

GOCA

Greater Olney Civic Association

P.O. Box 212 • Olney, Maryland • 20830
www.goca.org

DRAFT Executive Board Meeting Minutes December 11, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

President Billy Becker called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM

The November 13, 2018 Minutes and the December 11, 2018 Agenda were approved by acclamation.

GOCA representatives, alternates, invited guests, and members of the public introduced themselves.

Several handouts were given to the representatives to share with their respective association presidents and property managers. One was a membership dues letter, another handout included information on the Montgomery County Commission on Common Ownership Communities seeking attorneys with special skills, and the third detailed how the Montgomery County Planning Department maintains a comprehensive list of Homeowner Association and Civic Associations in the County.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND THE COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Kathy Knight, District Court Division Chief introduced Lt. Dave McBain of the Montgomery County Police Department who has had direct experience regarding Maryland medical cannabis dispensaries. He spoke and made the following points:

- Montgomery County doesn't regulate cannabis dispensaries, the State does
- Growers have to be in the State
- In Maryland, each legislative district may have two dispensaries for a total of 16 in the State
- There are 14 dispensaries currently in business
- Maryland dispensaries must follow a rigorous requirement plan; not all pass
- It is an all cash operation; money can't be put into any bank
- Money goes to the state coffers and is privately transported
- There has been no increase in crime near existing dispensaries
- Cannabis edibles are not allowed in Maryland (like gummy bears) though there are some items such as lozenges that are allowed

- There are lots of regulatory rules for the dispensary and its users
- Very good surveillance at each site
- Drug product is kept in a vault much like a bank or jewelry store
- In 2019, all patients and caregivers will have to have an I.D.
- Police conduct walkthroughs at all new businesses and get to know the staff
- All products are grown and produced within the State
- The product is very high grade and never leaves the State
- A person must apply to the State to be a grower
- There is tracking of the product throughout the entire process
- Patients have to sign an attestation with very strict rules about use
- Because of the very high purity levels, the product is about three times more expensive than that available on the street
- Street marijuana is lower grade in quality
- Controlled studies are being conducted by the Police regarding impaired driving while under the influence of marijuana
- There is a \$250 fine for smoking marijuana in public

PRESENTATION OF THE GOCA 2019 BUDGET

Bob Hambrecht, Treasurer, presented the budget for 2019. It is similar to 2018. It includes \$1500 for website updating and some slight increases, but the total expenses are lower in 2019 due to the fact that one association paid its dues for three years in advance.

Ruth Laughner made a motion to approve the budget. It was seconded and unanimously approved.

LISTENING SESSION WITH MARC ELRICH

The session held at Olney Elementary was very well attended. There were a number of people presenting various issues. Mr. Elrich fielded questions well. He was sympathetic and knowledgeable.

POTENTIAL ZONING CHANGES

The property across from Johnson's Florist wants a zoning text amendment for a distillery. Additionally, there will be a meeting December 18, 19, or 20, 2018 to discuss a zoning amendment regarding signage in Olney.

UPDATES REGARDING PROPOSED 350 FOOT COMMUNICATIONS TOWER

Jeff Weiler reported on the latest developments regarding the tower.

- He just found out that a report is about to be issued stating that the Olney location is the only viable possible location for the tower
- Montgomery County Office of Public Safety Systems Modernization is the driving force behind the tower
- Marc Elrich is sympathetic to the cause as expressed by GOCA; said he'd write a letter
- Ben Kramer is very much against the tower
- Craig Zucker knows about the situation but has not expressed his opinion
- We need to get elected officials involved, including Nancy Navarro
- Jeff urged all community associations under GOCA to contact their elected officials about our strong objections to this project

Billy Becker announced that a Stop Work Order was issued on November 21, 2018 for the Taco Bar at the corner of Route 108 and Georgia Avenue. No details were available.

There was no report on Awards and Board Nominations.

Ed Weisel made a motion to adjourn at 9:09 PM. The motion was seconded and approved by acclamation.

The next meeting of GOCA Officers will be on Thursday, December 27, 2018 at the Olney Library. The next General Meeting will be on Tuesday, January 24, 2019 at 7:30 PM at the Re/Max Community Room in the Buffington Building.

Respectfully submitted
Carol Frenkel, Recording Secretary

In attendance:

GOCA Officers

Billy Becker, President – Ashley Hollow; Matt Quinn, Executive Vice President – Cherrywood; David Miller, 1st Vice President – Norbeck Meadows; Stacy Levine, 2nd Vice President -- Reserve at Fair Hill; Carol Frenkel, Recording Secretary – Olney Mill; Bob Hambrecht, Treasurer – Williamsburg Village

GOCA Representatives and Alternates

John Blachere (Ashley Hollow), Helene Rosenheim (Highlands of Olney), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres), Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks), Lori Nelson (Olney Oaks), Jay Feinberg (Olney Oaks), Jeff Weiler (Preserve at Small's Nursery), Alden English (SEROCA), Ruth

Laughner (Williamsburg Village), Joe Corbett (Williamsburg Village)

Public

Terri Hogan (Greater Olney News), Barbara Falcigno