (SEROCA), Bob Reel (Victoria Springs), Sharon Dooley (Village of James Creek), Ruth Laughner (Williamsburg Village)

Invited Guests

Karen Montgomery, Maryland Senate, District 14
Roger Manno, Maryland Senate, District 19
Anne Kaiser, Maryland House of Delegates, District 14
Eric Luedtke, Maryland House of Delegates, District 14
Craig Zucker, Maryland House of Delegates, District 14
Ben Kramer, Maryland House of Delegates, District 19
Brigiela Krepseterfill, representing Bonnie Cullison, Maryland House of Delegates, District 19
Marice Morales, Maryland House of Delegates, District 19
Lt. Joseph Onderko, Deputy District Commander, 4th District
Della Dorsey, Olney Library Advisory Committee
Terri Hogan (The Gazette)

Public

Tim Stemann (Williamsburg Village), Barbara Roy, Tom Koval, Kevin Mell (Medstar Montgomery)