

Greater Olney Civic Association

Draft Minutes

2023-2-14 Representatives Meeting

**The 2023-2-14 Representatives Meeting of the Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) was held online via Zoom and called to order at 7:35 PM EST by President Helene Rosenheim, with Recording Secretary John Seng present. A quorum was present.**

**Those attending:**

GOCA Officers: President Helene Rosenheim (Highlands of Olney), 1st Vice President Curtis Chappell (Olney Square), 2nd Vice President Matt Quinn (Cherrywood), Treasurer Jeff Duce (Norbeck Grove), Corresponding Secretary Jamie Goad (Norbeck Meadows), Recording Secretary John Seng (Brooke Manor Estates)

Representatives: Maria Bender (Brookeville Knolls), Kathy Curtis (Lake Hallowell), Paul Jarosinski (Cherrywood), Laura Sherman (Briarwood), Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks), Jim Smith (Oatland Farm), Barbara Falcigno (Olney Oaks), Mike Dickerson (Olney Oaks), Mindy Badin (Olney Mill, GOCA Transportation Committee) and Cait Gardiner (Olney Mills, also representing Councilmember Luedtke)

Other attendees: Carol Sullivan (Cherrywood), Judy Hruz (*Greater Olney News*), Ira Unger (representing Del. Bonnie Cullison, District 19), Katie Downey, Longwood Community Center and Jennifer Rusiecki (Green Olney)

**Approval of Agenda for February 14, 2023**

No additions or changes. Carolyn Knight moved to approve. No objections. Approved as presented.

**Approval of Minutes from January 10, 2023**

No additions or corrections. Minutes are approved as presented.

**Announcements**

- Carolyn Knight reported on Green Olney organization activities. Meets monthly virtually and welcomes new members. Maintains table at the Olney Farmers Market, next scheduled for April 23. Will have food composting bins with student volunteers providing guidance.
- Jim Smith thanked volunteers who helped conduct the Olney Barrel Aged Beer event attracting 135 people. Will be an annual event. Olney Civic Fund sponsored event with Olney Help as beneficiary and Olney Help volunteering. The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd hosted the event, which generated donations.
- Barbara Falcigno reported on Olney Days' need to raise \$30,000. Barbara appealed for donations (tax deductible) to Olney Civic Fund: <https://www.olneycivicfund.org/> She encouraged HOA members to share via emails: "Olney Civic Fund supports Olney Days which gives us a sense community spirit. If every Olney resident could give one dollar." Also requested adult volunteers.
- Helene Rosenheim shared about her participation in Montgomery County Pedestrian Master Plan. Work involves identifying sidewalks that need improvement. A public hearing is scheduled for March 23. Helene will arrange to post the link on the GOCA website:

<https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation/pedestrian-planning/pedestrian-master-plan/>

### **Update on Longwood Recreation Center**

- Helene introduced Katie Dowdy, Longwood Recreation Center director for an update. Katie shared that a lot of programs have restarted. 55+ programs have picked back up for the most part, but a lot of other programs are full. County-wide, all fitness/weight rooms are free. Following the bypass construction wrapping up in the Spring, the athletic fields will return to function. Katie invited the public to visit during hours of operation.
- Helene announced that Katie will be awarded GOCA Citizen of the Year.

### **Establishing a Key City Compost Food Scrap Collection Program in Olney**

- Jennifer Rusiecki, director, Green Olney spoke about recycling food scraps. Backyard composting is OK, but there are companies that will take the scraps away for recycling. All manner of food scraps are collected in bins on weekly or every other week basis, returning clean bins. Green Olney promotes food scraps “uplift” as a preferred option vs. incinerator. In return, the companies could provide compost to customers for gardening. Could also serve small businesses and restaurants. One company was specified: Key City Compost <https://www.keycompost.com/> Green Olney also involves local schools. Email questions to [Greenolney@gmail.com](mailto:Greenolney@gmail.com).

### **Reports**

#### Treasurer’s Report

Jeff Duce, Treasurer, reminded HOAs about the GOCA membership form and to please pay dues for the year. Tanterra paid \$100 for Olney Days. Michael Subin has joined as individual member. GOCA rented the banner one time this month. Helene paid Good Counsel High School. GoDaddy was paid for the website.

#### Transportation Committee Report – John Seng, chair

Please see Addendum

### **Olney Chamber of Commerce**

Matt gave report on the Chamber’s upcoming Feb. 23 open house networking event. You don’t need to be a chamber member to attend Chamber networking events. Monday, April 10 is 41st Community Night including The Taste & Toast of Olney at Good Counsel High School. Two local breweries will set up a small beer garden. “A lot of fun, indoors, rain or shine.”

<https://www.olneymd.org/events/details/41st-community-night-including-the-taste-toast-of-olney-5857>

## Old Business

### 2022 GOCA Awards Balloting

Helene Rosenheim reported that Awards ceremony will take place beginning 2pm at Good Counsel High School, with presentations beginning 3pm. Awardees named:

- Citizen of the Year: Katie Dowdy
- Contribution to Community Awards (2): Chris Larson, coordinator for Olney community Chess Club; and Katherine Farquhar, conducted blanket collection drive for Ukraine.
- Youth Award: Maura Martin, Good Counsel student who built shelters for cats, and donated the shelters.
- Ron Berger Olney Heritage Award: Olney Boys and Girls Club
- GOCA Worker of the Year: John Seng for efforts on addressing ICC speed/noise and transportation safety efforts
- Special Presidents Award: to be announced at the banquet.

### Election of 2023 GOCA Officers

- All officers returning, except Thomas Canavan who could not return as Recording Secretary. Helen thanked Thomas for his service and for revising the Minutes format. John Seng has agreed to serve as Recording Secretary.
- In virtual process, ballot was shared and voting took place, led by Jamie Goad.
- Helene announced that the slate presented was accepted. See officers list in Attendance report above.

## New Business

None

## Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:57pm EST

John Seng, Recording Secretary

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Addendum: GOCA Transportation Committee Report

### **GOCA Transportation Committee Report**

February 13, 2023

1. Current members: Mindy Badin, Kathleen Donodeo, Irina Norell, John Seng (chair)
  - a. Conducted in-person meeting February 8, 2023.
2. Vision and Mission of GOCA Transportation Committee
  - a. Vision – Greater Olney community suffers no fatal road crashes involving pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists; reduces roadway crashes; and enjoys tangibly increased walkability/bicycling for any purpose by January 2025.

- b. Mission – 1) Work with local elected officials and government to promote favorable legislation, policies and investments in safety and walkability/bicycling; 2) Facilitate HOA members and all residents' inquiries and questions on safety and transportation issues; 3) Initiate projects and products to educate, involve and motivate GOCA constituents to contribute toward our Vision; 4) Advise GOCA Officers regarding initiatives or policy positions requiring Board approval; and 5) Spread the word that Greater Olney prioritizes safe transportation, whether walking, biking or driving.
3. Current items:
- a. Discussed Route 108 resurfacing project status. We discussed ideas to proactively encourage HOA members to monitor community road quality and danger spots (eg, narrow/blocked sidewalks, poorly marked crosswalks at intersections) and how and to whom (County vs. State) to communicate requests for repair or improvements; as well as developing a community walkability guide or system. Project Manager Christopher Bishop pledged to appear at upcoming GOCA meeting. GOCA could share MCDOT Project website with HOA member communities.
  - b. Crashes increased between 45-50 percent in last two years based on 20-21 MDTA data. Sen. Ben Kramer introduced bill MC 8-23 in the Maryland General Assembly calling for two speed cameras active on the Intercounty Connector MD 200. As is the process, the MGA referred the bill to the Montgomery County Delegation (to the MGA) Land Use, Transportation and Public Safety Committee for review. GOCA supports the bill as-is.
    - i. On [Monday, Feb. 13, the Meeting members briefly discussed the bill](#). Due to immediate questions and uncertainty about whether MDTA or Montgomery County should pay for the installation of the cameras and other modifications to the bill, the meeting concluded. The next hearing and review/vote re: MC 8-23 will take place the week of February 20. We will continue to monitor and lobby Committee members and coordinate with Sen. Kramer.
4. Transportation Committee scheduled meeting with Montgomery County District 7 Councilmember Dawn Luedtke, Thurs. March 16.
- a. The GOCA Transportation Committee members will attend in person.
  - b. Agenda: "We are definitely interested in Dawn's perspectives on Olney area motorist/bicyclist/pedestrian safety, as well as how to best transform and enhance walkability throughout our communities. We will also share some of our ideas and approaches in the interest of gathering the Councilmember's feedback and/or support."
5. Admin:
- a. We agreed to meet quarterly, but to adopt projects and report to GOCA officers monthly on progress.
  - b. Reporting – Transportation Committee members agreed to share Committee reporting duties.