

# Greater Olney Civic Association

Post Office Box 212

Olney, Maryland 20830

Our New Website Address: <http://www.goca.org>

GOCA MEETING – June 8, 1999

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Kelley. The floor was opened for Public Comments.

– Joe Hess expressed concern about having the discussion of the development plans for the corner piece of the Brooke Johns property on the southwest corner of Emory Ln and Georgia during Public Comments. Even if it came up during the public comment period, it was the type of discussion that should have been deferred to Old or New Business, as appropriate. That would help to ensure that people that are a little late arriving at the meeting do not miss these more detailed discussion not normally part of the Public Comment period. Mike indicated that he would make an effort to identify topics raised during Public Comments that need to be deferred for fuller discussion later in the meeting.

– Anita Brady congratulated Helene Rosenheim for a wonderful Olney Days Festival and thanked her for all the dedication and hard work that went into creating a wonderful weekend of activities. (Applause)

– The Women s Board of Montgomery General Hospital has asked GOCA to provide some volunteers to help with the Used Book Sales at their Annual Picnic and Bazaar on Tuesday, July 27th. They need people to work the day of the Bazaar and to help during the evenings during the week or so before the Bazaar sorting and categorizing the books that are donated to them. They had actually been looking for a group to adopt the booth and take over running it. But Helene had indicated to them that our members were still overwhelmed from the Olney Days Festival weekend, so she was certain we would not be interested in adopting this event, but would try to get some volunteers. Helene asked anyone interested in volunteering to let her know as soon as possible.

The minutes were approved with no corrections or additions and the agenda was approved with 1 addition.

## CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Art Brodsky noted that there was nothing to report on this month.

## TREASURER S REPORT

Lori Wilen was unable to attend the meeting, so there was no Treasurer s Report

## FIRE AND SAFETY REPORT

Mike Kelley reported that the appointment of the new Police Chief was scheduled to be confirmed by the County Council in June and he is scheduled to take office either July 1st or August 1st, assuming the Council approves the selection.

## PRESIDENT S COMMENTS

Mike reported that several meetings ago, we had voted to support the Special Exception Application being submitted by the Olney Boys and Girls Club (OBGC). He and Rick attended the hearing at the Park and Planning Commission (P&P) on their development plans for the property on Rte. 108 west of Olney Mill Rd. Originally the recommendation from staff had been to defer or deny because the OBGC had not submitted all the necessary information at the time their report was being prepared. However, all the necessary information had been received by the time of the hearing. The Planning Board overwhelmingly approved their proposal. On June 15th, there will be a public hearing before the County Council for a \$1 million supplemental appropriation. He noted he would be out of town but anyone interested in attending and testifying, or submitting written testimony about the appropriation could do so. That appropriations bill had been submitted to the Council that morning.

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Ray Ammon thanked everyone that participated in the Household Hazardous Materials Collection event the Chamber had arranged for with the County. It was the first time the County had set up a collection center in Olney and we broke the County record with 632 vehicles going through. They had never had that many cars in that amount of time before and plan to return again. Even with the confusion with directions, it was very successful and the contractor was very happy with the way things went and with the turnout.

The Chamber s elections will take place on this month and Paula Kahla is running for President.

They are still working on the relocation of the Police Substation to the Olney Town Shopping Center. He will be attending a meeting on June 21st, along with Rick, Mike Kelley, and Paula to determine how that will go. There have been some changes for the positive, but we will have to see how they play out.

## SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Development Plans for Ohev Shalom Talmud Torah Synagogue – Helene indicated that the Ohev Shalom Talmud Torah Synagogue currently located in two houses on Georgia Avenue just north of the Olney Town townhouse development on the west side of Georgia have some plans for expansion. Mark Green, a member of the Synagogue, and Gary Butson, Capitol Development Design, Inc, the engineer/planner working for the congregation on their developments introduced themselves, and noted that Lou Iaquinta, IKO Development, Inc., had been assisting them. Mr. Butson addressed existing conditions, site location, and the plan they brought showing the initial plans and proposed long range plans. The property in question is north of Rte. 108 on Georgia Ave just north of the Olney Town townhouse development on Tidewater Ct. The site consists of 2 parcels each with an existing house with existing driveways. One driveway goes back to a small gravel parking lot and the other to the second house. Each parcel is about .66 acres. Next month they will be going to P&P for approval of their preliminary plan application that will consolidate the parcels into one parcel. They are going through this process in order to get a building permit. They

are a small group now and the initial plans are an interim step.

They are proposing a one-story building behind the northernmost existing house along with a limited amount of additional parking. The new structure may or may not be attached to the house. It will require a new entrance placed between the two houses and some improvements to the pavement on Georgia the approximate width of a turn lane. They would also be putting in a sidewalk that would go down and connect with the sidewalk in front of the Olandwood complex. If their membership grows sufficient, they do plan some additional expansion. However, that will not happen for quite some time and only if they have a membership of sufficient size to warrant it. Lou Iaquinta noted that congregant he has been working with, Louis Sherinsky, had indicated that this was not likely to be a major house of worship. He added, too, that because this is an orthodox congregation, the members do not drive to services on Friday evening and Saturday morning, but walk to services. There has been a problem with cars parking on Georgia Ave., but those have mostly been people that are currently coming from the DC area until they move to Olney. In addition to the parking they are adding in this plan, the Synagogue has gotten permission from the Olandwood and Berlin Professional Centers just south of their property to use their parking lot in the evenings and on weekends for overflow parking, if there is any. The members are aware of the concern about the parking on Georgia and they are addressing that with their members.

David Hesnel, another member of the congregation noted that they are a branch of the Ohev Shalom Talmud Torah Synagogue located on 16th Street in northwest Washington. The Synagogue has been in existence for 113 years and their membership which is growing older wants to keep the 113 year traditions of synagogue alive and maintain its history. About three years ago, the Synagogue contacted them and asked if they wanted to be affiliated with the Synagogue. They agreed and, as a result they were able to purchase the two existing houses they are using. Then they were 12-14 families and they now have 30 families, of which 25 reside in the Olney/Brookeville area. They are all young families, average age is in the mid-thirties. They all have young children that either attend the Hebrew day schools in the area or the local public schools – Greenwood, Brooke Grove, and Belmont. They do not anticipate growing beyond the point of no more than approximately 200 people using the facility at any one time. That would only occur a few times of year, mostly at the time of the High Holidays in the Fall.

Some of the uses they anticipate, in addition to Shabbat (Sabbath) services include: adult education classes, usually on Wednesday evenings. They generally get 20-30 people attending those. They also have Hebrew classes for their children after schools on Tuesdays and on Sunday morning. They also anticipate having Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, Weddings or other festivities of that nature. They do not plan to use it for Rock concerts or other similar events. As noted earlier, they are aware of the concerns about cars parking on Georgia Ave but feel the proposed parking and the use of the parking at the Olandwood and Berlin Professional Centers should address that problem. He noted, too, that an important goal of theirs is their expansion have a minimal impact on the surrounding area. They are concerned that what they do fits in esthetically, with sound, and that they are good neighbors, especially with the townhomes immediately south of them. They are mindful of the impact of the lighting and have selected fixtures that direct the light down onto the parking lot, so that when the residents in the townhomes look over their way, they do not have lights shining into their eyes. They are also taking care not to erect anything in the area of the townhomes that is esthetically pleasing to those residents as they look north through their windows. They are trying to place things like air conditioning units, wiring, noise-generating equipment, etc. on the side of the building facing the wooded area to the northwest of their property. They estimate completion of the building in approximately 9 months. David indicated that they are very willing to work with anyone or group that have any concerns about the design. They very much want to be a good neighbor. They also plan to have a neighborhood party of some sort to welcome everyone in the community in to see what they have done and who they are, once the building is complete.



In response to some questions, the following points were made:

- they had talked with the homeowner immediately north of them and they have no problems with their proposal. Lou I. has talked with the President of the townhome development and their only real concerns were (1) the parking situation on Georgia – that they have addressed and (2) playing loud music early on Saturday morning. David explained that the noise could not have been from them because they do not play music on Shabbat. Anita B. suggested that the more conversations they have with their surrounding neighbors early in the process – both one–on–one or in forums to discuss any concerns, the better off they will be as they move through the approval process. Claudette Hamerski suggested that in addition to speaking to their immediate northern neighbor, they needed to speak to any of the property owners between there and the intersection with Queen Elizabeth Drive, and possibly even with homeowners on the opposite side of the TRANSCO gas lines immediately behind their property, even though with the forestation and the open area over the TRANSCO lines they should not be able to see their structure. Dave noted that they already have a very good working relationship with their immediate neighbor who has actually helped them out with a few problems they have had.
- they are proposing a permanent structure, one–story, with, depending on the price, hardwood floors, inside room height – 14 feet, 60' x 60' outside room dimensions. They are still working on the outside design and that is one of the things they would like to discuss with the townhouse residents before they make any final decisions to be sure that it is esthetically pleasing to those looking at the building from that development. They had originally considered the prefabricated type of construction in which you bolt trailers together. But, the structural reinforcements they would have had to add to comply with County code made that approach cost –prohibitive. So they are now looking at building a permanent construction. He is an engineer and is looking into different construction materials. They anticipate a building about 20 ft high with a flat roof. When it was suggested that they may want to consider a more peaked roof because it is hard to keep a flat roof from leaking, David indicated that they did not want to build anything that would obstruct the existing view their neighbors have from the second stories of their homes. The light fixtures in the parking lot are approximately 10 feet tall and the light is directed downward into the parking lot.
- the new ordinance relating to religious institutions has not passed. Under existing ordinances they are required to provide 1 parking space for every 8 seats because they come under a special provision in the ordinance for a use where most of the users walk to the facility as their congregants do. The number of seats in their space would probably not be higher than 200. That space will also contain restrooms, office space, and some type of a meeting room, all of which will limit the seating capacity.
- the southernmost house is and will continue to be used as the Rabbi s home. The other house which currently is divided up for use as a sanctuary, a library and a classroom, will be used primarily as a library once the new facility is built. The downstairs is a playroom for the children and has a small meeting room.
- the classes during the week (Tuesdays) is for the older children and is held in the classroom on the second story of the building. The playroom is used on Saturdays during their services. There are 6 children in their nursery school and they carpool in 2 cars.
- the experience they have had with their congregants was a party for 180 people, and it was held at a hotel in Bethesda. In the future, if people want to have these events at their new facility, they would limit the number to 200. These would typically be on Saturday evening after sundown or Sunday and they would have access to the parking at the Olandwood and Berlin Professional Centers for overflow parking. Nearly all those attending services during the day on Saturday would be walking.



– there would not be any fixed, permanent seating so that they can use the space for different purposes. There are no plans for outdoor recreation equipment such as basketball courts. They might put in some type of climbing equipment seen in most parks for the younger children.

– the landscape plan includes supplementing the existing pine trees with additional pine trees, and some red maples, redbuds, evergreen screening. The trees would start at about 6 ft. and they grow quickly. The ones planted on the Olandwood property went from 6 ft. to 15 ft in about 2 years. They have submitted a concept stormwater management plan. At this point the new impervious area would not require an on-site stormwater facility, especially with the regional pond on the Christie property downstream from them. The run-off from their property goes under Georgia Ave through a 24" stormwater drain. They will be contributing to the cost of the Christie property.

– they anticipate 9–12 months for the construction and landscaping. Once they get through this approval process and design a building. Their goal is to have it completed by a year from September, but among other things it depends on how they do with obtaining financing.

Maryland State Legislature Session Wrap-Up – Mike introduced Tod Sher – Delegate for District 14A and Carol Petzold. District 19 is on the west side of Georgia Ave and goes down near Leisure World. District 14 is east of Georgia Ave. It is divided into an A and B District in the House of Delegates with 14A being in Montgomery County and 14B being primarily in Howard Co, but with a small pocket in Montgomery Co in the area near Longwood. Tod noted that in November all the newly elected legislators were taken on a bus–train–&boat tour of the State to get a sense of the needs of other parts of the State. He noted, too, that not only did it give the leadership an opportunity to show the freshmen legislators an opportunity to see what was important to them, it gave all the freshmen an opportunity to talk about their elections without them ( the more senior legislators) having to listen to them. He is serving on the Environmental Matters Committee which not only looks at environmental matters, but a lot of health care issues as well. In November, he introduced his first bill that was a local bill only affecting Montgomery Co and it passed. He felt that the main piece of legislation that they dealt with the electric industry restructuring bill. The bill last year to provide money for a new football stadium in Baltimore generated a large amount of interest, while this bill that involves a great deal more only generated 4 letters. The main purpose of the bill is to separate generation from distribution of electricity. The 2 key portions of that bill involve whether to do the restructuring, which passed, and how to restructure. The restructuring guarantees a 3–7% savings to the consumers, but it is unclear whether it will cost more or less than the existing cost. We are doing this because all the surrounding jurisdictions have done this, so our production and distribution becomes less competitive at a time when consumers are no longer required to purchase gas from their local distribution centers. It goes into effect June, 2000 and will be phased in over 3 years.

Carol reported that during this session they considered 2049 bill and resolutions and enacted 718. They passed a \$17.8 billion operating budget for the State, and put aside a substantial reserve to help us retain our AAA bond rating from all three rating companies. Some of the increase over last years budget is to cover the cost of maintenance to State buildings and road that had been neglected in the early 90s when we restricted the budgets more. We received \$4.9 billion as a tobacco settlement. About 50% of the money will go to reduce the use of tobacco by minors, for a program to help southern Maryland tobacco farmers develop alternate crops, for smoking cessation programs, continuing prevention, treatment, and research for cures for cancer, heart disease, lung disease; and tobacco use and control. She felt that one of the finest things we did was to restrict smoking in public buildings. She is sorry that the smokers having to go outside to smoke, but it does significantly improve the environment in these spaces. She felt, too, that there is much to draw people into our restaurants and lounges without the smoking.

Other legislation included: (1) a law to benefit Holocaust survivors that holds insurance companies accountable for policies they had in force in Europe between 1929–1945, provides inheritance tax relief for income recovered by survivors through assets recovery programs. This bill is probably more symbolic than will provide real benefit, but was something they felt was important because it provides some closure to those assets that are suddenly becoming available to the survivors; (2) simplification of the income tax forms for next year; and additional tax relief for child care expenses, tuition expenses, training for skills in short supply and critical for the economic development strategy for the State; (3) inheritance tax relief for siblings of from 10 to 5%, phased in over 3 years and for linear inheritance from 9 to 1% for individuals that die after July 1, 1999. In the Judiciary Committee she serves on passed a bill she has a great deal of concern for – the prohibition against assisted suicide. We have not seen a Dr. Kevorkian or problems with assisted suicide in Maryland, but passed a law that says that an individual will be prohibited by law from knowing assisting another person to commit or attempt to suicide and upon conviction carries a fine of up to \$10,000 or imprisonment for up to one year or both. There are exceptions for patients with AIDS or in a Hospice program, health care professional are exempted from criminal liability, and withholding life sustaining procedures in compliance with the Health Care Decisions Act. So, she is not certain the bill is written tightly enough. She urged the Governor to veto it, but he did not. (4) Charley Barkley from District 39 and much of the Montgomery Co. Delegation co-sponsored the School Safety Act of 1999 to address violence in school. It deals with new offense involving the use of controlled substances and destructive devices (i.e., bombs), adding these to the list of offense for which a public school student is arrested, then the local school superintendent is notified and can then in turn notify the principal of the school that student is attending so that additional steps might be taken in the school to prevent further problems. It expands the existing prohibition against molesting or threatening bodily harm to individuals lawfully on the school property including on school buses or off site at school sponsored activities ( e.g., at proms, school games, and field trips). It includes threatening school employees in their homes not just by phone but through emails. False bomb threats were also dealt to deter them by children. Courts can order the child, the child s parents or both to make restitution and the child offender is also subject to suspension from school or to restricted driving privileges. This is the first bill that has passed with this penalty, but was one they felt was more effective in eliminating this type of behavior. (6) They strengthened laws relating to personal identify thefts where individuals use the credit card numbers of other individuals that they have obtained illegally, regardless of whether the credit card companies press charges. They will be subject to penalties up to \$5,000 and/or up to 1 year of imprisonment for personal identify thefts, plus they will be responsible for restitution for reasonable costs incurred for individuals to clear their credit history. It is easy to produce a false birth certificate or drivers license, so she suggested not carrying things with you that you do not have to. (7) a Laser Pointer Law was based, similar to one at Ocean City. There has been a problem with people shining laser pointers in the eyes of police officers that have cause eye damage. It is dangerous is shined in the eyes of drivers in cars stopped at intersection and they have been pointed into the eyes of animals. The law restricts their use for harassment and to inflict injury.

The following points were made in response to questions:

- Tod was concerned that the amount of reduction in the electricity restructuring bill was higher for industrial and commercial users than for residential users, but his view did not prevail.
- Carol sponsored a bill that had to do with increasing the membership on the Office of Administrative Hearings to include an attorney to represent citizens or individuals in administrative hearings. The person identify fraud was probably the most significant bill she sponsored. Another that passed, but the Governor vetoed, had to do with family day care homes having to do with condominiums allowing the homeowners associations, after taken over by the residents, to choose whether to have day care facilities on their property. Some developers have had votes before the residents have taken full control to eliminate day care that may have been part of a development when it was approved. She had asked Jennie Forehand to sponsor a similar bill in the Senate and the Governor did sign her bill.
- Roy Peck suggested that we look at the YtoY plan – Yellowstone to Yukon Plan to allow a right of way for animals



that allows them to migrate without crossing roads.

They both thanked us for inviting them and expressed how much they enjoy coming to Olney.

## OLD BUSINESS

Proposed GOCA By-Laws Changes – Rich Kopanda summarized the by-laws changes that had been introduced at the May meeting. There are 4 substantive changes and 4 technical changes, as reflected and amended in the attached list of proposed changes. Rich noted that the Technical change to Section 5 of Article IV – Membership and Dues, is just a clarification of the existing language. There had been some discussion at the Officer s meeting about the fact that sometimes by the end of the meeting there may no longer be a quorum present and the sense was that it was better to leave that provision, but to make the language a little clearer. Paul Jarosinski moved that:

### THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GOCA BY-LAWS BE ACCEPTED AS AMENDED.

The motion was seconded by Art Brodsky and passed unanimously with no additional discussion.

Olney Days Festival, Fri, May 14th–Sun, May 16th – Helene Rosenheim reported that overall the weekend was a success. There were a few problems, but those aside, things went well, and certainly Saturday was a rousing success. The Friday night concert went well but the attendance was a little lower than last year, we think primarily because the weather was cold. The Olney Theatre is very generous to allow us to use the lawn for the concert, but it does mean that it has to start early so that we can be done by the time of their 8:00 pm curtain. She is not ready to give up the site because it is such a perfect setting for the concert. We plan to present the t-shirt design prizes at the concert again next year.

The Auto& Truck Show sponsored by Fletcher s went well, but it also was a little less attended than last year. While there were a few less cars on display, those that did come were wonderful. The Fletchers were happy with the way things went. The judges suggested adding a People s Choice type of trophy for which those attending vote for their favorite car and several motorcycle riders came up, so we may add that category also. Those who attended the Swim Meet had a good time. But the event only turned out as well as it did, in large part, because Nora was finally able to pull a team together from Tanterra late Friday evening. So we have decided to scrub the swim meet and substitute a basketball tournament in its place on the courts at Olney Manor Park. The Fire Department was extremely happy with the results of the food sales and fire engine rides. We have already been talking about some ideas for additional activities to add to the goings on at Olney Manor Park prior to the fireworks so that the afternoon and evening will be more like a county fair. Also, the Fire Department has some ideas for some other things they would like to do in addition to running the Home Run Derby. They are doing a few things at BJ Pumpnickel s October Feast and if they work well they will do them again at the Festival.

The Parade went well. There were a large number of fire departments from all over the County participating as a part of the celebration of the Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department s 75th Anniversary. The Friends of the Agricultural Historic Farm Park participated for the first time this year and turned out over 30 tractors and farm trucks and took Best of Parade. They plan to come back again next year. Aside from a group or two that performed a little longer than we would have liked in front of the judges, things went well, particularly in view of the huge number of fire trucks and farm vehicles we had this year. The volunteers deserve a lot of kudos for getting things together as well as they did in the staging area. Then, the Excel spread sheet Helene used for tallying the scores was a vast

improvement over past year. We had the winners calculated in record time. The Fire Department's Bull Roast went well also. However, they do not plan to do that again next year. We believe Pumpnickel's will be willing to do it again, so we will talk with them about doing it for us and look into the possibility of using the Hospital grounds. We will try to arrange for a stage so that some of the groups like the Tai Kwon Do group can perform there along with others and we will probably present the Parade trophies there as well.

The only event that was not at all successful was the Walk Your Pet-a-thon. We only had 4 groups of people do the Walk and one couple just happened onto the event. We are not sure what we are doing wrong with this event yet, but Helene has not given up on it yet. We were competing with the Human Society which had a very similar event the weekend of the Festival at Wheaton Regional Park. She plans to try it one more time because, it is a good concept if marketed correctly and Roni Septoff is going to work more on our PR next year. So, hopefully we will get the formula for that event right next time.

Helene noted that she had sent a Letter to the Editor to the Gazette with a long laundry list of people and organizations she wanted to thank for supporting and participating in the Festival. However, she got a call from Judy Hruz, editor of the Olney edition of the paper who explained that, much as they would like to, they did not have the space to include the whole letter. So, we parred it down substantially. So, she indicated that she plans to include the entire letter as an attachment to the minutes of this meeting.

Transportation Issues – Rick Coburn reported that the State Highway Administration (SHA) project at Emory Ln and Georgia Ave will begin next Spring. It is pretty much set that the third lane southbound from just before Emory all the way to Norbeck Rd will go in. With our letter cautioning against using our request for this lane to be a precedent for other portions of Georgia Ave in our planning area, and because there were no utility issues or right-of-way issues, they agreed to expanding the lane that full distance rather than expanding out to three lanes just north and south of Emory and then back to two south of Emory and out to 4 or 5 at Norbeck. Instead of putting a SHA retention pond and a retention pond for the development going into that corner, SHA has reached an agreement with the developer and they will be putting in one joint pond. One of the issues SHA is looking at is the turning movements at this intersection. We asked them to take a particular look at southbound traffic turning left into Olney Manor Park to see if a short left turn light there. Joe Hess also noted that something needs to be done about the problem of cars coming out of the Park not being able to judge easily which way cars from Emory Lane are going, particularly since the two roads are not perfectly aligned.

Rick also reported that we had not heard anything yet from SHA on the environmental study for the Brookeville Bypass, so there is nothing new to report there. He will check with them to see what the status is and possible have a report at the next meeting.

Olney Post Office Expansion Update – Mike Kelley reported that he had written a letter to John Turpin, the US Postal Service Real Estate Specialist handling the Post Office expansion indicating that the consensus that a location for the new post office in the town center area was most preferred and that they should continue to look at other possibilities in the town center area. He hasn't heard anything more than that.

Olney Town Shopping Center Expansion Update – Rick Coburn reported that pretty much as we have been for the past several months, we are waiting for the actual submission and hearing date of the Olney Town Shopping Center. The latest we have heard is that a hearing is likely to take place on July 1st. Certainly by then, we should know a lot of things about the Town Center and the Olney Village Mart. It may not mean construction will start any sooner than next Spring, but we should have a better sense of what will happen with the connection ramp and the density and design of the two centers. Rick noted that this process has become a lot more complicated than he and

Ray anticipated when they began this process and Ray added that there were a lot more cards in the deck than we knew there were. Rick thought our involvement has helped them focus on some issue and we are clearly a lot better off than we were two years ago. Ray added that Chris Aleva had indicated to him in a recent conversation that he had withdrawn their plan from Park and Planning at least until July 1 when they would resubmit it and that the hearing scheduled for July 1 might not take place. There are some moves going on that may play out interestingly in the time frame Rick suggested.

Golden Bear Golf Learning Center Update – Dave Eskenazi reported that the Board of Appeals had received a request from the Golden Bear Golf Learning Center on Norbeck Rd adjacent to the Park and Ride Lot requesting permission to move the 26 tees that had been planned adjacent to their building in the design submitted with their special exception application to the roof of the covered tee structure with 40. They were not requesting any increase in the number of tees, just for permission to relocate the uncovered tees. Because the Board did not feel this was very controversial, we had not been notified either by the Board or the developer and we were not aware of the proposed change until we were notified by the Board of Appeals that they had granted the request. To compound our concern, by not answering any of our questions which made something that is probably not controversial seem suspect. They did eventually send us more complete information. It appears from this material that, in fact, all they are doing is relocating the tees.

Maintenance Issues at Olney Manor Park – Paul Jarosinski reported that there was an excellent article in the Gazette concerning the maintenance issues he had outlined for us at the previous meeting. He still does not have answers to all his questions. There does seem to be a plan to do some work between 8/15 to 9/15, but that depends on whether they can get the Recreation Department to not book any games on the fields to change the fence in Field 1. John Boyd and Jim Wainwright, Director and Maintenance Supervisor for Olney Manor Park, respectively, have submitted a request to Don Cochran, Deputy Director of the Department of Parks to do some of this maintenance work. The decision on whether it gets done is up to Mr. Cochran and out of the hands of Boyd and Wainwright. Paul is sending a letter to Cochran requesting that the work be done. There are plans to improve the racquetball/handball courts and the remodeled bathrooms will be open by the following week. The Adopt-a-Park program has not been used in a regional park yet, only in local parks, but he is pursuing that further. Paul suggested that GOCA might want to do something similar to what was done at Cabin John Park and locate corporate sponsors who could advertise on banners on the fences or by having their name on a new scoreboard. We might need to maintain \$15–20,000. We would need to submit requests to do this, identifying corporate sponsors to Bill Hussman, chair, Maryland–National Capitol Park and Planning Commission. Paul noted that Boyd seems open to the idea of giving team managers rakes to use on the playing fields. Park staff should be doing that, but he only has one staff person working in the evenings. Joe Hess noted too, that the road in the park is in very bad shape and in need of repair. Paul indicated that John Boyd said the roads were being redone. Paul noted also, that the scoreboards and press boxes were scheduled to be torn down in September. If we were able to arrange for new scoreboard, the Park would not run them, we would have to do that.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Discussion of Special Presentation –

*Ohev Shalom Talmud Torah Expansion Plans:* In the brief discussion of this special presentation, Joe Hess expressed concern that this expansion and the addition of a new post office along this portion of Georgia Ave could lead to Georgia Ave being widened above Rte. 108. Others felt that this was not a real problem. There were no objections or concerns expressed about the expansion plans as presented, as long as they had the arrangement

for the overflow parking in place. Rich Kopanda moved that:

GOCA TAKE A POSITION THAT THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE PROPOSAL FOR THE OHEV SHALOM TALMUD TORAH EXPANSION THAT WE OBJECTED TO.

The motion was seconded by Dave Eskenazi and passed unanimously with no further discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Helene Rosenheim  
Recording Secretary

People in attendance: Roy Peck, Rick Coburn, Helene Rosenheim, Mike Kelley, Rich Kopanda, Dave Eskenazi, Art Brodsky, Peggy Vaughn (Gazette), Anita Brady, Steve Smet, Sharon Elswick, Colleen Prorok, Paul Jarosinski, Ray Ammon, John Mahoney, Claudette Hamerski, Barney Evans, Lou laquinta, Joe Hess, Marge Fait, Linda Fazzari, Sandy Shulman, Ellen Bogage, Carol Petzold (Dist 19), Tod Sher (Dist 14A), David Mesnel, Mark Green, Gary Butson, and Khalid Afzal