

Executive Board Meeting Minutes
November 16, 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 October 10, 2016 minutes. No changes needed to be made to the minutes. Barbara Falcigno made a motion to approve the minutes. Matt Zaborsky seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Intoccia stated that the following revisions needed to be made to the meeting agenda. It should say "Approval of October minutes" instead of "Approval of July minutes". It should say "Approval of November Agenda" instead of "Approval of September Agenda". Also Barbara Falcigno will make the Olney Civic Fund presentation instead of Bob Hambrecht. Joe Buffington will make the Chamber of Commerce presentation. Finally, the starting time for the Officers/Committees/Liaison Reports should say "9:00".

PUBLIC COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Public Comments and Announcements.

UPDATE BY POLICE DISTRICT 4 COMMANDER – CAPTAIN LAURA LANHAM

Police District 4 Commander, Captain Laura Lanham and some of her associates gave the following update.

Lanham stated that there had been at least 25 home break-ins in the Williamsburg Village from October 8, 2016 through October 17, 2016. These break-ins involved homes, garages, and cars. 25 victims have been identified. Since a great deal of property was recovered that was not identified, the police department feels that there could be more victims. These break-ins are quite concerning because they occurred in a short timeframe and they occurred mostly at night when the homes were occupied. A 26-year old man who was a new resident on Archwood Way was arrested. He is currently in jail. Lanham commented that some of the houses were unlocked. It is very important that residents harden the target

by locking car doors, houses, and garages. Residents should not leave valuables out.

Jackie Benn asked if there has been an increase in auto thefts in Fairhill Farms. Captain Lanham stated that there has been an increase in false reports for auto thefts. She is not sure if auto thefts are really up. She feels that there has been more of an increase in Wheaton than in Olney.

Barbara Falcigno stated a concern regarding package theft because of the holidays. Captain Lanham stated that to address this concern, residents can custom select when a package will be delivered by UPS. Packages can also be delivered to a person's workplace, rather than home. Terri Hogan pointed out another way to address this type of concern: packages from Amazon can be delivered to Amazon lockers in front of Shoppers and the Sunoco gas station.

Captain Lanham stated that auto theft is a crime of opportunity. Residents should avoid starting their cars and leaving them unattended running in their driveways. She also cautioned residents from leaving their cars running while they run into Starbucks. The police department has videos of people walking from car to car checking to see if a door is unlocked. Break-ins will occur if they see something valuable in the car.

Ed Weisel asked if thefts from mailboxes are still prevalent in Olney. Captain Lanham responded that they have not had issues regarding thefts from mailboxes in Olney in the past year. However, this is an issue nationally. She stated that it is an issue for businesses that get checks in the mail. This is more of an issue for Montgomery County than for Olney. The police department is adding a postal inspector to the financial fraud division.

Captain Lanham continued the discussion by addressing the hate-assaults that occurred at the Greene Turtle on October 22, 2016 at 2:50 a.m. The incident involved a same sex male married couple. Another male poured a glass of water on one of the married males. There also was a physical altercation outside of the restaurant. Both of the males involved in the physical altercation were arrested. One male was charged with assault. The other male was charged with a hate crime. Captain Lanham discussed the difference between a hate incident and a hate crime. She gave an example of a hate incident as putting anti-Semitic fliers in people's mailboxes. She confirmed that the Greene Turtle had security at the restaurant that night. She stated that security tried to intervene and that they were very helpful in the investigation.

Jackie Benn asked if she was aware of the "108 Gang" on the Internet. Captain Lanham responded that she did not know anything about that and that there are no gang issues in Olney.

President Greg Intoccia asked Captain Lanham what GOCA can do to help the police department. She responded that nothing specific is needed. She mentioned that someone had cooked for the police officers in the past, but they are unable to do that this year. So, any little thing on Thanksgiving or Christmas would be appreciated especially with the one year anniversary of Noah Leotta's death coming up.

One of the police officers ended the discussion by stating that nothing can be done about the traffic congestion backup on Georgia Avenue that is regularly occurring due to cars going through the drive-thru at Dunkin Donuts. A comment was also made about a trend of pick-pocketing in Panera Bread

restaurants on the east coast.

UPDATE BY OLNEY CHARITABLE AND SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

President Greg Intoccia introduced the speakers and stated that GOCA wanted to refresh ourselves on the missions of the charitable and service organizations in Olney, their accomplishments, and their goals.

Marsha Weber from Olney Home for Life was the first presenter. She stated that Olney Home for Life follows the “village” concept. It was started in Beacon, MA as a way for neighbors to help neighbors. The organizations started in Olney in 2012. They assist seniors age 60+ in the Olney, Sandy Spring, and Brookeville area as they age in place by providing free transportation, friendly calls, and friendly visits. The drivers do not accept tips. MedStar is one of their sponsors. They provide transportation to anyone in MedStar’s oncology or dialysis programs. The organization is always looking for volunteers.

The next presenters were Jeff Stinehelfer, Chair and Robyn Holstein-Glass, the Executive Director, from Project Change. Stinehelfer discussed the celebration that was held a couple of weeks ago in honor of Helene Rosenheim’s service. She has been Chair for many years. He then turned the presentation over to Holstein-Glass who mentioned that Project Change is holding their annual gala at the Olney Theatre on December 8, 2016. She discussed that Project Change has been around since 1998. It was founded by four Sherwood High School students. They work on five different programs – Team of Stars, You Have The Power! Bullying Prevention Peer Education Project, Youth Empowered Service Clubs (YES), Student Leadership Institute (SLI), and Teen Coffee House. They believe that youth are able to be agents of change in shaping their futures and creating safe and healthy communities. They support youth in this effort through leadership experiences, meaningful community service, the performing arts, and safe social activities. Project Change values leadership, social responsibility, respect, and partnership. Holstein-Glass stated that many times youths want to help, but do not know how to help. Project Change provides leadership services to help them. They now have a 34-year old founder on their Board. They are always looking for people to serve on the Board or to be involved in committees. The Board established the Helene Rosenheim Youth Scholarship in Helene’s honor.

The next presenter was Larry Pendleton who is treasurer of Olney HELP. He stated that this organization is an all-volunteer non-profit providing emergency assistance to neighbors in need. It was founded in 1969 by Quakers and church members. They have over 40 volunteers. They provide individuals and families in need with short term, emergency assistance which can be a three-day food supply of fresh and non-perishable foods, donations of limited financial aid in terms of crisis to avert an eviction or utility cut-off or to supply essential medication, and access to resources for additional services from private and government agencies. He also discussed that their biggest issue was that they had to vacate the pantry location in fall 2015 since the property was sold. They partnered with Sandy Spring Fire Department to build a pantry on their property. The building is up, but they are still waiting for the occupancy permit which they hope to get in the next thirty days. Then Pepco can hook them up. They would like to have the pantry up and running by the end of the year. Volunteers have been storing food in their garages in the interim. He said that Olney HELP is unusual because they deliver

the food.

Barbara Falcigno was the next presenter. She spoke about the Olney Civic Fund which is a new non-profit in Olney. The Olney Civic Fund was established in June 2013. Its mission is to raise public awareness of Olney charitable, educational, civic, and cultural activities and to raise funds to support Olney charitable projects and civic events through the involvement of volunteers and business sponsors. The Olney Civic Fund raises money for Olney Days and the rest is granted to Olney non-profits such as Project Change to support Teen Coffeehouses with live music organized by and for teens, Our House to fund art supplies for their new art therapy program, and First Generation College Bound to support several Sherwood High School seniors through their college application process. This year there will be a golf tournament during Olney Days to raise money. The profits will be shared between the Olney Civic Fund and the Olney Adventist Preparatory School. Olney Days will be held from Saturday May 20, 2017 through Monday May 22, 2017. More information can be found on their new website at www.olneycivicfund.org. Most of the planning is done via e-mails. Grants must be given to people in the Olney Master Plan area.

The final presenter was Joe Buffington from the Chamber of Commerce. He stated that the mission of the Olney Chamber of Commerce is to support, promote, and represent the business interests of its members. It was founded on 1964. It has 207 business members. Some of the businesses are non-profits. Most of them are small businesses. Buffington stated that the Chamber of Commerce has a good relationship with GOCA. The organizations have very similar thoughts and ideas on issues. They have partnered on issues which builds strength. Some of the Chamber of Commerce's accomplishments are Olney Community Night and Taste of Olney which occurred this past October, \$1000 scholarships per student are given each year, National Night Out which contributed \$4500 to the Satellite Station Sandy Spring VFD and MD-National Capital Park Police, the 11th Annual Athena Award, and the Police Satellite Station. He stated that they do not receive a lot of applications for the scholarships (they typically receive 12 applications). He wonders if \$1000 is enough for a scholarship. He also stated that the Police Satellite Station is a temporary facility. It is important for Olney to keep it funded to keep a police presence in the community since Olney is a far drive from Wheaton. Buffington concluded his presentation by requesting the GOCA delegates support local businesses during the holidays.

Matt Zaborsky asked Joe Buffington to explain how the scholarships are promoted. Buffington stated that they ask the guidance counselors to promote the scholarships to the students. He feels that they need to get Chamber of Commerce members to promote the scholarships more.

Matt Zaborsky asked Larry Pendleton where the Olney Help pantry was located. He stated that they are building it behind the fire station near the ICC on Georgia Avenue.

Stacy Levine asked the organizations how they get volunteers. It is challenging for someone new to the community to know how to get involved. Robyn Holstein-Glass from Project Change commented that the youths are the volunteers. They get new board members by word of mouth. Barbara Falcigno stated that the Olney Civic Fund gets volunteers from the Olney Brookeville Exchange and by asking GOCA for volunteers to work during Olney Days. Larry Pendleton stated that the Olney Help Pantry advertises at Olney Days and the Olney Farmers Market. Many of the churches and other religious organizations help them.

Barbara Falcigno asked Joe Buffington how the Chamber of Commerce finds out about regulations for businesses. He said that they have very little input and usually find out about legislation after it has passed. It was suggested that they may need to have a better relationship with GOCA's Public Policy & Community Affairs Committee regarding regulations for businesses. There also was some more discussion about the scholarships. It was suggested that they may need to have a better time when the scholarships are awarded and to have the Chamber of Commerce participate in the award ceremony to raise awareness.

Ed Weisel asked Joe Buffington what is the affiliation fee for the Chamber of Commerce. Buffington stated that it is \$320 per year.

Robyn Holstein-Glass from Project Change asked the GOCA delegates if they are aware of any issues regarding youths in the area. She stated that part of the long range plan is to have a teen center in Olney. President Intoccia stated that GOCA has not gotten input from our youths other than to have scouts attend our meetings. Holstein-Glass stated that Project Change is trying to reach out to all of our youths no matter where they are in the community. She requested that GOCA let Project Change know if they hear of anything Project Change can help with.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEES/LIAISON REPORTS

Transportation Committee Report

Barbara Falcigno gave the Transportation Committee Report.

Falcigno reported that there will be an Olney Manor Recreational Park meeting with Parks & Planning regarding the gate closing on December 6, 2016. Traffic counts were taken on November 2, 2016. The results are still being analyzed. Falcigno stated that Olney Manor Recreational Park has a valid desire to close the gate. The Transportation Committee is concerned with the impact that closing the gate will have on traffic on Georgia Avenue. The committee is continuing to work on this item.

Falcigno also discussed that there were no surprises in the Maryland Consolidated Transportation Program. It includes the Brookeville Bypass, a study to widen and add bike lanes to Georgia and 28, and funding for geometric improvements at Georgia and 28.

Lee Lofthus asked if the owners of Dunkin Donuts can be approached to put up a sign to tell customers using the drive thru not to leave so much space between their cars. Barbara agreed to talk to the owner about that suggestion.

Public Policy & Community Affairs Committee (PP&CAC)

Matt Quinn reported that as of October 24, 2016, Chick Fil A did not have all of their permits.

He discussed that there was a recent article in the Washington Post that Montgomery County is changing the way they tax developers. They will be taxed more if the development is further away

from a transit hub. Quinn will research this item and discuss with the legislative representatives. President Intoccia requested that Quinn study the issue and discuss it at the next Officers Meeting.

There was some discussion regarding Captain Lanham's request to feed the police officers during Thanksgiving and Christmas. Matt Zaborsky made a motion for GOCA to consider a stipend of \$150 for procuring Thanksgiving meals at the Olney substation. Intoccia amended the motion for an amount not to exceed \$200. Stacy Levine seconded the motion.

There were no oppositions. There was 1 abstention. There were 19 votes in favor. The motion passed.

Membership

Matt Quinn stated that membership letters will be sent next week.

Correspondence Report

Jackie Benn passed the correspondence folder to the Board. It was discussed that there is a MedStar meeting on 11/29/2016 which Lydia Rappolt from the Olney Town Advisory Committee will attend.

Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB)

Greg Intoccia reported that he attended a retreat with the other MCCAB board members. They focused on the priorities of the board such as their desire to keep pressure on finding solutions to regional transportation issues. They would like to see more focus on road building and less of a focus on BRT as an answer to all long term issues. Intoccia stated that regional transportation is a weak point because state, local, and federal interests are colliding and coordination among these three levels of government is problematic. This contributes to traffic congestion in Olney. This is an important issue for GOCA. He stated that GOCA should continue to work with the Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board to develop ideas on how to address regional transportation issues.

Intoccia also stated that the MCCAB would like to see greater priority to economic issues this year. the new Economic Development Board has been up and running over the past year and would like to understand what results can be expected. Intoccia thinks that more discussion is needs to occur on where the board wants to be in the next few years. He feels that GOCA and the Chamber of Commerce to work together to have a closer relationship to ensure that Olney priorities, including the needs of small businesses, are reflected in the decisions of the Economic Development Board. Montgomery County is working to privatize workforce development. Intoccia questioned what that means for Olney. He stated that GOCA should partner with the Chamber of Commerce to determine what that would mean for Olney.

Chamber of Commerce

There was no report since Joe Buffington made a presentation earlier in the meeting.

Olney Town Advisory Committee

Lydia Rappolt reported that Chick Fil A's permitting issue has caused a delay in construction. They do have a sign on Georgia Avenue. She stated the OTAC's next meeting will be held on November 30, 2016. Montgomery County Councilmember Nancy Navarro will address the CIP process at this meeting. Navarro will help the OTAC understand CIP and what next steps are needed to promote the

Concept Plan. The final version of the Concept Plan will be presented at this meeting.

Rappolt stated that Jiffy Lube is waiting for approval from SHA and for a forest conservation exemption. There is some concern regarding the forest conservation exemption since there are many trees in that area of 108. Intoccia stated that GOCA will invite Jiffy Lube to present at a later GOCA meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Intoccia discussed the school bus depot. He stated that he had thought we would be in the public phase by now, but there is still silence on this topic. It is still being studied. He has been told that there will be a public phase. Some traffic testing has been done.

NEW BUSINESS

Greg Intoccia mentioned that Individual membership will be available in 2017 for a \$25 fee per person.

He requested that the Public Policy & Community Affairs Committee review the issue in the Washington Post article regarding changes to how developers will be taxed, see what happened at the Montgomery County Council meeting yesterday, discuss at the next Officers meeting, and determine if this issue should be discussed at the next GOCA meeting. Intoccia also asked that Barbara Falcigno let him know if there are any follow-up items regarding the Maryland Consolidated Transportation Program.

Intoccia also stated that there is a proposed reduction of bus service to BWI. There is a 12/7/2016 comment due date. More information can be found at this link:
https://mta.maryland.gov/sites/default/files/MTA-No.201%20Proposed%20Changes_101416-rev.pdf

Terri Hogan will be writing an article about the proposed reduction of bus service in the next issue of the Greater Olney News. She requested that delegates give her feedback to include in the article.

Barbara Falcigno stated that the GOCA Awards are coming up. The committee is looking for nominations.

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 9:33 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; Barbara Falcigno – Immediate Past President

GOCA Delegates and Alternates

Lydia Rappolt (Camelback Village), Carol Sullivan (Cherrywood), Helene Rosenheim (Highlands of Olney), Kathy Curtis (Lake Hallowell), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Dave Miller (Norbeck Meadows), Ravin Howell (Oatland Farm), Diane Littlefield (Olney Acres), Jay Feinberg (Olney Oaks), Michael Cullingford (The Reserve at Fair Hill), Sharon Dooley (Village of James Creek), Ruth Laughner (Williamsburg Village).

Invited Guests

Captain Laura Lanham – Police District 4
Marsha Weber – Olney Home for Life
Jeff Stinehelfer – Project Change
Larry Pendleton – Olney HELP
Joe Buffington – Olney Chamber of Commerce

Public

Barbara Ray (Brookeville), Thomas Cameron (BSA), Terri Hogan (Greater Olney News), Laura Larham (Greater Olney News), Joe Onderko (4D Commander), Andy Londermilko (4D Commander), Alexis Collins, and Robyn Holstein-Glass (Project Change)