

Executive Board Meeting Minutes
May 10, 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 approval of the meeting agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously.

Intoccia asked for a motion to approve the April 11, 2016 minutes. Jackie Benn made a motion to approve the minutes. Matt Zaborsky seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Matt Zaborsky stated that the Norbeck Meadows community will have a community yard sale on Saturday May 14, 2016 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Matt Quinn stated that the Cherrywood community is also having a community yard sale on Saturday May 14, 2016.

Jim Smith stated that the Oatland Farms community is also having a community yard sale on Saturday May 14, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Howard Greif stated that the residents of the Lake Hallowell community have requested a traffic light near Old Baltimore Road. Traffic calming measures will be used on Old Baltimore Road from Route 108 through Bishops Castle Drive.

Sharon Dooley stated that the Village of James Creek community will have a community yard sale on Saturday June 4, 2016.

Jackie Benn stated that the Strawberry Festival will be held at the Sandy Spring Museum on Saturday June 4, 2016. Also the Relay for Life will be held Saturday June 4, 2016 at the Redland Middle School on Muncaster Mill Road.

STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP

Intoccia opened the discussed by stated that he is pleased that GOCA has such a good relationship with Annapolis. The state legislative senators and delegates are very accessible to GOCA. He asked that the senators and delegates discuss their accomplishments during the recent legislative session and to mention what issues remain.

Matt Quinn thanked them for coming. He also stated that Senator Roger Manno was running late, Delegate Anne Kaiser would be coming towards the end of the meeting, and Delegate Benjamin Kramer would not be able to attend due to an illness. Matt Quinn requested that each representative discuss three successes and one challenge from the recent legislative session.

State Senator Craig Zucker

Senator Zucker is the State Senator from Legislative District 14. He serves on the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. Zucker recently switched from the House of Delegates to the Senate. He honored his commitment for a balanced budget. Portions of the \$500,000 surplus will be given to the Olney Theatre, Our House, and the Sandy Spring Museum. Also more funds will be allocated to local schools in Montgomery County.

He is continuing to work on issues related to developmental disabilities. When he was Chair of the Health and Human Resources Subcommittee, he sponsored HB 1105 – The Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act, which is now law. ABLE will allow for special savings accounts to be set up for individual with disabilities and their families. These accounts will help fund qualified expenses for individuals with disabilities. These accounts are different from standard 529 plans because people with these plans will still be eligible to receive public assistance. He also supported legislation that will allow anyone that is homeless to be able to receive a free birth certificate.

One of the challenges that he faced was adjusting to the differences between the House and the Senate. He became chairperson of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee on his second day in the Senate.

This is his fifteenth year speaking at a GOCA meeting. He thanked GOCA for giving him the opportunity to speak at its meetings each year.

State Senator Roger Manno

Senator Manno is the State Senator from Legislative District 19. He is Chair of the Spending Affordability Committee. He is six months out from prostate cancer and is 100% cancer free. He is proud of what the representatives do every day that doesn't necessarily make the news. He is trying to make the agencies of government accomplish things.

Governor Hogan signed two of his bills today. SB245/HB306 will increase the hiring of Veterans in Maryland. Maryland joined twenty-seven other states who have passed legislation giving Veterans private sector hiring preferences under the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Maryland's overall Veteran unemployment rate is more than 60 percent higher than the national average, and it is more than 250 percent higher for Veterans who are women.

The second bill will let people in Maryland know that information is available to them to help them make end of life decisions and to answer questions regarding final directives.

The Oyster Restoration Bill that he sponsored also passed during this legislative session. The Sustainable Oyster Population and Fishery Act of 2016 (SB937) will require a comprehensive scientific study of oyster populations be used to determine sustainable rates of oyster harvesting.

Senator Manno also discussed two disappointments from the recent legislative session. He was unable to get the Maryland Strong Manufacturing Development Act (SB181) passed because he would not withdraw a requirement to give tax discounts to workers along with the tax discount given to manufacturers. The bill would rebuild Maryland's manufacturing base and put tens of thousands of Marylanders back to work. The other disappointment was that the bill to create a way to automatically register eligible people to vote died in the Senate. The House version of the bill was scaled back and passed in the House. Automatic voter registration is still a work in progress.

Senator Manno stated that he is proud to work for us.

State Delegate Pamela Queen

Delegate Queen is the State Delegate from Legislative District 14. She came to the session midstream when she replaced the opening that became available when Craig Zucker moved to the Senate. She is a member of the Judiciary Committee. This is very different from her background which is in finance and math. The committee deals with issues regarding public safety and drug abuse. The Justice Reinvestment Act was passed in this legislative session. The legislation requires that a risk assessment be conducted on inmates as soon as feasible after sentencing and that a case plan be developed to guide an inmate's rehabilitation while in custody. She also discussed the passage of Noah's Law. It is the strongest law in the United States regarding drunk driving. It will require ignition interlock devices for anyone convicted of drunk driving in Maryland.

She stated that she learned how hard it was to pass bills she thought would be easy to pass and that some bills she thought would be hard to pass would pass with ease. Queen plans to focus on public safety going forward.

State Delegate Bonnie Cullison

Delegate Cullison is a State Delegate from Legislative District 19. She continues to serve as one of the deputy majority whips. She also took on the chairmanship of the Montgomery County Delegation Education Subcommittee and the Health and Government Operations Committee (HGO) Estates and Trusts subcommittee. She was responsible for shepherding the bills assigned to these two committees through the process which sometimes required more time with the advocates and opponents in work sessions to iron out differences.

In her opening remarks, she stated the Delegate Ben Kramer worked very diligently to get Noah's Law passed. He wanted to have legislation to protect our friends, community and family. The law passed during the last day of the Maryland legislative session. She also commented that this was a fascinating session. There was a historic number of bills filed and heard. A record number of bills were passed.

Delegate Cullison was the primary sponsor of six bills which have become law. She is most proud that

she was part of the bill HB1277 (SB0336) which requires that hospitals work with lay caregivers, the individuals who will take care of their family members and friends when they are discharged, so that the care at home will be most helpful in the full recovery of the loved one. Cullison also worked on bill HB0511 (SB0252) which sets the foundation for youngsters who age out of foster care to have covered dental services until they are age 26 if needed.

Cullison stated that the biggest disappointment was that HB1499 (SB0413) did not pass for financial reasons. The bill would have provided sustained funding for people with disabilities who are experiencing crisis in their living situation. She will continue to work on this bill with Senator Zucker.

State Delegate Marice Morales

Delegate Morales is a State Delegate from Legislative District 19. She is a member of the Judiciary Committee.

She stated that the State operating budget for FY 2017 is \$42 billion. \$759 million will come back to Montgomery County. Montgomery County Public Schools will receive \$671 million for FY 2017. Montgomery County was allotted \$8.9 million for transportation. Montgomery College will receive \$50 million.

Morales supported the Education Affordability Act of 2016 which makes college savings more accessible by establishing a dollar to dollar matching account for college savings. This bill would encourage families to begin saving for their child's college costs and reduce the amount of future debt. A bill was also introduced to create the Montgomery County Student Loan Refinancing Authority. Tax credits would be given for those paying off student debt.

Morales worked on the Equal Pay for Equal Work Act which passed during this session. This legislation closes some gaps for working Marylanders.

She stated that a disappointment was that the legislation regarding FMLA (family and medical leave act) was not passed. The bill would have allowed parents to take paid parental leave. A study to look at the implementation of family and medical leave was passed.

Morales state that judiciary committee worked tirelessly this session to pass the ignition interlock bill titled "Noah's Law". This bill mandates ignition interlock participation for all those convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol for a set period of time. Studies show that mandated ignition interlock programs significantly change behavior, reducing the number of tragedies like the one that befell Officer Noah Leotta. Maryland now has the strongest ignition lock program in the country.

Morales was part of the Police Accountability Workgroup. She contributed to the recommendations addressing civilian participation on review boards, use of force reports, serious officer-involved incidents, and whistleblower protection to encourage reporting among law enforcement officers without fear of retaliation.

She also supported a campus sexual assault bill which did not get a vote in this session. She feels that a lot of colleges, such as University of Maryland at College Park and the Johns Hopkins University, will implement on their own what the bill would have done.

State Delegate Eric Luedtke

Delegate Luedtke is a State Delegate from Legislative District 14. He is a member of the Ways and Means Committee. He mentioned that there is a 90-day report on the General Assembly web site that describes everything that was done during this session.

Delegate Luedtke sponsored Erin's Law which passed in the recent legislative session. The law requires all schools to give students a simple message – if an adult is touching you in an inappropriate way, you need to report it. Maryland is the twenty-eighth state to implement Erin's Law.

He also sponsored a bill for automatic voter registration which is currently available in four states. The bill became controversial because of fiscal and confidentiality issues. A modified version of the bill was passed which required that any agency that registers voters must do a better job at registering voters similar to what is done at the Department of Motor Vehicles. Delegate Luedtke mentioned that Montgomery County will receive an additional early voting sight. He would like the new sight to be in Olney/Brookeville. He recommends that GOCA get involved in encouraging this sight to be in our area.

One of the disappointments he mentioned was the failure in the Comprehensive Tax Reform bill because of differences in the House and Senate.

He also discussed that the bill to encourage retirement savings passed today. If an employer does not provide its employees with a retirement plan, the employer should refer its employees to the state plan. The employees can opt out of the state plan. The employer is required to provide paperwork only. The employer is not required to fund the state plan. The employer will receive a discount on its state tax filing to be compensated for the oversight cost.

Greg Intoccia opened the floor for questions.

Intoccia asked the legislative representatives for their thoughts on where can funds be found for transportation since regional issues are larger than the local community. He feels that state and federal government should get involved. He asked the legislative representatives what kind of priorities they are placing to ensure state government lives up to its responsibility. The legislative representatives responded that some delegates lost their seats by approving an increase in the gas tax. They feel that the states are bearing an increase in the burden. Delegate Luedtke stated that the most promising approach is create a regional transportation authority for Maryland, DC, and Virginia. Senator Zucker stated that he has been working to create transparency in transportation. All transportation projects in Maryland are ranked. He also makes sure that the bills that were funded made sense. Senator Manno stated that there is \$9 million in transportation funds. This is a 2.6% increase from last years. Maryland is a fairly high taxed state since we are the only state to fund schools at the state level. The counties can tax income at the local level. The changing demographics drive decisions. Usually the legislative's priorities and GOCA's priorities are aligned. Sometimes the county's priorities and the state's priorities are different.

Ed Weisel asked a question for the legislative representatives to explain why long term care polices can have a premium increase each year. He stated that this practice hurts people who have retired. Delegate Cullison responded that insurance companies made mistakes when they created the long term

care policy product. The insurance companies underestimated the level of need. The state is studying long term care premiums and products. Unfortunately, nothing can be done for those who currently have a long term care insurance policy.

Intoccia asked the legislative representatives to provide examples of innovations in government to facilitate new thinking such as public/private partnerships. Senator Zucker discussed that there will be five places in Maryland where high schools and colleges are linked and the students are guaranteed employment. Delegate Luedtke stated that Maryland is far ahead of most states. Maryland is a national model for how its branches run. The public officials work jointly with the private. However, he also felt that Maryland is behind regarding innovation in policy because Maryland does not like to be the first state to do something. Because of this culture, we sometimes miss out on opportunities. He sighted Uber and voting legislation as examples of some of these missed opportunities. He also stated that Maryland is on the cutting edge of behavioral economics. The government can use simple tools to get people to do things. For example, in the bill to encourage retirement savings, employees have to choose to opt out of participating in the state plan. Delegate Quinn mentioned partnership with universities and innovation in technology as examples of government innovation. Senator Manno stated that the Justice Reinvestment Act will save money. He stated that sometimes caution is needed regarding innovation.

Howard Greif asked how the taxpayers can make sure that the casinos are giving the amount of funds they promised to give towards education. Delegate Luedtke responded that the education funding in the state has increased each year because of the casinos. He stated that Maryland has the highest tax rate for table games and slot machines.

Lee Loftus stated that he is not a fan of the gas tax since Maryland is already highly taxed. He felt that there is no guarantee if we paid a gas tax that any of the funds would come back to Montgomery County. Senator Zucker stated the improvements on 108 and the Brookeville Bypass were funded by the government.

Matt Quinn asked if there is a proposal for the committees to create balanced districts. Senator Manno supports creating a nonpartisan commission to redo the districts. He feels that Maryland and Virginia should switch to nonpartisan districts at the same time. Senator Zucker stated that national redistricting reform is needed. Sharon Dooley stated that redistricting needs to be done across the country. Dave Miller thought that because of the maximum perimeter ratio, Maryland will always have a problem with redistricting.

Senator Zucker announced that Delegate Kaiser would not be able to attend the GOCA meeting today. Both Delegate Kaiser and Delegate Kramer would like to attend the GOCA meeting next month.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEES/LIAISON REPORTS

Transportation Committee Report

Barbara Falcigno stepped out of the GOCA meeting early so there was no report.

Public Policy & Community Affairs Committee (PP&CAC)

Matt Quinn reported that the Comprehensive Economic Strategy Draft has been posted on the Montgomery County website. This is the first one he has seen with a vision. He will provide more details at next month's GOCA meeting.

He stated that Senator Manno sent GOCA a notice about the Aspen Hill Gas Station and Car Wash requesting a State Discharge Permit to dump water into the Rock Creek tributary. GOCA had previously limited water dumped into the Rock Creek tributary because it is part of the Olney Master Plan area. Quinn also discussed this item with Fletcher's Car Wash. They recycle 100% of their water. If Aspen Hill Gas Station and Car Wash is allowed to discharge their water into the tributary, they would have an unfair advantage. GOCA requested that a public hearing be held in mid-June. A representative from PP&CAC will attend the public hearing.

Quinn also reported that GOCA was informed about a Montgomery County Council vote for additional sewer hookups for the region. Changing the sewer hookups could allow for increased density in that area. There are septic and well systems in the Greater Olney area. There is a concern that the same request could happen to the Olney area, thus allowing for greater density in the GOCA master plan without the infrastructure to support. GOCA did not take a position. Quinn asked Councilmember Navarro what her position is and if she can offer any assistance. The Montgomery County Council voted 5 to 4 not to pass this proposal. Quinn stated that this is a great example that the relationship GOCA has developed with county officials has helped us.

Jonathan Arias and Matt Quinn met with Councilmember Navarro last week asking the Board of Education to renegotiate salaries with teachers. The increase in teacher's salaries will be used to reduce class size. \$30 million can be saved by reducing class size. GOCA supports reducing class size.

Correspondence Report

Jackie Benn passed the correspondence folder to the Board.

Membership

Matt Quinn stated that membership is slowly improving. We still have a ways to go.

Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board

Greg Intoccia reported that a letter was sent to the Montgomery County Council recommending support of the operating budget. The Board supported the increase in tax revenue by County Executive Leggett. They feel that it is important to increase funding for Montgomery County Schools and to focus on the achievement gap, reducing class size, positive youth development programs, and to restore funding for libraries.

Chamber of Commerce

There was no update since there was no representative at this GOCA meeting.

Olney Town Advisory Committee

Jim Smith stated that the next meeting will be on May 24 at 7:30 pm. He said that since it was difficult to get an at large business owner to serve on the committee, they decided to open the position to be for any business owner. Karen Rollins was nominated to fill that position.

He submitted a proposed resolution to be discussed at next month's GOCA meeting. The OTAC is requesting letters of support from Olney organizations for the Concept Plan for a Civic Center and Town Commons for Olney, Maryland. The OTAC is an advisory committee to the planning board. The document from the OTAC was circulated to the GOCA delegates. The concept plan document primarily answers questions pertaining to what needs Olney has for facilities, and how Olney residents will use the town commons and civic center. He asked to let him know of any suggestions to improve the document. OTCAC will hold a vote to approve the document at their July meeting. CIP has a line item in the budget for a charrette. The report will support the charrette. Next month GOCA will vote on the proposed resolution. Matt Zaborsky commented that OTAC did a great job writing the report. He asked if it would help for them to have letters from HOAs supporting the document. Smith replied that it would be helpful to receive letters from HOA Presidents. They should include in the letter how their HOA would use the Town Commons and Civic Center.

Dave Miller reported that the Montgomery County Civic Federation met last night. They discussed a program on senior services and a village program – neighbors helping neighbors in their local area. The program provides services in parallel to what the county provides. It is run by volunteers. Communities can create the village program. They need to get insurance to be established as a village. He stated that additional information is available through the Montgomery County Civic Federation. Matt Zaborsky stated that the Olney Home for Life is a village in Olney. They would be happy to speak to GOCA.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Helene Rosenheim reported that Olney Days is coming up May 21, 2016 – May 22, 2016. Dave Miller put up the signs around town. Volunteers are needed at Olney Manor Park. Parade Marshals are needed along Georgia Avenue. More contestants are needed for Olney Idol. Jim Smith and Ariana Patterson are organizing the Rock the Lot Party which is the signature event for ending the weekend. Greg Intoccia mentioned that GOCA is having a table 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Sunday May 22, 2016. It will be staffed by two people every hour. He currently has five volunteers to staff the table. An additional four to five volunteers could be used. Intoccia asked the delegates to contact him if they would like to volunteer. The schedule for Olney Days can be found at www.olneydays.com.

Matt Zaborsky mentioned that at the July GOCA meeting there will be an HOA forum to discuss relevant issues that all HOAs may be facing. One of the topics will be lawn care companies. Please let him know if you have an issue that you would like to put on the agenda for that meeting.

Howard Greif reported that the residents of Lake Hallowell are requesting that a proposed resolution be discussed at the June GOCA meeting to limit the prior resolution regarding GOCA's involvement in education and schools. The Lake Hallowell residents want to keep GOCA focused on domestic issues. They are concerned that the current open-ended resolution could dominate GOCA's agenda. They

would like to request that the resolution be changed to state that GOCA will not be involved in not be involved in issues related to curriculum, athletics, or individual staffing. A copy of the proposed resolution was given to the delegates to review.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, a motion was submitted to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Stacy Levine, Recording Secretary

In attendance:

GOCA Officers

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

GOCA Delegates and Alternates

Beata Deluigi (Batchellors Forest), Carol Sullivan (Cherrywood), Helene Rosenheim (Highlands of Olney), Howard Grief (Lake Hallowell), Kathy Curtis (Lake Hallowell), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Dave Miller (Norbeck Meadows), Jim Smith (Oatland Farm), Sherry Felice (Olney Mills), Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks), Jay Feinberg (Olney Oaks), Michael Cullingford (The Reserve at Fairhill), Alden English (SEROCA), Aleka Kapatou (Tanterra), Sharon Dooley (Village of James Creek), Ruth Laugner (Williamsburg Village)

Invited Guests

Craig Zucker, Maryland Senate, District 14
Roger Manno, Maryland Senate, District 19
Eric Luedtke, Maryland House of Delegates, District 14
Pamela Queen, Maryland House of Delegates, District 14
Bonnie Cullison, Maryland House of Delegates, District 19
Marice Morales, Maryland House of Delegates, District 19

Public

Kevin Kennedy (Troop 264), Gary Levine, Katie Mullen (Office of Senator Roger Manno), Pat Haddad (Williamsburg Village), John Haddad (Williamsburg Village), Don Schmelter (Highlands), Kevin Mell (Medstar Montgomery Medical Center), Brigid Smith (Office of Congressman John Sarbones), Ariup Mathur (Tanterra), Terri Hogan (Greater Olney News)