



## Oakland Mills Community Association Village Board Meeting AGENDA

The Other Barn ~ 5851 Robert Oliver Place ~ Columbia, MD 21045  
**Board Members:** Virginia Thomas, Co-Chair ~ Bill McCormack, Co-Chair,  
Jervis Dorton, Architectural Committee Chair ~ Jonathan Edelson  
Paul Verchinski ~ Tawania Williams ~ Kay Wisniewski  
Reginald Avery, Columbia Council Representative

### Oakland Mills Board Residents' Meeting January 20, 2015

**Present:** Bill McCormack, Jr., Board Co-Chair; Ginny Thomas, Board Co-Chair; Jervis Dorton, AC Chair; Jonathan Edelson; Paul Verchinski; Kay Wisniewski; Reginald Avery, CA Board; John DiTimasso, OMCA Task Force; Mark James, OMCA Task Force; Sandy Cederbaum, Village Manager; Brigitta Warren, Event & Administrative Coordinator

**Mr. McCormack** gave a description of the process that was used to develop the VCCP (Village Center Community Plan). Task Force meetings were held monthly in collaboration with the Housing Committee and the Education Committee.

**Ms. Wisniewski** asked for residents to take three things away from this meeting.

- 1) The VCCP is Oakland Mills' insurance plan, meaning that is any new developers or any changes that are made to the existing structure; they must follow the guidelines outlined in the VCCP.
- 2) Housing – the VCCP will serve as an overall comprehensive housing policy and all parties to be affected should be consulted.
- 3) The VCCP will help in finding a focal point for the village.

Oakland Mills has two great features to build on: the bridge over Rte. 29 and the Columbia Ice Rink.

Resident Judy Gotteshagen thanked the Task Force for working on the Plan. She expressed concern over the abandoned and foreclosed homes in Oakland Mills.

Resident Cathy Spain supported all elements of the plan. She would like to have the Bridge be the highest priority as it will help with elements of the plan; she supported the mixed used development; and she stated to be cautious in pursuing the sports facility because of the congestion it could bring to Oakland Mills.

Resident Matt Threefoot suggested adding a technology portion to the VCCP. This concept will help to attract the millennials who will be the future buyers.

Resident Daniel Kirk-Davidoff encouraged retaking the initiative for Oakland Mills to be a sustainable community. He also suggested using positive publicity to attract people to Oakland Mills.

Resident Heidi Knott stated in reading the plan she was confused regarding what seemed to be conflicting statements hoping to attract young professionals but yet the Plan wants to decrease apartment rentals. She encouraged Bridge Columbia to be a top priority. Another suggestion, she made was to bring back group discounts.

Resident Michael Knott expressed concern about the Plan's proposed change to housing density. Lessening rental units could lessen those who rent to buy. He also expressed concern about the congestion on Oakland Mills roads if a multi-use sports complex is built.

Resident Karen Gray stated that the overall plan is good. It hits all major areas with the exception of technology. She suggested emphasizing Oakland Mills fabulous location. She too expressed concern over the building of a multi-use sports facility as it would be out of place. She suggested investing that money into the already planned Blandair Park. She stated high-end housing is important, but the focus should be on affordable housing.

Resident Cece McCullough stated she wanted to keep this village alive.

Task Force member Mark James made three suggestions: 1) large and expansive concept of sustainability; 2) creates a much more affordable community – health community and 3) he wants to be able to age in place.

**Mr. McCormack** stated that the OMCA Village Board agrees Bridge Columbia is a priority.

**Ms. Wisniewski** asked everyone who wanted to fill out a comment sheet to do so and return by close of business on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The OMCA Board will make necessary tweaks to the VCCP and will be voting on the VCCP at the January 27, 2015 Board Meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Brigitta Warren.