



Greater Olney Civic Association
2023-4-11 Representatives Meeting
- Minutes -

The 2023-4-11 Representatives Meeting of the Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) was held online via Zoom and called to order at 7:32 PM EST by President Helene Rosenheim, with Recording Secretary John Seng present. A quorum was present. Those attending:

Officers

Helene Rosenheim, President (Highlands of Olney)
Irina Norrell, Executive Vice President (Norbeck Meadows) (Transportation Committee)
Curtis Chappell, First Vice President (Olney Square)
Matt Quinn, Second Vice President (Cherrywood)
Jamie Goad, Corresponding Secretary (Norbeck Meadows)
John Seng, Recording Secretary (Transportation Committee) (Brooke Manor Estates)

Kathleen Donodeo, GOCA (Hallowell) (Transportation Committee)
Brandy Heckman Stoddard (Lake Hallowell)
Paul Jarosinski (Cherrywood)
Lee Kidd (Cherrywood)
Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks)
Aaron Kraut (Chief of Staff, Montgomery County Councilmember Dawn Luedtke)
Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres)
Carm Saimbre, Community Relations Manager, MDOT SHA
Darlene Saulsbury (Olney Mill)
Marlene Saulsbury (Forest Crossing)
Kelly Wasik (Tanterra)
Louis Wilen (Cherrywood)

Members and Participants

Mindy Badin (Olney Mill) (Transportation Committee)
Marie Bender (Brookeville Knolls)
Judy Brosecker (Brookeville Knolls)
Mike Dickerson (Olney Oaks)

Approval of Agenda for April 11, 2023

No changes to the agenda. With no opposition, the agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes from March 14, 2023

Helene proposed a change to the Draft March 14 Minutes: Regarding discussion of the Montgomery County pedestrian master plan at the meeting, it was decided that GOCA was going to send a draft resolution via email and vote via email. However, subsequently, we decided to continue the discussion at the April 11 meeting. We need to change the paragraph in the minutes to reflect the meeting decision.

Maria Bender of Brookeville Knolls requested to add her name as to having attended.

There was no opposition to approving the March 14 minutes as amended. Minutes approved as such.

Announcements

- Louis Wilen reported that Montgomery County sent out a press release 5 days earlier to provide a reminder about the Homestead Credit Application, indicating that it's not true that people need to reapply if you've already applied. The County then updated and corrected the press release. If individuals want to verify their status, they may go to the SDAT website to confirm. The deadline is now May 1. Everyone is entitled to the \$692 credit but you must be on the record. https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=43139
- Helene Rosenheim mentioned that Olney Days takes place the last weekend in April. Visit the Olney Civic Fund website to help and donate items. <https://www.olneycivicfund.org/entire-schedule.html>

Update on Rte 108 Safety & Resurfacing Project

Ms. Carm Saimbre, Community Relations Manager, MDOT SHA District 3 Office presented:

- District 3 is one of the busiest districts in Maryland, accounting for 1/3 of the State's population.
- All the concrete work is done, except one ADA ramp. Milling and paving, new asphalt. Paving will be done mostly overnight 9pm – 5am. Relates to traffic volumes.
- MDOT is particularly sensitive to safety – in view of one of the worst work zone crashes in recent memory. (695 crash killing 6 road workers). They conduct weekly "Toolbox" meetings to review safety practices.

- Re: any health risk of dust raised around work zones – overall about the dust? Project engineers sweep the work zones each time and try to minimize dust. Not a significant health risk associated with the construction dust. Contractors doing their best.
- Regular schedule is single daytime lane closures. Weekdays 9am-3pm Sun – Thursday.
- Questions asked about drains blocked and bad roads east of Sherwood will be followed up. Area events such as games and timing for road work. Matt Quinn suggested connecting with the Olney Civic Association for annual event observance. OlneyCivicFund.org.

Montgomery County Pedestrian Master Plan

Helene Rosenheim introduced GOCA Transportation Committee member Kathleen Donodeo who shared her prepared overview presentation to explain and present GOCA's position and letter of recommendation with observations and commentary.

Helene commented that people should not assume that problematic issues related to the Montgomery County Planning Board also apply to every work product coming out of the Parks and Planning Commission, including the Pedestrian Master Plan.

Kathleen has been a transit planner with WMATA, and now works with Howard County over the last 5 years. She read and assessed the entire 250 page plan to share “what it is, and what it’s not.” [Click here to view Kathleen's presentation video.](#)

- It's trying to implement the Safe Streets program. Not spend a ton of money on sidewalks. Not proposing that lanes are taken. Very incremental. When you do a lot of tiny things, they all add up.
- Primarily policy changes. Not a huge capital program. Always trying to put sidewalks in when roads are built. Trying to complete and create safe transportation for everybody. Pushing a stroller. A teenager w/o license who wants to walk.
- Do the improvement with roads newly built or rebuilt. Create pedestrian refuges, automatic walk signals. Small changes make a big difference. Better snow removal in lots of areas. It takes too long for snow removal. Expanding the pathways and sidewalks that are public responsibility. Create and apply standards of measurement.
- Just looking where we can make policy changes. If you're in your car and pedestrians are on the shoulder and bikes are on roads. Get pedestrians and bikers into safe places. I don't want them on the shoulder.
- Place more emphasis on data and data-driven decisions. Right now, it's the squeaky wheel that gets the grease.
- The Plan does a good job of mixing policy with capital improvements. Any related proposed tax increases must go through another review.

Please refer to [the recording](#) for specific questions and answers.

Curtis Chappell moved to accept the letter shared in advance with all members, but as amended (edits shared on the video display). Matt Quinn seconded the motion. Was put to vote to delegates, voting electronically via Zoom polling.

GOCA Corresponding Secretary Jamie Goad tallied and reported a total of 14 votes, 80% for approval, and 20 % opposed to approval. The motion to send the amended letter passed. Helene thanked Kathleen and everyone for their comments.

Treasurer's Report

No report. Curtis Chappell requested that HOAs send unpaid dues.

GOCA Transportation Committee

- On behalf of the Transportation Committee, Kathleen worked on Montgomery County Pedestrian Master Plan review and recommendations, as shared earlier in the meeting.
- Contacted MDOT to provide Route 108 resurfacing project status report.
- Mindy Badin and John Seng represented GOCA at Ghost Shoes memorial service for Paul Shinn, a prominent NIH scientist who was killed while crossing at a Shady Grove Medical Center Campus intersection.
- Currently reviewing SAFE Roads Act introduced by Councilmember and President Evan Glass, co-sponsored by Dawn Luedtke; as well as the STEP Act, introduced by Councilmember Will Jawando and co-sponsored by Councilmember Kristen Mink.
 - Mr. Glass and Mr. Jawando are invited to speak at the June GOCA meeting.
 - Working to decide how to invite these bill sponsors in, and whether GOCA Transportation Committee should recommend a position to GOCA to advocate and forward to the sponsors

Olney Chamber of Commerce

Matt Quinn reported that the Olney Community Night event was great, produced with a lot of work by a lot of people.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

Helene adjourned the meeting at 9:03 pm EST

John Seng, Recording Secretary

Calendar Items

Helen reported that GOCA is trying to work things out with Cadence to arrange future meeting places.

- Next Officers' Meeting – Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 7:00 PM
- Next General Membership Meeting – Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 7:30 PM