

Executive Board Meeting Minutes
December 9th, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

Executive Vice-President Greg Intoccia called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m., and the GOCA representatives, alternates, and members of the public then introduced themselves. A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 2014 minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously. A motion was made and seconded to approve the December agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENTS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greg Intoccia read an overview of the Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF), of which GOCA has 4 seats. GOCA is currently looking for volunteers to fill those seats. The purpose of the MCCF is to preserve and improve the quality of life for all current and future residents of Montgomery County, Maryland. Since its founding in 1925, the volunteers of the MCCF have committed themselves to providing an effective citizen voice to government policy makers, both elected and appointed. The Civic Federation is a not-for-profit, county-wide umbrella group designed to promote cooperation, education and effectiveness of civic and community associations in Montgomery County. It addresses a wide range of concerns in transportation, land use, environment, education, budget and finance, health and human services, public safety, and ethics. With its strength of numbers and thoroughness of its deliberations, the Federation influences county policy and balances the activities of vested county pressure groups.

The MCCF membership consists of neighborhood associations, as well as homeowner and condominium associations, which appoint voting delegates to the Federation. In addition, individuals may join as non-voting Individual Associates. The membership year runs from July 1 through the following June 30.

The Federation meets monthly, on the second Monday evening of each month (except July and August), in the first floor auditorium of the County Council Building in Rockville. Most monthly delegate assemblies include an informational program, on a timely topic of interest, followed by the business portion of the meeting. The public is welcome to attend.

The MCCF monitors county and state policies and legislation affecting our communities and quality of life. It also conducts in-depth studies of critical issues, and often adopts Resolutions or positions on them which are communicated to government. Recognized as the primary voice of residents, the Federation is given representation on several county boards, commissions, advisory committees and working groups.

INN AT BROOKEVILLE FARMS

Michele Rosenfeld, Owner's Counsel

Robert Sheahin, Owner

Canceled due to illness (rescheduled to January 13, 2015 meeting)

NANCY NAVARRO

Montgomery County Council, District 4

Councilmember Navarro provided a presentation on District 4 and Montgomery County.

Presentation is available on the GOCA web site in the 2014 Correspondence section.

Questions asked at the end of the presentation included:

The presentation was heavy on issues regarding areas south of Aspen Hill, we would like to see more info directly related to Olney.

She responded by pointing out that a moratorium just expired for areas south of Aspen Hill. There is a county wide focus on projects in those areas. A significant amount of investment dollars are focused on that area.

Olney is the most stable portion of her district.

Does Council member Navarro support special taxing districts to fund BRT in Olney?

She does not support the Georgia Ave BRT and would not support special taxing districts to fund that project.

What are the job growth projections for Wheaton?

She would have to get back to us with that information.

Were there TODs (Transit Oriented Development) for the Glenmont sector plan?

Because it was next to Metro, she believes there were TODs.

Will park and planning move to the new county buildings in Wheaton?

Yes.

When will the county hearing be held on the bill regarding mandatory training for HOA board members?

The hearing will be held in late January, will get back to us on the specific date.

The student achievement gap, in terms of ethnicity, in the county seems to be growing. What is her approach to resolving this as the effects could impact the whole county.

This is the issue that keeps the councilmember awake at night. While many say the issue is one of funding, her approach would be to look at how the money is currently being spent and then re-tool. Start working to get a specific view of each school's DNA. Some schools may need to get funded differently but will require a unique change in views. Early childhood education is also a problem, many children enter kindergarten behind. This needs to be addressed as the cost of not taking action is expensive.

Where does she stand on the Brookville Inn redevelopment request?

She has met with the owner and told them they must present to GOCA. There are not many venues like the Brookville Inn, this was interesting. The Brookville by-pass could be impactful. She is more comfortable with a 40 room expansion versus a 200 room expansion. She very much wants to hear from the community as to what they want.

What does she know about the Vitro/BAE site?

A portion of the site is zoned Community Retail. She thinks the local community sees this as positive. She is working to get the University of Maryland to lead the local community on a visioning process.

Can you help us understand the county's investment in the cyber security business sector?

The council has been debating what their role should be. She believes it falls to the county executive and the head of Economic Development. She is looking forward to seeing what the strategy will be. Council members have been working to be better educated on this issue.

A growing concern on abandon/condemned/foreclosed properties, what can be done?

This is a county wide issue, especially in the Glenmont region. Supports a concept where the school system would buy a property and have students work to make it marketable. She will get back to us regarding other innovative options.

ANA LOPEZ VAN-BALEN

Mid-County Regional Services Director

Talked about her role and issues that should be of interest to the Olney community. Her presentation is available on GOCA's web site in the 2014 Correspondence section.

The Mid-County Regional Services Center is the local government office **for the Ashton, Aspen Hill, Brookeville, Capital View, Derwood, forest Glen, Glenmont, Kemp Mill, Kensington, Layhill, Norbeck, Olney, Sandy Spring, Upper Rock Creek, and Wheaton** communities. The Regional Services Director serves the following functions:

- Strengthens communication between the community and various agencies of County Government;
- Identifies regional priorities and future service needs;
- Recommends programs and policies tailored to the local community;
- And oversees County services in downtown Wheaton performed by the Wheaton Clean and Safe Teams.

Ana Lopez Van-Balen is willing to help coordinate a meeting with the county department of transportation regarding the Corridor Advisory Committee.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS

Mid-County Citizen's Advisory Board, Greg Intoccia reported.

MCCAB addressed two issues in separate letters to the county executive.

The first letter was in regards to the rebidding for before and after school care. Requested that officials and local school parents be part of the selection process as opposed to the school principal. Pay attention to individual school issues as well as the potential for special needs access.

The second letter was in regards to the Master Plan affecting emergency medical services and fire response. The letter requested that the appropriate metrics be put into place as a mechanism to help drive decisions.

GOCA Transportation Committee, Barbara Falcigno reported

County traffic operations personnel worked with the TC on intersection signal timing. One of the reasons that Rte. 97 Southbound traffic gets backed up at Rte. 108 was identified. The left hand light at Northbound Rte. 97 onto Morningwood is designed to be longer than usual. The stated purpose was to create a gap to improve the flow of school buses and cars dropping off at Olney elementary school. They are continuing to work with the county to resolve other intersection issues, including those related to smart intersections. Requested that some intersection go back to loop timing, including the light at Oakdale Emory and the Roots shopping center. The committee has added two new members. The TC has identified a, October of 2013 BRT 97 Corridor Purpose and Needs Statement. This was just recently posted on the SHA website. The link to this study was sent out by GOCA. The TC will continue to look

at the BRT Purpose and Needs Statement. They will also be looking to create a second more in-depth commuter survey.

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee, Kathy Curtis reported.

The OTCAC meets every other month, the subcommittee action plans have been approved for the next two years. The OTCAC has been very involved with the planning for the proposed Chick-Fil A. They continue to work on issues regarding pedestrian access and traffic patterns. There is an alley to be created between the new Goddard school and N High St; OTCAC is working with the county on this issue. The civic center town commons is a very large issue for OTCAC. The next 3 months will be devoted to this topic. Looking to get input from all stake holders and concerns from Olney residents. Is the community behind this project?

Library Advisory Committee, Della Dorsey reported

There are twenty programs for the month of December, including music events. All are free. Schedules can be found on the Olney libraries website.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE, Bob Reel provided the following updates

Bill 56-14, Health and Sanitation - Smoking - Electronic Cigarettes, sponsored by Councilmember Floreen, Council Vice President Leventhal, and Councilmembers Branson and Navarro, is scheduled to be introduced on November 25, 2014. A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for January 22, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

Bill 50-14, to stop the sale of puppy mill puppies at pet stores. There will be a hearing for this bill at 7:30 p.m. on January 27

Bill 62-14 would exempt from development impact taxes certain ancillary facilities in residential developments that do not increase the number of dwelling units in the development and are not open to the public, such as clubhouses, fitness centers, or administration buildings. A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for January 13, 2015, at 1 :30 p.m.

2015 Membership Renewals, Greg Intoccia reported

Emails have been mailed to the associations regarding GOCA dues for 2015. Pease reach out to those associations that have not joined and encourage them to do so.

Treasurers Report, Kathy Curtis presented the following:

The GOCA budget for the year 2015 was presented. There were no issues with the budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee.

President John Webster has nominated Barbara Falcigno and Matt Zaborski to head up the nominating committee. Executive board approval is required. This was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Quinn, Recording Secretary

In attendance:

GOCA Executive Board

John Webster, President -Manor Oaks, Greg Intoccia, Executive Vice President - Ashley Hollow
Yale Tankus, 1st Vice President - Oak Grove, Bob Reel, 2nd Vice President - Victoria Springs
Matt Quinn, Recording Secretary – Cherrywood, Jackie Benn, Corresponding Secretary - Fair Hill Farm
Kathy Curtis, Treasurer - Lake Hallowell. Barbara Falcigno (Immediate Past President, Olney Oaks),

John Blachere (Ashley Hollow), Judy Broseker (Brookeville Knolls), Lydia Rappolt (Camelback Village), Jodi Finkelstein (Hallowell), Leisa Sarecky (Manor Oaks), Larry Solomon (Norbeck Grove), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres), Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks), Louis Saporito (James Creek), Ann Marie Saporito (James Creek), Ruth Laughner (Williamsburg Village), Joe Corbett (Williamsburg Village)

Invited Guests

Terri Hogan (The Gazette), Councilmember Nancy Navarro, Ana Lopez van Balen

Public

State Senator Karen Montgomery, Della Dorsey, Sharon Dooley(Past President, James Creek alternate),