

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2017

Buffington RE/MAX Olney Community Center
3300 Olney-Sandy Spring Road

CALL TO ORDER

President Gregory Intoccia called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. GOCA representatives, alternates, invited guests and members of the public introduced themselves.

Intoccia asked for a motion to approve the Sept 12, 2017 minutes. Motion to approve by Barbara Falcigno, seconded by Jackie Benn. The minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

Intoccia asked for a motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting. Motion to approve by Falcigno, seconded by Dave Miller. The agenda was unanimously approved by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jackie Benn announced that the Chick-fil-A currently under construction on Georgia Avenue is scheduled to open on November 16. They are accepting applications for employees on all levels.

PRESENTATION: County Management of "Street Trees" on County Roads

President Greg Intoccia introduced guest **Brett Linkletter**, Chief, Tree Maintenance Section, Montgomery County Department of Transportation (brett.linkletter@montgomerycountymd.gov). Mr. Linkletter presented an overview of the management of approximately 35,000 street trees by 7 arborists, 10 inspectors, and 25 crews. Any tree growing in a street right-of-way is a county owned tree, but the existence of a right-of-way is not always obvious. MC-311 is the preferred method of reporting a problem or making an inquiry. His office can help identify if the tree in question is the responsibility of the county.

- **Pruning** – The need for pruning is determined by an inspector. Unless the work is expedited for critical reasons of safety, the current backlog for tree pruning is 9-12 months. A total of 11,586 trees were pruned in FY 2017 initiated through the MC-311 system (38%) and other programs. Another 36% were pruned as part of a community Block Pruning program aimed at entire communities. Currently 18 communities are in the queue prioritized by need. This action requires a written request from an HOA/CA officer. This program is funded through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Additionally, the Traffic Engineering & Operations Section of DOT sends them pruning work orders when there are visibility issues or interference with a sign or traffic light.

- **Tree Removal** – Trees are removed only if necessary, usually because of tree death, a structural defect, or significantly declining health. The current backlog for removal is at 9-12 months. Over 3,300 street trees were removed in FY 2017.

- **Tree Planting** – the goal is to plant the right tree species in the right location avoiding above and below ground restrictions. Community and resident preferences are considered within the list of species deemed appropriate for the street environment.

- **Stump Grinding** – Over 1,600 stumps were removed in FY 2017 with a current 4 year backlog of 7,775 stumps. Homeowners or communities who remove a street tree stump themselves (there is specific guidance for contractors online) may then request a replacement tree that will be planted during the next planting season.

- **Integrated Pest Management** – The Emerald Ash Borer is an invasive beetle from Asia that feeds on and kills ash trees. It has hit the Midwest and Eastern US very hard. There are 7,200 ash trees in the County right-of-way, of which 140 have been given preventive treatment and are being monitored. Over 2,000 have been removed since 2013. Those communities with ash monocultures are prioritized for removal and replacement. The division also responds to crew sighting or reports of Bald-faced Hornet nests in the county right-of-way. If hazardous, the nest will be removed.

- **Tree Preservation** – All DOT projects need a Tree Protection Plan (TPP) for street trees. An arborist inspects the site to determine potential impact to tree health.

- **Pepco Inspections** – Pepco inspects trees near power lines on a four-year rotation cycle. They do not need a permit to prune a tree but must request a permit to remove any tree on county property believed to threaten their electrical system. County arborists either approve or deny the proposed removal. The removal of a tree must meet the same conditions as those marked for county removal.

- **Rural and Rustic Roads** – These roads are inspected by county arborists for any necessary maintenance to address hazards. In the first six months of FY 2017 (July - Dec 2016), 25 lane-miles had been inspected with 1,190 trees pruned and 30 trees removed.

- **Questions** – Mr. Linkletter responded to questions including one concerning trees along state highways (these are the responsibility of the State Highway Administration) and another regarding sidewalk heaving due to root growth (report these sections to MC-311 for remediation).

OFFICERS/COMMITTEES/LIAISON REPORTS

Public Policy & Community Affairs Committee (PP&CAC) - Greg Intoccia

- Dunkin Donuts traffic study regarding traffic back-up on Georgia Avenue: The State Highway Administration (SHA) apparently recently conducted a traffic congestion study related to the Georgia Ave Dunkin Donuts store but SHA has not yet shared with GOCA the results of the study. Several requests have been made for information.

- Jiffy Lube: There was a County Planning Board meeting on September 14, 2017, which approved the Preliminary Plan for the property on which the Olney Jiffy Lube is intended to be developed. The Planning Board approved the plan with certain conditions, mentioned below. The Planning Board took into consideration the conditions that GOCA and the Olney Town Center Advisory Committee (OTCAC) requested be placed the preliminary plan. Jim Smith testified for OTCAC and Greg Intoccia testified for GOCA. The Board viewed OTCAC and GOCA requests as safety issues. Greg Intoccia said that he thinks the fact that OTCAC and GOCA presented a united front on this matter made a difference. He also saw board members take note that GOCA's position on this matter had the unanimous support of its members, so he thinks that this also made a difference.

The conditions approved, indicated below – allow continued vehicular connection between the Jiffy Lube lot and the Jerry’s lot -- in essence they avoid a right-turn only situation that would have otherwise occurred exiting from of the Jiffy Lube on to Rt. 108. The situation therefore avoided was the likelihood of exiting cars going westbound on Rt. 108 looking to make a U turn right in the area near the shopping center and library, a place which has had too many accidents. Intoccia said that a pedestrian connection condition was not included in the Board’s resolution but since the parking lot level-grade between the Jiffy Lube lot and the Jerry’s lot will remain essentially as it currently exists, pedestrians will still have the same access to the 7-11 store as they do now, i.e., without having to navigate around curbs and grassy areas.

The actual language of the conditions added to the resolution at the Planning Board meeting were:

1. Prior to building permit, the Applicant must demonstrate to Staff that sufficient space remains to allow for two-way vehicular circulation between the Subject Property and Parcel 959.
2. Prior to record plat, the Applicant must record in the Land Records of Montgomery County a covenant to provide a reciprocal access easement between Lot 2 and Parcel 959 upon redevelopment of Parcel 959 if the Planning Board determines that such a connection is appropriate in its approval of redevelopment on Parcel 959. The covenant must be approved by the Commission's Office of the General Counsel prior to recordation.

Transportation Committee Report - Emmet Tydings

Committee Chair Tydings reported that certain Olney area roads will be reclassified under the Montgomery Master Plan, as indicated below, once approved. Chairman Tydings’ interpretation is that the reclassification acknowledges the increased volume of use these roads are experiencing compared to what their previous classifications would indicate.

The impacted five roads – all in the Olney Master Plan area -- are being reclassified as part of a \$2M re-assessment of County roads. The classification of each road has certain implications as discussed in the Master Plan. The roads involved are:

Cashell Road -- between Hines Road and Emory Lane. Previously Primary Residential -- New Classification: Arterial

Bowie Mill Road -- between Cashell Road and Olney-Laytonsville Road. Previously Primary Residential -- New Classification: Arterial

Queen Elizabeth Drive between Olney-Laytonsville Road and Georgia Ave. Previously Primary Residential -- New Classification: Minor Arterial

Bordly Road -- between Georgia Ave and Brighton Dam Road. Previously Primary Residential -- New Classification: Country Road

Olney Mill Road -- between Olney-Laytonsville Road and Wickham Road. Previous

Classification: N/A -- New Classification: Primary Residential

For more information see Reclassification of Olney Roads per MoCo Master Plan 10-2017 at <http://mcatlas.org/mpohtcomments/>

GOCA Awards Committee - Barbara Falcingo

- The GOCA Awards Ceremony will be on March 18 at Good Counsel HS. Nominations are solicited. Please see the website (<http://www.goca.org/2017/10/goca-awards/>) for a description of the award categories and the nomination process. Barbara is happy to help with any nominations. Suggestions are also needed for a caterer.

Membership - Robert Hambrecht, Treasurer

- No report

Correspondence Report - Jackie Benn

- There has been no new correspondence since the last meeting.

Mid County Citizens Advisory Board - Greg Intoccia

- There was no meeting in September due to a scheduled retreat.

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee – Lydia Rappolt

- No report.

OLD BUSINESS – No old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS – Barbara Falcingo announced that the Election of GOCA officers for 2018 will occur at the February meeting. Please consider running for one of the officer positions. The responsibilities of each position as described in the GOCA Bylaws can be found on the GOCA website under the “About” tab at <http://www.goca.org/about/> Officers are elected for one-year terms.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, a motion was submitted and seconded to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Knight, Executive Vice President

ATTENDANCE:

GOCA Officers

Greg Intoccia, President (Ashley Hollow); Carolyn Knight, Executive Vice President (Olney Oaks); Billy Becker, 1st Vice President (Ashley Hollow); David Miller, 2nd Vice President (Norbeck Meadows); Jackie Benn, Corresponding Secretary (Fair Hill Farm); Barbara Falcigno, Immediate Past President (Olney Oaks).

GOCA Delegates and Alternates

Anthony Watkins (Brooke Manor)
Carol Sullivan (Cherrywood)
Matt Quinn (Cherrywood)
Mary Lou Causway (Christie Estates)
Gerviais Crouch (Norbeck Chase Townhouse)
Ravin Howell (Oatland Farm),
Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres)
Carol Frenkel (Olney Mill)
Lorie Nelson (Olney Oaks)
Jay Feinberg (Olney Oaks)
Micheal Cullingford (Reserve at Fair Hill)
Aleka Kapatou (Tanterra)
Ruth Laughner (Williamsburg Village)

Invited Guests

Brett Linkletter, Chief, Tree Maintenance Section, Montgomery County Department of Transportation
Emmet Tydings, Chairman of Transportation Committee