



**GREATER OLNEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
2025-06-10 Representatives DRAFT Meeting
Minutes
APPROVED: DATE**

The 2025-06-10 Representatives Meeting of the Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) was conducted online via Zoom Web Teleconference.

President Irina Norrell called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm EST.

A quorum was present.. V = attended virtually

Officers

- Irina Norell, President (Norbeck Meadows)
- Tina Crau (Individual)
- Matt Quinn, Second Vice President (Cherrywood)
- Kristen Quinn, Corresponding Secretary (Norbeck Meadows)
- Helene Rosenheim, Recording Secretary (Highlands of Olney)

Members

- Mindy Badin, (Olney Mill), Transp Comm Chair
- Bill Becker (Past President)
- Mary Lou Causway (Christie Estates)
- Stacy Cummings (Tanterra)
- Barbara Falcigno (Olney Oaks, SF)
- Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks, SF)
- Joe Krempsky (Brookeville Knolls HOA)
- Tim Lighter (Oakland Farm) - V
- Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres)
- Mike Payne (Olney Oaks SF)
- Matt Post (Individual)
- Marlene Saulsbury, Forest Crossing
- Ann Strain, (Cherrywood)
- Carolyn Wright (Cherrywood)
- (Brookeville Knolls) - V

Guests

- Gabe Albornoz, Montgomery County Council, At-Large - V
- Talia Beaulieu-Hains, Mid-County Regional Services Center
- Monica Caudillo - V
- Tara Cepaitis (Tanterra) - V
- Joseph Gelula - Councilmember Laurie Ann Sayles, At-Large staff member
- Rich Gelula (Norbeck Meadows)
- Evan Glass, Montgomery County Council, At-Large - V
- Will Jawando, Montgomery County Council, At-Large
- Aaron Kraut, Chief of Staff, Dawn Luedtke, Montgomery County Council, District 7 - V
- Dawn Luedtke, Montgomery County Council, District 7 - V
- Alex Mukhtar - V
- Jose Antonio Ortiz - V
- Laurie Ann Sayles - Montgomery County Council, At-Large - V
- Ellen Singer (Norbeck Hills)
- Tom Smith, MO Exile Rugby
- Lucy Wilson (Ashley Hollow)
- Av Wofsey (Norbeck Hill HOA)
- Lindsey ? - V
- Mirko ? - V
- Suruikka ? - V

Approval of the June 10, 2025 Agenda - Agenda was approved with no additions or changes.

Approval of May 11, 2025 Minutes - The minutes of the March meeting were approved with no additions or corrections

Election of GOCA Executive Vice President

Irina Norell introduced Matt Post as a candidate for GOCA Executive Vice President. Matt gave a brief biography.

Carolyn Knight moved that Matt be approved as Executive Vice President. Matt Quinn seconded her motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Montgomery County Council Update

Irina N. welcomed Councilmembers, Dawn Luedtke, District 7 and the 4 At-Large members, Gabe Albornoz, Evan Glass, Will Jawando, and Laurie Anne Sayles.

- Councilmember Luedtke, serves on Health & Human Services and Public Safety Committees.
 - Thanked everyone involved with obtaining the bank building at Georgia Ave & Spartan Rd to be an Olney community building which is now owned by the County
 - As of today, the County's Dept. of General Services is working on renovation plans for the building and the renovations should take 14-18 months.
 - Legislation and issues she is involved with:
 - Draft bill increasing fines for operating unlicensed, for-profit events from \$500 to \$5,000, plus if commit other infractions fines can go up to \$25-30,000. Goal not to collect fines, but to keep people from planning these events.
 - Continuing to work to assist Federal employees living in the County who have been affected by the current administration's action.
 - Addressing mental health and public safety issues including helping to coordinate a symposium on the sequential intercept model to prevent people with behavioral health issues from entering the justice system and to help people when they come out of the justice system.
- Councilmember Jawando - chairs the Education & Culture Committee and serves on the Planning, Housing & Parks Committee; and is currently serving as Vice President of the Council.
 - Legislation and issues he is involved with:
 - Being able to fund 99.8% of the education budget request, though next year's budget will be challenging due to the need to simultaneously address both operating and capital budgets combined with dealing with the impact of federal job cuts on the County's economy
 - A bill to give hiring preference to fired federal employees for county jobs.
 - Progress on crosswalk and traffic safety improvements near local schools.
 - Regarding the controversial rehab facility, Jawando explains that a previous county attempt to require notice for group homes was struck down as violating the Fair Housing Act, limiting their options now.
 - Housing initiatives and a potential new COSTCO development with a gas station in White Oak
- Councilmember Albornoz - chairs the Health & Human Services Committee, and serves on the Education & Culture Committee.
 - Legislation and issues he is involved with:
 - Got the budget completed without raising property and income taxes.
 - Possible upcoming reductions to Medicare and Medicaid, which may lead to increased paperwork and people losing access to services. Montgomery County has a strong healthcare infrastructure to help mitigate these impacts and are preparing for potential job losses due to federal workforce reductions, with unemployment potentially reaching double digits.
 - Determining ways to address budget impacts of costs transferred to the County by the State in response to Federal funding cuts, e.g., MCPS retirement system costs,
 - Working on ongoing efforts to address food insecurity and support nonprofit organizations facing increased demand and reduced federal funding.

- Introduced legislation to require cannabis dispensaries to be at least 100 feet from residential homes, citing public health concerns.
 - Mentioned the ongoing MCPS boundary change proposals and encourages residents to fill out surveys administered by MCPS.
- Councilmember Sayles - serves on the Health & Human Services and Economic Development Committees.
 - Legislation and issues she is involved with:
 - Also noted that the Council passed a budget without raising income or property taxes while fully funding education, including for hiring more social workers in schools.
 - They restored funding to the Capital Area Food Bank, made ride-on buses free, and opened a mobile health clinic.
 - Addressing the opioid epidemic, supporting displaced federal workers, and expanding affordable housing options.
 - Legislation to convert vacant offices into housing and increase affordability requirements for new developments.
- Councilmember Glass - chairs the TRansportation & Environmental Committee and serves on the Economic Development Committee.
 - Legislation and issues he is involved with:
 - Efforts to improve road safety in Montgomery County through passage of the Safe Streets Act, which has led to fewer traffic-related deaths and incidents in the first quarter of this year.
 - Ongoing work to build sidewalks, improve bicycle infrastructure, and increase the number of speed cameras in the county, noting that recent state legislation will allow for more automated traffic enforcement, and encouraged community input on camera placement.
 - Pride in fully funding MCPS without tax increases, citing economic concerns and potential impacts from federal job cuts.
 - Increased transparency in the MCPS budget process and the improved partnership with the new superintendent and school board.
 - Emphasizes the importance of focusing on economic development, particularly in light of federal government contraction, and discusses efforts to streamline the process for opening businesses in Montgomery County through the Economic Development Committee and improvements in permitting services.
- The Councilmembers addressed questions about speed-reduction devices on Morningwood Dr, healthcare access the proposed rehab facility near Greenwood Elementary, cars parked near fire hydrants, completing the sidewalk few small missing portions of Olney - Sandy Spring Rd (Rte. 108)

**Community Spotlight: Maryland Exile Youth Touch Rugby
presented by Tom Smith**

- They are a local nonprofit rugby team for children aged 5-16 that has been around since 1971 and currently has over 100 players from diverse backgrounds; and has partnered with the OBGC - Olney Boys and Girls Community Sports Association
- They focus on three main areas: providing financial assistance to ensure all children can participate, offering on and off-field development opportunities, and giving back to the community through volunteer work.
- Tom requested support in finding new players and coaches, identifying community engagement opportunities, and seeking sponsorships to send more children to a Navy rugby camp at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis.

- Irina offered to have GOCA promote the organization through their website and newsletter, and suggested connecting with the MidCounty Regional Services Center for potential funding opportunities.

Officers and Committee Report - Officers Reports were tabled till the July meeting.

Transportation Committee, Reported by Mindy Badin, Chair

- The Maryland Dept of Transportation (MDOT), in response to multiple calls from the community to review that intersection of Rte. 108 and Village Center Dr, is reviewing the numerous accidents at that intersection and current driving patterns. One solution being considered is having the lights go green in sequence, but there may not be enough traffic on the southside of Rte. 108 to justify that. We should have an answer in a few weeks.
- Several Bills of note include:
 - The Patrick Keff Act passed that will increase penalties for reckless, excessive driving to \$1,000 fine and 6 points
 - Graduated penalties for speed camera fines to: for 1-15 miles above the speed limit - \$40; 16-19 miles over - \$75; 20 -29 miles over - \$120; 30-39 miles over \$230 and 40 & up over - \$425
 - Am exhaust noise camera pilot program on the Inter-County Connector.
- One bill that did not pass was for an Intelligent Speed Assistance System. These systems could be installed in the cars of individuals with large numbers of speeding tickets that have the ability to prevent drivers from going over posted speed limits. It will be introduced again next year and she asked people to approach State legislators in support of this bill.
- She will get information requested by Marr Quinn about any noted changes in driving patterns as a result of speed cameras around the County.

Mid-County Regional Services Center Report, Reported by Talia Beaulieu-Hains

- The next Mid County Advisory Board (MCCAB) meeting is scheduled for June 12th at 7 PM, featuring presentations from the Montgomery County Volunteer Center and the Residential Energy Program.
- There is an upcoming MCCAB member opening that they are soliciting applicants for.
- A number of placemaking grants have recently been awarded to Fair Hill Shopping Center and Olney Theatre. They were 2 of 24 applicants for the grants.
- The MCCAB's role is to advocate for the Mid County region to the County Executive, and provide a public forum for community concerns.
- Irina cited an example of the effectiveness of the MCCAB in which the Board was able to quickly resolve a water meter billing issue that was presented at one of their meetings.

Olney Days Report, Reported by Barbara Falcigno

- Olney Days weekend had been a great success and that the weather cooperated all weekend.
- At the Party in the Park event, they had asked for voluntary donations for the first time and collected over \$5,000. This is helpful because the weekend costs \$50,000 of which only \$30,000 is covered by corporate sponsorships. So they really need additional support and revenues from the beer, food, and games at the event
- She emphasized the need for community support and volunteers for future events.

Announcements

- National Nite Out is August 5, 2025.
- Next meeting: Tuesday, July 8th, will be both in-person and on Zoom. The County Executive will provide an update..

Adjournment

Adjourned: 9:05 pm EST

Submitted by Recording Secretary Helene Rosenheim