

Executive Board Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

President Gregory Intoccia called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. GOCA representatives, alternates, invited guests and members of the public introduced themselves.

Intoccia asked for a motion to approve the December 12, 2017 minutes with the minor correction to update Lorie Nelson's HOA from Olney Mill to Olney Oaks in the section on GOCA Delegates and Alternates in attendance. Matt Zaborsky made a motion to approve the revised minutes. Jackie Benn seconded the motion. The revised minutes were approved unanimously.

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

Matt Zaborksy asked for an update on the residents displaced in the fire in Olney on January 5. See comments below.

GUEST PRESENTATION ON FIRE SAFETY ISSUES

President Greg Intoccia introduced our speakers from the Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department, Fire Chief Mike Kelley and SSVFD President Johnie Roth, Jr. They were invited to speak on the updated smoke alarm law that took effect January 1, 2018 and other fire safety issues.

January 5 Fire in Olney:

Chief Kelley provided an update on the fire in a row of townhouses on Morningwood Drive. The fire was caused by human error. The County Fire Chief was a few blocks away when the fire was reported and arrived on the scene very quickly. A large number of fire trucks and firefighters at the ~~sight~~ site that night. Controlling the fire was complicated by the bitter cold and the wind. Wind driven fires rapidly become large fires. Kelley advised that if you have a fire in your house, shut interior and exterior doors

behind you when exiting to slow down the spread and deprive the fire of additional oxygen.

The most importantly, there were no serious injuries. However all five townhouses in that row were condemned. The Red Cross was called to help the five displaced families and provided temporary housing to those who needed it. Collections are being organized for food, clothing and other needs.

Dave Miller asked whether one should try to get the car out of the garage if there were a fire. Kelley responded that you should not try to get the car out of the garage. If a car is on fire, you should not attempt to start the car.

Updated Smoke Detector Law

Chief Kelley then discussed the law on residential smoke alarms and distributed several fact sheets. The law was passed in 2013 with a phased in implementation. This updated law addresses only battery-operated smoke alarms. The law requires the replacement of battery-only operated smoke alarms with a sealed, tamper resistant unit using a 10-year, long-life battery alarm with a silence/hush button feature. The Smoke Alarm Law creates a transition away from 9-volt battery-only alarms in an effort to achieve more reliable smoke alarm coverage in older dwellings. Smoke alarms are required to be located outside all sleeping areas and on every level of the home. For maximum coverage, smoke alarms should be installed in all bedrooms. He commented that stores like Home Depot and Lowes are continuing to sell some alarms with the 9-volt battery. Legislation is being proposed in Annapolis to prohibit Maryland stores from selling smoke alarms that do not comply with the new requirements.

The updated law now taking effect does not address hardwired smoke alarms. However, any hardwired smoke alarm more than 10 years old needs to be replaced. Residents can look at the tag on the smoke alarm for the date. If the smoke alarm does not have a tag, one can assume that the smoke alarm is more than 10 years old. Any hardwired smoke alarm with a 9-volt back-up should be also be replaced, but replacement is not required.

Ed Weisel asked if the hardwired alarms can be interconnected via Wi-Fi. Chief Kelley did not know the answer to that question. Matt Zaborksy asked whether a bedroom that isn't used for sleeping would be considered a sleeping area. Fire Chief Kelley responded that any area that is deemed as a sleeping area would count as a sleeping area.

Chief Kelley clarified that the Fire Department does not go door-to-door inspecting homes. However, if they are called to a home, they will make sure there is a working alarm before they leave. The fire department will bring and install new alarms in the homes of residents who need assistance for any reason.

Carolyn Knight commented that all old smoke alarms are considered hazardous waste and must be taken to the Transfer Station on Hwy355 and Shady Grove Road. This also applies to lithium, button and rechargeable batteries. Alkaline batteries of any size can safely be placed in the trash.

Fireplaces and Wood Burning Stoves

Chief Kelley said that fireplace and wood-stove ashes retain enough heat to ignite other combustible materials for several days after a fire. It is important to learn how to dispose of fireplace and wood-

stove ashes properly:

- DO NOT discard your ashes into any combustible container like a paper or plastic bag, a cardboard box, or a plastic trash can.
- DO put ashes into a non-combustible metal container with a lid.
- DO pour water into the container to make sure the ashes are cool.
- DO keep the can OUTSIDE the home, away from combustibles.
- DO teach all family members to be safe with ashes from your fireplace or wood stove.

He said that when fireplaces are not maintained, a fire can start in the chimney and then extend to other parts of the house. He also stated that it is important to put the ashes in a non-combustible metal container because many times they look like they are out but they are not, so can still start a fire.

Carol Frenkel asked Chief Kelley how to get rid of the fireplace ashes. He indicated that cooled ashes can be move away from the house quickly, or can be placed in a compost pile.

Bob Hambrecht asked how often the chimney should be maintained. Kelley answered that it should be maintained annually before using it, but it depends on how often the fireplace is used.

Safety First Checklist

Some of the key items on the checklist are:

- Make sure there are smoke alarms on every level of the house.
- Make sure your house numbers are clearly visible from the street. The fire department recommends that the house numbers are 5 inch numbers with contrasting background.
- Most home fires start in the kitchen.
- Most fire deaths occur from smoking.
- Do not try to extinguish the fire.

Kelley recommended that fire extinguishers that are more than 6 years old should be replaced. They can be brought to the Fire Department Open House or to the County Fair.

Chief Kelley ended the presentation by noting that between December 24th and December 30th there were 106 fatalities in 29 states in the United States. He also stated that we have more fire fighter deaths today than we used to. Most of the deaths are from cancer. He requested that when one sees a fire fighter, you should thank them because they are putting their lives on the line every day.

Residents can call the local the fire station if they have questions about the placement of smoke alarms and other safety issues, or e-mail them at fireprevention@ssvd.com. Additional information can be found at www.ssvfd.com.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEES/LIAISON REPORTS

Transportation Committee Report

No report. The committee chair, Emmet Tydings, was unable to attend.

Public Policy & Community Affairs Committee (PP&CAC)

Greg Intoccia stated that there was no update.

Correspondence Report

Jackie Benn stated that there was no update.

Mid County Citizens Advisory Board

Greg Intoccia stated that the next Mid County Citizens Advisory Board meeting is on January 16th. David Dykes will talk about Capital Projects. He also stated that there will be a Montgomery County Executive Meeting on January 16th. This is always a good meeting to attend where one can learn a lot.

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee

Greg Intoccia received an update from Lydia Rappolt who was unable to attend tonight's meeting. On January 23, there will be a presentation on the Olney Town Commons Report which will include recommendations from the community forum that was held last year.

Nominations Committee

GOCA Awards Ceremony - Barbara Falcigno stated that the Awards Ceremony will be held March 18 at Good Counsel High School from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Elected officials will be there. She needs to receive nominations by the February meeting. The awards are a good way to recognize people in the community who have stepped up to do something. Nominations can be sent to Barbara via e-mail or through the GOCA website. The nomination should include information on who you are nominating and why. The Nominations Committee can help with the write up of the nomination.

GOCA Officers – New GOCA officers will be voted on at the next meeting. Their terms will begin at the adjournment of the GOCA February 2018 meeting and run through the GOCA February 2019 meeting. Falcigno asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Since there were no nominations from the floor, she presented the slate of officers which will be voted on at the February meeting:

President: William (Billy) Becker, Ashley Hollow HOA

Executive VP: Matthew (Matt) Quinn, Cherrywood HOA

1st VP: Dave Miller, Norbeck Meadows Citizens Association

2nd VP: Stacy Levine, The Reserve at Fairhill HOA

Recording Secretary: Carol Frenkel, Olney Mill Citizens Association

Corresponding Secretary: Katie Harris, Norbeck Meadows Citizens Association

Treasurer: Robert (Bob) Hambrecht, Williamsburg Village Citizens Association

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

President Intoccia said that GOCA will be hosting a **County Executive Candidate Debate on March 5th at the Olney Theatre Center's Historic Theatre**. There will be a "meet-and-greet" at 6:30 pm followed by the debate from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. All of the candidates have confirmed attendance except for Bill Frick who will be in Annapolis.

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 8:30 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; Jackie Benn, Corresponding Secretary – Fair Hill Farm, Bob Hambrecht, Treasurer – Williamsburg Village, Barbara Falcigno, Immediate Past President – Olney Oaks

GOCA Delegates and Alternates

Carol Sullivan (Cherrywood), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Matt Zaborsky (Norbeck Meadows), Ravin Howell (Oatland Farm), Carol Frenkel (Olney Mill), Lorie Nelson (Olney Oaks), Jay Feinberg (Olney Oaks), Michael Cullingford (Reserve at Fairhill), Alden English (SEROCA), Ruth Laughner (Williamsburg Village).

Invited Guests

Fire Chief Mike Kelley, Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Dept.
Johnie Roth, Jr., President, Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Dept.

Public

Terri Hogan (Greater Olney News), Melissa McKenna, Paul Geller (Olney Oaks, at-large candidate for Montgomery County Council), Ira Unger (Delegate Bonnie Cullison's office, 19th District)