

DRAFT  
**Representatives Meeting Minutes**  
October 13, 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.

A correction was made to the September 8, 2020 Representatives Meeting Minutes on page 3, Maryland Department of Transportation (Erica Rigby) section, 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet. The second to last sentence should read “Sewer line **relocation** almost complete.” Curtis Chappell made a motion to approve the October 13, 2020 Agenda and corrected September 8, 2020 Representatives Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- There will be a brief virtual ceremony to honor the 2019 GOCA Awards recipients at the beginning of the November 10, 2020 Representatives Meeting. Now is the time to submit individuals and groups for GOCA 2020 Awards. Information on how to do this is available at the GOCA website.
- The Olney Police Substation signed a new 15-year lease.

**ELECTIONS IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY FOR THE NOVEMBER  
ELECTION--DISCUSSION OF BALLOT QUESTIONS C & D**

**Question C**

- Michelle Graham presented information in favor of Ballot Question C (no on D)
- The proposal increases the 5 current districts to 7 districts and retains the 4 At-Large positions
- Allows residents to vote for 5 County Council members
- With 9 districts, they are pitted against each other; can only vote for 1 member
- Prince George’s County has added 2 at-large members to its 9 district members
- Other areas are getting away from having only district representation without at-large representation
- Olney would not get its own district representative with the 9-district proposal; would still share a representative with another district.

**Question D**

- Kim Persaud presented information in favor of Ballot Question D (no on C)
- There would be 9 districts without any At-Large positions

- The At-Large members currently represent over one million people
- Not possible for At-Large to represent such a large group of people
- Ballot Question C would cost the County more money to cover the additional 2 District Representatives
- At-Large members currently reside in the same concentrated area of the County
- Having 9 Districts would allow us to hold our officials accountable

#### Questions/Comments:

- 1. David Fishback of Cherrywood asked if the proposed Ballot Question C is in violation of the County Charter since the Review Commission recommended the status quo.**  
A: The recommendation was for no change. The County Council went against the recommendation and made its own recommendation.
- 2. Ed Weisel of Norbeck Meadows commented that it would be nice if we had 5 voices. The reality is that we don't get a response as we should.**
- 3. Craig Lamari commented that we have 1.1 million people in the County. Nationally we are moving away from At-Large representation.**
- 4. David Miller of Norbeck Meadows commented that he has sent 2 reports on behalf of GOCA regarding the culvert issue. Despite assurances of follow-up, he has gotten no response and has submitted a 3<sup>rd</sup> report.**
- 5. John Seng of Brooke Manor Estates stated that he was not aware of any At-Large representatives coming to a community meeting. His question is why did Question C appear at the eleventh hour.**  
A: Michelle Graham said she is not a politician, so she can't answer that particular question. The general feeling was that by increasing the number of districts and retaining the At-Large positions, there are more people to go to with a problem.
- 6. Robert Zimmerman of Brooke Manor Estates commented that when we were dealing with the Tower (now at ICC entrance on Georgia Avenue), the County Executive and Craig Zucker were very involved. Nancy Navarro wouldn't meet with the group. Olney needs a person dedicated to the Olney area. For the record, Matt Quinn did point out that both Glass and Albernoz have attended a GOCA meeting.**

Paul Jarosinski suggested we make a motion that GOCA affirm the 9 Districts ballot initiative (Yes on Question D, No on Question C). Ed Weisel made the motion and David Miller seconded the motion. David Miller then called the question and Paul Jarosinski seconded. The motion carried with 13 votes in favor, 3 votes against the motion, and 1 abstention.

## **OLNEY TOWN CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (OTCAC) - Jim Smith**

- Jim Smith and Helene Rosenheim have been working together
- Smith asked for GOCA support (letter) for the North High Street extension. It would provide better connections and help pedestrians.
- To see the link, go to GOCA website under October meeting materials.
- GOCA has already supported this endeavor.

## **ICC SAFETY COALITION – John Seng**

- Main issue has been speeding on the ICC (motorcycles in particular)
- Met with Maryland Department of Transportation (MDTA)
- Have gotten various groups to work together
- Improving signage
- New name, Maryland Coalition for Highway Safety; now has 60 members
- Have included people beyond Montgomery County
- Have a website and Facebook page—Maryland Coalition of Highway Safety

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Treasurer—no report; will be looking to fill the Treasurer post next year.

## **CALENDAR ITEMS**

- October 29, 2020, 7:00 PM Officers' meeting via Zoom
- November 10, 2020, 7:30 PM GOCA General Membership Meeting via web video conference.

Paul Jarosinski made a motion to adjourn at 8:54 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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), Louis Willen (Cherrywood), Helene Rosenheim (Highlands of Olney), Howard Greif (Lake Hallowell), Conrad Hocking (Lake Hallowell),

Jack Meyer (Norbeck Meadows), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Ravin Howell (Oatland Farm),  
Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres), Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks)

**Presenters, Guests & Public**

Terri Hogan (Greater Olney News), Stephen Dudzik, Jim Smith (Oatland Farm), Mary Lautman, Jack Meyer, Bruce Shoop, Kimblyn Persaud, Michelle Graham, Robert Zimmerman, Cary Lamari, J. Church, David Fishback