

Greater Olney Civic Association
Draft Minutes
2022-09-13 Representatives Meeting

The 2022-09-13 Representatives Meeting of the Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) was held in-person at Cadence at Olney and online via Zoom and called to order at 7:42PM 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: Alden English (SEROCA), Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres), Jim Smith (Oatland Farm), Kelly Wasik (Tanterra), Mike Dickerson (Olney Oaks), Edward Weisel (Norbeck Meadows)

Guests: Delegate Eric G. Luedtke, Danny Rubenstein, Larissa Johnson (Mont. Co. Dept of Environmental Protection), Carol Sullivan, Rick, Ira Ungar, Judy Hruz (Greater Olney News)

The agenda of the 2022-09-13 representatives meeting was approved as presented

The minutes of the 2022-07-12 representative meeting was approved as presented.

Announcements

Helene R. thanked Cadence at Olney for hosting our in-person monthly meetings

Sept 20 – Greater Olney Toastmasters – Tall Tales Contest

Presentation

Get Energized with DEP, Larissa Johnson, MPA(She/Her), Residential Energy Program Manager, Energy, Climate & Compliance Div. Dept. of Environmental Protection

Ms. Johnson shared programs that will help reduce the use of energy, discussed the difference between conservation and efficiency, lighting differences, and resources available at the Montgomery Energy Connection website. She encouraged everyone to visit <https://montgomeryenergyconnection.org/lower-my-bill/> > Lower My Bill to schedule a **Home Energy Assessment**, Residents can reach out to Ms. Johnson with any questions and to receive free items for homes to monitor energy use and save energy at energy@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Reports

Treasurer's Report - Jeff Duce, Treasurer

- Two recent banner rentals - Echelon Academy and Sts. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church.
- Our current account balance is +/- \$18,000

Public Policy & Community Affairs (PPCA) Committee - Thomas Canavan, Chair

- PPCA Committee Report - Addendum A.

- Alden English requested that GOCA support an effort to secure an appropriate plan for 28 acres surrounding Olney Manor Park. The request was referred to the PPCA Committee for possible formation of a subcommittee or ad hoc committee to explore the issue and potential actions GOCA might take.
- Diana Littlefield asked that GOCA work with MCPD to identify a solution to the large number of people asking for money at the intersection of 108 and Georgia Ave. It was noted that a representative from MCPD District 4 has been invited to our October meeting and we can include this issue in that discussion.

Transportation Committee - John Seng, Chair

- Transportation Committee Report – Addendum B.
- Bowie Mill Road Bikeway Update - Delegate Luedtke and Danny Rubenstein reported:
 - How the council worked to move the project forward to be completed by FY27
 - GOCA should send a note supporting amendment
 - Mr. Rubenstein has created a Facebook Page with updates

Olney Chamber of Commerce Helene Rosenheim reported for Terri Hogan, Exec. Dir

- Community Night and Taste of Olney – October 10th - 4-8pm

Old Business – None

New Business

- New GOCA Logo Design/Updates to GOCA Website, Jamie Goad, Corresponding Secretary
 - Representatives were presented with three new logo options
 - The reason for the new logo is to modernize the design and start from scratch in order to provide the image file types necessary to use the logo for various branding applications
 - A SurveyMonkey will be sent to GOCA representatives for feedback before a selection is made
- Candidate Events for County Executive & County Council District 7, Matt Quinn, 2nd Vice President
 - Communication sent to several organizations suggesting that we co-host a D7 and a County Executive candidate events
 - Time is running out to decide, but concern for whether people will attend. Questions on how to organize it for maximum attendance
 - We're impacted by county-level decisions and more people should be voting in elections
 - It was determined that we should host a County Executive and D7 debate prior to the election

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:36 PM EST

Thomas Canavan, Recording Secretary

Addendum A.

Public Policy and Community Affairs Committee 2022-09-06 Meeting Report

The 2022-09-06 Public Policy and Community Affairs Committee (PPCA) Meeting of the Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) was held online via Zoom and called to order at 7:00PM EST by Thomas Canavan, Chair, PPCA.

Those attending were:

GOCA Officers: Recording Secretary Thomas Canavan (Hallowell), Chair, Public Policy and Community Affairs Committee, Maria Bender (Brookeville Knolls), Marc Meltzer, Terracycle; Jen Rusiecki, Green Olney

Discussion Topics:

- Public Safety Reporting
 - Established contact with 4th District. Commander Augustine is out of the office for training, but I heard back from Deputy Commander Douglas Miller. We hope to provide regular updates on public safety periodically throughout the year. Lt. Miller will be at the next PPCA meeting.
- Longwood Community Recreation Center
 - Established contact with Katie Dowdy, Manager Longwood Community Recreation Center. Thomas and Katie are scheduling time to discuss what activities are available at Longwood and how we can create more awareness for Olney residents and add offerings that would serve our community.
 - We also discussed reaching out to the library to join the PPCA meeting to contribute to discussion around extracurricular and weekend activities.
- Environmental Initiatives
 - Jen provided an overview of composting effort and provided several examples of scaling the program to include participation in county programs and collaborating with local restaurants and food trucks to generate enough food scraps to begin a collection.
 - Marc provided an overview of the Terracycle program which aims to send plastic items back to manufacturers.
 - He plans to set up a collection site at the Farmer's Market

Action Items:

- How can Green Olney receive funding for environmental projects from the Greater Olney Civic Fund? Grants for specific – Grant cycle coming up in the next month
- Request that GOCA shares a list of Terracycle items that can be collected at the Farmer's Market
- Can GOCA sponsor SSL hours as a non-profit for community-based initiatives, for example having student volunteers at the Green Olney tent during the Farmer's Market? Montgomery Serves – Officers, GOCA already.

Thomas Canavan, Chair, Public Policy and Community Affairs Committee

Addendum B.

**GOCA Transportation Committee Meeting
2022-08-30
Meeting Report**

Members: Kathleen Donodeo, Irina Norell, Bill Wanatosky, Jon Morrison, Mindy Badin, joined after the call, John Seng, chair

- Brief introductions for this newly reformed Committee of GOCA
- Discuss Committee vision/objectives and mission
- Current issues:
 - Discussed the current Olney police station location and development. Why not just use the old bank building.
 - Traffic issues, lights and timing. Traffic patterns. Mass transportation and bus. Curbs.
 - Reach out to and connect with authorities in our areas of concern. Embark on listening and sharing mission. Emphasize safety and gather data.
 - Example: Bus and transportation that don't make sense. What is mass transit solution? OLNEY is too "tight," and not walking friendly.
 - Downtown is not as safe as it should be. Cars turning. Has to be a way to make it safer.
 - Lots of accidents. Start a conversation. Anything done to make it safer.
 - Left turn signals (flashing yellow or red) vs full signalization
 - Centerline rumble strips
 - Panhandlers on Rt 108 and 97 intersection medians
 - Traffic light signal timing
 - Use of speed cameras
 - Each intersection is different. Get consistent approaches.
 - Bike riding is hazardous.
 - Improve safety.
 - County has put bikers in harm's way. Help and get part of the plan.
 - No pedestrian connection on Dr. Bird road. Lots of students from GC can't walk. No accident data. Not enough pedestrians crossing. Pedestrian master plan and biking master plan.
 - Complete streets - sidewalks and multiuse
 - Path network connectivity
 - Condition of roads
 - Roadway (re)surfacing
 - Jon Morrison shared links: - https://bikeleague.org/community?gclid=EA1aIQobChMltLPj693v-QIV1MmUCR082AuDEAAYASAAEgLYY_D_BwE
 - https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-PedSafety/PBTSAC/PBTSAC_History.html <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/visionzero/calendar.html?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D156597094>
- Admin - use of Slack?
 - Can save the conversation. Idea is to make it easier to stay on topic.

- John Seng, Chair, September 13, 2022