

Greater Olney Civic Association
Draft Minutes
2022-06-14 Representatives Meeting

The 2022-06-14 Representatives Meeting of the Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) was held online via Zoom and called to order at 7:32PM EST by President Helene Rosenheim, with Recording Secretary Thomas Canavan present. A quorum was present.

Those attending were:

GOCA Officers: President Helene Rosenheim (Highlands of Olney), 1st Vice President Curtis Chappell (Olney Square), 2nd Vice President Matt Quinn, Treasurer Jeff Duce (Norbeck Grove), Corresponding Secretary Jamie Goad (Norbeck Meadows), Recording Secretary Thomas Canavan (Hallowell)

Representatives: Louis Wilen (Cherrywood), Maria Bender (Brookeville Knolls), Jeff Weiler (Preserve at Small's Nursery), Conrad Hocking (Lake Hallowell), Mike Dickerson (Olney Oaks), Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks), Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres), Gervais Crouch (Norbeck Chase), Jim Smith (Oatland Farm), Jesse McMahon (Williamsburg Village), Lee Kid (Cherrywood)

Guests: Sharif Hidayat (D7 Candidate), Terri Hogan (Olney Chamber of Commerce), Paul Geller (D7 Candidate), Alan Sachs (Olney Town Center Advisory Committee), Gina Quinn, Rick

The agenda of the 2022-06-12 representatives meeting was approved as amended.

The minutes of the 2022-05-10 representative meeting was approved as presented.

Announcements

District 7 County Council Candidate Forum – Sharif Hidayat

- Similar to events GOCA hosted on April 5, 7 & 14, 2022 for other District 7 Democratic candidates
- Moderated by Treasurer Jeff Duce

Reports

Other District 7 County Council Candidate Events, 2nd Vice President Matt Quinn

- Six total events have been held by GOCA, OCC, and Good Counsel High School.
- After the primary, we will include Harold Maldonado (R).
- Early voting begins July 7th.
- Videos of the candidate forums are available on GOCA and Olney Chamber websites

Treasurer's Report, Jeff Duce

- We raised \$625 for Olney Days from 5 Associations out of 30.
- We raised \$550 for the new police substation
- New associations - Olney Estates HOA, Champlain at Environ and Candence
- Lost associations - Fair Hill HOA, Fair Hill Farm, Townes, and Environ

Olney Chamber of Commerce, Terri Hogan, Exec. Dir

- The Chamber has added over 35 members since the beginning of the year. Next event is on June 23rd at Umbertos, visitors welcome, 5:30-7:30pm with an open mic at 7:00pm.

- National Night Out is August 2nd at the Fair Hill Shopping Center from 5-8pm.
- Any questions, visit website chamber.org

Olney Days 2022, Barbara Falcigno

- Eight different events make up Olney Days including Party in the Park
- 11,000 pounds of paper shredding during annual shredding event.
- 400-500 attendees for Joe's Ride
- Est. 6,000 at Party in the Park and estimated 10,000 visitors watched the fireworks
- Community Clean Up took place behind Olney Elementary and Nancy Way.
- Other events included Car and Truck Show and the Parade.
- Olney Days was supported by over 100 volunteers with no paid staff and expenses sponsored by our business community. In 2023 we hope every household will consider donating one dollar.
- Olney Days 2023 – April 28-30th

Old Business

Update on the Olney Town Commons Initiative by Alan Sachs from the Olney Town Center Advisory Committee.

- Growing recognition particularly through COVID that we need outdoor space to engage and interact with each other.
- Key challenges is identifying a space. Master Plan expectation was that commercial development would take place and it would be incorporated into that redeveloped space, but that's not happening. Brings us to where we are now looking for new ideas.
- One of the mechanisms is through placemaking to jump start progress, such as creating a space for everyone to imagine what a town commons would look like. Focus on a temporary space so people get engaged with the idea. Successfully implemented in other communities locally. County Planning has expressed support likely early next year.

New Business

Montgomery County Dept of General Services Affordable Housing Site Availability Initiative (Note: a DGS representative will attend the July 12th meeting to discuss this initiative – no action being taken at this meeting)

- Helene Rosenheim asked Dept. of GS to attend, educate us, but they informed us they are early in the process, so no analysis of the situation but will be available during our July meeting
- A representative sent talking points in advance and Helene shared them during the meeting.
 - Collectively more than 100 responses\few weeks
 - Helene incorporate additional responses

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM EST

Thomas Canavan, Recording Secretary