

Executive Board Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

President Gregory Intoccia called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. GOCA representatives, alternates, invited guests and members of the public introduced themselves.

Intoccia asked for a motion to approve the July 12, 2016 minutes. He mentioned that two revisions needed to be made to page 3 of the minutes where the word “Count” needed to be replaced with the word “County” and the word “provider” needed to be replaced with the word “provide”. Matt Zaborsky made a motion to approve the minutes with the two revisions. Alden English seconded the motion. The minutes with the two revisions were approved unanimously.

Intoccia asked for approval of the meeting agenda. Jay Feinberg requested to add an item to New Business regarding the increase in the CCOC charge for homeowner associations. Jackie Benn made a motion to approve the agenda. Matt Zaborsky seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Matt Zaborsky reminded everyone in attendance that school is back in session. There is a \$120 fine for passing a stopped school bus. He also mentioned that Montgomery County Council is holding a Town Hall Meeting in Olney at Rosa Parks Middle School on September 14, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. Zaborsky also stated that he attended a very moving ceremony today in honor of Officer Noah Leotta. County Executive Leggett and Governor Hogan were in attendance.

President Gregory Intoccia encouraged others from our community to attend the Town Hall Meeting to raise issues since it is important for the Montgomery County Council to understand what is on everyone’s mind.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY TERM LIMITS DEBATE

Matt Quinn introduced the speakers. He explained that Question B will be on the ballot this November to create term limits of no more than three consecutive terms. 10,000 signatures are needed to put this item on the ballot. Attorney Robin Ficker spoke in favor of term limits. Attorney Tom Moore spoke

against term limits. Each speaker had eight – ten minutes to state his position. Then the other speaker had a chance for a rebuttal. Questions were asked after both speakers had an opportunity to present.

COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATE

Adam Fogel, Montgomery County Councilmember Nancy Navarro's Chief of Staff provided an update on the county council. In May, Montgomery County approved an operating budget of \$5.3B for fiscal year 2017. Property taxes in Montgomery County were increased as a way to fund the budget increase. The average property tax bill will increase by \$326 or 8.7% based on average taxable assessments. 43% of that increase (or \$140) is based on an increase in taxable assessments from an increase in property values. 56% of that increase (or \$183) is from the property tax increase that was approved by the Montgomery County Council.

Fogel distributed information on a new senior property tax deferral program that went into effect on July 1, 2016. Eligible seniors can defer the amount by which their 2016 County Tax exceeds their 2015 County Tax. At least one of the applicants for the deferral must be at least 65 years old. The property must be the applicants' principal residence. At least one of the applicants must have resided in the dwelling as their principal residence for five consecutive years, and must continue to occupy the property as their principal residence. The combined income of those who live in the house must not have exceeded \$80,000 in the previous year. The tax deferred will not be charged interest during the period of deferral. The homeowner will not have to repay the difference until the home is sold or transferred to another person.

Fogel also discussed the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) where \$4.6 billion has been allocated to roads, libraries, rec centers, and schools in Montgomery County. The Olney Civic Center, the North High Street Connection and the Bowie Mill Bikeway are new programs that were included in the budget per GOCA's recommendations. He discussed that the schools in Montgomery County have capacity issues because more homes in Montgomery County have been sold by older families with no school-age children to younger families with school-age children. The increase in the mortgage recordation tax that was approved in the budget will raise \$200M in revenue over the next 6 years. This revenue will go towards addressing the school capacity issues and making improvements to the schools.

He mentioned that pay raises for County government employees were approved in the budget. However, the amount approved was less than what was negotiated by the Unions. He commented that the school system will receive the bulk of the money from the budget increase. There is a commitment to reduce class size by 2 students. 12 police officers were added in areas with increased crime. \$3.8M was added to fire and rescue to decrease response time. \$5M was added to the public election fund. \$10M was added to community grants to address homelessness and hunger. Additional funds were allocated to Montgomery County College and to Montgomery County Parks and Planning.

At the end of the presentation, the floor was opened for questions.

Ed Meisel asked if the \$80,000 cap to qualify for the senior property tax deferral program was gross income. Adam Fogel responded that it was gross income. It was not based on taxable income.

Lee Lofthus stated that he was concerned with the size of the property tax increase. He appreciates all of the good things that the council is trying to do. However, he feels that the council needs to set priorities. Adam Fogel stated that this budget was a same services budget where no new programs were added. When an adjustment to salaries is made, there will be an increase on every line. He stated that he appreciated the comments, but that we need to make sure that the Montgomery County school system continues to be excellent.

Howard Greif requested an explanation on Questions B and C related to term limits. Fogel explained that Nancy Navarro joined the council when there was a vacancy following a member's death in 2009. She served 1 ½ years of the vacancy. Ficker's petition (Question B) includes new language where partial service of a term should be counted as full service. If this is approved, then Nancy Navarro's service of 1 ½ years would be counted as 4 years. An alternative option (Question C) proposed that partial service of a term where the partial service is 2 or more years would count as a full 4 years of service.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEES/LIAISON REPORTS

Transportation Committee Report

Greg Intoccia gave the Transportation Committee Report in Barbara Falcigno's absence.

Intoccia reported that Olney Manor Recreational Park has agreed to keep the gate at the southern entrance to the park at Batchellors Forest Road open until meetings are held with the stakeholders. This means that the gate will remain open at least until the fall. Stakeholders have met with the park and with the schools. Next steps are being discussed with Parks & Planning and the managers of Olney Manor Recreational Park. Intoccia feels that we should hear something within the next several weeks. GOCA feels that the increased traffic through the park was temporary due to school construction. GOCA is cautiously optimistic that the gate will remain open.

Intoccia also discussed the issues regarding moving the school bus depot that is currently at the Shady Grove Metro Station. He stated that the County appears to be in a non-speaking deliberative process mode. He attended a public meeting sponsored by the Aspen Hill HOA. There has been more discussion that Laytonsville might be a location for the school bus depot. GOCA corresponded with County Executive Leggett asking for a 90-day notice before announcing any intention to build a new bus depot or similar structure in or around Olney or on Route 108.

GOCA received a response from County Executive Leggett on September 13, 2016 regarding GOCA's Speed Camera Task Force Report. The County Executive will not pursue any additional recommendations from the Speed Camera Task Force Report. He was unmoved by GOCA's position. The one open item is adjusting the speed limits on 97 and 108 in Olney.

There was some discussion lead by Alden English from SEROCA regarding how GOCA should respond if Parks & Planning submits a proposal for a hearing regarding the gate. After much discussion, it was decided that if Olney Manor Recreational Park says that they are going to close the gate, then GOCA should request that a 90-day notice is needed. All of the delegates agreed with this

recommendation.

Sharon Dooley from Villages of James Creek stated that she heard about a bus depot being built on Avery Road. She was wondering if this is the same bus depot that may be built in Laytonsville. Greg Intoccia clarified that the bus depot needs a certain amount of acreage. If Avery Road is selected as a location for the bus depot, then a second location will be needed since there is not enough acreage at the Avery Road location. The County will most likely choose properties that it already owns.

Public Policy & Community Affairs Committee (PP&CAC)

Matt Quinn reported that the October GOCA meeting will be held on Monday October 10 so that Congressman Sarbanes and his republican counterpart, Mark Plaster can have a debate. Since Community Night is also on October 10th, the meeting will need to start later than the usual 7:30pm start time. Final decisions about a location for the meeting and start time have not been finalized.

Quinn asked for ideas for our state legislators such as the gas tax. Ideas can be sent to GOCA.

Correspondence Report

Jackie Benn passed the correspondence folder to the Board.

Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board

Greg Intoccia reported that the Mid-County Advisory Board sent a letter to the County to commit resources to regional transportation issues. The Board feels that there is excessive reliance on Bus Rapid Transit in the planning process, and such planning does not adequately address the east/west pattern of traffic.

Intoccia also stated that the Board wrote a letter urging more transparency and requesting a 90-day notice regarding the School Bus Depot. The Board questioned the impact on the environment and traffic.

David Peter, from Florida, was selected as the CEO of Economic Development.

Intoccia's chairmanship is ending. Francisco Romero will be the new chairman. Rick Newman will be the new vice chairman. Both Francesco and Rick are from Olney.

Olney Town Advisory Committee

Lydia Rappolt stated the OTAC's next meeting will be held on September 27, 2016. The newest member, Karen Rollins, will be introduced at that meeting. The committee will finalize the draft of the Concept Plan for a Civic Center and Town Commons for Olney, Maryland. They received nine letters of support for the Concept Plan (one from an individual and eight from organizations and HOA's). Lydia stated that letters of support can still be sent to OTAC at the e-mail address: info.olneytowncenter@gmail.com. There is no location picked for the civic center or town commons.

OTAC's next meeting will be held on November 30, 2016 in order to accommodate Nancy Navarro's schedule. Montgomery County Councilmember Navarro will address the CIP process at this meeting.

Rappolt stated that OTAC received a site plan for a Jiffy Lube on 108 by Jerry's Pizza and the professional building. Jiffy Lube has a lot of hurdles to cross before it can be approved. SHA needs to approve it before much else can happen. Jiffy Lube will give a presentation at a GOCA meeting when more information is available.

Chick fil A will start demolition this fall to begin building its new store. They plan to be open in 2017.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Greg Intoccia asked the delegates to let him know when their HOAs have annual meetings. The GOCA Officers would be happy to attend these meetings to give the HOAs an overview of GOCA and to highlight what GOCA does for the community. The GOCA Officers would like to raise our profile higher in the community and would like to do a better job of getting the word out on what we do.

Jay Feinberg noticed that in July the CCOC charge to HOA's increased from \$3 per household to \$5 per household. Since HOA's were not given any advance notice of this increase, they were unable to budget for the increase. Matt Quin will review. There was discussion that the increase can be delayed per the Commission of Common Oversight of Communities

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 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Stacy Levine, Recording Secretary

In attendance:

GOCA Officers

Greg Intoccia, President – Ashley Hollow; Matt Quinn, Executive Vice President; 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 – Williamsburg Village

GOCA Delegates and Alternates

Lydia Rappolt (Camelback Village), Danny Benn (Fair Hill Farm), Helene Rosenheim (Highlands of Olney), Hoard Greif (Lake Hallowell), Gerrais Crouch (Norbeck Chase Townhouse), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Dave Miller (Norbeck Meadows), Ravin Howell (Oatland Farm), Jay Feinberg (Olney Oaks), Michael Cullingford (The Reserve at Fair Hill), Alden English (SEROCA), Sharon Dooley (Village of James Creek), Ruth Laughner (Williamsburg Village).

Invited Guests

Adam Fogel, Montgomery County Councilmember Nancy Navarro's Chief of Staff

Public

Paul Bessel, Barbara Braswell, Tim Stemann (Williamsburg Village/PPCA), Katie Mullen (Senator Roger Manno), Barbara Roy (Brookeville), Robert Dyer (East MOCO building), Kim McCary (Cherrwood), Terri Hogan (Greater Olney News), Larry Lauer (Olney Mill), Tom Moore (No On B), John Crouch, Ira Ungar (Delegate Bonnie Cullison)