

Greater Olney Civic Association
Draft Minutes
2022-05-10 Representatives Meeting

The 2022-05-10 Representatives Meeting of the Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) was held online via Zoom and called to order at 7:35PM EST by President Helene Rosenheim, with Recording Secretary Thomas Canavan not present. The meeting was recorded and sent to the Recording Secretary to complete the meeting minutes. A quorum was present.

Those attending were:

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

Representatives: Louis Wilen (Cherrywood), Conrad Hocking (Lake Hallowell), Mike Dickerson (Olney Oaks), Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks), Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres), Gervais Crouch (Norbeck Chase)

Guests: State Senator Craig Zucker (District 14), State Delegate Pam Queen (District 14), State Delegate Eric Luedtke (District 14), State Delegate Anne Kaiser (District 14), State Senator Ben Kramer (District 19), State Delegate Vaughn Stewart (District 19), State Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield (District 19), Judy Hruz (Greater Olney News), Paul Geller (District 7 County Council Candidate), Vikki Garcia (Office of Congressman John Sarbanes), Martin Predoehl, Lee Kidd, Gina Quinn

The agenda of the 2022-5-10 representatives meeting was approved as amended.

The minutes of the 2022-03-08 representative meeting was approved as amended.

The minutes of the 2022-04-12 representative meeting was approved.

Announcements

Cloverly Civic Association – Spring Native Plant Sale - www.concernedscitizenscloverly.com

May 12 - County Executive Forum at Montgomery Country Club

May 15 - Olney Farmer's Market Artists Show

May 24 – County Council District 7 Roundtable Forum – Sandy Spring Museum

June 9 – County Council District 7 Debate at Good Counsel High School - 5:00-7:30pm

Presentation

2022 Maryland Legislative Wrap-Up, District 14 & District 19 Delegations

District 14

Budget: funding in district 14 (part 1)

- **Public Safety: \$2.15 million:** Olney Police Satellite Station (\$1M) and Sandy Spring (\$1M) and Laytonsville (\$150K) Volunteer Fire Departments.
- **K-12 Schools and Montgomery College: \$3.54 million:** Montgomery College to study the potential to establish a satellite campus in East County (\$2M); Woodfield Elementary School in Gaithersburg

(\$757K); Westover Elementary School in Silver Spring (\$635K); and Burtonsville Elementary School (\$150K).

- **Transportation, Economic Development and Road Improvements: \$10.5 million:** Burtonsville Crossing Shopping Center (\$5M); the Flash Line in Burtonsville for pedestrian and bike access to that bus line (\$4M); pedestrian updates on Oak Drive and Route 27, near John T. Baker Middle School (\$1M); and Market Street improvements in Brookeville (\$500K).
- **Community Culture and Health: \$14 million:** Olney Theatre Center (\$11M); Sandy Spring Museum (\$1.75M); Medstar Montgomery Medical Center (\$1M); and Friends House Retirement Community (\$250K).
- **Local Parks, Playgrounds, Recreation and Bike Paths: \$5.125 million:** Olney Boys and Girls Club (\$3M); playground updates at dozens of schools in our district (\$1.2M); Greenwood Local Park (\$250K); McKnew Local Park (\$250K); Olney Mill Neighborhood Park (\$150K); Laytonsville Local Park (\$150K); and Olney Family Neighborhood Park (\$125K).
- **Bike Paths: \$11.5 million:** Norwood Road Bike Path from New Hampshire Avenue to Norbeck Road and Ashton Forest Road to Route 108 (\$6M); Cherry Hill Road Bike Facility from Route 29 east to the county line (\$4); and Bowie Mill Bike Trail (\$1.5M).

Budget: Montgomery County

The District 14 Delegation helped secure more than **\$250 million** for Montgomery County in additional capital funding & over **\$1 billion** in direct state aid

- **\$102 million** in additional Transportation Funding, including, **\$63 million** for Bus Rapid Transit
- **\$900 million** for K-12 Education
- **\$3.7 million** for libraries
- **\$71 million** for community colleges
- **\$20 million** for public safety
- **\$16 million** for the White Flint redevelopment project
- **\$20 million** for health facilities, including new Restoration Center for behavior health services

Budget: State Priorities

- **\$2.4 billion** added to the Rainy-Day Fund to protect state finances in case of future fiscal uncertainty.
- **\$350 million** in tax relief, including a tax credit for retirees and a sales tax exemption for some essential goods.
- Almost **\$8 billion** for public school support and full funding of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, including approximately \$900 million for the operations of Montgomery County Public Schools.
- Grants to the arts and tourism community still reeling from COVID-19.
- Support for colleges and universities to cap in-state student tuition increases at 2%.

Cannabis legalization

- **Legal Cannabis Constitutional Amendment**

House Bill 1 puts a referendum for legalized cannabis on the 2022 General Election ballot. It would allow individuals 21 or older to use and possess small amounts of cannabis.

- **Cannabis Reform**

Another bill addresses criminal justice and public health issues facing legalization while building the necessary foundation to create social equity in the recreational cannabis industry. Should Marylanders vote for legalized cannabis, this bill would allow Marylanders to possess up to 1.5 ounces of recreational cannabis without penalty and automatically expunges the conviction of anyone previously found guilty of simple possession of marijuana.

Tax Relief & Budget Boosters

- **Tax Relief for Seniors and Retirees**

- Individual filers over 65 who have AGI less than \$100k will get a \$1,000 credit.
- Joint filers over 65 who have AGI less than \$150k will get a \$1,750 credit.

- **Family Budget Boosters**

- Eliminates sales taxes on diapers, baby bottles, infant car seats, diabetes care supplies, medical devices like thermometers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, and dental floss.

- **Work Opportunity Tax Credit**

- Targeted credit for businesses that hire people who chronically have trouble finding work, including veterans, people with disabilities, and people on public assistance.

- **Temporary Gas Tax Suspension**

- 30-day relief on gas taxes backfilled from the surplus to help families transition to higher gas costs.

Economic Recovery - Child Care Industry

Our economy depends on reopening childcare facilities so working families can return to the labor market. The legislature took several actions to revitalize the childcare industry:

- Provide child care providers with **stabilization and expansion grants** to assist with reopening and expanding.
- Establish a **grant program for childcare providers** who care for children with severe developmental disabilities.
- Create a revolving child care **capital support loan program** for expansion, new construction, and renovation of childcare facilities.
- Improve the **childcare scholarship program** to enable participating child care providers to receive their State payments faster.
- Allocate **\$16 million in the budget for child care providers** to use for employee retention and new hire bonuses.

Our individual victories

- **Pam:** Childcare Providers Stabilization Grant, Childcare Employee Bonuses, Financial Regulation Consumer Protections, and Affordable Housing Report
- **Craig:** End the Wait, Banning Seclusion in Public Schools, Eviction Fund, Non-Visual Access, Small Business Promotion and funding MCPS playgrounds
- **Anne:** Vaccinations by Paramedics, Drugs to Treat Opioid Disorders, and Thresholds for Election Recounts
- **Eric:** The Great Maryland Outdoors Act, Cybersecurity Scholarships, and the Historic Revitalization Tax Credit

District 19

Senator Kramer opened for District 19, stating that this will likely be the final appearance from the D19 delegates. Praised D14 delegates and stated they will still work closely with D19 delegates. Collaborative effort examples between the two districts that led to funding were the Bowie Bike Mill project and Satellite Station. Due to the redistricting the majority of Olney will be under the District 14 delegation moving forward and no longer represented in part by District 19.

Senator Kramer, Finance Committee:

- Cannabis Bill
- Paid Family Leave
- Climate Solutions Now Bill
- Abortion Care Access
- Access to information about Advance Directives
- Employment opportunities for people with disabilities

Delegate Crutchfield, Judiciary Committee:

- Juvenile Justice Reform
- Child Interrogation Act
- Untraceable (Ghost) Guns
- Mandatory Marriage Age
- Protective Orders (while in the care of a hospital)

Delegate Stewart, Environment and Transportation Committee (Housing Jurisdiction)

- Safer Sealant Act
- Maryland Regional Rail Transformation Act
- Vision Zero Implementation Act
- SB612 – Increase penalties for “race or speed contests” (drag racing)
- Rental Assistance Program
- Tenant Protection Act
- SB150 – expands access to comprehensive dental care
- SB353 – access to insulin

GOCA thanked the D19 delegation for all of their efforts on behalf of Olney in the past and that we'll miss seeing and working with them. District 19 will continue to coordinate with the District 14 delegation in support of Olney issues, but they will not be directly representing us under the new legislature.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer Jeff Duce annual membership forms submitted and complete.
 - Two new HOA's join GOCA - Champlain at Environ and Olney Estates.
- Olney Days funding came in from Olney Oaks and Tanterra.
 - Brief review of Olney Days
 - Call for support for 2023 Olney Days
 - 6,303 people attended Party in the Park with more who came after 8:00pm

New Business**American Legion Post 68 signage**

A Motion was introduced by 2nd Vice President Matt Quinn to approve adding an American Legion Post 68 seal to the Welcome to Olney Signs on Georgia Ave, one northbound near Olney Manor Park and the other southbound south of Gold M. The Motion was seconded by 1st Vice President Curtis Chappell. Motion was approved unanimously.

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee Placemaking

As a member of the Olney Town Center Advisory Committee Helene Rosenheim provided a brief update on the Olney Town Center Advisory Committee's Town Commons Placemaking Initiative which is now focusing on the outdoor piece of the Civic Center/Town Commons proposal in the 2005 Olney Master Plan as an opportunity for community to learn more about what the town commons will consist of and then how to support it.

Calendar Items

- Next Officers' Meeting – Thursday, May 22, 2022 at 7:30 PM
- Next General Membership Meeting – Tuesday, June 14, 2022, at 7:30 PM
 - Will include next Council District 7 Candidate Event
- Grand Opening – Ribbon Cutting at Cadence at Olney, May 19, 2022 at 11:00 AM

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM EST

Thomas Canavan, Recording Secretary