



**GREATER OLNEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**2024-6-11 Representatives Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**APPROVED: July 9, 2024**

The 2024-6-11 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 7:06 pm EST.

A quorum was present and voting members are denoted by \* below. Those attending:

**Officers**

- Irina Norell, President (Norbeck Meadows)(Transportation Committee)\*
- Curtis Chappell, First Vice President (Olney Square)\*
- Tina Craun, Treasurer (Individual)\*
- Helene Rosenheim, Recording Secretary (Highlands of Olney)\*

**Members**

- Mindy Baden (Transportation Committee Chair)(Olney Mill)
- Maria Bender (Brookeville Knolls)\*
- Alden English (SEROCA)\*
- Lee Kidd (Cherrywood)\*
- Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks)\*
- Joe Krempasky (Brookeville Knolls)\*
- Diana Littlefield (Olney Acres)\*
- John Lippincott (Brighton Knolls)\*

- Sandra Loughlin (Norbeck Meadows)\*
- Mike Payne (Olney Oaks)\*
- Jim Smith (Oatland Farm)\*
- Kate Thorton (Brighton Knolls)\*
- Ed Weisel (Norbeck Meadows)

**Guests**

- Sheila Hopkins (Village of James Creek)
- Anne Kaiser, MD State Delegate, District 14
- Ben Kramer, MD State Senator, District 19
- Aaron Kraut, Chief of Staff, Dawn Leudtke, Montgomery County Council, District 7
- Bernice Mireku-North, MD State Delegate, District 14
- Pam Queen, MD State Delegate, District 14
- Kristen Quinn (Norbeck Meadows)
- Craig Thorton (Brighton Knolls)
- Craig Zucker, MD State Senator, District 14

**Approval of the June 11, 2024 Agenda** - Agenda was approved with one addition – New Business, Renaming the Olney Post Office

**Approval of May 14, 2024 Minutes** - The minutes of the April meeting were approved with 2 corrections – (1) inclusion of Joe Krempasky (Brookeville Knolls)\*, and (2) for John Lippincott – changing his association 's name from Brinklow Knolls to Brighton Knolls.

**Announcements:**

Jim Smith, speaking for the Olney Civic Fund (OCF), thanked the District 14 delegation for the State grant they had arranged for the OCF. The grant has been used to improve the OCF infrastructure, Olney Days, and the grants given out by OCF to community organizations.

Irina N. noted that we received an email from the Parks Department about renovations being made to the Olney Mill Neighborhood Park that will close the playground, the parking lot and parts of both the tennis and pickle ball courts.

**District 14/District 19 - 2024 Legislative Wrap-Up**

The members of the Maryland State Legislature District 14 delegation, Senator Craig Zucker and Delegates Anne Kaiser, Bernice Mireku-North and Pam Queen noted that their team focus is Constituent Services. They presented information on the State's budget, the Maryland General Assembly priorities, some of their individual accomplishments this session, their committee assignments, and their contact information. They noted that if you contact all of them or just one of them, they all work together as a team, and they encouraged people to contact them if they need assistance in dealing with Maryland governments; with legislative concerns they have or issues they would like to see the State Legislature to address. They also work with both their County and Federal official counterparts.

They noted that they had been able to obtain \$4 million in funding for the greater Olney area, and \$10 million for the whole District. There were 1,500 House bills and 1,300 Senate bills and they highlighted legislation passed relating to Health Care, Education, Child Poverty and Strengthening Communities. Their Powerpoint presentation providing details from their discussion and their contact information are available on the GOCA website, [www.goca.org](http://www.goca.org).

In response to Irina asking about their bill priorities for next year and how GOCA can help:

Del Mireku-North wants to extend funding soon to end for therapeutic childcare grants for children up to 6 years old who will not do well in a normal school setting because of some trauma they have experienced; and legislation that would permit teachers to be shared from other states to help address a teacher shortage.

Del Kaiser is looking for cases where people are being repeatedly being asked to fill out the same form by different agencies when pursuing an issue or problem to learn from their experiences.

Del Queen is hoping to pass legislation to create a Small Business Month to align with a national month.

Sen Zucker asked for place, projects, and initiatives they can invest in.

State Senator Ben Kramer, District 19 was able to join us at the beginning of our meeting, but had to leave because of a scheduling conflict before being able to provide his wrap up. We will invite him to a future meeting.

**Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Tina Craun had to leave the meeting, but Irina N. noted that there was nothing to report this month.

**Transportation Committee Report**

Chair Mindy Baden shared some photos of the kinds of situations like overgrown road signs and broken road signs that can easily be reported using the new Greater Olney Road Report form on the GOCA website, noting that it is not limited to situations in the Olney area, but can be used to report problems anywhere in the County. She also commended John Seng for all the work he had done to help secure the passage of the legislation increasing penalties for exhibition driving, and noted passage of a bill to increase fines for speeding through work zones on State roads with fines increasing as the speeds increase. She also encouraged people 65 and over to get their Senior Smart Trip Cards because they are easy to apply for and get you ½ price Metro fares and free Ride-On trips.

**Chamber of Commerce Report**

Matt Quinn noted that National Nite Out, a kid-friendly event, will take place on Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> in front of Harris Teeter. And, they are looking for volunteers to help planning the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual It's Olney Time on a Wednesday, late in August, TBD, It is an event that allows residents to learn about the many non-profit organizations in the greater Olney area that contribute so much to Olney and offer opportunities for individuals to give back to our community.

**New Business****Renaming the Olney Post Office**

Reported by Helene Rosenheim

Helene noted that we had received a letter from Anita Brady and Lillie Cruz, both Olney residents who have put together a request that they are working with US Senator Chris Van Hollen to rename the Olney Post Office for the late Edward Ramsey. Mr. Ramsey had been an outstanding Post Office employee in that post office for 17 years and had served in the military with distinction for 20 years prior to that. While at the Post Office he demonstrated unwavering commitment, professionalism, and a genuine care for others. He was often referred to as the "unofficial" Mayor of Olney because of his impact on many people. Anita and Lillie are requesting a letter of support for the renaming initiative from GOCA. Helene agreed that it was appropriate to rename the post office for Mr. Ramsey for his noteworthy service to our community.

**Helene moved that GOCA submit a letter of support for the renaming of the Olney Post Office for Mr. Edward Ramsey. The motion was seconded by Alden English. The motion passed unanimously.**

Helene will draft an email for Irina's signature to send to US Senator Chris Van Hollen.

**Adjournment**

Before adjourning the meeting, Irina noted she will be continuing to work on some of the problems that seem to have occurred after changing to a new email application.

Adjourned: 8:51 pm

Submitted by Recording Secretary Helene Rosenheim