

DRAFT  
**Representatives Meeting Minutes**  
June 8, 2021

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

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Curtis Chappell called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

- Question from Ed Weisel: “Has officers board discussed moving back to in person meeting” - topic moved to New Business section
- Motion to approve agenda + approval minutes from April and May
- Quorum of 10 reached to start the meeting

Agenda approved by Ed Weisel + Ryan Martin.

Approval of minutes from April – revisions were sent to officers {included the addition of topics covering composting + waste water treatment: 12 in favor (yes) and 4 (no)}. Approved as amended by Ed Weisel + Caroline Knight.

Approval of minutes from May – no edit requests sent, approved by Ed Weisel + Carol Frankel

## **TOPICS**

### **Women’s Board 100<sup>th</sup> Picnic and Bazar.**

- Moved from 2020 to 2021. Unfortunately, this is the last one as we know it (mostly food, permit and volunteer issue) – update from **Barbara**
- GOCA to support beverage booth, 8am-9pm (could use some help, call for supporters to volunteer: passing out/monitor drinks)
- Comment that students can get SSL hours for volunteering

### **Bowie Mill Bikeway Update – Danny Rubenstein**

- Working on the bikeway since 2014
- 3.2 miles, connects 108 -> Muncaster Mill
- Funded by County, we now know the sides of the road it will be on. Stalled at budget level, pushed back from fiscal year 2023 -> 2024
- County Executive wants to move it back again, would result in 6-year delay. The delay did not happen, funded via additional 2 million from fiscal year 2024 (will continue to design stage)
- Problem: expensive project, more expensive then normal because of the old utility design (requires major relocation)

- Cost is \$27 million, IE \$7 million a mile
- Looking to find external funding, at state level + Sierra Club (looking for endorsement), looking to contact some developers (Shady Grove area). Path will connect to Needwood, to Shady Grove -> Metro. Ultimately connects to Georgetown.
- Dany will reach out DOT, update the board again in the fall once the funding picture is setup
- Wants to transition to a more offensive/push position for funding
- Reminder District 14 team supports
- GOCA continues support

Ed Weisel question: why is it so expensive? Answer: utility relocation, environmental sensitivity (crosses Upper Rock Creek, needs to add a bridge, that cost is \$2-3 Million)

### **Thrive Montgomery 2050 (<https://www.goca.org/2021/06/08/thrive-montgomery-2050-links/>)**

Presentation from Khaled Afzal of the Montgomery County Planning Dept. (he designed the Olney Master Plan). Co-presented by Casey Anderson, Gwen Wright + Carrie McCarthy

- Top line: no real changes since the 1960s, updates in 1990s
- The plan sets the framework for how the County should grow, it does not change zoning
- Sets overall set of goals + polices, sets work program for next 20 years (to implement the vision in the plan)
- By 2045, projected increase in residents by 200,000
- Updated ‘wedges and corridors’ – growth from the center (DC) -> which in turn became major highways (this created the ‘east west’ divide)
- Re-affirming commitment to reduce urban sprawl, keep footprint of growth contained in area that would benefit those that live in the area

### **Follow up questions –**

- Curtis Chappell – lots of factors into post COVID world. How has the pandemic shifted thinking/planning?
  - Casey Anderson reply – does not think it’s a good idea to plan for COVID, like 9/11, 2008/09 recession. Things will change, but urges everyone to think past COVID.
- Carolyn Knight – not all workers can work from home, they can often use public transportation. Parking space issues emerge, as they are on residential streets because they cannot park it in private parking spaces.
  - Casey Anderson reply – would not see government dictate to developers, up to personal choice.
- Jim Cagley question – worked on Olney town center/common space, how should we think about acquiring land for parks?
  - Casey Anderson reply – team oversight for parks as well, will make acquisitions as needed. Areas outside of the center of Montgomery County have potential.
- Howard G – comment, statement about planning of communities based on cars. Cautions those to not make decisions right now based on COVID, thinks it may be a critical error to put in place based the situation. Suggestions no action now.
  - Gwen Wright reply – we didn’t update full plan for 50 years, if we see trends we will follow them (IE: world has changed, etc.).

- Casey Anderson reply – we must continue planning, not in favor of waiting and doing nothing.
- Matt Quinn – is this a political process, you are crafting a plan – does this fall to the County Council + County Executive to decide? Feels there is a disconnect given special interests, tax – suggest an alt way to raise funds so there is not a competing component.
  - Casey Anderson reply – Council is the decider, Country Executive can provide comments, but has no oversight.

June 17, 29 hearings – presentation will be put online at GOCA website.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/PHSignUp.html>

### **GOCA MEMBER TOPIC**

- Howard Grief – topic moved to next meeting, dedicated 15-20 minutes.

### **GOCA OFFICER UPDATES**

- **GOCA AWARDS** - Continue receiving nominations, keep them coming to the GOCA Officers/President emails. No deadline set.
- **Jeff Duce** – end of month all association dues, 2 or 3 associations left.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Response to Ed Weisel - Return of in person meetings – GOCA will return w/ hybrid in-person + Zoom.
- Introduction of Matthew X from Olney Chamber of Commerce – our new liaison. Aiming for community night event weekend of Columbus Day in October (discussed ideas, how Chamber and GOCA can partner). National Night Out will not be held in 2021, timing did not work out with COVID/events.

Motion to adjourn at by Curtis Chappell 9:07, approved Carol Frankel & Hilary second

### **CALENDAR ITEMS**

- Next General Membership Meeting – July 13, 7:30 PM
- Next Officer’s Meeting – June 24, 7:30 PM
- August General Membership Meeting – will not be held per summer tradition

**Respectfully submitted**

Michael Jozaitis, Recording Secretary

In attendance:

**GOCA Officers**

Hilary Phillips-Rogers, President – Victoria Springs; Carol Frenkel, Executive VP – Olney Mill, Curtis Chappell, 1<sup>st</sup> VP – Olney Square, Irina Norrell, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Norbeck Meadows, Ryan Martin, Corresponding Secretary – Brookeville Knolls, Jeff Duce – Treasurer – Norbeck Grove, Michael Jozaitis, Recording Secretary – Norbeck Meadows

**GOCA Representatives and Alternates**

Louis Wilen (Cherrywood), Helene Rosenheim (Highlands on Olney), Conrad Hocking (Lake Hallowell), Gervias Crouch (Norbeck Chase), Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres), Dominique D’Anna (Olney Mill), Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks), Aleka Kapatou + Jim Cagley (Tanterra), Jesse McMahaon (Williamsburg Village)

**Guests & Public**

Montgomery Country Planning Dept.: Khaled Afzal, Casey Anderson, Gwen Wright, Carrie McCarthy  
Olney Chamber of Commerce: Matthew X