

Executive Board Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2017

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 November 14, 2017 minutes with two corrections to “Billy Becker’s” last name on page 3 of the minutes. Barbara Falcigno made a motion to approve the revised minutes. Alden English seconded the motion. The revised minutes were approved unanimously.

Intoccia asked for a motion to approve the agenda for today’s meeting. Stacy Levine made a motion to approve the agenda. Barbara Falcigno seconded the motion. The agenda was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barbara Falcigno announced that Olney Days in 2018 will be on April 27 – April 29. The dates were changed for 2018 because the Olney Swim Center and its parking lot will be closing for renovations on May 1. The Olney Civic Fund will be holding an event at the Olney Winery on January 30 to people to learn how to volunteer for Olney Days. More information can be found at www.olneycivicfund.org.

Terri Hogan mentioned the appeal in the Greater Olney News for money. Hogan stated that four people put the newspaper out. They want to grow, but the number of pages depends on the number of advertisements. She stated that people can thank the advertisers, encourage people to advertise, or make a donation. They have received 160 donations so far, and 70 of the donations were hand-written. President Intoccia requested that the Delegates share that information with their HOAs since the newspaper plays an essential role covering events in the community.

OLNEY LIBRARY, MCPL UPDATE

President Greg Intoccia introduced Carolyn Bogardus who is the Acting Branch Manager at the Olney Library. She began the presentation by stating that she is a new librarian in Olney and giving some background information on herself. She started in September. She moved to Olney from Annapolis. She used to be a banker. She is originally from New York. She moved to Texas in 2002 where she worked for seven years. She has worked in Montgomery County for 3 ½ years. She worked in Germantown for 2 years and then worked in Silver Spring. She stated that she likes working in a smaller facility where she has more control of the collections. She is enjoying getting to know the community and working at the branch.

Bogardus continued the presentation by giving an update on the library. This is a new branch which has been open for 3 ½ years. It is in very good shape. There is very little wear and tear which says a

lot for the people using the library. There have been no major facility problems. The library has circulated almost 400,000 objects this past fiscal year which is a very healthy circulation. There were 181,000 visits to the library this past fiscal year. 1400 hours were logged on the public computers. The library has about 80 - 90 programs a month with total attendance of 1700 – 2000 people. Some of the programs were technology programs, health and wellness programs, and a Spanish Club. They are considering holding citizenship classes at the library.

Bogardus emphasized that the library is a community space which is the core of the community. She mentioned that art from the Olney Art Association is displayed in the library. She listed many of the resources available at the library such as e-books, e-audio books, e-magazines, e-journals, newspapers, Consumer Reports, Washington Checkbook databases, language learning, Learning Express library database, Career Online High School, and Library Matters Podcasts. She distributed a copy of the calendar and stated that all of the programs are listed online. Meditation classes will be offered starting January 24th. She stated that the library is going to start a Books at Home Program next year for people who are homebound.

Intoccia opened the floor for questions. Joe Corbett stated that he is very positive about the library. He asked about the book acquisition budget and how does the library get information out to the public. Bogardus responded that the public can get information on the website. They also spread word by speaking at meetings around the community. Regarding book acquisition, she said that in 2008, funds were pulled back in order to focus on saving jobs when the economy sank. She mentioned that some book orders of popular authors are standardized and that each branch receives a small amount of money to replace books.

Helene Rosenheim mentioned that GOCA gave the library a framed Olney flag from Olney, England. She asked if the library can find the flag and display it. Carolyn Bogardus asked Helene to send her an e-mail with that request so that the flag can be located.

Bogardus thanked us for having her speak and said that she will attend future GOCA meetings.

LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

President Greg Intoccia introduced Captain Marc Yamada who is the new 4th District Commander. He was born and raised in Wheaton, MD and has lived in Olney/Brookeville for over 20 years. He raised 4 children here. He has a vested interest in the community. Yamada stated that we have some of the best officers in the department and that they work together seamlessly. He also said that we do not have a whole lot of horrific crime in Olney and that crime statistics for the area are down. The only statistic that is up is car break-ins because people leave their car doors unlocked. Information is available on the Montgomery County Police website.

Intoccia opened the floor for questions. Barbara Falcigno asked about the bikes the GOCA purchased for the police officers. Yamada set that the bikes are a big help in Olney. The officers use the bikes to get to areas they cannot get to with a car.

Greg Intoccia asked Captain Yamada to comment on the decomposed body that was found in Brookeville in November. Yamada states that the bones were found behind a cemetery across from a

creek on the Brookeville Inn property. They were able to identify the man as Harry Ryan Detwiller, age 19, of Silver Spring. His family reported him missing to police in September, 2017. The medical examiners were unable to determine a cause of death. They are looking at the artifacts found around the decomposed body. Yamada said that there is no indication of foul play. They do not know how the body got there. He commented that it would take a lot of effort to dig the hole where the bones were found. This is an open investigation. He said that having an identity will help fill in the pieces. He does not believe there is any direct threat to the community.

Ed Weisel asked some questions regarding the speed cameras on school buses. Captain Yamada explained that if you pass a school bus when the red lights are flashing, you will get a \$250 ticket, but you will not get any points. For the entire county, almost \$20,000 was collected in a year. If an officer catches you passing a school bus when the red lights are flashing, you will get a \$500 ticket and 3 points. He does not feel that raising the fine will stop people from doing it.

Greg Intoccia asked how Olney's response times compared to other areas are. He also asked how much of a delay is from not having a permanent facility here. Captain Yamada responded that the response time is less than 10 seconds from receiving a call to handling it. The Olney area's district is the busiest district with respect to calls in the county. They appreciate having a satellite facility here. It provides greater ease of access to some areas. While he did not think it would be a huge impact on service if we did not have the facility, he said that they would like to have a permanent facility here. Anyone can call the satellite facility to report a crime. Civilian volunteers work there and answer phone calls when there are no police officers at the facility.

Helene Rosenheim thanked the police department for supporting Olney Days. She told him about the change in the dates for 2018. He asked Helene to e-mail the dates to him.

President Greg Intoccia thanked Captain Yamada for speaking with us and asked the delegates to e-mail any additional questions to him.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEES/LIAISON REPORTS

Transportation Committee Report

Emmet Tydings said that the Transportation Committee met recently at the library.

The following are some of the items that were discussed:

- The Brookeville Bypass has been delayed until 2020 due to a funding issue.
- The 97/28 interchange has not been funded yet.
- There is no good bus route to Montgomery College from Olney.
- A study has been funded for a bikeway from 108/Bowie Mill to Needwood. Pat Shepherd has been working on this item.

Barbara Falcigno gave an update on the Park Gate Closure. She said that they are gathering data on the number of cars going through the park.

Greg Intoccia asked Transportation Chair Tydings to find out Chick Fil A's plan for entry/exit to the restaurant. Intoccia thought that the entry/exit was supposed to be from Hillcrest, but he saw a sign with a 2-way arrow instead of a 1-way arrow. He would like someone to confirm what was intended and then compare it against what has been built. Helene Rosenheim said that she will look into it.

Intoccia thanked the Transportation Committee for their work.

Alden English asked for the timeframe for State Highway Administration's planned turn lanes for MD Routes 28 and 97. Tydings said that they should be completed soon.

Public Policy & Community Affairs Committee (PP&CAC)

Billy Becker discussed a proposed resolution. The intent of the proposed resolution is to provide GOCA with a greater voice in property development in the Town Center. Becker stated that the objective is for GOCA to have a more prominent presence when there is development or modification to commercial property in the Olney Town Center. He said that GOCA should ensure that when anyone develops a project in downtown Olney, GOCA has the opportunity to fully participate in the discussion.

Greg Intoccia commented that GOCA currently has no leverage over the process of the development of small parcels of land in Olney. The proposed resolution essentially says that GOCA needs to be included and that GOCA wants to weigh-in on issues relates to style, aesthetics, and safety, not merely just on functionality issues. GOCA wants to accomplish this by a minor modification being made to the Olney master plan. With a passed resolution, the next step would be to take this resolution to the Montgomery County Council so that they can weigh-in on it.

Joe Corbett asked what is meant by the phrase "interested party." Billy Becker answered that by the phrase it signals that GOCA wants to be on the mandatory list of notice to participate and weigh-in. It signals to all that GOCA must have a say in the matter because it directly impacts the heart of our hometown. Becker clarified that the core intent of the resolution is located in the "Resolved" section. He also stated that this is a starting document. The next step is to discuss it with the Montgomery County Council, which will take time to get approved. Corbett said he thinks this is a good position.

Matt Zaborsky suggested GOCA get Nancy Navarro's support since she is our Council representative.

Ed Weisel questioned the "whereas" verbiage on the top of the second page. He thinks the phrase "Capital" needs to be added to "Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning". He also questioned if this might prompt other organizations to assert the same right. Carolyn Knight confirmed that the correct reference is "Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning." The proposed resolution will be revised to include the correct reference. Greg Intoccia responded to Weisel's question by saying that it is a point of advocacy that can be taken up later.

President Intoccia called for a vote on the proposed resolution with the one mentioned corrected reference:

The following Resolution is presented on behalf of the Greater Olney Civic Association.

WHEREAS, the Greater Olney Civic Association was established in 1978 as a not-for-profit community association representing the interests and concerns of the Olney citizenry through their various homeowner and civic associations, which at this time consists of 36 individual associations; and

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged with the presentation of the Olney Master Plan prepared by the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission and approved by the Montgomery County Council (15 March 2005) that the development of the Olney Town Center would occur with input from the community; and

WHEREAS, both the Olney Master Plan and the Greater Olney Civic Association intend to preserve the “satellite town concept” for this community so as to provide a network of safe and convenient sidewalks and bike paths to connect the Olney Town Center and the adjacent residential neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, with the passage of time and increased residential development there has been in the greater Olney area a correspondingly larger demand for more commercial development and retail services in the immediate area; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Olney Civic Association has a strong public interest that this growth, both commercial or retail, shall occur in a manner that not only meets threshold functionality requirements of intended property use but also ensures safety for pedestrian and vehicular traffic, does not result in additional vehicular traffic congestion, is complementary in style to the Olney Town Center, and considers aesthetics; and

WHEREAS, the current zoning procedures permit smaller parcels of land, usually those less than 10,000 square feet, to be developed by way of a site plan without a heightened level of review and community input;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT KNOWN that henceforth it is

RESOLVED, that the Greater Olney Civic Association shall be considered an interested party for any and all future development within the Olney Town Center so that any notice of planned development, regardless of lot size, be it individual lot size or the aggregate of lots, shall include the Greater Olney Civic Association, P. O. Box 212, Olney, Maryland 20830 (www.goca.org) as an interested party for such development before all planning and site review authorities; **and it is,**

RESOLVED, to achieve and maintain a long term solution, that in the instance of any commercial or retail development within the Olney Town Center – regardless of lot size – that the Greater Olney Civic Association supports a minor master plan amendment that all commercial or retail development in the Olney Town Center, both commercial or retail, must first demonstrate through public input that property development will occur in a manner that: reasonably supports the property’s intended use, ensures safety for pedestrian and vehicular traffic, does not result in additional traffic congestion, is complementary in style to the Olney Town Center, and is aesthetically pleasing.

ADOPTED:

The hereinabove was adopted at a general meeting of the various associations that comprise and are current members the Greater Olney Civic Association on the 12 day of December, 2017.

Gregory F. Intoccia
President,
Greater Olney Civic Association

Stacy Levine
Recording Secretary,
Greater Olney Civic Association

The proposed resolution with the above mentioned correction was approved unanimously.

Proposed 2018 Budget

Robert Hambrecht, Treasurer, presented the proposed 2018 budget. Bob explained that the budget for 2018 was almost “break even.” The income sources for GOCA remain the same, Dues and Banner Ads. Expenses for 2018 are also consistent with the prior year. Bob noted explanations at the bottom of the budget for how the line items were derived. Bob asked if there were any questions and one was raised about why the amount spent on the 2017 Delegate dinner in August was so high. Bob noted that the actual expenditure came in higher than was expected, which is why the 2018 budget figure is much lower this year (\$500). No further questions were raised.

Correspondence Report

There was no Correspondence Report since Jackie Benn was unable to attend the meeting.

Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board

Greg Intoccia indicated that there was nothing significant to report.

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee

Helene Rosenheim stated that they are waiting for the County staff to review the proposals for the Town Center.

Nominations Committee

Barbara Falcigno said that the GOCA Awards Ceremony will be held in March. She needs to receive nominations for the GOCA Awards in January. She said that she has Officer Nominations for all open positions. The nominations will be announced in January and voted on in the February board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

President Intoccia said that he will be sending an end of the year letter with a link for dues collection. We want to get a head start on dues collection for next year.

Greg Intoccia said that in October GOCA received an e-mail from a James Creek resident inquiring if “Olney” would be written on the new water tower. GOCA contacted WSSC, which replied that “Olney” could be displayed on the new water tower but that WSSC would need a decision about it right away. The GOCA Officers discussed this item and unanimously agreed that it should be done. Intoccia told WSSC to move forward with it. The new water tower will be elevated on Wednesday, weather permitting. The lettering will be added to the tower in the spring. Intoccia said that he meant to share this information with them at the last GOCA meeting but unfortunately ran out of time. A picture of the tower with the blue coloring for the lettering was distributed to the delegates. Carolyn Knight commented that they were delightful to work with and that the lettering was very professionally well done.

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 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Stacy Levine, Recording Secretary

In 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; Stacy Levine, Recording Secretary - The Reserve at Fair Hill; Bob Hambrecht, Treasurer – Williamsburg Village, Barbara Falcigno, Immediate Past President – Olney Oaks

GOCA Delegates and Alternates

Anthony Watkins (Brooke Manor), Carol Sullivan (Cherrywood), Daniel Benn (Fair Hill Farm), Helene Rosenheim (Highlands of Olney), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Matt Zaborsky (Norbeck Meadows), Carol Frenkel (Olney Mill), Lorie Nelson (Olney Mill), Jay Feinberg (Olney Oaks), Michael Cullingford (Reserve at Fairhill), Alden English (SEROCA), Ruth Laughner (Williamsburg Village), Joe Corbett (Williamsburg Village).

Invited Guests

Carolyn Bogardus, Acting Branch Manager Olney Library
Captain Marc Yamada, 4th District Commander
Lt Joe Onderko, Deputy Commander

Public

Terri Hogan (Greater Olney News), Chris Burt (Del Queen’s office), Emmet Tydings (Transportation Committee)