

Representatives Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2021

Amended April 13, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

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

Hilary Rogers-Philips called the meeting to order at 7:30 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.
- Local artist, Colin Vale, will be attending tonight's meeting.

Hilary called for a motion to approve the Minutes of February 9, 2021. It was seconded and approved. A second motion was made to approve the Agenda for today's meeting, March 9, 2021. The motion was seconded and approved.

ART EXHIBITION/LOCAL ARTIST

- Local artist, Colin Vale, has a display of his chainsaw work in green space next to the Olney Post Office. He has had a lot of interest in his exhibit and received positive feedback from the public.

OLNEY ART COALITION DEVELOPMENT

- Matt Quinn has been working with the Olney Farmer's Market to provide display opportunities for local artists. They will provide space for up to 10 local artists to display their work on Mother's Day. Future locations are being investigated throughout the community.
- Marlene Saulsbury voiced concerns over who oversees the artwork content displayed in public areas and who decides what is/what is not ok.
- Curtis Chappell suggested that creating appropriate spaces for artistic displays should be our focus and that it is not GOCA's place to approve or control the content of what is displayed; however we appreciate Marlene's concerns.
- Colin Vale shared the idea that art, even if controversial, can lead to and help start positive conversations.
- Matt stated that GOCA will continue to study the matter through the Olney Art Coalition.

BILL 4620

- 4620 would remove school resource officers entirely. Bill 7-21 would allow school principals to request a resource officer, if they so desire. A proposal by Councilwoman Navarro would eliminate school resource officers and create a committee to develop a replacement system.
- The bills are part of the Reimagining Public Safety Task Force recommendations. None of the bills have enough votes to pass at this time.
- GOCA will continue to update the community on the content of the 84-page report, timelines and status of county action. Matt suggested that in order to break down the complexity of the report and formulating a plan to inform the community, an Ad Hoc committee be formed.
- Ad Hoc Committee volunteers are Matt Quinn, Barbara Falcigno, Irina Norrell, Helene Rosenheim, Paul Jarosinski and Colin Vale.
- Links to the taskforce report and the Seventh State article are located on our website.
- Paul has spoken to MCPD commanders and they are willing to come talk at a future meeting. He stated that the police have had no input whatsoever on the taskforce and they are very concerned about the impact of a police force reduction.
- Matt will work with MCPD to schedule a time for them to speak to GOCA.
- Other Comments relating to reduction of police workforce include
 - Diane Littlefield asked about the timeframe to implement RIP action. Matt stated it is unknown however; the school resource officer issue is the highest priority.
 - Billy Becker stated that reduction in police force is not a good option when crime, including homicide, is on the rise in the county.
 - Christine Picaut stated that homicides rates are not usually affected by the police force size because they are person to person.
 - Paul stated that other crimes continue to rise.
- GOCA Resolution – Matt stated that the GOCA resolution opposes the taskforce recommendations and has been sent to the HOAs for comment/feedback. Hilary stated that we will table the resolution until we receive more feedback from the HOAs. To date, we have written received comments from Brooke Manor, Cherrywood, and Highlands of Olney.

ONE-LIFE SIGNAGE

- Jim Smith stated that the Town Center Advisory Committee received a notice of a sign variance petition that does not conform to Town Center guidelines. Jim presented a graphic of the building elevation indicating signage locations and size. The committee submitted comments to the Sign Review Board which recommended

Sign A – denied larger front entrance sign

Sign B – approved sign on the Spartan Road side of the building

Signs C/D – denied additional logo signs front face of the building

- The Sign Review Board ruling was consistent with the recommendations submitted by the Olney Town Center Advisory Committee.

- Jim stated that there is no official appeals process for variance petition and there is no GOCA review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Treasury – Jeff Duce reminds all members that dues are now due.
- Transportation – no report
- Public Policy and Community Affairs – no report
- Olney Chamber – no report
- Olney Town Center Advisory Committee – Jim Smith reports that Jiffy Lube was not in favor of adding a second exit way but will keep open the connection to the Jerry’s parking area.
- Communications – no report

OTHER BUSINESS

- Hilary is looking for volunteers to join the Transportation and Public Policy and Community Affairs Committees.
- Curtis expressed a big thank you to Matt for all he has done for the past 2 years.

CALENDAR ITEMS

- Next General Membership Meeting April 13, 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 8:45 PM. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted

Karen Nordstrom, Recording Secretary

In attendance:

GOCA Officers

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

GOCA Representatives and Alternates

John Seng (Brooke Manor), Paul Jarosinski (Cherrywood), Helene Rosenheim (Highlands of Olney), Howard Greif (Lake Hollowell), Gervais Crouch (Norbeck Chase), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Christine Picaut (Oatland Farm), Matt Quinn (Cherrywood), Conrad Hocking (Lake Hollowell) Michael C, Ken Bradford, Colin Vale, Aleka Kapatou (Tanterra), Louis Wilen, Jim Smith (Oatland Farm), Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres), Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks),

Guests & Public

Marlene Saulsbury, Billy Becker, Judy Hruz (Greater Olney News)