GREATER OLNEY CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
2025-11-11 Representatives Meeting
Minutes
APPROVED: December 9, 2025

The 2025-11-11 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 7:03 pm EST.

A quorum was present.. V = attended virtually

Officers
- Irina Norrell, President
- Curtis Chappelle - !st Vice President
- Kristen Quinn, Corresponding Secretary (Norbeck Meadows)
- Helene Rosenheim, Recording Secretary (Highlands of Olney)

Members
- Billy Becker (Past President)
- Paul Jarosinski (Cherrywood) - V
- Carolyn Knight (Olney Oaks SF) - V
- Tim Lighter (Oatland Farm) -V
- Mike Payne (Olney Oaks SF)
- Marlene Saulsbury (Forest Crossing)
- Ann Strain (Cherrywood)

Guests
- Anne Awni, Sandy Spring Vol Fire Dept
- Thomas Canavan (Hallowell), Community Affairs & Public Policy Comm, Chair
- Aaron Kraut, Chief of Staff, Dawn Luedtke,Montgomery County Council, District 7
- Dave Rada - V
- Darlene Saulsbury (Olney Mill)

Agenda / Minutes Approval

- November 11, 2025 agenda approved as presented.
- October 14, 2025 minutes approved as presented

Open Forum
GOCA's Membership Trends and New Strategies for Growth

- Irina Norrell noted that membership is down, even with 2 new associations joining this year.
- Some associations indicated they did not see the value of membership.
- We have increased outreach efforts, such as running ads in the Greater Olney News and hosting more events, to date, these do not seem to be generating additional homeowners association and civic association membership
- We have received more r requests for individual memberships, so we need to look at our By-Laws to see if there are ways to open up membershiops for more individual memberships.

A variety of suggestions were made for increasing community awareness of GOCA and the value of membership in GOCA, including"

- Handing out GOCA stickers at grocery stores
- Creating flyers that convey the importance of membership
- Looking at the disconnect between being members and not attending meetings or being involved
- Including topics of interest to the community such as internet scams, transportation, legislative updates, bank frauds,
- Seeing if it is possible to send flyers about GOCA to new residents

- Hanging a banner at the intersection advertising the GOCA meetings
- Advertising at local restaurants and bars
- Clarifying the roles of GOCA, the Chamber of Commerce, OCF and other because for newcomers it is difficult to understand which group are sponsoring and coordinating many of the local events
- Trying to arrange for an Olney Day at the County Council

No Committee or MidCounty Regional Services Center Reports

Announcements

- Our December agenda will include presentations on the proposal for a residential development on the Olney Golf Park property from both the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission and the developers; and from the Magruder High School PTA re: needed renovations to the school.
- The Olney Ale House ribbon cutting for their reopening is happening in a few days. They have already had a warm reception by the community.
- The next Barrel-Aged Beer Event is scheduled for January 31. 2026 at the Good Shepherd Church. There are already 9 breweries participating.
- The Greater Olney Community Awards program will take place in March, so we will begin requesting nominations for the GOCA awards in the next couple of months.

Adjournment at 8:28 pm
Submitted by Helene Rosenheim Recording Secretary