



GREATER OLNEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
2024-5-14 Representatives Meeting
Minutes
APPROVED: June 11, 2024

The 2024-5-14 Representatives Meeting of the Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) was conducted online only via Zoom Web Teleconference

President Irina Norrell called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm EST, once a quorum was present.

Voting members denoted by * as indicated below. Those attending:

Officers

- Irina Norell, President (Norbeck Meadows)(Transportation Committee)
- John Seng, Executive Vice President,(Brooke Manor)
- Curtis Chappell, First Vice President (Olney Square)
- Tina Craun, Treasurer (Individual)*

- Lee Kidd (Cherrywood)*
- Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks)*
- Joe Krempasky (Brookeville Knolls)*
- John Lippincott (Brighton Knolls)*
- Sandra Loughlin (Norbeck Meadows)*
- Juris Mohseni (Village of James Creek)*
- Mike Payne (Olney Oaks)*
- Jim Smith (Oatland Farm)*

Members

- Mindy Baden (Transportation Committee Chair)(Olney Mill)
- Maria Bender (Brookeville Knolls)*
- Paul Jarosinski (Cherrywood)*

Guests

- Stephen Aldrich (MNCPPC Sr. Project Manager for Master Plans)
- Jennifer Rusiecki (Green Olney)

Approval of the May 14, 2024 Agenda - Agenda was approved as present (Order of meeting differed because of late arrival of a presenter.)

Approval of April 9, 2024 Minutes - The minutes of the April meeting were approved as presented with 1 abstinence from someone not at the April meeting.

Announcements:

Irina N. noted:

- The passing of Eliot Rosenheim, husband of Helene Rosenheim, GOCA Immediate Past President & current Recording Secretary. She noted that the GOCA officers have proposed planting a tree in his memory at a local school because he had been very active in the PTA while their children attended public school; adding that Helene loved the idea and once she lets them know which school to plant it at, they will make the arrangements including for a ceremony once its planted.
- The Black Equestrians: A Forgotten History exhibit at the Sandy Spring Slave Museum through May 25th.

John Lippincott announced that the application for the Rippling Brook Preschool and Camp has been withdrawn and that the project will not be moving forward any longer.

Update on Olney Days

Jim Smith reported that Olney Days 2024 was a success, with lots of participation. While the weather for the parade on that Sunday was good, the rain earlier in the day on Saturday resulted in lower attendance than last year and some costs were higher. But, the event was still a fundraiser for the Olney Civic Fund so they will be able to provide grants again in 2025. He noted that Kathy Curtis, the Parade Coordinator for the past 10 years is stepping down and if no one or no group of 3 -4 people offer to serve as coordinator(s) there will not be a parade in Olney Days 2025.

Chick-fil-A Redevelopment Proposal - OTCAC's Recommendation

Jim Smith, speaking for the Olney Town Center Advisory Committee (OTCAC), reminded our members that Chick-fil-A has proposed expanding their drive-thru aisle to 2 full lanes, extending the canopy over the new lane and increasing the number of parking spaces by removing some bioretention green spaces, putting them under ground and paving the areas for parking. In response to the joint OTCAC/GOCA letter outlining our concerns particularly to adding parking spaces when they already had more than they were required to have, Chick-fil-A sent a revised plan with better lane markings and signage, but still adding parking spaces. He noted OTCAC continues to not have any issue with the core proposal of expanding the drive-thru lanes, but continue to be concerned with the proposal to pave over bioretention areas to create additional parking when it does not seem necessary to add parking, especially since they are making these changes to adjust for increased drive-thru business and less in-store eating.

In response to Jim's request for comments, it was suggested that their trash dumpster should be further away from the building to reduce congestion with cars going through the drive-thru aisles; and their delivery vehicles could be parked further from the building to open existing parking spaces closer to the building for customers. Jim will take comments back to OTCAC and may return with another letter to request GOCA co-sign.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Tina Craun reported that we had 3 additional renewals this month and reminded members that 2024 dues were due 3/31/24. There was good banner activity in April and some in May; and we are working on getting a banner announcing our monthly meetings with the web address. It was also noted that we need to update the email mailing list.

Updates to the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways

Stephen Aldrich, Senior Project Manager for the Master Plan of Highways and Transitways, Maryland National Capital Parks & Planning Commission reported that their office is working on a technical update of this master plan to make it consistent with the new Complete Streets Design Guides approved by the County Council about 2 years ago which replaced the previous guidance on the design of streets and roads in the County. Among other things, the new guides identify the desired speed limits for all County roads, which in some cases, is lower than existing speed limits. This is a difficult task, but a desirable goal that the County will continue to work towards, in part, through the design of roads. The goal is safety first.

The current timetable for development of revised master plan is:

June 27, 2024 - Working Draft Presented to the MNCPPC Planning Board

September 14, 2024 - Public Hearing before the Planning Board on the Draft Master Plan.

Comments can be submitted on the Working Draft thru the June 27th Planning Board hearing and on the Master Plan Evaluation Program and the 2024 Technical Update via a tool on the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission's website designed to show the 1,000+ recommendations of changes to the Master Plan and to accept comments about the draft thru mid September..

Information on the Complete Streets Design Guide can be accessed at <https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation/completestreets.com>, including many videos that help explain the Guide.

Information on the Draft Master Plan can be accessed at <https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation/highway-planning/master-plan-of-highways-and-transitways/2024-technical-update/>

The tool, which Mr. Aldrich walked those attending the meeting through, is called the **2024 MPOHT Recommendations Map**

Comments can also be submitted in writing, by email or by phone to the Technical Update staff. Comments do not have to be limited to the recommendations, but can also address concerns individuals have about a particular road(s).

Green Olney Update

Jennifer Rusiecki, a founding member of Green Olney, discussed their organization's efforts to prevent waste and combat climate change. She highlighted their initiatives such as reducing plastic waste, like single use plastics, minimizing food waste, and promoting environmentally-friendly business. She proposed a potential "plastic-free month" initiative and emphasized the importance of waste prevention over recycling. She noted their effort to eliminate plastic bags at stores with their collection and distribution of reusable bags at the Olney Farmers and Artists Market. She also noted the County-funded effort at the Market to collect food scraps from the community and taking them to a composting site in Prince Georges Co. And, their efforts to get the County to strengthen our laws to be more like Prince Georges Co where plastic bags are actually prohibited. Irina N. noted GOCA's desire to play a stronger role in supporting and promoting Green Olney's initiatives.

Jen noted their website is <https://greenolney.wordpress.com> and their email is greenolney@gmail.com.

Transportation Committee

Mindy Baden, the new Transportation Committee chair, encouraged people to use the new Greater Olney Road Report form on the GOCA website, www.goca.org to report foliage-overgrown road signs, fallen signs, dead animals, potholes, etc. She noted work being done on the paved paths of the Sligo Creek and Matthew Henson Trails to improve access and safety on the trails using a Federal grant from the US Dept. of Transportation.

Mindy noted 3 bills that passed recently: (1) Noah's Law, a State law that closed a loophole in the existing Noah's Law; (2) a State bill to increase exhibit driving penalties; and (3) a Congressional bill, the Sarah Langencamp Law that will provide Federal funding for bike infrastructure and support bike/pedestrian safety projects. And, she noted that on the Metro Red Line, the stations between Glenmont and Fort Totten from June 1st - August 31st. The Takoma Station is reopening first on June 30. The remaining stations will remain closed through August 31. And, she is continuing to work with Aaron Kraut,

Councilmember Dawn Luedtke's Chief of Staff on getting lines repainted at the entrance to the Shady Grove Metro Station. The painting was approved, but still has not been done.

Adjournment

Before adjourning the meeting, Irina noted the next Officers Meeting will be on May 23, 2024 and the next General Membership Meeting will be on June 11, 2024.

Adjourned: 8:42 pm

Submitted by Recording Secretary Helene Rosenheim