

Representatives Meeting Minutes
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.
- Please state name when making/seconding a motion
- Carol Frenkel reports that the Pickleball parking issue has been resolved – Refer to Matt Quinn email dated April 13, 2021, 4:00pm

Hilary called for a motion to approve the Minutes of March 9, 2021, as amended. It was seconded by Carol Frenkel and approved. Hilary called for a motion to approve the Agenda for today's meeting, April 13, 2021, as amended with one addition. The motion was seconded by Ed Weisel and approved.

HOA TOPICS REPORT – RECREATIONAL HOA COMPONENTS

- Howard Greif provided a presentation on Covid-19 regulations affecting Common Interest Communities. The presentation focused on
 - . County Regulations
 - . Pillars of HOA Governance
 - . CCOC Statement
 - . Key Association Takeaways
 - . Q&A
- Key Points:
 - . Last year, there was a rush to provide Covid-19 guidelines for shared community facilities
 - . The CCOC provided no opinion, including insurance and legal defense, deferring to the community managers and associations
 - . Each county had to rewrite their Executive Order to meet Governor Hogan's changing directives including General Operating Requirements, gatherings, businesses, occupancy,

and campers/Camping Areas

- Takeaways
 - . Lawsuits (frivolous or legit) – Associations will have to defend themselves at a potentially great cost
 - . Associations must follow all guidelines – at a minimum as identified in Section 3A
 - . Proper signage is required for all facilities
 - . Adhere to social gathering guidelines
 - . Adhere to all CDC requirements (hand washing, masks, etc.)
 - . Inform Association members of their potential personal liability and risk in opening shared recreational spaces
 - . A previous GOCA resolution (June 2020) relating to Covid lawsuits was passed to protect all Montgomery County associations against legal responsibility, however, there has not been any obvious actions being taken to move this forward (e.g. limits of liability, or county Executive Order). This is still an open issue.
- Howard will post his PowerPoint presentation on GOCA’s website.

BILL 4620

- Barbara Falcigno reported that Bills 4620 and 721 were introduced in response to the fact that black/brown students are being arrested disproportionately to white students.
- The bills call for the removal of School Resource Officers (SROs) at individual schools and replaces it with a program of centralized (cluster) of officers available through the 911 system
- The goal is to improve student safety by providing better staff training for counselors
- AdHoc Committee found that 95% of MC students support removal of SROs and that very few arrests have resulted from SRO involvement
- The current SRO program does not accomplish its stated goals
- There is no budget reduction in the SRO change but simply a reallocation of resources
- The AdHoc Committee does not have a recommendation and continues to gather information and provide opportunity for discussion
- Curtis Chappell commented that the county will continue to ensure the safety of our children by providing adequate law enforcement
- Jeff Weiler expressed his very positive observation of the current SRO program as a coach at Rockville HS. The officers act as almost a friend to the students, giving a person for them to turn to. Jeff believes that this program change should be reconsidered.
- Barbara commented that there are many different experiences with the current SRO program and that most MC council members support the removal of SROs at individual schools.
- Howard commented that GOCA already has a resolution on the table which opposes the removal of SROs
- Ed Weisel commented that statistics don’t tell everything

GOCA TOPICS

Carol Frenkel presented a list of potential topics for future GOCA meetings:

- Services offered by Olney Library/County Libraries
- Olney Chamber of Commerce
- Sandy Spring Museum
- Olney Help
- Olney Days
- Relay for Life
- Taste of Olney
- Mid-County Regional Services
- Summer Recreation Programs
- Olney Farmers Market
- Longwood Community Center programs
- Pedestrian & Bike Safety
- Montgomery County Energy Programs
- Department of Environmental Protection (MC)—including lawn care, rainscapes, tree planting programs
- Tree Maintenance (Dept. of Transportation for MC)
- Recycling
- Fire safety in homes
- Local business issues/updates
- Homeowners' Associations—concerns/updates
- Traffic, Road Repairs, Sidewalk Repairs
- Political Forums before elections

Hilary's additions include:

- Olney/County Library Services
- Chamber of Commerce Activities
- Summer Recreation Programs
- Olney Farmers Market

Howard's additions include:

- ADUs (Attached and Detached) Dwelling Units
- OBGC Goals and Objectives Regarding Covid-19

GOCA RESOLUTION REGARDING REIMAGINE THE POLICE

- Louis Wilen called for motion to vote on the GOCA resolution that was proposed in February,

but never voted on. The motion was seconded by John Seng. The motion was passed and added to tonight's agenda.

- The Resolution is as follows and includes *amended text*:

Background: Whereas there have been a few incidents nationwide where a few police officers may have exercised poor judgment in performing their duties, most citizens appreciate the work police officers perform and applaud the police for the dangerous work they do every day on behalf of citizens. While it is important to examine individual lapses in judgment as opportunities to improve the system, general attempts to defund the police or prohibit them from enforcing the law and protecting the citizenship is counterproductive to the safety of society. Montgomery County already has one of the lowest ratios in the Country of policemen to citizens and it would be improper to reduce this ratio further. Policemen are our friends and provide law and order in the community and should be increased for these purposes rather than decreased.

Whereas the latest draft available for Montgomery County's effort to "reimage the police" calls for:

1. Replacing School Resource Officers (SROs) with just Counselors;
2. A likely reduction in the number of Police officers who could carry guns to protect themselves and the Public;
3. Fully automatic traffic enforcement (who will curtail reckless and impaired drivers in real time);
4. Reducing enforcement of drug violations (this will strongly embolden MS-13 criminal activity according to MCPD's 2019 Crime and Safety Report and other illegal drug activity);
5. Possible elimination of enforcement of trespass law (who would citizens call if there was suspicious activity on private property in their community);
6. Recommendation 12 -- "Reduce sworn officer FTE's in Police Districts 3 and 4 (THIS INCLUDES OLNEY) by 50% to reduce police officer contact with residents in these districts." (Let us not forgot that by further reducing the police force you further increase not only the danger to citizens, but also the danger to the police officers who try to enforce the law and protect the safety of the population with inadequate staff.)

Now, therefore, based on concerns related to these six recommendations, be it resolved that the Greater Olney Civic Association hereby opposes the above Montgomery County Task Force report on "reimagining public safety" in its current form.

Comments:

- Helene Rosenheim stated that she does not like the wording "strongly opposes" and the text under Item 5. She believes that the AdHoc Committee should be given more time to complete their assessment.
- Paul Jarosinski stated that the vote needs to be taken now; 60 days is enough time to decide. 27 Police officers will be eliminated. Even the NAACP objects to the action listed under Item 5.
- Paul accepted the amended text as provided by Curtis tonight

- The AdHoc will continue to provide a platform for public discussion and clarification
- A motion for reconsideration of this resolution can be proposed at future GOCA meetings
- Hilary proposed a motion to either adopt or reject the resolution, as amended. The motion carried by 17 yes, and 4 no votes.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Curtis made an appeal for Jeff Duce to please send in dues. A letter will be sent out in the near future.
- Curtis made an appeal for new committee volunteers. Volunteers do not need to be GOCA members to serve on a committee.
- Committee Reports were not presented tonight due to time constraints.

Hilary made a motion to adjourn at 9:10pm. The motion was seconded and passed.

CALENDAR ITEMS

- Next General Membership Meeting – Tuesday, May 11 at 7:30PM via Zoom
- Next Officers' Meeting – Thursday, April 22 at 7:30PM via Zoom

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; Karen Nordstrom, Recording Secretary ;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 Hollowell), Gervais Crouch (Norbeck Chase), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Conrad Hocking (Lake Hollowell), Aleka Kapatou (Tanterra), Louis Wilen, Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks), Jack Meyer (Norbeck Meadows), Barbara Falcigno (Olney Oaks), Kim Webster (Olney Oaks), Jeff Weiler (Preserve at Small's Nursery), Jackie Benn (Fair Hill Farm)

Guests & Public

- Marc Elrich (County Executive), Judy Hruz (Greater Olney News), Byrons PC, Billy Becker, Colin Vale, Ira Ungar