



**GREATER OLNEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.  
2025-03-11 Representatives Meeting  
Minutes  
APPROVED:**

The 2025-03-11 Representatives Meeting of the Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) was conducted in-person in the Oak Ballroom, Sandy Spring Fire Dept, Sandy Spring, MD and online via Zoom Web Teleconference. President Irina Norrell called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm EST.

A quorum was present.. Those attending virtually are denoted by a V:

**Officers**

- Irina Norell, President (Norbeck Meadows)
- Curtis Chappell, First Vice President (Olney Square)
- Tina Crau-V
- Matt Quinn, Second Vice President (Cherrywood)
- Kristen Quinn (Norbeck Meadows)
- Helene Rosenheim, Recording Secretary (Highlands of Olney)

**Members**

- Mindy Badin, (Olney Mill), Transp Comm Chair
- Bill Becker (Past President)
- Alden English (SEROCA)

- Barbara Falcigno (Olney Oaks, SF)
- Paul Jarosinski (Cherrywood)-V
- Joe Krempasky (Brookeville Knolls)
- Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres)
- Mike Payne (Olney Oaks SF)
- Matt Post (Individual)ursery)

**Guests**

- Luisa Carbona, Dir, MidCounty Regional Services Center
- Marcia Br?, Winter Growth
- Betty Donohue, Winter Growth
- Aaron Kraut, Chief of Staff, Dawn Luedtke, Montgomery County Council, District 7
- Jen Rusiecki, GOCA Green Subcommittee Chair
- June ?

**Approval of the March 11, 2025 Agenda** - Agenda was approved with no additions or changes.

**Approval of February 11, 2025 Minutes** - The minutes of the February meeting were approved with no additions or corrections.

**Community Spotlight and Cooperation**

Irina noted that this is a segment of our meeting that will recur regularly in future meetings so we can learn about other organizations and agencies contributing to our community.

**Olney Civic Fund - Barbara Falcigno**

- The Olney Civic Fund (OCF) was established in 2014 as a 501(c)3 , charitable non-profit organization to accept charitable donations that are used to support the quality of life in the Olney community.
- A goal of the OCF is to help make Olney the best place to live and work through organizing events and through the granting they do.
- Currently the events they coordinate is the Barrel-Aged Beer Event (BABE), It's Olney Time which highlights local non-profit organizations to help make the community more aware of the mission of these groups and the volunteer opportunities they provide, and Olney Days.
- Described the difference between the OCF, the Olney Chamber of Commerce & the GOCA.
- Last year, through the efforts of our District 14 State Legislators, Sen Craig Zucker, Dels Kaiser, Queen and Mireku-North, the State Legislature approved a \$100,000 grant to the OCF to support the granting they do and there events like Olney Days and BABE.

### **Mid-County Regional Services Center - Lusa Carbona, Director**

Irina noted that GOCA wants to strengthen our community's association with County government, noting how valuable it has been to have Aaron Kraut attend our meetings each month. And, noted a representative from the Mid-County Regional Service Center, Talia, will attend future GOCA meetings.

Ms. Carbona noted:

- There are 5 regional service centers around the County, each with a director who is a hyper-focused County employee who works with residents, neighborhoods, and local organizations like GOCA to address their concerns. They are Mid-County, Silver Spring, Bethesda, East County and Up-County.
- She is an additional force to help residents and groups to navigate the County government; something no other local government has.
- Each center has a Citizens Advisory Board that, along with their staffs, help escalate issues to the County Executive's office and County agencies, and on the County's Capital Improvement Project and Operating budgets.
- The Regional Service Centers offer Neighborhood Event Funding Grants of up to \$1,000 to local associations to support local events that bring communities together. The grants are reimbursements for their expenses.
- There are budget hearings that GOCA will want to testify at in support of the conversion of the bank building at Georgis Ave & Spartan Rd for use as a community center.

### **Committee/Officers Reports**

#### **Transportation Committee**

Mindy Badin, Chair, reported:

- She attended a hearing on the N. High St design plans. There were a lot of local Morningwood Ave residents who opposed connecting N. High St to Morningwood. She and Jim Smith spoke in support of the design plan.
- The County government has begun a Fare Share Program that will provide up to \$325 per month for transit costs for employees.
- The County has initiated a Vision Zero Youth Ambassador Program for high school and college students interested in traffic issues.
- She and John Seng attended an event where a County Council Proclamation for a Road Safety Month was issued.
- She, John Seng and several others testified in Annapolis on several transportation bills: increasing fines for reckless driving, ICC speeding, graduated fines for speeding, distracted driving cameras, speed cameras on residential streets, and a pilot program putting speed limiting devices in cars of drivers receiving a lot of speeding tickets.
- She encouraged people to report concerns about the number of serious accidents at the Rte 108 & Village Center Dr on the GOCA website to the State Highway Administration as she has done to increase the likelihood of a SHA study of that intersection.

#### **Treasurer Report**

Tina Craun reported:

- This is the membership renewal season and, to date, 12 Associations have paid their membership dues.
- There is a membership form online on our website and payments can be made online using the Zeffy connection on the website.

#### **Environmental Affairs Committee**

Jen Rusiecki, Chair, reported:

- The new name for the Green Committee is the Environmental Affairs Committee.
- Olney Green is continuing to ask local vendors to stop using 1-time use disposable plastic utensils and food containers.
- One of their challenges is that some businesses are in strip malls in which landlords control trash removal, so businesses are not able to control their trash removal.
- They are continuing to work on composting and bio-diversity with nature in this area.

- There is an upcoming Olney Environmental Film Festival . Screening locations are being selected..

### **President's Report**

Irina Norell reported:

- In response to an email from Del. Pam Queen, we have reached out to the Commission on Common Ownership Communities to learn more about their function and to invite them to set up a training session, , possibly in May or June, for our member homeowners associations (HOAs) on their purpose and the requirements on HOA board members.

### **Public Policy & Community Affairs Committee**

Irina Norell reported:

- She was appointed by the County Council to serve on the Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board representing Olney. She has already learned a lot of interesting things that could be useful for Olney. So she will be adding a brief monthly report at our meetings to relay relevant information. .

### **Announcements**

- There will be a Bike Collection Program at Oakdale Church during Olney Days.
- On March 15th, there will be a St. Patrick's Day dinner and dance in the Oaks Room at the Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department., \$45 in advance, \$50 at the door.
- Billy Becker noted that the County is trying to end the use of gas-powered blowing equipment and presented a letter outlining the cost-prohibitive impacts on landscaping companies. Aaron Kraut noted it was not a "green" bill, but a "sound" noise-prevention bill passed a year ago that goes into effect in July. Councilmember Luedtke is working on a compromise because the technology does not exist yet to easily allow landscape companies to comply with this new requirement. Mr. Becker asked that GOCA write in support of the landscaping companies, but no action was taken at this meeting.
- Next GOCA meeting is Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

### **Adjournment**

Adjourned: 8:57 pm EST

Submitted by Recording Secretary Helene Rosenheiw