

GREATER OLNEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
2026-05-12 Representatives DRAFT Meeting Minutes

APPROVED:

The 2026-05-12 Representatives Meeting of the Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) was conducted in-person in the Brookeville Academy, Brookeville, MD and online via Zoom Web Teleconference.

President Curtis Chappell called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm [EST.i](#)

A quorum was present.. V= Attended virtually

Officers

- Curtis Chappell, President (Olney Oaks SF)
- Matt Quinn, Exec Vice President (Cherrywood)
- Thomas Canavan, 1st Vice President (Hallowell)
- Nicolas Boss, Treasurer
- Kristen Quinn, Corresponding Secretary (Norbeck Meadows)
- Helene Rosenheim, Recording Secretary (Highlands of Olney)

Members

- Maria Bender (Brookville Knolls)
- Alden English (SEROCA) - V
- Diane Littlefield (Olney Acres)
- Mike Payne (Olney Oaks SF)
- Marlene Saulsbury (Forest Crossing)
- Jim Smith (Oatland Farms)
- Ann Strain (Cherrywood)

- Lou Welantetz (Preserve at Small's Nursery)

Guests

- Kayczaj Havewala (Scout Troop T264)
- MD State Del Anne Kaiser, District 14
- MD State Senator Ben Kramer, District 19
- Theo Kritikos (Oak Grove)
- Nancy Lamon-Kritikos (Oak Grove)
- Zack Levin for MD State Del Bernice Mireku-North, District 14
- Matt Post (Candidate for MD State Del, District 14)
- Dr. Prabu Selvam (Candidate - County Council)
- MD State Del Pam Queen, District 14
- MD State Senator Craig Zucker, District 14
- 9 additional participants on Zoom, names not recorded

Agenda/Minutes Approval

- May 12, 2026 agenda accepted with 2 additions: Pulte Development proposal on the Olney Golf Park site, a proposed community event in response to recent antisemitic actions in the Olney community
- March 10, 2026 minutes approved with no additions or corrections:

Guest Speakers

State Legislature Wrap-Up by District 14 and District 19 Delegations

For District 19, MD State Senator Ben Kramer, District 19, and for District 14, MD State Senator Craig Zucker, MD State Delegate Anne Kramer, Zack Levin for Delegate Bernice Mireku-North, & Delegate Pam Queen

Senator Ben Kramer, Dist 19

- Noted that Del Bonnie Cullison will be retiring and thanked her for her 20 years of service to their District
- His work this session focused on:
 - Work force issues in Maryland, particularly those impacted by the reductions in Federal employment, helping to ensure opportunities to place separated Federal employees in State employment, especially workers in the health care field, relating to collective bargaining, workers' issues e.g., protection for UBER/LYFT type drivers,
 - cancellation of health insurance through Johns Hopkins and
 - increased flooding, increased extreme weather & fire and hail storms.

District 14 Delegation:**Senator Craig Zucker:**

- Thanked Del. Pam Queen for her service, as she too, is not running for re-election.
- Commended OCF on another successful Olney Days, noting the grants from the State to help pay for the celebration
- Commented on the recent antisemitic vandalism at Greenwood Elem, noting that the \$200,000 given to the school last year to improve security at the school included the cameras that captured images of the vandal that allowed them to identify the person,
- Noted that they were able to get a bump in the funding given to Montgomery County including money for school construction, an additional \$100,000 to OCF for Olney Days and grants, energy costs, investment in small business technology, and protection for foster youth.

Del Pam Queen:

- Noted how pleased she had been to serve the Olney community for the past 11 years, where she has lived for 40 years.
- She has served on economic matters committee for most of her time with the Legislature including:
 - Working on reducing electric bills,empowering homeowners to weather proof their homes,
 - Affordable housing especially for teachers and public service workers,
 - Converting commercial buildings to residential buildings.
 - Senior fraud, and
- Working on training for police in dealing with residents with dementia .

Del Anne Kaiser:

- This is her 24th year serving in the State Legislature, but it feels like just yesterday that she ran her first campaign.
- There are not easy answers to many of the issues they are dealing with.
- The goal of serving in the legislature is converting your values into action.
- So far 5 of the bills she introduced have been signed by the governor, including bills to ensure that work done by different agencies is more coordinated. More should be signed shortly.

Zack Levine for Del Bernice Mireku-North:

- Her experience as a lawyer has been valuable
- Much of her work focuses on
 - The access and affordability of child care,
 - Better salaries for childcare professionals
 - Lowered age threshold for individuals in foster care from 13 years old to 8 years old to allow more of the children in the foster care system to receive college benefits
 - Opposition to ICE activities
- Her goal is to make it safe,accessible, and affordable to live in Maryland.

Committee Reports

- **Transportation Committee** - Curtis Chappell for Mindy Baden, Chair
 - HB107 - SB366 passed authorizing individuals guilty of repeated excessive speeding to participate in the Intelligent Speed Assistance Pilot Program in which a device is installed in a vehicle that prevents a vehicle from exceeding the speed limit). She recommended that people write to Governor Moore to ask him to sign the bill.
 - Over the past couple of weeks, two highway workers were killed as they were doing their jobs. As SHA says, All crashes are preventable. Put down your phones. Cut distractions in your car. Pay attention. Safety is a shared responsibility and everyone must do their part

- There are stiff penalties for speeding in work zones, especially if there are workers present. Graduated fines for work zones have been established; use extreme caution when driving in work zones. Reference:
https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=47686

Public Policy & Community Affairs Committee - Thomas Canavan

- OTC Exec Dir. Debbie Ellinghaus will be our guest participant at the June 7th Olney Community Run and Walk.
- Thomas will be working each month to get a new featured guest as an effort to use the event as a way to bring awareness for our local non-profits and introduce more people to their cause. Ideally, this helps also bring more people to the event each month.
- Thomas will take a break from legislative updates for the summer and focus on the monthly runs.
- Thomas has offered to support Helene and the Pulte project task force.

Treasurer's Report - Nicholas Boss, Treasurer

Nick reminded our members that 2026 GOCA dues are now due. He would like us to reach out to HOAs in the area that have never been members of GOCA to expand our coverage.

New Business

Development Proposal at Friends House - Curtis Chappell

We received a letter from the Sandy Spring Civic Association expressing concern with changes for a development proposal for a building in the Friends House property that will dramatically increase the size of the building previously proposed. They were requesting that people express concern regarding the change to the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission at the hearing before their Planning Board on June 8th. No position was taken at this meeting, but the information will be forwarded to our member HOAs. It will also be discussed at the next officers meeting since the hearing will occur before the next GOCA meeting.

235 Townhouse Development Proposal on the Olney Golf Park site - Helene Rosenheim

The Pulte Co. is proposing a development plan on this 22 acre site that would under current zoning yield 11 homes for 235 townhouse. The Southeast Rural Olney Civic Association (SEROCA) is working to oppose this density on this site because of environmental impacts and other conflicts with the Olney Master Plan including this area being intended for low density development. The consensus of the meeting was that GOCA should work with SEROCA to oppose the density of this proposed development. Tim Lighter had emailed her about his interest in working on this. She encouraged any others interested in working on this to reach out to her. She will reach out to the president of SEROCA to begin coordinating with their association.

Response to Recent Antisemitic Acts of Vandalism in the Olney Area - Helene Rosenheim

Helene noted 3 recent acts of antisemitic vandalism in Olney - vandalism at the Shaare Tefila Synagogue, and Greenwood Elementary School, and the destruction a banner of the B'nai Shalom of Olney Synagogue the day it was hung at the Rte. 97/108 intersection. She suggested that GOCA and the Olney Chamber of Commerce along with the local churches and schools host an event to show the support of the community for those impacted by these actions and opposition to antisemitism in Olney. The consensus was that GOCA would host this kind of event and Matt Quinn noted that the Chamber would want to participate.

Announcements

Matt Quinn reminded everyone that the Candidates' Forum for County Executive is taking place on Sunday, May 17th at 6:00 pm at the Olney Theatre. He noted that GOCA was able to host this because GOCA is a 501(c)(4) and we had criteria similar to those used in DC and other jurisdictions that candidates had to meet and of the candidates only the top 3 met the criteria. Questions will be taken from the audience in addition to those planned by the moderators that were, in part, based on questions emailed to GOCA prior to the Forum. Candidates that did not meet the criteria to be on the stage were invited to have a table in the lobby of the theatre.

Adjournment at 8:46 pm

Submitted by Helene Rosenheim Recording Secretary