



**GREATER OLNEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
2026-01-13 Representatives DRAFT Meeting Minutes
APPROVED:**

The 2026-01-13 Representatives Meeting of the Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) was conducted in-person at the Sandy Spring Vol Fire Department, Oak Ballroom and online via Zoom Web Teleconference.

President Irina Norrell called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm EST.

A quorum was present.. V = attended virtually

Officers

- Irina Norell, President (Norbeck Meadows)
- Curtis Chappelle, 1st Vice President
- Matt Quinn, 2nd Vice President,
- Kristen Quinn, Corresponding Secretary (Norbeck Meadows)
- Helene Rosenheim, Recording Secretary (Highlands of Olney)

Members

- Mindy Badin, (Olney Mill), Transp Comm Chair
- Maria Bender (Brookville Knolls) - V
- Jackie Benn (Fair Hill Farm)
- Thomas Canavan (Hallowell) Public Policy & Community Affairs Comm Chair
- Alden English (SEROCA)
- Paul Jarosinski (Cherrywood)
- Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks SF)

- Tim Lighter (Oatlands) - V
- Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres)
- Mike Payne (Olney Oaks SF)
- Carol Sullivan (Cherrywood) - V
- Lucy Wilson (Ashley Hollow)

Guests

- Jennifer Fajman - V
- Kim Glassman (President.Magruder HS PSTA) - V
- Brandy Heckman-Stoddard (NCI)- V
- Aaron Kraut, Chief of Staff, County Councilmember Dawn Luedtke, Dist 7
- Colin Loughlin - V
- Michele McLeod
- Dan Silva (MCCPTA - Magruder Cluster Coordinator
- Julie - V

Agenda/Minutes Appro

- January 13, 2026 agenda accepted as presented.
- December 9 2025 minutes approved with no additions or corrections:

Guest Speakers

Effort to Get Magruder High School on Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) renovation list - Dan Silva, MCCPTA Magruder Cluster Coordinator; Kim Glassman, President, Magruder High School PSTA (Powerpoint presentation available on www.goca.org).

Mr. Silva presented a brief history of previous renovations/repairs to Magruder. And noted that the new MCPS Superintendent has revised the system for prioritizing renovations for MCPS schools, and all schools have been assessed and ranked.

Under this new system, Magruder is currently ranked 7th, but only the first 6 schools in the list are being included in the current MCPS CIP recommendations for renovation (5 elementary schools and 1 high school - Damascus).The County budget process is not complete yet, so it is hard to know yet what the budget will be for school renovations. So it is hard to determine right now whether it is even viable to argue to include Magruder in the renovation list.

One complication is that Magruder may be excluded for consideration for several kinds of repairs such as to the roof and heating/air conditioning system that could be done in the interim if the school is close to being renovated.

The Magruder HS PTSA does not have an ask from GOCA yet, but are providing this presentation to provide information to GOCA about the situation at the high school. They will come back to us later when they have a better idea of how GOCA can support their efforts.

Northwest Branch Trail Extension- Kyle Lukacs, AICP Senior Trails PLanner, Montgomery Park (His Powerpoint presentation will be available on www.goca.org.)

Work on the extension of the Northwest Branch Trail began a long time ago. And, ten years ago, in 2016, GOCA supported this extension. There is currently a project being proposed for one section of this trail. It includes 2.2 miles that will connect the Rock Creek Trail with the ICC trail. The target for starting the project is summer 2026, with 1 year of construction. It will replace some gravel paths with asphalt and remove some excessive pavement; and includes 2 bridges over low areas along the route.

He also did not have a specific ask right now, but anticipates that he will reach out to GOCA later in the budget process for a letter of support for the additional money needed to complete the extension of the trail. This will be an impactful addition to our trail system.

Maryland Senate Bill 756 /House Bill 1534 - Lucy Wilson, Ashley Hallow HOA

Lucy Wilson noted that on October 1, 2025 Senate Bill 756 passed. It changed the manner in which homeowner associations (HOAs) have to conduct the election of their boards requiring that HOAs use an independent entity to count ballots in an election of board members. The bill effectively requires that HOAs use third party software to tally election results. The management companies many HOAs use are not considered independent for purposes of counting ballots. Many HOAs had already gone to electronic balloting during COVID. But, this is adding a financial burden to HOAs, especially for smaller HOA's and since this is a cost above what some HOAs are already paying to management companies..

The passage of this bill seems to be driven by a problem with 1 HOA. Many feel this is an over-reaction and that it would be better to just deal with that 1 association rather than putting this on all associations. It is difficult to understand why having to use a third-party application is better than using a management company. And, it was not clear what the penalty is if this is not done.

There have been calls to repeal or revise the bill because of the unintended financial impact of the bill. The Community Associations Institute (CAI) is working on revised language. The consensus was that, for now, it is better to send suggestions or show support to the CAI than to our State delegations. Irina will send a synopsis of this report to our members to get their response and to help determine what GOCA should advocate for to the CAI.

Committee Reports

- **Transportation Committee** - Mindy Baden, Chair
 - Ride-On Bus Service has been free for seniors in Montgomery County, but beginning in March, Metro Buses, and Metro Rail will also be free for them.
 - The Z-2 Metro Bus has been eliminated and beginning February 2, 2026, a new Flex route, 918, will begin to operate between Sandy Spring and White Oak. It currently covers the area between New Hampshire Ave, Dr. Bird Dr, and Georgia Avenue. She hopes the boundaries will be revised to include Medstar Montgomery Medical Center and the Ross Boddy Recreation Center.
 - Two recent bills include (1) a 3 year pilot program for cameras on school buses in the Gaithersburg area and (2) on 1/1/2026 a pilot program for cameras at crosswalks to capture cars not yielding to pedestrians.
 - There is an upcoming proposed bill intended to stop super speeders that targets drivers repeatedly ticketed for excessive speeds and/or have had their licenses restored after being revoked. It puts technology in their cars to prevent them from exceeding speed limits so they are still able to drive, but not speed. This is a bill she felt we should all support and that it is technology already being used in Europe for years, and in Virginia which passed legislation last year. It did not pass in the MD legislature last year, but hopefully will this year.

- She did not have any update on the review of the Rte 108/Village Center Dr intersection, but will check.
- **Public Policy & Community Affairs Committee** - Thomas Canavan
 - The Olney Fun and Run that take place during and start at the Olney Farmers and Artists Market are on hold till the Spring because it is too cold now. He asked for suggestions for ways to increase participation
 - GOCA will be starting to publish a State Legislative Update as a newsletter to highlight proposed legislative action. And, he asked for volunteers to put together a similar update for County level legislation and budget actions.
- **2025 GOCA Awards** - Helene Rosenheim

The next Greater Olney Community Awards Ceremony will take place on Sunday, March 15, 2026 in the dining room of Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. The ceremony will again be hosted jointly by GOCA, the Olney Civic Fund and the Olney Chamber of Commerce from 2:00 - 4:30 pm.

GOCA relies on people in the community to make us aware of individuals or groups that have made noteworthy contributions over the past year or many years. We are now accepting nominations for a citizen of the year, contributions to community, a youth contribution to community and a heritage award - referring people to the GOCA website, www.goca.org, for more details on the categories of the awards and how to submit nominations. Nominations should be emailed to helene.rosenheim@verizon.net.

The deadline for submitting nominations has been extended to Saturday, January 31, 2026. Ballots will be sent to the GOCA representatives to vote on the recipients prior to the February GOCA meeting. And, the awards will be presented on March 15th.

Officers Reports

President's Report - Irina Norell

We need people to step up to serve as GOCA officers. She suggested that former HOA board members should consider serving as GOCA officers as a way of continuing their support of our community and bringing their experience working with their local HOAs to our association that serves the whole community. It was noted that we need to find ways to incentivize attendance at the GOCA meetings, especially for members who pay their dues, but do not participate. Engagement is our strength, so we need to get more engagement.

Adjournment at 8:57 pm

Submitted by Helene Rosenheim Recording Secretary