



**GREATER OLNEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
2025-09-09 Representatives DRAFT Meeting
Minutes
APPROVED: DATE**

The 2025-09-09 Representatives Meeting of the Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) was conducted in-person at the Sandy Spring Vol Fire Department, Oak Ballroom and online via Zoom Web Teleconference. President Irina Norrell called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm EST.

A quorum was present.. V = attended virtually

Officers

- Irina Norell, President (Norbeck Meadows)
- Matt Post, Exec VP (Individual)
- Matt Quinn, Second Vice President (Cherrywood)
- Tina Crau, Treasurer (Individual)
- Kristen Quinn, Corresponding Secretary (Norbeck Meadows)
- Helene Rosenheim, Recording Secretary (Highlands of Olney) -V

Members

- Mindy Badin, (Olney Mill), Transp Comm Chair
- Bill Becker (Past President)
- Alden English (SEROCA)
- Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres)
- Mike Payne (Olney Oaks SF)
- Brandy Stoddardt, Lake Hallowell

Guests

- Aaron Kraut, Chief of Staff, Dawn Luedtke, Montgomery County Council, District 7
- Talia Beaulieu-Hains, Community Projects Manager, Mid-County Regional Service Office
- Thomas Canavan (Hallowell), Community Affairs & Public Policy Comm, Chair
- Charles Hynson, MDOT
- Jonathan Brown, MDOT
- Monica Caudillo (individual)
- Tara Cepaitis (individual)
- Michele McLeod (Olney Crossing, President)
- Nina Nelly Mobala (Mid-County Hub)
- Paul Schwartz (individual)
- Jose Antonio Ortiz - V
- Cyndy Parr - V
- Nicki's phone -V

Approval of the September 9, 2025 Agenda - Agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of July 8, 2025 Minutes - The minutes of the July meeting were approved with no additions or corrections

Maryland Department of Transportation Update

Jonathan X, title, outlined plans to address a number of safety issues in the Olney area::

- Implementing exclusive left turn phasing on MD 108 at Village Center Dr, possibly making the side of Village Center Dr (Buehler Dr) one way out of that shopping center, installing pedestrian yield signs, and adding leading pedestrian intervals; all of which would require owner consent,
- Discussing work orders for Olney Elementary School's intersection, including adding markings on Georgia Ave at Queen Mary Dr creating block the box signage and replacing old signage with fluorescent safety signs,
- For Route 97, north of Rte 108, between Queen Elizabeth Drive and Gold Mine Road, needing a noise study and a speed study to address resident concerns about speeding and noise, and.

- Lastly, in response to a request for a traffic light at the MD 97 and Owens Road intersection, he noted that while a study could be completed quickly, installing a traffic light could take 2-3 years, so interim safety measures would be considered.

C.J. Henson, the Assistant District Engineer for Maintenance, provided updates on upcoming maintenance including:

- Their mowing schedules that generally occur on a 6-week cycle although he promised to expedite operations in areas with safety concerns tree trimming, and
- Plans to beautify traffic circles,
- Plans to use a boom ax mower for tree and brush trimming along Route 108, and
- Plans to develop a strategic plan for further tree maintenance.

Community Spotlights

Harvest Mid-County HUB, Nina Nelly Mabula, Operations Manager, Harvest Church

Nina:

- Discussed their partnership with local NGOs to address the community issue of food insecurity and volunteer needs, and
- Shared information about the food insecurity situation in Montgomery County, highlighting that 27,000 children are affected, and
- Described their weekly food pantry operations and delivery system.

For 3 Sisters, Inc, Shannon MoneyMaker, President

Shannon, representing For 3 Sisters, a breast cancer nonprofit:

- Explained their work providing financial support and education,
- Called for volunteers,
- Expressed interest in collaboration and support from the community, and.
- Noted some upcoming events for Breast Cancer Awareness in October, including a charity fundraiser at Lone Oak Farm featuring crabs and barbecue.

Thomas announced a new initiative at the Olney Farmers Market, launching a weekly "Olney Fun Run and Walk" event that aims to bring together community members and local organizations, with the first event held last Sunday. The group discussed promoting these events through various channels, including website updates and community partnerships, with Judy confirming that the upcoming event was already listed in their calendar of events.

Committee Reports

Transportation Committee, Reported by Mindy Badin, Chair

Mindy noted:

- Several traffic safety initiatives in Montgomery County, including new legislation named after Sergeant Patrick Kepp that imposes fines and jail time for reckless driving.
- The county has installed over 200 no-turn-on-red signs to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety, with statistics showing 245 pedestrian crashes and 77 bicycle crashes so far this year.
- A public meeting was announced for the Bowie Mill Bikeway project,
- The County is cracking down on school zone violations with increased enforcement and \$250 fines for passing stopped school buses,
- A new bill introduced by Evan Glass that would make it illegal to park or stop in bike lanes, following similar laws in Rockville, Howard County, and DC, and
- Encouraged members to report other transportation concerns to GOCA.

Public Policy and Government Concerns

MidCounty Citizens Advisory Board / MidCounty Regional Services Center, Beaulieu-Haines, Community Projects Manager

Talia:

- Announced a special traffic and pedestrian safety meeting on September 18th and an Operating Budget Forum on October 13th, both of which will include representatives from various transportation and law enforcement agencies, and
- Noted that Luisa Cardona, the Director of their office, is leaving for a new position in the County Executive, and a replacement is expected by the end of the month.

Committee Chair Thomas Canavan Update

Thomas announced:

- GOCA's new initiative, "Olney Fun Run and Walk" at the Olney Farmers Market, launched this weekly event the previous Sunday.
- The event aims to bring together community members and local organizations,.

The group discussed promoting these events through various channels, including website updates and community partnerships. Judy Hruz confirmed that the upcoming event was already listed in their calendar of events

Adjournment

Adjourned: 8:58 pm EST

Submitted by Recording Secretary Helene Rosenheim