

DRAFT
Representatives Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2021

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 7:33 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Please identify yourself by first and last name in Zoom to assist with attendance for the Recording Secretary and for general discussion purposes.
- A GOCA Officer is getting the SSL training.
- Census numbers will be used for local re-districting. There will be a meeting tomorrow night (2/10/21).
- Matt Quinn will be sending out a GOCA end-of-year report within the next few days.

Curtis Chappell made a motion to approve the Minutes of January 12, 2021. It was seconded and approved. A second motion was made by Curtis Chappell to approve the Agenda for today's meeting, January 12, 2021, with the following changes: 1) Add John Seng to Committee Reports; 2) Delete the last item on the agenda under Calendar Items (Election of Officers) since it is correctly reflected as the first item on the Agenda. The motion was seconded and approved.

ELECTION OF GOCA OFFICERS for 2021

The following slate was presented:

- President – Hilary Phillips-Rogers (Victoria Springs)
- Executive Vice President – Carol Frenkel (Olney Mill)
- 1st Vice President – Curtis Chappell (Olney Square)
- 2nd Vice President – Irina Norrell (Norbeck Meadows)
- Corresponding Secretary -- Ryan Martin (Brookeville Knolls)
- Recording Secretary – Karen Nordstrom
- Treasurer – Jeff Duce (Norbeck Grove)

There were no nominations from the floor. Paul Jarosinski made a motion to vote in favor of the slate of officers for 2021. It was seconded and approved unanimously.

COVID 19 VACCINATION UPDATE

- Montgomery County is currently vaccinating categories 1A and 1B while the state is allowing category 1C to be vaccinated.
- The State is guiding the process.
- There are numerous websites where you can register for a vaccine appointment including Giant and Safeway. You must register separately at each site.
- There have been some communication issues.
- There is some ramp up in the vaccination process.
- The state is opening large sites at the Baltimore Convention Center and Six Flags.
- Phone numbers are available to help those who aren't comfortable with or don't have computers.
- Watch out for scams. The vaccines are free to the recipient. You should not be paying to get a vaccine.
- Local houses of worship can offer some guidance.

RESOLUTION OPPOSED TO THE COUNTY'S RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THEIR REPORT ENTITLED: REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY TASK FORCE

- Matt Quinn briefly spoke about the resolution to be presented by Paul Jarosinski opposing certain recommendations made in the report. The County will be having its first meeting soon to talk about the recommendations. MC Police Chief Jones has spoken at a previous GOCA meeting about aspects of the Police including information about School Resource Officers. He made the point that School Security Officers (part of the school system) make referrals to the SROs (who are County Police Officers). Matt expressed that the safety of the community should be the main concern. The link to the report is:
<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/rps/Resources/Files/reports/rps-task-force-recommendations-report.pdf>
- Paul Jarosinski introduced the resolution opposing six specific recommendations in the report (resolution viewable at the GOCA website). He explained that the impetus came from points made about the report in an article in the Seventh State blog. Link:
<http://www.theseventhstate.com/?p=14704>. There are currently 23 School Resource Officers in our schools. Homicides, robberies, carjackings, and auto thefts are up in the County.

Discussion followed:

- John Seng asked how the committee members were chosen. **Answer: They were self-nominated. It doesn't appear that there is any representative from Olney.**
- Matt Quinn expressed that we need to know what does this report do? What does the County Executive plan to do with it? Traffic enforcement is set to move from the Police to the Department of Transportation. How will this be done? We need to know why these recommendations are better for our community. We need to know what is the intent. We need a

group to make clear to the County what our needs are in Olney along with a clearer picture of what's going on.

- Paul Jarosinski said Chief Jones has stated that there will be twice as many traffic cameras in the next two years.
- Barbara Falcigno pointed out that there are language barriers when making calls to 311 or 911. Data doesn't always tell the whole story. Where we don't have a problem, others may. She felt that the resolution makes it appear there aren't any problems with Police.
- Curtis Chappell said there are things we need to address. There are differences between District 4 and District 7. We don't have enough information and we need real solutions.
- Ed Weisel suggested that we might need a whole-community response from GOCA, OTCAC, and the Olney Chamber of Commerce to add weight to any recommendations.
- Hilary Phillips-Rogers thanked Paul Jarosinski for all his work. She stated that perceptions may vary and those differences are not reflected. She felt the Resolution needs more thought and revisions.
- Matt Quinn expressed that if we say hard no's, we may not get a place at the table.
- Helene Rosenheim felt the language of the Resolution could be softened. Rather than saying "we oppose," it could say "we have concerns."
- Carol Frenkel expressed that we need to be involved, but she did not feel ready to vote on the Resolution. We need time to digest and study.
- Howard Grief felt we need to study the Resolution. He wasn't saying "no" to it, but he wasn't ready to say "yes." It wouldn't be a bad thing to table.
- Paul Jarosinski expressed that he saw Helene's point about the language, but wanted to make changes now. He felt the matter is urgent because a decision could be made about the SROs before our next meeting.
- John Seng suggested a small sub-committee could read the report and respond within 30 days. What are the problems? What are possible solutions?
- Ed Weisel moved to table the resolution and the motion was seconded.

Discussion:

- Matt Quinn presented the idea of having a panel discussion at the next GOCA meeting. Folks to talk about the issues. Suggestions included: Will Jwando, Hans Reimer, Police Chief Jones or someone who is not part of the police, Craig Rice, a school counselor, someone on the ground.

- Paul Jarosinski stated 30 days is too long to deal with these issues.
- John Seng made a motion that GOCA will send the resolution and two links to their HOA representatives. The purpose would be for those representatives to share with their communities and provide feedback to GOCA within two weeks as to their thoughts and opinions related to the resolution and the information in the two links. The GOCA Officers would have 3 days to finish polishing and get the final version out to the GOCA membership.
- Curtis Chappell made a second motion to amend the first motion, adding that GOCA is opposed to Montgomery County Bill 46-20 (regarding eliminating School Resource Officers) as currently written and until further information is provided to include: 1) What is the anticipated impact of removing the SROs; 2) Identifying the method where MCPS will engage MCPD during a criminal event; 3) What is the cost of transitioning from SROs to a new system?
- Carolyn Knight moved that we approve John Seng's first motion. It was seconded and approved with two abstentions.
- Paul Jarosinski moved that we vote on the second motion to amend the first motion. It was seconded. The vote was: 5 opposed, 3 abstentions, 9 in favor. The motion carried.

Committee Reports

- Jim Smith reported on the Olney Town Center Advisory Committee (OTCAC). Within a month they will present an overlay zone to GOCA. We will have more say about what businesses come into our community. The OTCAC membership is filling out. They have filled 11 of their 12 positions and are looking for someone with communications ability.
- John Seng reported on the ICC Safety Coalition. Since the Coalition was formed, several bills have been introduced by County Delegates relating to ICC Safety. Unfortunately, one bill was stripped of most of its teeth. John thanked everyone for the money that has been contributed to hire a consultant. We have not reached the total needed yet.

CALENDAR ITEMS

- Next General Membership Meeting March 9, 2021, 7:30 PM via Zoom
- Next Officers' Meeting date to be determined by the new president in consultation with the officers.

Curtis Chappell made a motion to adjourn at 9:40 PM. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted
Carol Frenkel, Recording Secretary

In attendance:

GOCA Officers

Matt Quinn, President -- Cherrywood; Hilary Phillips-Rogers, Executive VP – Victoria Springs; 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), Gervais Crouch (Norbeck Chase), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Christine Picaut (Oatland Farm), Kate Churchwell (Oatland Farm), Ravin Howell (Oatland Farm), Jim Smith (Oatland Farm), Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres), Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks), Kim Webster (Olney Oaks), Barbara Falcigno (Olney Oaks)

Guests & Public

Jeff Duce (Norbeck Grove), Irina Norrell (Norbeck Meadows), Judy Hruz (Greater Olney News)