DRAFT
GOCA Board Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

President Billy Becker called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. GOCA representatives, alternates, invited guests and members of the public introduced themselves.

He asked for a motion to approve the February 13, 2018 minutes and the March 13, 2018 agenda. Barbara Falcigno made a motion to approve the minutes and the agenda. The motion was seconded. The minutes and the agenda were approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barbara Falcigno made a number of announcements. She announced that the Montgomery County Police Department is now accepting applications from county residents 18 years or older for the Citizen Academy that begins May 1. The participants learn about the function of the police department and topics related to the role of the police officer in the community. For more information go to: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/POL/volunteer/CommunityAcademy.html

Olney Days will be held April 27-29, 2018. New events include Olney's Got Talent and Party in the Park combining the Fun Fair with Rock the Lot. There will be a community cleanup on Sunday after the parade. All Olney communities are encouraged to incorporate neighborhood cleanups including parks and public areas. Computer recycling will also be available. We need volunteers to make these events a success. Go to: www.olneycivicfund.org

The GOCA Awards ceremony will be held Sunday, March 18, 2018 from 2:00-4:00 PM at Good Council High School in Olney.

There are a number of vacancies on the Montgomery County Board including: Animal Matters Hearing Board, Board of Electrical Examiners, Sign Review Board, and Strathmore Hall Foundation Board of Directors. For information go to: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/boards/index.html

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation will host three open houses to keep the public informed regarding the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line being developed along a 13.5 mile stretch of US Route 29. For more information, go to: www.GetOnBoardBRT.com

She discussed the transportation project regarding the extension of North High Street from its dead end to Morningwood Drive as called for in the Olney Master Plan (2005).   Because the project is so small, and because the right-of-way for the extension is already controlled by the County, this study will cost only $150,000 and can be completed in one year. Originally, the study was to be delayed from FY 2019 to FY 2021. The Transportation and Environment (T&E) Committee unanimously recommended that the study be included in the budget.

Barbara Falcigno also reported on a matter she pursued on her own as a citizen. She contacted the D14 state representatives regarding her concerns about the state government dictating school calendars. Governor Hogan's Executive Order required all public school districts to begin the school year no earlier than the Tuesday following Labor Day and to conclude no later than June 15. She believes this decision was based on faulty data. State Senator, Craig Zucker is co-sponsoring a piece of legislation this session that would allow a county board of education to extend the length of school year for up to 5 days without approval from the State Board of Education.

The Montgomery County Executive Debate sponsored by GOCA that was held on March 5, 2018. It included a meet and greet followed by a debate. The event was well attended by approximately 250 people. We have received good feedback.

President Billy Becker offered an update on the GOCA Resolution on the Olney Master Plan Amendment. County Council representatives were approached. There will be a meeting in the middle of April with Nancy Navarro, Nancy Floreen, and Marlene Michaelson to discuss the amendment that affects how much input GOCA may have when businesses have projects on small lots. The council is receptive to this amendment.

BRAINSTORMING SESSION/ISSUE DEVELOPMENT BY GOCA REPRESENTATIVES

Each community organization representative had the opportunity to present their concerns and the ways that GOCA might be of assistance to the communities of Olney. Listed are those issues:

- Traffic problems at Wickham Road. Is a stop sign needed?

- Some signs are not visible. Bushes need to be cut.

- Some sidewalks need repair.

- Culverts for storm water management needing replacement. County should pay for repairs/replacement.

- Regarding 2020 census: Olney needs to be part of a district where it has greater impact on electing an official. Currently Olney's votes are not needed by its district representative to win

election.

- School buses and commercial vehicles create ruts on easement grass. Should landowner or county pay for repairs?

- Need SHA in to talk about what's going on regarding traffic.

- GOCA needs to generate more interest and get more residents involved, particularly new ones.

- Inner neighborhood traffic problems.

- McDonald's traffic, Dunkin Donuts traffic, and road work ongoing problems.

- Dying ash trees that are county responsibility, there's a huge backlog. What can we do?

- Capital Improvement Program (CIP), look at projects that affect Olney. GOCA input to Olney Citizens Advisory Board. What gets into budget?

- Invite delegates to GOCA meeting in May since the primaries are in June.

NEW BUSINESS

There will be an event June 2 for the At-Large County Council candidates. It will be at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd on Rt. 108. They are not charging us anything for the space. There are 33 Democrats, 4 Republicans, and 1 Independent running. Only 4 Democrats and 4 Republicans will be on the ballot. There will be tables set up, questions provided, and people can go from table to table to get information. Youth will help with food, with proceeds going to Olney Help.

Billy Becker discussed the issues surrounding the renovation of McDonald's. The proposal is to refurbish using the same footprint. There are concerns regarding traffic flow. It's unclear how dual drive-in lanes will merge into one pick-up lane. Six parking spaces will be eliminated. We also have concerns about traffic backing up onto Georgia Avenue. The lot is small. LED lights will be installed. The proposal is to start the work in September and finish it in October. McDonald's wants us to drop the requirement for a hearing. After some discussion with GOCA Officers, Billy Becker formally requested a hearing. The Montgomery County Board of Appeals requires that an association must be represented by an attorney at a hearing. Becker is an attorney and offered to represent GOCA if the group agreed, which it did.

OFFICERS/COMMITTEES/LIAISON REPORTS

Transportation Committee Report

Emmet Tydings reported on the North High Street extension project. The study would cost $150,000 and was preliminarily approved. The Bowie Mill Bikeway study has been funded. He recommended that we need to take advantage of grants that are available. The GOCA President would need to send a

letter by the April 4 deadline for any requests.

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee (OTCAC)

The next meeting for the Olney Town Center Advisory Committee will be on March 27, 2018. Responses to the Report of Feasibility Study will be discussed.

Public Policy & Community Affairs Committee (PP&CAC)

No report.

Correspondence Report

No report.

Membership

Bob Hambrecht was not present. There was a list on the table of the HOAs which need to pay by March 31st. Please remind your HOA President to pay the dues.

OLD BUSINESS

Billy Becker gave the update on the GOCA Resolution on the Olney Master Plan Amendment earlier in the meeting (see the last paragraph of the Announcements Section).

He will be meeting with Fred Silver who heads the Olney Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, March 22. He wants to discuss a campaign to shop and dine in Olney.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Billy Becker opened up this portion of the meeting for some open discussion about ways to expand the profile of GOCA and to increase participation. Some ideas follow:

- Explore offering individual memberships for those who are not a part of an association.

- Use more ways to reach out to community such as Twitter, Facebook, etc.

- Plan a Town Hall Meeting. This was done in about 2005 and the entire County Council was present. It was a huge effort that took about a year to plan. Several hundred people attended.

- Survey Monkey could reach new residents.

- Could use Next Door Neighbor application.

- Form a new committee on Communication and Outreach.

- Letters to the Editor in the Greater Olney News.

- Use county records on people moving to the area. Contact realtors.

- Welcome Wagon.

- Encourage people to follow the GOCA Facebook page.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Board occur on the second Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise specified. The scheduled dates for meetings through the end of the calendar year will be: April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, October 9, November 13, and December 11.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, a motion was submitted by Jackie Benn to adjourn the meeting.   The motion was seconded. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Carol Frenkel, Recording Secretary

In attendance:

GOCA Officers

Billy Becker, President – Ashley Hollow; Matt Quinn, Executive Vice President – Cherrywood, David Miller, 1st Vice President – Norbeck Meadows; Stacy Levine, 2nd Vice President - The Reserve at Fair Hill; Carol Frenkel, Recording Secretary – Olney Mill; Katie Harris, Corresponding Secretary – Norbeck Meadows

GOCA Representatives and Alternates

Ryan Martin (Brookeville Knolls), Carol Sullivan (Cherrywood), Jackie Benn (Fair Hill Farm), Gervais Crouch (Norbeck Chase Townhouse), Ravin Howell (Oatland Farm), Barbara Falcigno (Olney Oaks), Michael Cullingford (Reserve at Fair Hill); Ruth Laughner (Williamsburg Village).

Public

Terri Hogan (Greater Olney News), John Blancher (Ashley Hollow), Helene Rosenheim (Highlands of Olney), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Matt Zaborsky (Norbeck Meadows), Mike Suter, Tim Stemann (Williamsburg Village), Alexis Reed (Council Member Navarro's Office), Dave Rada (Brooke Manor), Gregg DeLeawer (Oak Grove)