

DRAFT
Representatives Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Note: this meeting was conducted via Zoom and Live Stream You Tube due to the Coronavirus restrictions in place.

Matt Quinn called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

The minutes for the April 14, 2020 meeting and the Agenda for the May 12, 2020 meeting were posted on the website. We did not vote on approval, but asked people to send an email through the website if any corrections are needed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- GOCA is urging members of the community to find ways to support MedStar Montgomery Medical Center which can be done through Olney Help.
- Remember to thank those who are helping during these times.
- Sherwood High School's Girls' Softball team was named the best of all time by USA Today.
- There will be brief committee reports at the end of the presentation.
- Electronic signatures are now valid for the 9 districts for Montgomery County petition. Information on how to sign as well as additional information regarding the proposed ballot referendum can be found here: <http://ninedistrictsformoco.org/>
- Curtis Chappell reminded everyone that they should not give out any personal information such as email or contact information as Zoom sessions are recorded and therefore not private.
- Carolyn Knight made an announcement. "Olney Oaks HOA announces that we are losing our longtime Board member, Jay Feinberg. He has served on our Board of Directors for 23 years, much of that as Treasurer. For years, Jay has simultaneously been one of our HOA representatives to GOCA. He also served in the past on the GOCA board as Treasurer. He has earned our respect for providing consistently sound guidance to both organizations. Jay and Cindy are moving from Olney the first week in June. Farewell messages can be sent to them at <treasurer@olneyoaks.org>."

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES FOR DISTRICTS 14 AND 19

Note: The Minutes will reflect highlights of the presentation. Details can be viewed in the Power Point Presentation that is posted on the GOCA website.

State Senators Craig Zucker (District 14) and Ben Kramer (District 19) were unable to attend. A hearing about problems applying for unemployment was being conducted at the same time as the GOCA meeting.

Eric Luedtke, District 14

- Montgomery County is sharing updated information regularly through the press, social media, and the website at MontgomeryCountyMD.gov.
- Many people are struggling. Support can be gotten through National Capital Food Bank, Manna Foods, Maryland Food Bank, Olney HELP.
- 500,000 COVID tests were secured from South Korea. We still need swabs & chemicals in order to utilize them.
- State administered unemployment system is struggling to get through backlogs in applications.
- State Department of Health working with medical systems to ensure health care providers have adequate support.
- Federal stimulus checks are being distributed. Contact Congressman John Sarbanes if you don't get one.
- Federal small business support programs are oversubscribed. Congress in process of authorizing more funding.

Pam Queen, District 14

- Please continue to stay home and follow directions.
- Call a medical professional if you have symptoms.
- Stay away from product scams.
- Governor Hogan has guidelines for easing restrictions in three phases.
- Crisis Resources are available for mental health needs and abuse situations. Page 7 of the PowerPoint presentation has specific contact information.

Anne Kaiser, District 14

- Thanks to our local heroes including hospital workers, fire and police personnel as well as mail delivery persons, grocery employees, restaurant workers, teachers.

Eric Luedtke, District 14

- Legislators stayed to get the budget done. (Details are on page 10 of the PowerPoint presentation.)
- The impact of the pandemic on the budget has increased state spending, created an uptick in entitlement caseloads, and created a decline in state revenues (p. 11).
- There has been a Federal infusion of dollars (p. 12).
- The State Budget Revenue Stabilization--law allows the Governor to transfer funds from the State's Rainy Day Fund (p. 13).
- State Government State of Emergency and Catastrophic Health Emergency—allows the Governor to take several actions to expand healthcare coverage, unemployment benefits, and consumer protections throughout pandemic emergency (p. 13-14).

Anne Kaiser, District 14

- There are a number of projects that will help District 14 including Hero Dogs, Fairland Recreational Park, Olney Theatre Center, Sandy Spring Museum, and others (p. 15).
- A 15 year lease was negotiated for the Olney Police Satellite Station.

- Sign up for the Affordable Care Act insurance was extended to June 15, 2020 (p. 16).
- Elections will be made easier with Mail-in ballots for the Primary Election sent to everyone.
- There will be limited in-person voting sites (p. 17).
- Primary Election Day was moved to June 2, 2020 (p. 18).
- Don't know yet how the General Election will be conducted.

Bonnie Cullison, District 19

- Legislators worked hard in a challenging session.
- In addition to dealing with issues surrounding the pandemic, 650 other bills were put forward.

Charlotte Crutchfield, District 19

- Works with a variety of issues including juvenile law, police accountability, witness tampering, judges accountability, and hate crimes.

Vaughn Stewart, District 19

- There will be four in-person voting sites: Germantown Community Recreation Center, Marilyn J. Praisner Community Recreation Center in Burtonsville, Silver Spring Civic Building, and the Activity Center at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg.
- Serves on the Environmental Committee—voted to ban a particular toxic pesticide, but it was vetoed by the Governor.
- Home Act bans source of income eligibility.
- Works with Ethics and Good government.
- Online sports betting will be on the ballot.

QUESTIONS

1. Will the County issue regulations regarding the opening of HOA pools this summer?

A: We will wait and see what the Governor does.

2. Is it appropriate to open the schools? If they open, how will the community be insured that the students and staff will be safe?

A: A lot of conversation is going on. We are planning for safety. Ask school system, principals.

3. If the schools are going to open in the fall, funding will be needed to improve the schools for handling students in this pandemic. Where will that funding come from?

A: Funds will be available.

4. How are you planning to reduce the state budget, lower taxes, and help Marylanders who are financially stressed?

A: We don't know how bad it will be. Some money is set aside. Cuts are determined by the Governor and the Comptroller of the Treasury.

5. The country is in the middle of a serious economic issue. The state has spent multi-millions fighting COVID 19. Unemployment is at record levels and tax revenue has collapsed at all levels of government. Is this a good time to raise taxes and take on large new projects

costing additional millions?

A: Middle class taxes will not go up.

6. Will November's General Election be primarily by mail? Due to social distancing issues, are efforts being made to make sure those who need to vote with Ballot Marking Devices will have adequate access? Currently there will only be 4 locations in Montgomery County. Are there plans to add locations?

A: Don't know yet. We will need to have added security if we do.

7. Many people do not have internet access or have limited access due to cost. What efforts are being made to make sure everyone has access so schoolwork may be completed?

A: See number 9.

8. Since a majority of elections workers are "north of 60," and thus at higher risk, what extra precautions are being taken to protect them both in actual election day polling sites and in local boards of election, which often do not have a lot of space (or budgets) to allow for proper distancing?

A: Discussions in progress. See number 6 above.

9. Governor Hogan vetoed funding associated with the Kirwan report. What will be the response to that veto?

A: We have money in the budget for the next couple of years to reduce the achievement gap and the digital divide.

10. How much of the budget contains earmarked dollars and what percentage of the budget is earmarked.

A: We don't really have earmarks at the local level.

11. What about extremely slow and overloaded networks that slow down, break up, and otherwise frustrate students? At what point will the state support the concept that internet service is a utility?

A: 30% of households don't have reliable internet. We will be coming into a different technological age.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Transportation: will try to get MCDOT to the next meeting.

CALENDAR ITEMS

- May 28, 7:00 PM Officers' meeting via Zoom
- June 9, 7:30 PM GOCA Representatives Meeting, location TBD

Curtis Chappell made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted
Carol Frenkel, Recording Secretary

In attendance:

GOCA Officers

Matt Quinn, President – Cherrywood; Hilary Phillips-Rogers, Executive VP –Victoria Springs; Dave Miller, 1st Vice President – Norbeck Meadows; Curtis Chappell, 2nd Vice President – Olney Square; Carol Frenkel, Recording Secretary – Olney Mill; Ryan Martin, Corresponding Secretary – Brookeville Knolls; Billy Becker, Past President –Ashley Hollow

GOCA Representatives and Alternates

Paul Jarosinski (Cherrywood), Helene Rosenheim (Highlands of Olney), Howard Greif (Lake Hallowell), Conrad Hocking (Lake Hallowell), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Christine Picaut (Oatland Farm), Ravin Howell (Oatland Farm), Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres), Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks)

Presenters, Guests & Public

Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield, Delegate Anne Kaiser, Delegate Bonnie Cullison, Delegate Vaughn Stewart, Delegate Eric Luedtke, Delegate Pam Queen, Judy Hruz (Greater Olney News), Terri Hogan (Greater Olney News), Matt Elliott, Robert Z.