

Executive Board Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

President Gregory Intoccia called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. GOCA representatives, alternates, invited guests and members of the public introduced themselves.

Intoccia asked for a motion to approve the December 13, 2016 minutes. Jim Smith noted that a change should be made to page 3 of the minutes to replace “2071 Budget” with “2017 Budget”. A motion was made to approve the minutes with the amendment. The motion was seconded. The amended minutes were approved with 2 abstentions.

Intoccia asked for a motion to approve the agenda for today’s meeting. Jackie Benn made a motion to approve the agenda. Matt Zaborsky seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim Smith asked the delegates to consider joining the Olney Civic Fund. They have seven members on the Board. They need more members. A golf outing is being added to Olney Days this year. They need help organizing and publicizing the golf outing. Smith mentioned that they could use help on the Board in Public Relations and website maintenance. People can also get involved by joining a committee.

Dave Miller mentioned an issue with the swales and culverts in his neighborhood. The culvert rusted out and the driveway sinks and needs to be replaced by the homeowner. This is a concern in older neighborhoods.

WSSC PRESENTATIONS

President Greg Intoccia thanked WSSC for turning out in force to share their knowledge with us. They will be discussing two issues that have been in the news – salt on the roads and the Georgia Avenue water infrastructure project.

Brandon Stewart introduced himself as the customer advocate for WSSC. He discussed the Georgia Avenue water infrastructure project. Ling Li is the project manager and Brian Morrison is the Water Infrastructure Coordinator. The 16-inch water main under Georgia Avenue between Connecticut

Avenue and Denley Road was installed in the 1940s and 1950s. It is nearing the end of its life cycle. The project will replace the existing water main with new ductile iron pipe which will reduce the frequency of water main breaks and provide a reliable safe drinking water. WSSC will replace a total of 2.1 miles of water main on Georgia Avenue between Connecticut Avenue and Randolph Road. The work will occur between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm Monday through Friday. There may be short periods of water service shutdowns which will be a maximum of eight hours. WSSC will give the homeowners 48 hour notification prior to a shutdown. There will be no street parking on streets with active construction activities. There may be temporary road closures and delays. Access to businesses and homes will be maintained at all times. Some trees may have to be pruned or removed to accommodate the work.

The estimated construction start is spring 2017. The estimated construction completion is spring 2019.

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

Dave Miller asked if there will be a problem of sediment getting into the water main. WSSC responded that sediment usually gets into the water main with a break.

Jonathan Arias asked why the work is not being done at night to minimize traffic disruptions. WSSC responded that communities do not want to have the noise from the construction during the night.

Matt Zaborsky asked if Olney will be faced with this issue. WSSC responded that Olney will not be faced with this issue since our water mains were installed in the 1960s with a more durable type pipe.

Julie Karceski introduced herself as a Senior Water Quality Specialist for WSSC. She discussed the road salt impact on drinking water. Dr. Jin Shin is a Water Quality Manager for WSSC. Karceski reported that Olney has 100% Potomac water. The January 2016 storm required distribution of 365,000 tons of salt in Maryland. The frequent snow events and road salt application caused high sodium levels in the Potomac River. The chloride from the salt can contribute to corrosion of WSSC's aging water pipes.

She stated that the direct effect of the road salt is that the chloride level in the water increased. Corrosion of the iron water pipes causes discoloration of the water. The indirect effect of the road salt is an increase in manganese in the water. This also causes discoloration of the water. The manganese forms a sticky substance in the pipes.

In 2015, WSSC received increased complaints regarding discolored water because of historically high levels of manganese and chloride in the Potomac River. WSSC adjusted treatment of the water to remove manganese. Karceski stated that manganese and iron in the water do not present a health hazard to healthy people. However, there is no treatment for chloride in the water. WSSC is working with communities to reduce salt used to treat roads.

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

Ed Weisel asked if we need to be concerned with lead leaking into the water. WSSC responded that we do not have lead in our service lines.

Alden English asked how this work is going to be paid for. WSSC responded that there is no specific program associated with the salt.

Greg Intoccia stated a concern that WSSC does not know the source of the salt in the Potomac River. He asked if best practices for local jurisdictions have been properly implemented. WSSC responded that they did not know the answer to that question.

WSSC stated that the homes built in the 1920s – 1930s might have lead pipes. They are the most susceptible. The homes built in the 1940s – 1950s might have galvanized pipes which may corrode. Corrosion is not an issue for the homes built after the 1950s since they most likely used copper pipes.

Emmet Tydings asked if there was risk for iron. WSSC responded that there was no health risk for iron. It just causes discoloration.

President Greg Intoccia asked what type of infrastructure replacement is expected in Olney over the next 20 years. WSSC responded that they are building a new water tower to help increase the water supply. The existing water tower will be knocked down after the new one is built. The new tower will be similar in design to the existing tower. It will hold more water. It will be located a few feet away from the existing tower. They expect to begin construction next month. WSSC will send GOCA more information and a picture of what the new water tower will look like.

OLD BUSINESS

President Greg Intoccia stated that we will bring Jiffy Lube back to speak to GOCA when additional information is available. There was no other old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Ed Weisel asked how the Georgia Avenue water main construction will impact the 52 and 53 bus routes. He thought that different drop off points may be needed. Danny Benn stated that he does not think that the construction will impact the 52 and 53 bus routes. However, he stated that it may be a problem for the metro buses. Greg Intoccia said that he will look into that item.

President Greg Intoccia stated that he would like input from the GOCA Delegates regarding issues that GOCA should work on. He went around the room and asked the delegates to discuss the most important strategic issue facing Olney or an issue GOCA should work on. While the GOCA Officers provide input on issues that are important to Olney, it is beneficial to receive input from the Delegates.

Lee Lofthus stated that he is concerned with the Montgomery County budget and the increase to the property taxes. He stated that he is not happy with how the Montgomery County Council is handling the budget. He feels that the increase in property taxes is harmful to the county. He also is concerned with traffic issues. He feels that the congestion in Montgomery County is cutting Olney off from job centers. The difficult commutes makes Olney less desirable to live in.

Matt Zaborsky agreed with Lee Lofthus on the traffic issues. He also stated that apathy is an issue. It is a challenge to get more people involved.

Stacy Levine agreed with Lee Lofthus on his concern with the Montgomery County budget and the increase in property taxes. She stated that GOCA should get more input from HOAs on issues they face and provide a way to get the HOAs to work together on these issues. An example of this kind of issue is the speeding that The Reserve at Fair Hill has on Wickham Road. They have been trying for quite a while to work with the county to find a solution. She also mentioned another issue regarding the future of solar energy in Maryland. Governor Hogan and the state legislators need to support reasonable Maryland values for Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs) so that homeowners and small businesses can continue to install solar systems. In order to support continued growth of small-scale solar energy in Maryland, Governor Hogan's veto of the Clean Energy Jobs Act needs to be overridden.

Ruth Laughner stated that she is concerned with increased traffic on Georgia Avenue.

Alden English mentioned that he is concerned with changes in neighborhoods with new schools. He also discussed the Olney Manor Recreational Park gate closure.

Michael Cullingford said that he is concerned with the attitude of local government. For example, the Department of Transportation tends to talk a lot, but nothing happens. He would like to have them held accountable. He also is concerned with what will happen with the relocation of the school bus depot. He asked if GOCA has any oversight on what the Montgomery County Council is doing. President Intoccia mentioned that Montgomery County Councilmember Nancy Navarro could be contacted to discuss Montgomery County Council issues. Intoccia asked Michael Cullingford to flesh out the issues some more.

John Blachere stated that his top concerns are roads and traffic congestion. He feels that Olney should maintain our roads in better shape. He also mentioned that while there have been many commercial property improvements in Olney, the property upkeep has not been maintained. There is a lot of gravel, weeds, and broken sidewalks. He said that "things are looking kind of rough". He asked if GOCA can address these issues in the community.

Gervais Crouch stated that GOCA should look at what Montgomery County is planning. GOCA should look at the larger plan for what we want Olney to look like. He is concerned with the overdevelopment in Bethesda and Rockville. He does not want that kind of overdevelopment to occur in Olney.

Danny Benn said that he is concerned with the increased traffic on 97 and 108 because of Chick Fil A and Jiffy Lube coming to that area.

Carolyn Knight said that she would like GOCA to address the appearance in town. There are lots of weeds, lots of dirt accumulating in crosswalks, and lots of trash behind Shoppers. No one is taking responsibility for these items. She also stated that commercial vehicle parking on streets is a recent problem for her HOA.

Jim Smith mentioned the new Economic Development regime which is a private nonprofit entity. He stated that Olney stands to benefit by engaging with a nonprofit entity. Olney would like to develop a partnership for the Civic Center/Town Commons. We also want to attract certain kinds of businesses to Olney. Greg Intoccia responded that the Economic Development Director will speak at an upcoming GOCA meeting.

Lydia Rappolt stated that she also is concerned with the appearance of the streets and sidewalks in the town center. She calls 311 every 6 months. She commented that 108 is a state road. She said that it is a mess. She also hears from people about why we do not have certain businesses in Olney.

Ravin Howell stated that he is concerned with the congestion and traffic in Olney. He said that a traffic plan is needed to address all of the subdivisions that are being built and the multi-complexes by 200.

Jay Feinberg stated that a Civic Center is needed in Olney to provide activities for children and seniors. He also stated that we need to protect our tree canopy. The trees are getting older and are dying off. No new trees are surviving because the deer are eating the young trees.

Ed Weisel mentioned that the schools approved SSL hours for cleaning up the roads in Norbeck Meadows. He stated that we cannot be the only place in the county concerned with budget and taxes. He requested that we reestablish our presence with the Montgomery County Civic Federation. Greg Intoccia responded that the Mid County Citizens Advisory Board addresses issues across the mid-county region. He asked if Ed had any ideas that could be discussed with the Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board. Ed Weisel responded that there should be a request for volunteers.

Dave Miller stated that GOCA should make recommendations on architecture of new construction. He also stated that there should be long range planning for traffic. He stated that the crosswalk on Georgia and Emory was not placed in a good location. He also mentioned that there are too many deer in the woodlands.

Bob Hambrecht stated that his main concern is congestion on 97 North during rush hour.

Jackie Benn stated that the County is not replacing the trees that were damaged during the Derecho. She also mentioned that trees with roots on the sidewalks are causing a hazard.

President Greg Intoccia said that traffic congestion is the biggest challenge facing Olney. GOCA needs to get the federal officials talking to the state and local officials. A pending issue facing Olney is that the state currently is operating with a deficit. The state therefore may be reaching to local county governments to pick up a greater portion of the responsibility to fund schools. An immediate problem is the possible Olney Manor Recreational Park gate closure.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEES/LIAISON REPORTS

Public Policy & Community Affairs Committee (PP&CAC)

Since Matt Quinn was unable to attend this meeting, there is no presentation from PP&CAC. Intoccia mentioned that there is a discussion of paid sick leave coming up. He also mentioned the item on renewal energy that Governor Hogan vetoed last year.

Membership

Intoccia stated that Matt Quinn mailed that annual membership letters to the HOA presidents. He

stated that 5 HOAs have paid so far. He asked the Delegates to go back to their HOAs to get the dues paid. The deadline is March.

Transportation Committee Report

Emmet Tydings, the new Chair of the Transportation Committee, gave an introduction on his background. Intoccia asked the GOCA delegates to talk about transportation issues with their communities and let Emmet or GOCA know about these issues. He does not want decisions to be made without GOCA's input. He stated as an example that this could have happened with BRT.

Nominations

Matt Zaborsky stated that the GOCA awards ceremony will be held on March 19, 2017. He stated that GOCA delegates should contact Barbara Falgicno or himself with nominations for the awards ceremony.

Matt Zaborsky reviewed the slate of officers for GOCA for 2017 – 2018.

President – Greg Intoccia
Executive Vice President – Matt Quinn
1st Vice President – Billy Becker
2nd Vice President – Dave Miller
Recording Secretary – Stacy Levine
Corresponding Secretary – Jackie Benn
Treasurer – Bob Hambrecht

A motion was made to approve the slate of officers. **The slate of officers was approved unanimously.**

Correspondence Report

Jackie Benn passed the correspondence folder to the Board.

Mid County Citizens Advisory Board

Greg Intoccia stated that the Board is looking at ways to provide tax relief for senior citizens and veterans. The Board feels that the requirement for homeowners to be in their home for 40 years to receive relief from the recent property tax increase is too long. There has been discussion on a Glenmont to Silver Spring bikeway. He mentioned that there is a January 18th meeting with the County Executive at 7:00 pm at the Mid County Rec Center. This is a good opportunity to influence the process.

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee

Jim Smith and Lydia Rappolt met with a planner this morning. Lydia Rappolt stated that the next step is a charrette which is a period of time for design and planning activities. OTCAC would like to get input from stakeholders. The planner will attend the OTCAC meeting on 1/24 to talk about the charrette preparation. A community open house will be held to get ideas. OTCAC also wants to interview community leaders such as GOCA, Chamber of Commerce, and other organizations that

contributed to the concept plan for the Civic Center and Town Commons to prepare for the charrette since they will be developing scenarios. Jim Smith and Lydia Rappolt are willing to talk about this step in the process at HOA meetings.

Chamber of Commerce

There was no update from the Chamber of Commerce.

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 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Stacy Levine, Recording Secretary

In attendance:

GOCA Officers

Greg Intoccia, President – Ashley Hollow; Lee Lofthus, 1st Vice President; Matt Zaborsky, 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

John Blachere (Ashley Hollow), Lydia Rappolt (Camelback Village), Danny Benn (Fair Hill Farm), Jonathan Arias (Hallowell), Gervais Crouch (Norbeck Chase Townhouse), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Dave Miller (Norbeck Meadows), Ravin Howell (Oatland Farm), Jim Smith (Oatland Farm), Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks), Jay Feinberg (Olney Oaks), Michael Cullingford (The Reserve at Fair Hill), Alden English (SEROCA), Ruth Laughner (Williamsburg Village).

Invited Guests

Dr. Jin Shin, Water Quality Manager, WSSC
Julie Karceski, Water Quality Specialist, WSSC
Ling Li, Project Manager, WSSC
Brian Morrison, Water Infrastructure Coordinator, WSSC
Brandon Stewart, Customer Advocate, WSSC

Public

Emmet Tydings (Clover Hill), Terri Hogan (Greater Olney News), Dave Rador, Kevin Glasser (Olney

Crossing), Tom Christopher (Olney Chamber of Commerce), Ira Unger (Delegate Bonnie Cullison), Alyce Ortizar (WSSC CAB)