

Executive Board Meeting Minutes
May 9, 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.

Intoccia asked for a motion to approve the April 17, 2017 minutes. Alden English moved that the minutes be approved with one correction to the date from March 30th to April 17th. Sharon Dooley seconded the motion. The minutes were approved, as amended, unanimously.

Intoccia asked for approval of the meeting agenda. Dave Miller moved that the agenda be approved as Presented. Gervais Crouch seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sharon Dooley noted that the local Indivisible group is holding a meeting with House Representative John Sarbanes
- Alden English noted that Olney Help had a ribbon cutting at their new storage shed with County Executive Isiah Leggett.
- Jim Smith, Kathy Curtis, and Jackie Benn announced that there are a few Olney Days events for which volunteers are still needed.
- Danny Benn announced that this year's Relay for Life will take place on June 10th. It will be different this year because it will take place in Sherwood High School's parking lot close to their cafeteria from 12 pm – 12 am. It will not be an overnight event this year.
- Greg Intoccia noted that the plans to reduce frequency of buses from the Intercounty Connector lot to BWI Airport has been delayed and that the Maryland Transit Authority (MTA) is rethinking the decision because of the number of comments they have received. Greg felt, though, that there needed to be increased ridership to keep it long term. Jackie Benn noted it needed to be advertised better. State Senator Craig Zucker added that he is aware through Governor Hogan's office that decisions are on hold and that it is going to be discussed at a Board of Public Works meeting that will include the Governor, Comptroller and the Treasurer, the next day. Senator Zucker indicated that he would contact them in the morning to get better sense of what they are considering at the meeting. Delegate Ben Kramer added that he has a letter from MTA stating that contracts with the bus company will stay in place until the Board of Public Works makes a decision and a new contract is issued. Senator Zucker learned during the meeting that the Board of Public Works will not be discussing this until a May 24th meeting.

STATE LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP:

Greg welcomed and introduced the State Delegations from Districts 14 and 19 to discuss issues that came up in the legislative session.

In attendance: District 14: Senator Craig Zucker, Delegates Pam Queen. Delegates Luedke and Kaiser had scheduling conflicts.

Committee/Subcommittee Assignments:

Craig Zucker - Education Subcommittee of the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee;

Chair, Joint Audit Committee, Joint Committee on Pensions

Ann Kaiser – Chair, Ways and Means; Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

Eric Luedke – Ways and Means; Chair, Finance Resources Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee; Chair, Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight

Pam Queen - Judiciary Committee; Criminal Justice Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee; Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland; Women Legislators of Maryland House

Senator Zucker noted that for the District 14 team resolving constituent services is their prime concern. Legislative action they highlighted covered issues relating to: opening higher education for developmentally and intellectually different individuals; a possible solution to gerrymandering; providing relief to homeowners underwater on their mortgages; facilitating paroles, greater protection of women relating to sexual assault cases and how they are being handled including training police; retaining rape kits longer; providing cultural training of civilians to better understand military culture; and job training for military re-entering the civilian workforce.

In attendance: District 19 – Delegates Ben Kramer, Marice Morales, and Bonnie Cullison. State Senator Manno also had a scheduling conflict.

Roger Manno -Chair, Spending Affordability Committee, Legislative Policy Committee, and, 2016, Majority Whip

Bonnie Cullison - Chair, Insurance Subcommittee of the Health and Government Operations Committee;

Health Occupations and Long Term Care Subcommittee of the Health and Government Operations Committee

Ben Kramer - Chair, Banking, Economic Development, Science, and Technology Subcommittee of the Economic Matters Committee; Property and Casualty Insurance of the Economic Matters Committee; Joint Committee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology and Biotechnology

Marice Morales – Health and Government Operations Committee; Public Health and Minority Health Disparities Subcommittee of the Health and Government Operations Committee; Government Operations and Estates and Trusts Subcommittee of the Health and Government Operations Committee; Women Legislators of Maryland, Vice Chair, Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (Treasurer 2015-2017)

Legislative actions that they highlighted covered issues relating to: businesses with more than 15 employees having to provide sick leave, statewide notification to seniors who sign up to get 1 call a day to check on their welfare, notification of scams and storm warnings so can stock up on food and medicine; creating an Office of Inspector General position in the Maryland National Capital Parks & Planning Commission this year and next year in WSSC to ensure openness and transparency in the expenditure of their budgets; developing a plan of action if services are lost to Maryland residents through changes to the ACA, codifying the prohibition of stopping someone under the Maryland Trust Act; ensuring all people under 50 years old are informed about long term health care; and working to reduce the high percentage of increases in long term care insurance premiums.

During the Question & Answer period that followed, questions related to economic development and focusing on providing good paying jobs for those not interested in going to college by fostering manufacturing in Maryland, thanking delegations for support of fracking ban, noting that Gina Angiola, a former GOCA officer co-chaired the activist efforts on this issue; gerrymandering which Sen. Zucker thought is a national issue needing a national solution, but there could be a regional solution since no action being taken nationally; rising long term insurance premiums; and funding for the seniors notification program not beginning till the next budget cycle after enactment of the legislation.

TRACKING STATE LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS

Ira Unger, Community Liaison for Delegate Bonnie Cullison, presented information on how to contact State legislative delegations and to navigate Maryland General Assembly websites.

Bills must be entered onto the Floor by the 2nd Wednesday in January, so if someone wants to propose legislation they need to do so before January. Proposals for a bill received after that date either must wait till the next session or they can be added to another proposed bill if it makes sense to combine the subject matter of that bill. The policy is to limit each bill to one subject.

The governor does not have to sign all bills. If he does not veto a bill that has passed both the house and senate, the bill is automatically enacted. One reason a governor might not want to sign a bill is that it may be a problem with one of his constituencies, plus there are really too many to sign them all. Ira noted that there are a large number of advocacy groups, and people can contact them directly about a particular issue in which a person may be interested. Delegate Cullison noted that the most effective time to have an impact is when a bill is being discussed by a committee or subcommittee. All bills are assigned to a committee and must have a hearing. Committee members are very knowledgeable about the bills being considered by their committee. The committees decide whether bills go to the Floor for a vote.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEES/LIAISON REPORTS

Jiffy Lube Design - Greg Intoccia noted that he had emailed the delegates with pictures of various façade materials that Jiffy Lube interests have used in properties previously, and would consider using one of the facades at the facility in Olney. Greg asked people to look at the email and provide comments on the facades. He circulated a sign-up sheet for those interested in having the email re-sent to them. He asked for a quick response because the Jiffy Lube developer is waiting for a response.

Membership – No report

Transportation Committee Report

Emmet Tydings noted that the Montgomery County Bicycle Master Plan Committee will be meeting at the Olney Library on June 12th, 4:30 – 8:30 pm. There will be a meeting on Route 198 Corridor Improvements at Blake High School on June 19th. He added that the Committee is still working on identifying deteriorated roads in the Olney area, so they have not started to address the problems. He noted that as of January 2017, RoundUp weed killer cannot be used in public spaces.

Barbara Falcigno noted that in regards to Gate entrance to Olney Manor Park on Batchellors Forest – the Park manager still wants to close this gate because of cut-through traffic from Batchellors Forest wanting to go south on Georgia Avenue. It was suggested that a lot of the traffic was construction traffic from the building of the new Farquhar MS and the residential developments along Batchellors Forest. Some of the schools along that road have proposed mitigation plans. However, to date Farquhar MS has not, saying it that this is left up to the discretion of the MCPS Transportation staff. In a recent meeting with the County some solutions were discussed. We have requested no right turns from Farquhar since Old Vic, which is opposite the new Farquhar entrance, was envisioned as the access road for the school. SHA is considering some suggestions for mitigation to keep the gate open. The Park management can make the decision whether to close the gate without any approvals outside of the Parks Dept. But as of this meeting, the Parks management does seem to be more open to understanding and accepting some mitigations.

Public Policy & Community Affairs Committee (PP&CAC)

No Report

Correspondence Report

Jackie Benn noted that there was no report. Greg noted that he sent a letter to Dunkin Donuts asking them to look at addressing the problem of traffic overflowing from their drive-thru onto Georgia Avenue during the morning rush hour.

Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB)

Greg reported that at the April MCCAB meeting the MCCAB weighed in on the County Operating Budget. A short summary: The MCCAB strongly supported the proposed funding of the Police and Fire portions of the Budget. MCCAB endorsed the proposed increase in police personnel and the increase in the police body camera program. The MCCAB argued for a larger police staffing in District 4. The MCCAB welcomed new bike-share stations in Wheaton, and supported greater funding for the County’s public schools without imposing restrictions on spending. The MCCAB supported a goal of all County Library sites having the same hours of operation, and it supported the concept of local parks and also “destination” parks such as Wheaton Regional Park. Finally Greg mentioned that the MCCAB was drafting a letter addressing the concept plan of a Glenmont-to-Silver Spring Bikeway, and that this letter is likely to be finalized at its May meeting, later in the month.

Olney Town Advisory Committee

Kathy Curtis reminded everyone about the Community Forum on the Town Center Town Commons at the Olney Library, May 20th, 10:30 am – 4:30 pm, during Olney Days. She encouraged people to drop in and give their thoughts on what should be included in the Town Commons

OLD BUSINESS

WSSC Proposed Rate Changes – Barbara Falcigno noted that there are going to be WSSC public hearings on proposed changes to Water Use Rates. She will post a notice on the OBX.

Chick-Fil-A- A question was asked about the status of the construction of the Chick-Fil-A restaurant in Olney. It was noted that they are scheduled for a ground break mid-May and they expect to open in November 2017.

NEW BUSINESS

Election of Executive Vice President – Greg Intoccia reported that Matt Quinn has resigned as Executive Vice President due to family matters, and that Carolyn Knight has agreed to complete Matt's term if elected.

Dave Miller moved for the Board to approve of Carolyn Knight to compete the term of the vacated Executive Vice President position, with the term ending at the next election of GOCA officers in 2018. Barbara Falcigno seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Greg noted that Matt will continue to serve as a delegate for Cherrywood.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Jackie Benn moved adjournment of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ed Weisel. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Helene Rosenheim for Stacy Levine, Recording Secretary

Members in attendance:

GOCA Officers:

Greg Intoccia, President – Ashley Hollow; Matt Quinn, Executive Vice President (Cherrywood); Billy Becker, 1st Vice President (Ashley Hollow); David Miller, 2nd Vice President (Norbeck Meadows); Jackie Benn, Corresponding Secretary (Fair Hill Farm); Bob Hambrecht, Treasurer (Williamsburg Village), and Barbara Falcigno, Past President (Olney Oaks).

GOCA Delegates and Alternates:

Kathleen Salanik (Brookeville Knoll); Judy Broseker (Brookeville Knolls); Carol Sullivan (Cherrywood); Danny Benn (Fair Hill Farm); Helene Rosenheim (Highlands); Gervais Crouch (Norbeck Chase Townhouse); Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows); Jim Smith (Oatland Farm); Carol Frenkel (Olney

Mill); Jay Feinberg (Olney Oaks); Lorie Nelson (Olney Oaks); Michael Cullingford (The Reserve at Fair Hill); Alden English (SEROCA); Hilary Phillips Rogers (Victoria Springs); Sharon Dooley (Village of James Creek); Ruth Laughner (Williamsburg Village); and Joe Corbett (Williamsburg Village).

Public in Attendance:

James Donaldson (Mgr, Olney Library); Subheish Gupta (Small's Nursery); Terri Hogan (Greater Olney News); State Sen Craig Zucker (Dist 14); State Del Pam Queen (Dist 14); State Del Ben Kramer (Dist 19); State Del Bonnie Cullison (Dist 19); State Del Marice Morales (Dist 19); and Ira Ungar (Bonnie Cullison)

(NOTE: There were 2 or 3 other legislative staff people there, but they did not signed in.)