

Executive Board Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

President Gregory Intoccia called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. GOCA representatives, alternates, invited guests and members of the public introduced themselves.

Intoccia asked for a motion to approve the February 9, 2016 minutes. Jon Arias requested that a change be made to the second line on the top of page 4 to replace “books” with “computers”. Jackie Benn made a motion to approve the minutes with the requested change. The motion was seconded. There were 21 votes to approve the minutes with the requested change and 1 abstention.

Intoccia asked for a motion to approve the meeting draft agenda. Barbara Falcigno made a motion to approve the agenda. Matt Zaborsky seconded the motion, and the agenda was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Howard Greif said that there needs to be more discussion on GOCA’s involvement with the Montgomery County schools. Gregory Intoccia requested that this discussion be addressed during Old Business.

Alexis Reed from Councilmember Navarro’s office stated that Nancy Navarro will be sending a letter to the T&E committee in support of the North High Street / Morningwood Drive Road connection. She also stated that Councilmember Navarro is in support of the Bowie Mill Bikeway and the Olney Town Center.

Barbara Falcigno mentioned that the GOCA Awards ceremony will be held on Sunday March 13, 2016 at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Matt Zaborsky stated that there is a very informative video about Olney posted on the GOCA website. The video was made by the Montgomery County Council.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO BYLAWS

Kathy Curtis updated the Board on changes to the bylaws that are being proposed by the Bylaws Committee. Intoccia stated that the Officers are supportive of the changes. He wants the Board to

have a discussion on the proposed changes. However, the Board should not feel pressured to make a decision and vote on the changes tonight. It is important for the Board to walk away with a full understanding of the proposed changes.

Curtis introduced the members of the Bylaws Committee (Greg Intoccia, Matt Zaborsky, Matt Quinn, Sharon Dooley, Jackie Benn, Judy Broseker, and Barbara Falcigno). She stated that the Committee has been discussing these changes for over a year. The proposals started in one direction and evolved into another direction.

There are two areas of primary change:

1. Committees
2. Changes to make GOA inclusive for everyone who lives in the Olney Master Plan Area.

Committee – Chairs’ Appointment and Removal

At the March 2015 GOA meeting, the Bylaws Committee presented a Bylaws amendment that was received from Cherrywood. The Bylaws Committee positively reported on a portion of it and that was verbally agreed upon by the Executive Board and forms the basis for ARTICLE VI – Committees #5.

Committee Chairs are appointed and removed by the President with simple majority consent of Representatives at an Executive Board meeting of the GOCA members. A Chair vacated during the year will be filled within ninety (90) days by the same process.

- a. *Each Chair will be appointed for a one-year term within ninety (90) days of officer elections.*
- b. *Each Chair can be appointed for additional terms up to five (5) consecutive terms*

Committee – Chairs’ Duties and Terms

Chair duties have been added to Article VII – Committees #7 to provide a description for these positions. Term limits of one (1) year have been added; consecutive terms up to five (5) years are allowed.

Committee – Standing

The list of Standing Committees in Article VII – Committees #1 has been revised to reflect the merging of many responsibilities into the Public Policy and Community Affairs Committee.

Officers and Their Duties

The description of the Officers and their duties in Article VI has been revised to reflect the changes made to the Standing Committees.

Inclusiveness – Past Presidents

All Past Presidents are eligible to attend Officers meetings and Executive Board meetings and participate in the discussions, but not vote unless they represent an LCA. In this way, GOCA benefits

from their experience and perspective.

Inclusiveness – An Individual Membership

The Bylaws Committee proposed a new membership class, “Individual Member”, comprised of individuals who live in parts of the Olney Master Plan Area that are not covered by an association that could be a GOCA Local Civic Association (LCA) member. The description of the new class of members is in Article II – Definitions #5.

GOCA currently represents 80-85% of the households in the Olney Master Plan area. These households are in associations that could be GOCA member LCAs. The 15-20% remaining households are in areas that are not organized into associations of any kinds. The people in that 15-20% are potential Individual Members.

Individual members will form a membership class and as such, those people would annually elect two (2) of their own to be their voting GOCA Representatives. Just as LCA members have two (2) representatives each, so would this new group. Regardless of the number of Individual Members, they would only have two (2) votes.

The Individual Membership class will become active in 2017 and Individual Membership dues will be established by the GOCA Executive Board prior to the January 2017 meeting.

This is not a revived “At-Large” membership that was removed in 2013. At-large members were expected to represent the community as a whole. The new Individual Members would only represent the Individual Member group’s position.

Individual Members could become Committee Chairs and Officers consistent with the requirements for people in LCAs.

ARTICLES II, IV, V, VI, VIII, IX, X were edited to include Individual Members.

Curtis discussed that these changes are being proposed so that GOCA can be inclusive of all people who live in the Olney Master Plan area. Currently, anyone can be on a committee. There is no requirement that committee members need to be members of GOCA or part of a LCA. However, those individuals who are not part of a LCA are unable to currently be committee chairs or officers of GOCA. The proposal to have an Individual Membership category will allow those individuals who are not part of a LCA to be committee chairs or to be officers of GOCA. This will make GOCA inclusive of all people who live in the Olney Master Plan area.

Ed Weisel asked how the Individual Members will select their representatives. Kathy Curtis stated that the Individual Members will meet before the April Executive Board Meeting. E-mails will be sent to the Individual Members to inform them that they are responsible for picking two (2) representatives.

Carolyn Knight asked how dues will be determined. Kathy Curtis stated that Individual Membership dues will be established by the GOCA Executive Board prior to the January 2017 meeting. Matt

Zaborsky asked Carolyn Knight if she had any suggestions for a dues amount. She did not have a suggestion. Various board members said that dues should be less than the dues for an HOA since each Individual Member will pay his own dues. It also was clarified that small business owners cannot become Individual Members. Another point of clarification was that if an individual lives in an area with an LCA, but the LCA does not join GOCA, the individual is not eligible to be an Individual Member. Greg Intoccia mentioned that this new membership category presents a good opportunity to get people involved. Sharon Dooley recommended dues of \$25 per person per year.

Stacy Levine asked about GOCA's plans for communicating this new membership category to the Olney community. Matt Quinn will be in charge of communication. This will be a good way for GOCA to increase its membership. Since this membership category will not go live until January 1, 2017, there will be opportunity for promotions to be sent out and for decisions to be made regarding the dues structure.

Miscellaneous Changes

Removed statement that there should be no geographical overlap of LCAs because Batchellors Forest was allowed to be a member of GOCA even though it has overlap with SEROCA.

Removed statement that new members of GOCA had to be voted in. Anyone that meets the membership requirements should be allowed to join GOCA.

Removed requirement about needing to be a member in good standing to be an Officer. Nominations can be made from the floor. Sharon Dooley asked if there was a provision that the person who was nominated had agreed to be an Officer. Greg Intoccia replied that the purpose of the nomination is to inform the community of the nomination. The person should have already agreed to accept the nomination.

Since GOCA does not typically have a meeting in August because it is difficult to get a quorum, the Executive Board will have at least eleven (11) meetings. There can be more than eleven (11) meetings if desired. Carol Sullivan asked how cancelled meetings are handled. Barbara Falcigno stated that a meeting needed to be cancelled when she was President. She said that the Officers try to reschedule a meeting if it was cancelled due to bad weather. A meeting can be held in August if needed. Sharon Dooley suggested that the phrase "weather permitting" be added to the statement that the Executive Board will have at least eleven (11) meetings.

Greg Intoccia led some discussion to get a sense of how the Executive Board members felt about the proposed changes. Since no further discussion was requested, Barbara Falcigno moved to approve the proposed changes to the bylaws as amended with the phrase "weather permitting". Sharon Dooley seconded the motion. Kathy Curtis stated that she will add the phrase "weather permitting" to the proposed changes. Ed Weisel asked if there have been committee chairs who have served longer than five (5) years. Kathy Curtis stated that the Bylaws Committee felt it would be good to have "fresh blood" on the committees. A committee chairperson can step away for one year to train a new person. After the one year expired, the individual could become the chairperson of the committee again if desired.

Greg Intoccia requested an up and down vote of the proposed changes to the bylaws as amended with the phrase “weather permitting.”

The proposed changes to the Bylaws passed:

- 21 Yes**
- 0 Opposed**
- 1 Abstention**

OFFICERS/COMMITTEES/LIASON REPORTS

Transportation Committee Report

Barbara Falcigno discussed that although the GOCA resolution adopted February 9, 2016 implies support for the North High Street to Morningwood Drive connection, the Transportation Committee wanted to have a clear resolution in support of the North High Street to Morningwood connection. The following resolution was therefore proposed:

“Whereas the North High Street to Morningwood Drive connection is recommended in the 2005 Olney Master Plan, referring to “North High Street between Georgia Avenue and Morningwood Drive as an essential connection for providing vehicular and pedestrian community between the Town Center and the adjoining residential community.”(page 99);

Whereas the North High Street to Morningwood connection provides an alternate pathway for vehicles using Georgia Ave; and

Whereas redevelopment in the area of Olney Town Center is unlikely to happen until this connection is made;

THEREFORE, GOCA’s Transportation Committee resolves that a North High Street to Morningwood Drive connection should be included in the Montgomery County CIP budget.”

Falcigno discussed that the Transportation Committee wanted to remove mention of the alley connection from the resolution so that the resolution will be stronger. She stated that \$150,000 has been allocated towards design work. The connection will cost under \$1 million to build. It appears that building the connection is more feasible than originally expected.

The Executive Board voted on the revised wording to the resolution. It received unanimous approval.

A guest attendee expressed concern about there being additional traffic on Morningwood as a result of this connection. Falcigno explained why this concern was not valid. She stated that once the street is connected, a crosswalk can be built and then a crossing guard can be used to improve pedestrian safety.

Barbara Falcigno also stated that Commissioner Leggett announced that Montgomery County is

moving forward with the BRT for Veirs Mills Road, 355, and 29. The plans are that the BRT for 29 will be completed in four (4) years if they can receive matching funds from the state. The BRT for 29 will be built first. The goal is to improve bus services in critical areas of Montgomery County. The money will come out of the Montgomery County budget.

Public Policy & Community Affairs Committee (PP&CAC)

Matt Quinn reported that Howard Greif met with Councilmember George Leventhal. Montgomery County is moving forward with the Bowie Mill bikeway.

The HOAs received a form with a lot of questions regarding doing away with the County Commission on Common Ownership. Matt Quinn stated the committee will review the form and respond to the questions they have received from the HOAs.

Barbara Falcigno stated that money has been added for the Olney Town Advisory Committee for the Civic Center. She stated that this is the beginning of the process. This decision is on the record at the CIP meeting.

Correspondence Report

Jackie Benn passed the correspondence folder to the Board.

Membership

Matt Quinn stated that he is calling the HOA presidents and the management groups regarding renewal of dues. Dues need to be paid by the end of March. Delegates need to do their part to get dues paid. Matt Quinn has a list of those members whose dues have not been renewed yet.

Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board

Greg Intoccia stated that there is regional support for the Bowie Mill bikeway.

Awards

Matt Zaborsky announced the winners of the GOCA awards. The following are the award winners.

2015 Howard J. Garber Memorial Citizen of the Year Award: The Greater Olney News Staff

2015 Contribution to Community Award: Barbara Falcigno and the Olney Post Office Employees

2015 Youth Contribution to Community Award: Matthew McDonald

2015 GOCA Worker of the Year: Matthew Quinn

2015 Ron Berger Memorial Olney Heritage Award: Darlene Saulsbury

2015 Special President's Award: Karen Montgomery

Zaborsky stated that the Awards Ceremony is a good way to express appreciation for people who have contributed to the community.

Chamber of Commerce

Joe Buffington stated that there was nothing new to report. Jackie Benn asked him for information about the Athena awards. Buffington stated that the awards ceremony will be held on the first Friday of May. Nominations are still being accepted.

Olney Town Advisory Committee

Helene Rosenheim stated that the committee will prepare a formal recommendation for the alley between North High Street and Morningwood Drive. The committee will also work with the Montgomery County Council on future funding for the Civic Center. The next committee meeting is March 22nd.

OLD BUSINESS

Howard Greif expressed concern about the vagueness of the resolution regarding the new subcommittee on schools that was approved at the last GOCA meeting. Greif felt that GOCA should not be taking positions on school board issues. He was concerned that GOCA is expanding into a new area when GOCA is struggling for participation. Also since GOCA's membership is over 40, he felt that many of GOCA's members are not familiar with issues related to the schools.

Barbara Falcigno responded that the PTA's mostly raise money. GOCA can help the school board members because GOCA members are familiar with processes and are comfortable 'being down in the trenches'.

Matt Quinn stated that GOCA had developed relationships with state and local officials over the past year. Half of the county budget goes to schools. GOCA would like to have more impact on our schools because what happens with our schools could directly impact our property values.

Greg Intoccia emphasized that the goal of the new subcommittee is to develop relationships with our schools. He wants to encourage direct and open communications. He stated that GOCA will not be involved with any decisions regarding curriculum. He felt that GOCA can be a voice and can weigh in by virtue of who we are.

Howard Greif said that there should be continued discussion on the resolution.

Stacy Levine recommended that at each GOCA Executive Board Meeting there should be discussion on what the subcommittee is pursuing to make sure the Executive Board agrees with the direction they are taking.

Howard Greif stated that he expected there will be a large turnout at the Board of Education Candidates Debate at next month's GOCA meeting. Greg Intoccia stated that this is a great way for GOCA to step up.

Paul Geller, from Olney Oaks, stated that he lobbied the Montgomery County Council directly for more funding for county programs. He would like to be a partner with GOCA and will help GOCA any way he can.

NEW BUSINESS

Greg Intoccia announced that there will be a Board of Education Candidates Debate at the next GOCA meeting which will be held on Monday April 11th instead of Tuesday April 12th. The date change will better fit the schedules of the Board of Education candidates. The debate will be held from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. There will be a short GOCA meeting following the debate. Howard Greif requested that GOCA delegates discuss with Greg Intoccia any topics they would like discussed. Greif would like to have three (3) questions from GOCA delegates and two (2) questions from the audience.

Greg Intoccia also mentioned that the GOCA meeting in October is currently scheduled on October 11, 2016 which is the beginning of the Yom Kippur holiday. He requested a show of hands of the delegates in attendance to determine whether or not there would be a quorum at that meeting. At least five (5) delegates will not be able to attend the meeting because it is the beginning of the Yom Kippur holiday. It was decided that the meeting will be held on another day so there will be a quorum. A suggestion was made to hold the meeting on Monday October 10, 2016 which is Columbus Day. The Officers will later finalize a new date other than the currently scheduled October 11 meeting date.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Barbara Falcigno submitted a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Stacy Levine, Recording Secretary

In attendance:

GOCA Officers

Greg Intoccia, President – Ashley Hollow; Matt Quinn, Executive Vice President – Cherrywood; Lee Lofthus, 1st Vice President; Matt Zaborsky – Norbeck Meadows, 2nd Vice President; Stacy Levine, Recording Secretary, The Reserve at Fair Hill; Jackie Benn, Corresponding Secretary – Fair Hill Farm; Robert Hambrecht, Treasurer; Barbara Falcigno, Immediate Past President – Olney Oaks

GOCA Delegates and Alternates

Beata DeLuigi (Batchellors Forest), Judy Broesker (Brookeville Knolls), Carol Sullivan (Cherrywood), Danny Benn (Fair Hill Farm), Jonathan Arias (Hallowell), Helene Rosenheim (Highlands of Olney), Howard Grief (Lake Hallowell), Kathy Curtis (Lake Hallowell), Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Dave Miller (Norbeck Meadows), Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks), Sharon Dooley (Village of James Creek), Ruth Laughner (Williamsburg Village)

Public

Barbara McClayton (Olney Library), Tim Stemann (Williamsburg Village), Bess Teller, Jack Teller, Terri Hogan (Greater Olney News), Joe Buffington (Olney Chamber of Commerce), Alexis Reed (Councilmember Navarro's office), Melissa McKenna, Paul Geller