



GREATER OLNEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

2023-5-9 Representatives Meeting

- Minutes -

The 2023-5-9 Representatives Meeting of the Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) was held online via Zoom and called to order at 7:33 PM EST by President Helene Rosenheim, with Recording Secretary John Seng present. A quorum was present. All participants were introduced. Those attending:

**Officers**

- Helene Rosenheim, President (Highlands of Olney)
- Irina Norell, Executive Vice President (Norbeck Meadows) (Transportation Committee)
- Curtis Chappell, First Vice President (Olney Square)
- Matt Quinn, Second Vice President (Cherrywood)
- Jeff Duce, Treasurer (Norbeck Grove)
- Jamie Goad, Corresponding Secretary (Norbeck Meadows)
- John Seng, Recording Secretary (Transportation Committee) (Brooke Manor Estates)

**Members**

- Mindy Badin (Olney Mill) (Transportation Committee)
- Laura Sherman (Briars Acres)
- Marie Bender (Brookeville Knolls)
- Louis Wilen (Cherrywood)
- Juris Mohseni (Village of James Creek)
- Jackie Benn (Fairhill Farm)

- Mike Dickerson (Olney Oaks)
- Jim Smith (Oatland Farm, Olney Civic Fund)
- Art Brodsky (Cherrywood, Olney Civic Fund)
- Lee Kidd (Cherrywood)
- Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks)
- Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres)
- Kelly Wasik (Tanterra)

**Guests**

- Chuck Kines/Park Planner, Montgomery County
- MD Senator Craig Zucker, Dist. 14
- MD Delegate Bernice Mireku-North, Dist. 14
- MD Delegate Pam Queen, Dist. 14
- MD Delegate Anne Kaiser, Dist. 14
- Montgomery County Councilmember Dawn Luedtke, Dist. 7
- Aaron Kraut (Chief of Staff, Montgomery County Councilmember Dawn Luedtke)
- Mark Meltzer
- Brandy Heckman-Stoddard
- Judy Hruz (*Greater Olney News*)

**Approval of Agenda for May 9, 2023**

No changes to the agenda. With no opposition, the agenda was approved as presented.

**Approval of Minutes from April 11, 2023**

No additions or corrections to the minutes. Minutes approved as presented.

## Announcements

There were no announcements.

### **Montgomery County Pickleball Project - Chuck Kines Park Planner, PickleBall coordinator and planner**

Mr. Kines shared that pickleball is a rapidly evolving sport throughout the US and Montgomery County. He presented a slide program to guide GOCA through the issues and opportunities. The parks department intends to convert the two shared tennis courts at East Norbeck local park to six pickle ball parks. Most pickleball courts in the County are shared with tennis courts. There are only eight dedicated pickleball courts in the County.

He presented an extremely thorough overview of the sport and the County's plans to accommodate County residents who want to participate in the sport.

During Q&A, Mr. Kines indicated that people need to bring their own nets. The cost of converting tennis courts to pickle ball courts is \$30,000 to create six courts, including repairs, nets and color coating. Courts are first-come, first-served. A reservation system is being implemented on June 1. Games usually last about 15 minutes, and most people play for at least two hours.

Mr. Kines shared that three new pickle ball dedicated parks will be built at Greenwood Local Park in the next year and a half. <https://montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/greenwood-local-park/>

Here is the link to Mr. Kines's presentation – [East Norbeck Pickleball Courts Presentation](#)

Contact information: [charles.Kines@MontgomeryParks.org](mailto:charles.Kines@MontgomeryParks.org) 301-495-2184

Other links:

Montgomery County Parks:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/activitiesandprograms/sports/adultpickleball.html>

Montgomery County Recreation Department:

<https://montgomeryparks.org/projects/directory/pickleball-in-montgomery-parks/>

### **Maryland State Legislature District 14 Wrap-Up**

Helene Rosenheim welcomed the Maryland District 14 Delegation to the GOCA call. Senator Craig Zucker; and Delegates Anne Kaiser, Pam Queen and Bernice Mireku-North were introduced. The speakers shared budgeting for District 14, Montgomery County and the State; presented individual overviews of 2023 Maryland General Assembly priorities; as well as shared individual team members' legislative highlights.

It was noted that a significant portion of southwestern Olney still falls within District 19.

John Seng raised the question of why road safety legislation did not receive top priority in the 2023 session despite multiple, successive years of approximately 550 deaths on Maryland roads. Sen. Zucker and several of the delegates indicated their willingness to work with GOCA to promote VisionZero in Montgomery County and road safety throughout the State.

Jim Smith thanked Sen. Zucker and Dist. 14 delegates for funding of the Olney Civic Fund.

Helene thanked the members of the Maryland Delegation for their efforts on behalf of Olney.

**Montgomery County Council District 7 – Councilmember Dawn Luedtke**

Ms. Luedtke reported that the County Executive proposed an operating budget that would require a 10% property tax increase and also, even if passed, would still leave a \$145 million budget deficit, and said that would be fiscally irresponsible.

The Council inherited the fiscal landscape of the County Executive and previous Council that relied upon use of one-time budgets. The current situation needs to be corrected. She and colleagues are working to reduce spending while maintaining services without jeopardizing schools, public safety and more.

She acknowledged her appreciation for the State team.

Ms. Luedtke cited two capital projects: 1. The Bowie Mill Bikeway and 2. The Olney MCPD substation. A public event is scheduled on May 20 to celebrate the new substation. Her office is sponsoring an Olney-Sandy Spring forum on public safety to take place June 29, 7-9pm at Sherwood High School. Details forthcoming. She worked to pass a bill that improves health care privacy for government employees, and highlighted other accomplishments, including retrofitting homes for seniors, introducing an airpark advisory committee bill and more.

Responding to a question, Ms. Luedtke indicated that restorative justice is a State requirement, providing examples and discussing scenarios and challenges. Conversations will continue going forward.

**Reports**

**Treasurer’s Report - Jeff Duce, Treasurer**

GOCA consists of 26 association members and one individual member, Mike Rubin. Mr. Duce reported collections of \$675 for Olney Days and \$350 for the police substation. He discussed the need for a modern camera system to run meetings more professionally. They contacted Zoom, which recommended an \$1,100 camera model.

Also, GOCA needs to market itself, but has no materials. Also, GOCA owns the banner space near Chipotle which could advertise GOCA.

Mr. Duce proposed spending up to \$2,000 on the new camera, banners, a tablecloth for exhibiting and marketing materials. Curtis Chappell indicated that funds derived from savings should be applied to marketing, and demonstrated the new GOCA shirt.

There was debate regarding appropriateness of a banner, competitive pricing of banners and the projected cost of the camera.

GOCA reserves currently amount to approximately \$17,000.

Jeff Duce introduced a motion to spend up to \$2,000 that is not currently budgeted (on a camera and GOCA promotional marketing premium items and other materials). Irina Norell seconded the motion.

Jamie Goad electronically polled GOCA voting members on the motion as read. Results: 13 Yes, 0 No. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Transportation Committee - John Seng, Chair**

Mindy Badin, SafeRoadsMD Coalition member John Becker and Mr. Seng met with Councilmember Dawn Luedtke and Aaron Kraut at her office to share our priorities from GOCA and to thank her for co-sponsoring Council President Evan Glass's SAFE roads bill.

GOCA distributed Transportation Committee member Kathleen Donodeo's presentation of the Montgomery County Pedestrian Plan analysis to GOCA-member communities. Committee members drafted the cover letter to introduce Kathleen's video, with contributions from Helene and Jamie especially in managing the distribution.

The committee reviewed current road safety-related Council bills – the Safe Roads Act (favorable) as well as the STEP Act (unfavorable).

New items:

- In whole, the Maryland General Assembly failed to pass noteworthy, statewide road safety legislation of any significance in the 2023 session.
  - Sen. Kramer's bill introduced in the Montgomery County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly calling for 4 speed cameras on the ICC was completely eviscerated by House Environment and Transportation Chair Barve and Transportation Committee Chair Sara Love. The 100 percent revised bill of the same number (HB 0820) only required MDTA to install 8 speed monitoring message signs, not speed cameras.
  - Mr. Seng will work with Ms. Rosenheim and other HOAs that neighbor the ICC to ask MDTA to install the message boards regardless.
  - Road safety – 108 Sherwood High School crossing hazards
  - Street and road notification guide – User friendly page or downloadable pdf
  - Set up our next in-person meeting

### **Olney Chamber of Commerce - Terri Hogan, Exec. Dir.**

No report

#### **New Business**

No new business

#### **Adjournment**

Helen Rosenheim adjourned the meeting at 9:37pm

#### **Calendar Items**

- Next Officers' Meeting – Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 7:00 PM
- Next General Membership Meeting – Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 7:30 PM

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Send suggested agenda items for future GOCA meetings to [goca.president@goca.org](mailto:goca.president@goca.org) for review at monthly Officers' meetings.