



Greater Olney Civic Association
Draft Minutes
2023-01-10 Representatives Meeting

The 2022-01-10 Representatives Meeting of the Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) was held online via Zoom and called to order at 7:32 EST by President Helene Rosenheim, with Recording Secretary Thomas Canavan present. A quorum was present.

Those attending were:

GOCA Officers: President Helene Rosenheim (Highlands of Olney), 1st Vice President Curtis Chappell (Olney Square), 2nd Vice President Matt Quinn, Treasurer Jeff Duce (Norbeck Grove), Corresponding Secretary Jamie Goad (Norbeck Meadows), Recording Secretary Thomas Canavan (Hallowell)

Representatives: John Seng (Brooke Manor Estates), Carol Sullivan (Cherrywood), Paul Jarosinski (Cherrywood HOA), Lee Kidd (Cherrywood), Louis Wilen (Cherrywood), Edward Weisel (Norbeck Meadows), Jim Smith (Oatland Farm), Mike Dickerson (Olney Oaks), Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks), Alden English (SEROCA)

Guests: Aaron Kraut (Councilmember Luedtke's Office), Terri Hogan (Olney Chamber of Commerce), Ira Unger (District 19), Aika Jenkins, Jeff Strenkowski, Liam Strenkowski (BS Troop 264), Marc Meltzer, Paul Geller, Emily Hrabak (GS Troop 264), Bob Gonzalez (MCDOT), Dan, Mike Subin

The agenda of the 2022-01-10 representatives meeting was approved as amended
The minutes of the 2022-12-13 representative meeting was approved as presented

Announcements

None

Presentations

Robert Gonzales. Program Manager, Montgomery County Dept of Transportation, Sidewalk Program

- CIP level effort
- \$ 3-4 million each year approximately
- 5-6 miles of sidewalk each year
- 300 requests for new sidewalks each year, 20-25 completed each year
- During a Q & A period

- Emily Hrabak from Girl Scout Troop 264 asked if the Sidewalk Program could provide a crosswalk across RT 108 to the library and post office. Mr. Gonzales indicated that would have to be done by the Maryland State Highway Administration, District 3.
- Liam Strenkowski from Boy Scout Troop 264 asked what problems do they face when constructing sidewalks and what can young people do to help? Mr. Gonzales noted there are often problems with needing to remove trees, having to relocate utilities, and having to deal with mixed community response or community opposition to proposed sidewalk projects. He was delighted with the question about how youth can help and noted that one thing they can do is testify at public hearings in their communities re: proposed sidewalk projects.

N. High Street CIP Project, Helene Rosenheim, For the Olney Town Center Advisory Committee

- The complete project was approved in the last budget
- Funding for planning and design is allocated in FY22-23, Land Acquisition in FY23, Site improvement in FY23, and Construction in FY24-25
- Nothing for us to be involved with until 35% design stage
- Visibility issues, but possible solution could be a 3-way stop

Reports

Treasurer's Report, Jeff Duce, Treasurer

- Membership forms were sent tonight and is now fillable
- Banner rental for end of January, St. John Episcopal Church

Transportation, John Seng, Chair

- Our appreciation to GOCA President Helene Rosenheim and GOCA Transportation Committee member Mindy Badin of GOCA for testifying in person to Montgomery County Delegation to the MD General Assembly Tuesday evening Dec. 8 in Rockville Council office on behalf of legislation to install speed monitoring devices along the MD 200 Intercounty Connector. Were joined by GOCA Transportation Committee Chair John Seng and three other members of SafeRoadsMD, the MD Coalition for Roadway Safety, Inc., all speaking in support of this legislation. Bill number is MC 8-23, calling for four cameras on the ICC, of which only two would operate at any given time.
 - GOCA Transportation Committee will keep abreast of this bill's progress and future need for advocacy and outreach.
- MDOT - Community Project Update – Dec. 21 Project Update #1 (pdf file attached)
 - Project manager Christopher Bishop will present at future GOCA meeting once scheduled increased work is imminent.
- Re: Montgomery County traffic safety, Member of SafeRoadsMD Coalition participated in Montgomery County's virtual PAC (Policing Advisory Commission) Annual Public Forum on Traffic Enforcement, and he reported to John Seng:
 - *I was there and was able to contribute. My basic point was that traffic enforcement saves lives, and if we need to make improvements to address community concerns, then we can do that but: (1) the police must be partners in that process and discussion; and (2) we cannot make their jobs more difficult than they already are, as there is already a serious safety situation on our roads. Plus I noted that recruiting for the police is way*

down and we have too many vacancies, another sign of low morale stemming from the current situation. Raymond Lombardo (Coalition member)

- GOCA Transportation Committee members – is recruiting additional members to the Committee. Projects rescheduling quarterly meetings instead of monthly, while continuing to carry out activities in between and connecting as needed and reporting monthly to GOCA Board meetings. Anyone interested in promoting Greater Olney road safety (motorist, bicyclist and pedestrian), should contact Committee Chair John Seng (JohnJSeng@gmail.com).
- Development of Vision and Mission underway. Will plan to present at GOCA February meeting.

Olney Chamber of Commerce, Terri Hogan, Exec. Dir

- Last month National Night Out received a national award
- Presented four \$2,500 checks to MCFD, MCPD, Noah Leotta Scholarship, and Park Police
- The Noah Leotta Scholarship is live on the OCC website and is open to any Montgomery County High School senior who is planning to enter a career in community service
- Community Night will be held on April 10th at Good Counsel High School, the first since 2019.

Old Business

2022 GOCA Awards Nominations, Helene Rosenheim

- Deadline extended
- All representatives will get a ballot to vote in two weeks
- At the February meeting, votes will be tallied and winners announced
At the March event will award recipients and the Olney Civic Fund will present their grant winners

New Business

2023 GOCA Officers Slate, Helene Rosenheim

- Officers will be voted on February meeting
- Recording Secretary position is open, other officers continuing for an additional year
- Recording Secretary Thomas Canavan will step down to chair Public Policy and Community Affairs Committee

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35pm EST

Thomas Canavan, Recording Secretary

Calendar Items

- Next Officers' Meeting – Thursday, January 26, 2023, at 7:00 PM
- Next General Membership Meeting – Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 7:30 PM At Cadence at Olney & on Zoom
- Olney Civic Fund's Olney Barrel Aged Beer Event – Saturday, February 11, 2023, 5:00 pm at 4200 Laytonsville Rd, \$35 Visit olneycivicfund.org for more details
- 2022 GOCA Awards Ceremony – Sunday, March 12, 2023, 2:00 – 4:00 pm at Good Counsel High School, cafeteria. 2:00 pm - Reception, 3:00 pm - Presentations