

DRAFT
Representatives Meeting Minutes
July 14, 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 7:31 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We need a volunteer to be trained on handling of Student Service Learning Hours. It will be online training.
- The County will be upgrading informal (unpaved) paths.
- Additions to the Agenda: 1) Brooke Manor Resolution, 2) 9 Districts for MoCo Petition can be signed electronically online.

A motion was made by David Miller to approve the Minutes for the June 9, 2020 Representatives meeting. He made a separate motion to approve the Agenda for the July 14, 2020. The motions were seconded and approved.

MD STATE SENATORS CRAIG ZUCKER (DISTRICT 14) AND BEN KRAMER (DISTRICT 19)

- See presentation slideshow at the GOCA website for details.
- Senator Zucker presented a Legislative Update (2.0) that included some newer information.
- He gave an overview of Montgomery County Senate & House Delegation. Montgomery County is well represented in both the House and the Senate. Our leadership is diverse and powerful.
- Since COVID began, there have been 624,000 claims for Unemployment Insurance in Maryland.
- The Unemployment system has been severely taxed as it struggles to keep up with the huge number of claims.
- COVID has reduced budgets in three ways: 1) Public health response; 2) Uptick in entitlement caseloads; and 3) Decline in revenues (\$5 million shortfall)
- Governor Hogan has outlined \$1.45 billion in proposed budget cuts.
- Over \$901 million in overall funding for Montgomery County.
- Governor Hogan has vetoed approximately three dozen bills with no explanations regarding reasons. Senators and Delegates hope to engage in conversation about veto overrides when the legislature reconvenes.
- Senator Zucker shared a word about George Floyd regarding the unacceptable use of force that kills too many black Americans. Our local legislators believe it is important to advocate for

strong systems of police accountability and stronger relationships between police forces and the communities they serve. They support exercising our first amendment rights to demand justice.

- The Senate will review public safety and reforms with the guidance of Committee Chairman Will Smith. House Speaker Adrienne Jones has convened a bi-partisan Work Group on Police Reform and Accountability to develop future policies.
- Speeding on the ICC (particularly motorcycles) has become a major issue in terms of safety and noise. From June 5-7, MDTA conducted a safety initiative using officers assigned to the ICC. Other initiatives are planned.
- There are serious issues concerning the November General Election. Governor Hogan ordered in-person voting. The Board of Elections (BOE) will send absentee ballot APPLICATIONS to all eligible voters. These must be returned in order to receive a ballot which will also need to be returned. Efforts are being made to also expand early voting and voting during off-peak times. Maximum flexibility is necessary since we have no idea how the pandemic will have progressed by November.
- Contact information for our Maryland Senators and Delegates available on the last two slides.

Questions for Senator Kramer:

- 1. Mike Helton asked, does the County get any revenue from the ICC?**

A: No.

- 2. Jeff Weiler asked how Senator Kramer feels about ICC noise due to high speed by motorcycles and how we might address it.**

A: We have to have universal penalties for all types of vehicles. We are trying to figure out ways to get the attention of the motorcyclists. One idea: may increase the violations for going over a certain speed to reckless driving and require a court appearance. One problem is limited enforcement resources (\$).

- 3. Curtis Chappell asked about the school situation in the fall regarding achievement gaps and internet access (treat as a utility?)**

A: The current plan is for a hybrid form of education (some at home, some at school). Chrome Books were handed out this school year. Still need more laptops and need hot spots to get Wi-Fi for those that don't have access.

- 4. Howard Greif asked about two local budget allocations in the Olney Area (Olney Theatre and Olney Family Park)**

A: \$2 million for the Olney Theatre is for an expansion (new wing). \$200,000 for the Olney Family Neighborhood Park is the result of a deal made when the ICC was built and storm water management projects made changes in the park. A playground was removed and a new one will be built that is handicapped accessible.

- 5. Barbara Falcigno asked if the idea of a bad officer decertification had come up in Maryland. This could prevent officers with bad records from getting positions in other jurisdictions.**

A: There has been some discussion.

6. **Hilary Phillips-Rogers asked if the Governor’s decision regarding in-person voting was set in stone.**

A: Yes.

7. **Ed Weisel commented that we need plans for dealing with problems for the upcoming November election. For example, many older citizens who normally serve as volunteers at election sites will not feel safe doing so at this time and we will have a shortage of volunteers. He also commented that any Police reform needs buy-in from Officers.**

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS (ALL VIEWABLE AT GOCA WEBSITE)

- The proposed **Police Use of Force Resolution** was determined to be too vague as presented. Howard Greif moved to table the resolution for further definition. Matt Quinn will get in touch with Officer Mark Yamada for assistance.
- The proposed **Pool COVID-19 Resolution** was presented by Howard Greif and Conrad Hocking. It seeks to have the County and its responsible agencies protect associations, including their boards and membership, from any litigation based on Covid-19 or any future pandemics. As Montgomery County has entered Phase 2, allowing pools and playgrounds to reopen, HOAs and CAs are trying to navigate the requirements. Board members are only volunteers. They have learned that there is little protection for HOAs and CAs. Waivers are required at numerous levels. For HOAs and CAs, it means that their boards and membership are liable in lawsuits. A motion was made by Howard Greif to approve the resolution as written. It was seconded. There was discussion about what to include in the resolution. Paul Jarosinski called the question. The motion carried unanimously. The resolution will be sent to the County Council.
- A **Resolution on Speeding Motorcycles** was shared by Jon Seng. Its purpose is to strengthen sanctions and it asked GOCA to advocate for stronger laws and enforcement. John Seng moved that we approve the Resolution. After some discussion, Carol Frenkel called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

RESPONSE TO CHARTER COMMISSION REPORT

- This report looked at the County Council configuration. It incorrectly characterized GOCA’s survey. Matt Quinn will correct the record. The report can be viewed at [https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/crc/Resources/Files/2020Charter Review CommissionReport.pdf](https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/crc/Resources/Files/2020Charter%20Review%20CommissionReport.pdf)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Transportation: The project priority list was finally obtained by Craig Zucker. It shows that the grade separation project at 97/28 (which had been on the list for 20 years) was dropped from the list. Paul Jarosinski would like to add our project to the State list for discussion of alternatives.
- Communications update: Ryan Miller will post all appropriate documents related to this meeting to the GOCA website.

CALENDAR ITEMS

- August 27, 2020, 7:00 PM Officers’ meeting via Zoom
- Sept. 8, 2020, 7:30 PM GOCA General Membership Meeting via web video conference.

Tentative guests for the meeting will be MDOT representative(s) to address the County priority list and give an update on the Brookeville Bypass. We hope to get a Board of Elections Representative to discuss November voting in Montgomery County. We are also inviting Gabe Albernoz to discuss Use of Force Policy Bill 27-20.

Conrad Hocking made a motion to adjourn at 9:25 PM. 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

GOCA Representatives and Alternates

John Seng (Brooke Manor), Paul Jarosinski (Cherrywood), Helene Rosenheim (Highlands of Olney), Howard Greif (Lake Hallowell), Conrad Hocking (Lake Hallowell), Gervais Crouch (Norbeck Chase), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Christine Picaut (Oatland Farm), Barbara Falcigno (Olney Oaks), Jeffrey Weiler (Preserve at Small's Nursery), Aleka Kapatou (Tanterra)

Presenters, Guests & Public

Ben Kramer (MD State Senator, District 19), Craig Zucker (MD State Senator, District 14), Michael Helton, Terri Hogan (Greater Olney News), Ira Unger (Community Liaison for Bonnie Cullison), Danny Benn (Fair Hill Farm), Ginah, Riley