

**Executive Board Meeting Minutes**  
February 14, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Gregory Intoccia called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. GOCA representatives, alternates, invited guests and members of the public introduced themselves.

Greg asked for a motion to approve the January 10, 2017 minutes. Jim Smith noted that the name of Ravin Howe as an attendee. Matt Zaborsky made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ruth Laughner seconded the motion. The amended minutes were approved unanimously.

Greg asked for approval of the meeting agenda. Matt Zaborsky noted that Barbara Falcigno would be presenting awards information and he would present the ballot of 2017 GOCA Officers for election. Matt made a motion to approve the agenda. Ruth Laughner seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Howard Grief announced an annual auction at Brooke Grove Elementary and encouraged members to participate and/or be sponsors.

Sharon Dooley announced the Sandy Spring Green Space Annual meeting at which District 3 Congressman John Sarbanes will be the keynote speaker, is on March 20<sup>th</sup> at Sandy Spring Museum, 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

Alden English announced the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast to benefit Olney Help at Oakdale Church is on February 28th.

**Work Source Montgomery**

Greg introduced Dr. Ellie Giles, the Chief Executive Officer of WorkSource Montgomery, a work force talent development organization. The organization used to be part of the Montgomery County Dept. of Economic Development, but is now a separate organization with a new direction. Dr. Giles noted that there are currently 27,000 vacant positions in the County. However, there are not enough qualified people to fill these positions. And she feels that we need “talent” to make our economy grow.

She noted that workforce development is the coordination of public and private sector policies and programs that provides individuals with the opportunity for a sustainable livelihood and helps organizations achieve their goals. The group works with Montgomery College and other local universities to make sure curriculums are in place to provide people with the talent skills needed in the

County. It builds relationships with local businesses to help them anticipate talent needed in the future. It tries to coordinate and leverage the resources that already exist in the County and determine where gaps are in training.

The organization does a lot of outreach, including starting by building a robust website with a wide range of information including performance data webpages that went live today that is a real-time report of their efforts, publishing a monthly newsletter and using social media like twitter. Funding comes primarily through the structure reflected in the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act. It also gets a small amount of funding from the County and are hoping for more next year. And, it also receives funding from 8 of 9 grants they applied for. The organization is looking at the full range of entry level individuals to high level post graduate students to get them into STEM occupations. It also works with adults and youth. She noted the expansion of their summer program to provide work-learning experiences, now called Summer R.I.S.E. (Really Interesting Summer Experience) Program to give each of the 24,000 rising juniors and rising seniors in the County the chance to have an experience in which they shadow an individual for 3 weeks this summer. Currently with Federal funding the organization's summer program is limited to public school students, but next year they would be able to broaden the program to include private schools.

Dr. Giles noted the organization is also working to anticipate where contracting may increase as a result of the job freeze in the Federal government. And it is working with Montgomery College to move away from degree-seeking programs, but more to credentialing, which can be layered and valued by industry. Individuals would be able to get a job with first level credentialing, and then add layers of credentials through continuing education to move up through their career. The people they serve could include foreigners who have skills but are not certified in US and need to get them credentialed, people whose skills have become obsolete, and people who just do not know how to market themselves. They are also looking at the curriculum at the Edison Center and other vocational programs in the County to see what changes they need to make in the curriculum to attract more students.

### **Montgomery County Department of Transportation**

Greg introduced Khursheed Bilgrami, an engineer with the Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation's (MCDOT) Traffic Studies Section. Because of a number of problems with speeding on local County roads in the Olney area, he was invited to provide an overview of the policies, practices, and procedures in the County relating to traffic calming and how the community can address problems they see. Mr. Bilgrami noted that he has worked on a number traffic calming situations in Olney. The County's traffic calming program is about 30 years old. Guidelines for traffic calming and speed hump program are now on the County's website.

Requests begin with a letter from local civic associations or homeowner associations or a committee formed by a community with no formal association stating the times of day the problems exist. He noted that they cannot put traffic calming on primary arteries. The three approaches for addressing speeding are education, engineering, and enforcement. County police are responsible for the enforcement efforts. MCDOT is responsible for the education and engineering solutions. Education involves the use of speed measuring machines placed in the community on low volume streets with less than 1000 cars per day. For streets that carry more than 1000 cars a day, MCDOT can introduce engineering solutions such as speed humps, pedestrian islands, narrowing or "choking" lanes. This is

not a CIP program. These projects are funded from a pool of money, approximately \$100,000 - \$150,000, that is available each year to MCDOT for use county-wide, so projects can be completed more quickly.

One of their first traffic calming programs using “speed chockers” was on Arcola Avenue 5 - 6 years ago. Initially MCDOT got a lot of resistance, but ultimately it was considered successful in slowing traffic down. Since then, this approach has been used a large number of times around the County including on 5 or 6 roads in Olney. Stop signs are not considered speed control measures, and just reducing the speed limit doesn’t really slow people down. People drive to the condition of the roadway rather than the posted speed limit. There are also guidelines for removing speed humps and other calming devices. And, the County is looking at a variety of transit solutions to help reduce traffic congestion.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Referencing the future water main repair project along Georgia Ave (which WSSC provided an update to GOCA in its previous meeting), Greg reported that he understood, from recent contact with WSSC, that WSC has been in touch with county transit officials and it is not anticipated that local bus service will be altered because of the repair project.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Break-ins and vandalism in Norbeck Crossing** - Larry Solomon noted a number of break-ins in his development, Robert Hambrecht noted some incidents in his neighborhood, Williamsburg Village, and the person had been photographed.

## **OFFICERS/COMMITTEES/LIAISON REPORTS**

### **Transportation Committee Report**

Greg Intoccia reported that he sent a letter to the County to move up funding for the study of the Bowie Mill Bikeway project from FY19-22 to FY 2018, to leverage the imminent completion of an adjacent bikeway project, the Needwood Road Bikepath, so they can be completed more closely together in time. And, he noted upcoming changes to the now hourly shuttle service from ICC parking lot on Georgia Ave to BWI Airport. The State apparently has made a decision to cut the schedule back, and public notice has not yet been published on what the reduced schedule will be. But it is projected to be only operational during weekdays at peak a.m. and p.m. rush hours. The net result is that the schedule will be moving away from an hourly shuttle service to and from BWI Airport. It would then mostly serve people working at the Airport and in the Arundel Mill area. He felt that decision makers should have looked at other options, such as exploring advertising the service to increase ridership, before making a decision to reduce service. The reduced schedule will take place May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Greg also noted that he had sent a letter on a pending County bill on property tax credit because he understood it was being voted on that day, but it is actually still pending. It proposes a 20% property tax credit for residents at least 65 years old if they have lived in the same house for 40 years or more, or if

they are retired military, and the value of the residence does not exceed \$500K. The bill seems to be getting a positive response from Council and around the County.

### **Membership**

Bob Hambrecht noted that more than half of their associations have paid their 2017 dues. He reached out to those who had not paid yet, and had gotten some payments tonight and commitments from 4-5 others. Dues are due by March 31<sup>st</sup> and hopes to have all payments completed soon

### **Public Policy & Community Affairs Committee (PP&CAC) – No Report**

#### **Awards Nominations**

Barbara Falcigno reported that by Thursday of this week members in good standing would receive ballots for this year's GOCA Awards. Ballots should be returned quickly so that winners can be determined for the March 19<sup>th</sup> Awards Ceremony. There are a number of nominees and she received a few at the meeting that she will add to the ballot.

#### **Correspondence Report**

Jackie Benn passed the correspondence folder to the Board, plus some letters that had not been included in the folder.

#### **Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board**

Greg Intoccia reported that the Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) is following plans for a bikeway connecting Glenmont and Silver Spring. The MCCAB is also watching Bill 49-16 that would allow a \$1,500 loan to small businesses and entrepreneurs. Also, the MCCAB Chair invited GOCA to provide input to the MCCAB on what will be MCCAB's letter of recommendation to the County on the upcoming budget for FY18. Greg noted that GOCA had not often identified County operating budget items that it wanted to support, but he encouraged anyone with potential input on items important to the community, to please let him know.

#### **Olney Town Advisory Committee**

Jim Smith noted that the Olney Town Center Advisory Committee (OTCAC) will be meeting with the consultant hired by the County who is planning the upcoming charrette the OTCAC will be holding in May for a civic center/town commons area. They will be meeting with 7 focus groups that the Committee identified and from those discussions will come up with several different scenarios for center. The scenarios will be presented to the public during the Saturday of Olney Days at 2 different locations. The consultant, County staff assigned to the project and some OTCAC members will be available to answer questions and take comments from the public. Jackie Benn asked if it would be possible to set up the displays at an event on Sunday. Jim thought it would be possible for a volunteer to do that, but the consultant and staff would not be available. They would be at the OTCAC meeting on the Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the comments they receive on that Saturday.

Jim also noted that the Committee's mechanism for providing input to the County is through testifying at site plan hearings before the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission's Planning Board, but about half of the development in the town center area does not go to site plan. Currently we do not have a mechanism for providing testimony to the Department of Permitting Services. We are meeting with the Planning Board to see if a mechanism can be established with the Permitting services can be set up. They may direct them to other entities and it may involve action from the County Council. This was triggered by the proposal to put a Jiffy Lube on the property next to Jerry's. It is an uphill battle because the permitting process does not look at many of the issues we are concerned about. Greg asked anyone with ideas on how to move forward on this to speak to him or other officers.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **GOCA 2017 Elections**

Matt Zaborsky noted that he and Lee Loftus would be stepping down as officers and thanked Lee for all of his hard work for the community. Matt then presented the slate of GOCA Officers for 2017.

President – Greg Intoccia  
 Executive Vice President – Matt Quinn  
 First Vice President – Billy Becker  
 Second Vice President – David Miller  
 Treasurer – Bob Hambrecht  
 Corresponding Secretary – Jackie Benn  
 Recording Secretary – Stacy Levine

**Nominating Committee recommended that the Slate be approved by acclamation. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **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 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Helene Rosenheim for Stacy Levine, Recording Secretary

In attendance:

### **GOCA Officers**

Greg Intoccia, President – Ashley Hollow; Lee Lofthus, 1st Vice President, Matt Zaborsky – Norbeck Meadows, 2nd Vice President; Stacy Levine, Recording Secretary - The Reserve at Fair Hill

**GOCA Delegates and Alternates**

Beata Deluigi (Batchellors Forest), Maria Bender (Brookeville Knolls), Judy Broseker (Brookeville Knolls), Carol Sullivan (Cherrywood), Jonathan Arias (Hallowell), Helene Rosenheim (Highlands of Olney), Steve Asbacher (Norbeck Grove), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Dave Miller (Norbeck Meadows), Jay Feinberg (Olney Oaks), Michael Cullingford (The Reserve at Fair Hill), Bob Reel (Victoria Springs), Sharon Dooley (Village of James Creek), Ruth Laughner (Williamsburg Village).

**Invited Guests**

Dr. Ellie Giles, Chief Executive Officer of WorkSource Montgomery  
Khursheed Bilgrami, Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation, Traffic Studies Section

**Public**

Alma Hinton (Olney Oaks), Steve Eisentein (Brookeville Knolls), Glenna Langley (Camelback Village), Christina Romanick Mullen (Olney Mill / Long & Foster), Dave Crowley (Norbeck Grove), Ira Ungar.