

Executive Board Meeting Minutes
July 14, 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.

A motion was made to approve the June 9, 2015 minutes as written. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

A motion was made to approve the July 14, 2015 meeting agenda. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Joe Corbett questioned the agenda and the position of his alternate resolution to the speed camera issue under new business instead of under the speed camera agenda item. John Webster said that the Officers had reviewed this with the parliamentarian and it was decided that Corbett's proposed alternate resolution would be taken up as a separate resolution at the appropriate time under New Business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Dooley reported that she had attended a meeting to discuss the replacement of the Gazette. She said that the group discussed how to come up with a substitute for the Gazette. There will be another meeting in a week. Terry Hogan was part of the group. Sharon asked anyone interested in helping to come up with a business plan for an alternative to the Gazette to let her know.

There were no other announcements.

SPEED CAMERA RESOLUTION

John Webster said each delegate would have two minutes to make remarks about the resolution and motions to amend before voting to approve. Lee Lofthus started by saying that his HOA, Oatland Farm, endorsed the resolution as represented. He urged the Board to pass the resolution as originally drafted, whether they like the cameras or even if they have concerns with them, because it has five good recommendations to improve the way the County collects and shares the data. These are basic good government recommendations and would make the program better. It has four modest speed limit recommendations to make modest changes in speed limits in four areas by five mile per hour. It has one recommendation for citizen input to have a referendum on the program. It does not remove any speed cameras and all speed cameras stay the same as they are today. He urged the group to support the resolution.

Helene Rosenheim, speaking on behalf of the Olney Town Center Advisory Committee, said the only recommendation they had was regarding the four modest changes to speed. The Committee felt that a

reduction in speed limits by five miles would have no effect on reducing speed because of the short distances involved. She made a motion to remove # 6, 7, 8 and 9 from the resolution.

John Blachere reported on behalf of Ashley Hollow that his HOA supports the resolution as is.

Sharon Dooley, representing the Village of James Creek, said she supported the recommendations that Helene had made.

Maria Bender, Brookeville Knolls, had no changes to the resolution.

Jon Arias questioned the rationale of the placement of the speed cameras. It has never been fully validated. There is nothing here that validates why we have three speed cameras within a mile of each other. There are other steps that could have been made but weren't done, such as using flashing signs warning people of speeding as they enter the Olney Town Center. That's also a failure of the Automated Traffic Enforcement Unit (ATEU). He felt that the proposed resolution is very modest and doesn't get to the heart of the issue.

Jon Morris, representing Oak Grove, said he would echo what Lee Lofthus had said and would vote to approve the resolution.

Joe Corbett felt that the false premise behind the resolution was that Olney was being discriminated against with the high number of speeding tickets. He felt that the whole speed camera issue has to do with the configuration of high speed roads coming into Olney and that explains the anomaly. The speed camera program has been highly successful and that should be the #1 theme – that the speed camera program has resulted in a 50% reduction in crashes in the area and improvements in traffic safety. He did not feel that the program is perfect but it is doing a great job and it makes no sense to increase speed limits. He felt everyone knows the speed cameras are there and we don't need flashing lights. He proposed an amendment to strike out the entire resolution and insert his resolution that recognizes the success of the speed camera program. He felt that this should be discussed before a vote is taken on the GOCA resolution.

John Webster said that Corbett's amendment was already on the agenda under New Business and the Board would look at his amendment at the appropriate time and a vote would be taken.

Bob Reel did not agree with the proposal to strike out # 6, 7 and 8. He did not agree with #10, however, and made a motion to strike #10 in the resolution.

Matt Zaborsky said that he was not pleased with the resolution. He said he supported Joe Corbett's amendment 100%. He said he was speaking as a private citizen since he is no longer serving as a Norbeck Meadows board member. He said the Montgomery County Speed Camera program is a model nationwide. He felt we should not change the program.

Dave Rada, Brooke Manor Estates, said that on one of the handouts from the last meeting, on page 37, one crash out of 863 was attributed to speeding in a ten-year period, so we can't say that the cameras have decreased speeding accidents. They have only decreased speeding, not speeding accidents.

Howard Greif said that we should insert something in the resolution about “distracted driving”, whether from cell phones etc, in order to pay more attention to the surroundings. John Webster asked Greif if he wanted to make a motion to add something to the resolution. Greif said he would like to but didn’t have the verbiage to suggest enhancing camera enforcement with some kind of “distracted driver” solution. If we are going to publish a resolution, we should include something like this.

Larry Solomon said that Norbeck Grove didn’t have a chance to discuss the resolution but said he, as a 41-year Olney resident, felt that the work done on the resolution was very good and he and Norbeck Grove would support the resolution.

Ed Weisel, Norbeck Meadows, said he would move to strike #10 from the resolution. If you want a referendum on this issue, he felt the resolution is vague. John Webster asked whether Ed was seconding Bob’s motion to strike #10. Weisel responded that he would second this motion.

Dave Rada said he is generally in favor of the resolution, but in favor of removing # 6, 7, 8 and 9 from the resolution. He asked whether, if left in, this would mean adding more signs to the roads. Webster said that if the speed limits change, there would be signs accordingly. Rada said that is one of the reasons he would be in favor of removing #6 through 9 from the resolution. He was not in favor of any more signs.

Webster said there were now two motions on the table.

- A motion was made by Helene Rosenheim to delete # 6, 7, 8, and 9 from the resolution. This was seconded by Sharon Dooley. There was no further discussion and a vote was taken to delete # 6, 7, 8, and 9 from the resolution.

10 were in favor

11 were opposed

6, 7, 8, and 9 will be retained in the resolution

- A motion was made by Bob Reel and seconded by Ed Weisel to delete #10 from the resolution. A vote was taken to remove # 10 from the resolution.

12 were in favor of removing #10 from the resolution

4 were opposed

#10 will be removed from the resolution

A vote was then taken on accepting the General Resolution as amended, with # 6,7,8,9 retained and #10 removed. A question arose on how it is possible to vote on a resolution when there is another proposal from Joe Corbett. Webster said these were two different proposals to be considered independently and both are on the agenda.

Webster then motioned for a vote on the GOCA Speed Camera resolution as amended.

**15 in were favor of the resolution as amended
6 were opposed**

The motion carried.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Transportation Committee

Barbara Falcigno was not present to make a report on the Brookeville Bypass Resolution.

Mid-County Citizen's Advisory Board

Greg Intoccia reported that new legislation on privatizing the economic development program previously introduced was passed on June 30. This eliminates the current department and creates a new private corporation which will promote and develop economic development in the County. It also has a workforce training component with exemptions for procurement law. This will give the private organization more flexibility to move. It has an 11 member board and \$6 million in funding per year. The Mid County Citizens Advisory Board has taken a look at this and is making comments on how to make this new Board accountable with transparency, audits, details on funding, regular meetings and open meetings, and more detail on Board composition.

Regarding the capital improvement budget, there was a meeting where it was determined that there is need for a study on what is needed for the Olney Civic Center downtown.

Public Policy & Citizen's Advisory Committee

Matt Quinn was not present. No report was made.

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee

Helene Rosenheim reported there will be a meeting on July 29. They have invited representatives from non profits with interest in the Olney Town Commons and what they would like to see in this facility. This is a first step toward a feasibility study.

Correspondence Report

Jackie Benn reported that no new correspondence had been received.

Chamber of Commerce Report

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

NEW BUSINESS

Joe Corbett's Proposed Amendment

John Webster said that Joe Corbett had introduced an amendment (*on page 10 of the Agenda*) to the GOCA Speed Camera Resolution. He asked if anyone would second Corbett's amendment. Matt Zaborsky and Barbara Falcigno seconded Corbett's amendment.

Webster asked for discussion.

Lee Lofthus felt GOCA should not endorse the amendment because it is factually inaccurate and filled with problems. The first sentence, for example, is pure opinion, not fact, and represents that there has been a 50% reduction in accidents since the introduction of speed cameras. However, that dates back to the introduction of the first prototype cameras in the County and not to the time cameras were installed in Olney. It attributes causation to another and that is specious. It also attributes to the cameras that when they were installed, accidents declined, which is true. At the same time, other safety improvements were made in the County in terms of intersection improvements meaning a sweep of improvements were all introduced over a short period of time and that all resulted in improvements in safety, which the Taskforce report recognizes. To attribute this success to the speed cameras at the expense of everything else ignores the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) data that crashes have declined nationwide since 2005. So, there are multiple things contributing to traffic safety. He does not think this amendment adds any value to the GOCA resolution.

Webster asked for any other comments.

Maria Bender agreed with Lee Lofthus. Sharon Dooley supported Corbett's amendment. Joe Corbett said it is obvious that crashes have declined year after year and we should recognize that the speed camera program is a success and has improved public safety in the Olney downtown area. Matt Zaborsky said it is obvious that Olney has speeding problems and he strongly supports Corbett's resolution and strongly suggested that everyone vote for it.

There were no other comments.

Webster called for a vote on Corbett's resolution.

5 were in favor
9 were opposed
5 abstentions

Corbett's resolution was not carried.

Brookeville Bypass

Since Barbara Falcigno was not present to introduce the Resolution in Support of the Brookeville Bypass in the Transportation Committee report, Senator Karen Montgomery asked for a commitment of support from GOCA on the Brookeville Bypass. Webster asked her if this issue could wait until the September GOCA meeting. Senator Montgomery said that a resolution was passed in the past and that, although we could wait until September, there has already been a 50-year effort regarding the Brookeville Bypass. Webster then asked the delegates to look at page 4 of the agenda for the resolution drafted by the Transportation Committee in support of the Brookeville Bypass.

Webster asked for comments. A question arose regarding the funding for the Bypass. Senator Montgomery said the funding is already there from the State and County. There was a question about how the old road would change. She said that there will be two roundabouts, but Rt 97 would still cut

through Brookeville. A question arose about whether there would be any jogging or bike paths. She said she hopes so and added that this has gone on for over 40 years. The bypass would be two lanes as the road is now.

There were no other comments.

Webster asked for a vote on the **Resolution in Support of the Brookeville Bypass.**

20 were in favor

1 was opposed

1 abstention

The motion to support the Brookeville Bypass carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 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; Bill Calomeris, 2nd Vice President - Olney Mill; Judy Broseker, Recording Secretary – Brookeville Knolls; Jackie Benn, Corresponding Secretary - Fair Hill Farm; Barbara Falcigno, Immediate Past President - Olney Oaks

John Blachere (Ashley Hollow), Dave Rada (Brooke Manor Estates), Maria Bender (Brookeville Knolls), Jonathan Arias (Hallowell), Helene Rosenheim (Highlands of Olney), Howard Greif (Lake Hallowell), Leisa Sarecky (Manor Oaks), Perry Buckberg, (Manor Oaks), Larry Solomon (Norbeck Grove), Jeff Kinker (Norbeck Grove), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Matt Zaborsky (Norbeck Meadows), Dave Miller (Norbeck Meadows), Jon Morris (Oak Grove), Jim Smith (Oatland Farm), Lee Lofthus (Oatland Farm), Bob Reel (Victoria Springs), Sharon Dooley (Village of James Creek), Ruth Laughner (Williamsburg Village), Joe Corbett (Williamsburg Village)

Invited Guests

Craig Zaller, Nagle & Zaller

Chris Majerle,

Robert Goff, Montgomery County Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs

Jessica Fusillo, Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services

Peter Drymalski, Montgomery County Commission on Common Ownership Communities

Public

Senator Karen Montgomery (District 14), Gary Manion (GOCA Traffic Camera Taskforce), Betsy Davis (Montgomery County Gov.), Lawanda Edwards (Senator Roger Manno's Office), Ken Shotting, David Miller (YMCA), Ron Ely (MDA), Jeff Kinker (Vorbelk Group), Kevin Mell (Medstar Montgomery), Bernadette Meehan (Boy Scout Troop 264), Atticus Meehan (Boy Scout Troop 264), Magdalena Fabevova (Troop 433), Ernest Favev (Troop 433), Tyler Metollo (Troop 433), Karen Mekll (Troop 433), Michelle Ngwafar (Office of Councilman Sarbanes), Matthew Bernherd (Norbeck Grove HOA), Gail Shannon (Hallowell HOA), Vivian Malloy (Lake Hallowell), Wilbur Malloy (Lake Hallowell), Barbara Ray (Brookeville), Steve Eisenberg (Brookeville Knolls HOA),