



oakland mills
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Oakland Mills Community Association

Village Board Meeting Minutes

The Other Barn ~ 5851 Robert Oliver Place ~ Columbia, MD 21045

Board Members: Bill McCormack, Jr., Co-Chair~ Ginny Thomas, Co-Chair ~ Jervis Dorton, AC Chair ~ Jonathan Edelson ~ Paul Verchinski
Tawania Williams ~ Kay Wisniewski
Reginald Avery, Columbia Council Representative

November 12, 2014

Regular OMCA BoD Meeting

Mr. McCormack called the regular meeting of the OMCA Board of Directors to order at 8:00 pm.

Present: Bill McCormack, Jr., Board Co-Chair; Ginny Thomas, Board Co-Chair; Jervis Dorton, AC Chair; Jonathan Edelson; Paul Verchinski; Tawania Williams, Kay Wisniewski; Reginald Avery, CA Board; Sandy Cederbaum, Village Manager

Also Present: Kim Pruiam, Special Assistant to Councilman Calvin Ball, residents

Absent: Frederick Eiland, Community Organizer, Brigitta Warren, OM Administrative and Events Coordinator

Opening of Meeting

- Mr. McCormack asked to begin with the Covenant Violations/Foreclosure report because Mr. Verchinski has to leave early. **Ms. Thomas** motioned that the agenda, as amended, for November 12 (ATTACHMENT "A") be approved. **Ms. Wisniewski** seconded and the motion passed (7-0-0).
- **Ms. Thomas** motioned to accept the October 28, 2014 minutes (ATTACHMENT "B") **Ms. Wisniewski** seconded and the motion passed (7-0-0).

Discussion of Covenant Violations

- Mr. Verchinski asked that the Covenant Violations/Foreclosure reports be distributed the Friday before the first board meeting of the month. Previously, Mr. McCormack said that hard copies of the reports could be distributed at the time of the meeting. Discussion followed. Without a vote, staff was instructed to have hard copies of the Violations/Foreclosure report placed in Board members office mailbox the Monday prior to the first Tuesday meeting of the month. Mr. Dorton asked if the board's intent was to micro-manage. Mr. Dorton thought that the report was to understand and ask questions about the current process and not to have a 12 month involvement.
- Board requested that when Ms. Bach receives a complaint, even if it is a follow up of a violation that predates July 8, 2014 that it then be included on the violations report. Ms. Cederbaum will inform Ms. Bach.
- Mr. McCormack suggested that we categorize violations and may need outside help in some instances, for example with the County in dealing with foreclosed/abandoned properties. Suggested having a closed board meeting to discuss issues pertaining to current complaint reporting system, having board members survey streets for violations to see if they have been reported, and possible consider a property standards evaluator.
- Mr. Edelson said he is a statistics person and would rather see a report with numbers only of complaints, resolutions, foreclosures etc. Ms. Cederbaum stated that Ms. Bach has compiled such a report in past

years but was told to change to the current spreadsheet. Ms. Thomas asked Mr. Edelson to speak to Ms. Bach about including an additional statistical report each month.

- Mr. Verchinski said that residents don't want to complain. Mr. Edelson voice concern with Board members looking for violations and then serving as AC members and that this could skirt the boundaries of due process. Mr. Verchinski said all complaints need to be verified by Covenant Advisor the board would be reporting them. Mr. Dorton said that the board is concerned with what residents think and residents are not complaining. He thinks things are ok. Are residents satisfied or are we stirring the pot?
- Board asked when they could expect Mr. Verchinski's report. Ms. Thomas said that due to the heavy Board and Task Force work load, Mr. Verchinski's report will be delayed.

Resident Speak out

- Ms. Sandra Braxton-Riley commented on calling in covenant violations. Ms. Braxton Riley also asked how Thunder Hill South could receive funds for street scape improvements. Ms. Pruim stated that Mr. Jagarapu wanted to speak with the OM Board to get their views on what should be done to the roadway and then the project will follow the County's Traffic and Engineering process.
- Ms. Carol Brain discussed Farewell Road speed and safety issues and discussed the dangerous intersection at Farewell Road and Stevens Forest Road. Issues pertain to drivers failing to stop for pedestrians at crosswalks; excessive speeds; Farewell being used by motorists as a cut through; lack of speed calming devices. Ms. Pruim mentioned the speed study that was just completed by the County. Ms. Pruim and Ms. Cederbaum will work with County and residents to assist them in getting a TAC started to pursue street calming. Ms. Pruim also mentioned that HCPD will increase enforcement of Farewell for the next two months and have added the street to their enforcement rotation schedule for 2015.
- Ms. Cederbaum introduced her intern Sarah Pomerantz. Sarah is a Senior at OMHS and is working with Ms. Cederbaum as her mentor along with board/staff as part of her GT class.

Board Co-Chair Remarks, Virginia Thomas and Bill McCormack, no report

CA Board Representative Report, Reginald Avery

- Mr. Avery discussed two legal opinions obtained about the legality of the CA easement to the Inner Arbor Trust for the Symphony Woods property. One outside opinion from Mr. Murphy, Esq. concluded that the easement is invalid. Another opinion obtained from CA General Counsel, Sherri Fanaroff, concluded that the easement is valid. The CA Board will most likely take a vote at their Nov. 13th meeting as whether or not to obtain a 3rd independent legal opinion.
- Ms. Thomas also asked Mr. Avery to find out with the current easement if CA still has a legal obligation with regard to safety and if someone gets hurt on the property is CA liable. Ms. Thomas also asked Mr. Avery if the CA President could request a 3rd independent legal opinion on the validity of the easement if the CA board vote doesn't support one. Mr. Avery said no, the President answers to the CA Board and cannot make decisions.
- Mr. Avery stated that there will be a CA FY16 budget hearing on Nov. 13. Ms. Thomas asked for a detailed budget schedule. Ms. Cederbaum will resend.

Manager's Report, Sandy Cederbaum (ATTACHMENT "C")

- Ms. Cederbaum mentioned a meeting that she and Ms. Warren had with representatives from the Baltimore Sun digital media. Proposals will follow.

Community Organizer Report, Frederick Eiland (ATTACHMENT "D")

New Business, No New Business

Committee Reports

- **Education, Jonathan Edelson and John DiTomasso (ATTACHMENT “E”)**
Ms. Thomas asked who the BOE Cluster Representative would be for the new board year. It was noted that the BoE chair selects the cluster representatives. Ms. Thomas stressed the importance of having a BOE cluster representative who is the best advocate for our schools. Suggested that Mr. Edelson have a conversation with the BOE Chair (once elected) and also enlist Councilman Ball and other Howard County elected officials support.
- **Safety Committee, Tawania Williams, report forthcoming**
- **Housing, Bill McCormack**
The housing committee will not convene again until the Master Plan 2/Community Plan is approved. Their role at that point will be to work on implementation.

Board Bulletin Board

- Board received an invitation to the Verona Grand Re-Opening on November 19 at 3:00 p.m. under the Pergola near the playground
- Board was reminded of the Volunteer Event on Fri. Nov. 21.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Cederbaum, Village Manager

Action Items for Next Meeting (12/9/2014)

Staff Actions

- Ms. Cederbaum will ask Ms. Bach to provide Violations/Foreclosure reports in board boxes the Monday prior to the first Tuesday meeting of the month. Ms. Cederbaum will ask Ms. Bach to include on the report all properties if residents have inquired even if violation was reported prior to July 8, 2014
- Ms. Cederbaum will work with Ms. Pruiem on the Farewell TAC.
- Ms. Cederbaum will resend the CAFY16 budget schedule.

Board Actions

- Mr. Verchinski will provide, at some point, a report on covenant monitoring.
- Mr. Avery will bring up the issue of CA liability w/regard to the Inner Arbor easement and potential legal obligation/liability with regard to safety.
- Mr. Edelson will look into the BOE cluster representative for the next year.
- Mr. Edelson will speak to Ms. Bach about the addition of a statistical covenant report.

A 11/11/14

Oakland Mills Board of Directors Meeting
Wed. November 12, 2014

8:30 p.m. Opening of Meeting

Approve the agenda for tonight's meeting
Approve the minutes from the October 28, 2014 meeting

8:35 p.m. Resident Remarks

8:40 p.m. Board Co-Chair Remarks,
Ginny Thomas and Bill McCormack

8:50 p.m. Columbia Council Report, Reginald Avery

8:55 p.m. Manager's Report, Sandy Cederbaum

9:00 p.m. Community Organizer Report, Fred Eiland

9:05 p.m. Committee Reports

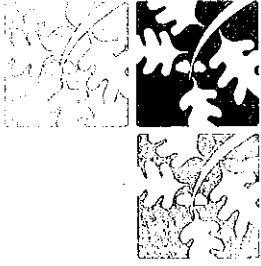
Stevens Forest ES Roadway/Safety Update, Jonathan Edelson
Housing Committee, Bill McCormack
Safety, Tawania Williams
Education, Jonathan Edelson
Architecture Committee, Jervis Dorton

9:20 p.m. New Business

9:30 p.m. Board Bulletin Board

9:35 p.m. Adjourn

UPCOMING EVENTS: 11/21 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner/Show: 6:30 p.m.



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Chair ~ Jonathan Edelson ~ Paul Verchinski
Tawania Williams ~ Kay Wisniewski
Reginald Avery, Columbia Council Representative

October 28, 2014

Regular OMCA BoD Meeting

Mr. McCormack called the regular meeting of the OMCA Board of Directors to order at 7:03 pm.

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; Sandy Cederbaum, Village Manager; Brigitta Warren, Event & Administrative Coordinator; Fred Eiland, Community Organizer

Also Present: Milton Matthews, CA President; Andy Stack, Outgoing CA Board Chair; Russ Swatek, Incoming CA Board Chair, see Resident list

Absent: Tawania Williams

Opening of Meeting

- **Ms. Wisniewski** motioned that the agenda for October 28, 2014 (ATTACHMENT "A") be approved. **Ms. Thomas** seconded and the motion passed (6-0-0).
- **Ms. Thomas** requested "possibly the final report" be struck from the October 14, 2014 minutes. **Mr. Verchinski** stated he was not present at the OMCA Regular Board Meeting on October 14, 2014 and should be listed as "Absent." **Mr. Edelson** motioned to accept the October 14, 2014 minutes (ATTACHMENT "B") as amended. **Ms. Thomas** seconded and the motion passed (5-0-1).

Resident Speakout

- Stephanie Costello was present representing the Columbia Clippers. She stated that there is a very clear need for more indoor swimming space in Columbia.
- Cathy Spain asked if the OMCA Board had taken a position on the possibility of the Exxon lot becoming an office building or a strip mall. Ms. Thomas replied stated that after meeting with Councilman Ball he stated nothing is definite at this point. The Board has not taken a position on what should be on the lot. The OMCA Board will be meeting with the Exxon lot owner at a future Board meeting.

(**Mr. McCormack** turned the meeting over to **Mr. Avery, Oakland Mills' CA Representative**).

Discussion of Community Issues with CA President and CA Board Chairs

- Milton Matthews, CA President, gave introductory statements.
- Andy Stack (OB), Outgoing CA Board Chair, thanked the OMCA Board for allowing the CA representatives to come to a meeting.
- Russ Swatek (LR), Incoming CA Board Chair, stated that his village and Oakland Mills share many of

the same problems.

- Mr. Matthews gave an update regarding a property in Thunder Hill that is currently under CA jurisdiction. He spoke about the Sports Complex in Oakland Mills and stated CA should be at the table in the discussion. Oakland Mills is being looked at for economic redevelopment. He agreed there is definitely a need for more aquatic space, but that it is a very expensive endeavor.
- Mr. Stack stated that any sort of proposal would go through the normal CA budget process.
- **Mr. Avery** asked what CA assessments are used for.
- Mr. Stack distributed “Columbia Association Accomplishments FY14 (ATTACHMENT “C”), the “Columbia Association Strategic Plan/Goals” (ATTACHMENT “D”), and “FY 2014 Capital – Oakland Mills” (ATTACHMENT “E”).

(**Mr. Avery** turned the meeting back over to **Mr. McCormack**).

- **Ms. Thomas** stated that OM needs to have a partnership with CA, as well as the County, State and Federal government. They should all work together to plan for OM. OM is **exploring** the idea of a sports complex in OM including an ice rink and a 50 meter pool. She thanked CA for coming to the meeting.
- Mr. Stack encouraged revision of the OM Master Plan.
- Mr. Swatek suggested keeping the rewritten Master Plan more general.
- **Ms. Thomas** announced the Task Force meeting will take place **November 3rd at The Other Barn at 7pm** to begin rewriting the Master Plan.
- **Mr. McCormack** asked Mr. Matthews what his position was regarding New Town Zoning requirements and if he supported all CA lien payers becoming CA members.
- Mr. Matthews stated he does not support any more affordable housing in Long Reach or Oakland Mills. He stated he feels it should be spread out in the County.
- Mr. Stack stated he would like to see MIHU’s available for teachers, firefighters, and policeman. He does worry that we are pricing people out of the County.
- **Ms. Thomas** stated she is hoping to work with all ten villages on the housing issue. Mr. Matthews called for a better distribution of MIHU’s .
- **Mr. Verchinski** asked if CA would provide additional funding to OMCA for covenant enforcement. Mr. Matthews stated no. **Mr. Verchinski** asked what options CA is looking into to remedy the situation of ongoing covenant violations. Mr. Matthews stated CA has an obligation to enforce the covenants. CA would keep the village boards aware of what next step is being taken.
- Mr. Stack explained current covenant process.
- **Mr. Dorton** asked what CA will do to ensure that Bridge Columbia happens. He also asked if CA had ever walked across the Bridge to OM.
- Mr. Stack stated that CA has set aside money in the CA budget to improve walkability. The CA Board is waiting to hear the final report of the Bridge feasibility study.
- **Mr. Edelson** discussed the problems with the aging tot lots and playgrounds. Mr. Matthews asked **Mr. Edelson** to identify problematic tot lots and refer them to the CA.
- **Ms. Wisniewski** requested looking into memorial benches along CA pathways.

Resident Spcakout

- Resident Froidis Beckerman was present to discuss two properties she is concerned about.
- Resident Daniel Kirk-Davidoff asked CA to look at the ecological aspect of CA open space and pathways.
- Mr. Swatek announced on November 13th the CA Board would be holding a session on Lyme Disease.
- Resident Barbara Heazel discussed a weeding program in River Hill in which she participated. She asked CA to look at the reasons why some tot lots were used more than other tot lots.
- Resident Jon DiTimasso asked CA to advocate for Oakland Mills with Howard County. He stated

schools need to look at more than number of children in the schools.

- Resident suggested ways to deal with non-responsive homeowners who have covenant violations. He discussed his unhappiness with the distribution of subsidized housing.
- Resident stated that the Bridge is paramount to any further development in Oakland Mills
- Mr. Matthews stated that CA does understand the need for the Bridge, but has to decide which version of the Bridge will work best.
- Resident concerned with property values and is concerned that not all ten villages will agree about affordable housing.
- Mr. Swatek announced that the CA Board will host a work session on industrial covenants on November 20th.

Board Co-Chair Remarks

- **Mr. McCormack** stated that candidate responses to the Housing Committee questions will be posted on Oakland Mills website. He noted the 6 month mark of the current board thanked the OMCA Board, the CA Rep, OM staff and the Community Organizer for their work and stated he enjoys working with all.

New Business

- **Mr. Dorton** asked about OM advertising in the Howard magazine. **Ms. Cederbaum** stated she will look into the prices of an ad in the Howard magazine.
- **Ms. Thomas** discussed the FY16 Budget Requests (ATTACHMENT "F"). The Board prioritized the list.
- **Mr. McCormack** called for a creation of Architectural Guidelines for tree stump carvings and called for a moratorium on applications for tree stump carvings until guidelines are created for art structures. A discussion took place regarding this proposal. **Ms. Wisniewski** stated she would serve on the proposed ad hoc committee. **Ms. Cederbaum** stated she would ask the RAC committee members if they would like to be involved. **Ms. Thomas** requested the proposed moratorium be dropped.
- **Mr. McCormack** requested the OMCA Board consider taking a position on the New Town Zoning/Rezoning.
- **Ms. Thomas** suggested looking at the County process. She also suggested getting together with the other villages and inviting Marsha McLaughlin from HC Department of Planning and Zoning to answer questions about the NT Rezoning process.

Action Items for Next Meeting (11/12/14)

Staff Actions

- Look into ad pricing in Howard Magazine
- Ask RAC committee members about participation in the architectural guideline for in ground tree structures ad hoc committee.
- Post housing candidate questions and responses on the Oakland Mills website.

Board Actions

- Speak with Marsha McLaughlin regarding a date to meet with all ten villages to answer questions about New Town Zoning/Rezoning.

The regular OMCA Board meeting was adjourned at 9:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Brigitta Warren, Event and Administrative Coordinator

**Manager's Report, Sandy Cederbaum
Oakland Mills Community Association
November 12, 2014**

- Staff:** - Obtain advertising rates for Howard Magazine – Meeting set up w/Howard County Magazine/Flier advertising staff. Will provide report after the meeting.
- Ask RAC committee members about participation in the architectural guideline for in ground tree structures ad hoc committee. – Spoke to RAC and Ms. Wisniewski has RAC contact information to set a meeting
 - Post housing candidate questions and responses on the Oakland Mills website. - done

Budget: Forwarded written testimony to CA staff and board. Forwarded testimony information to OMCA Board.

Attended a meeting at SFES w/administrators and food drive/distribution committee to discuss ongoing drive, plan for this year, brainstorm on best practices.

Working w/SF task force regarding drop off/pick up safety issues at SFES

Met with an OM Resident who will teach four classes in Jan/Feb for those 50+ looking for jobs

Met with new CA Director of Marketing and Communications to discuss CA/Villages issues pertaining to communications initiatives.

Newsletters: Worked w/intern to create OMCA school newsletter, well received.

Attended and took minutes for two task force meetings.

Created and mailed volunteer reception email

Created two OM enews publications

Processed Payroll, 401K, Met with Staff (daily), Bank deposits, meeting with Bookkeeper

The Metropolitan Baltimore Quadel Corporation

The MBQ, Metropolitan Baltimore Quadel, Corporation is a subsidiary of the Quadel Consulting Corporation. The MBQ works with both the tenants and landlords to find affordable housing for low income families. Quadel Consulting Corporation, which was formed in 1975, is the National leader in providing outsourced management, consulting, and training solutions to the affordable housing industry. Also Quadel is known as an expert in public housing, housing choice voucher programs, Section 8 multi-family contract administration, and low-income housing tax credit programs. The MBQ is the administrator of the Special Mobility Housing Program, operating out of Baltimore City, has a special partnership with the Housing Authority of Baltimore City.

The Special Mobility Housing Program is designed to help low income families live successfully in “ Opportunity Neighborhoods” that will give these families access to better schools, better employment opportunities, less exposure to crime, better amenities such as shopping centers, recreational facilities, which will give them an overall better quality of life. The Special Mobility Housing Choice Voucher Program is funded through MBQ from HUD. The program is successful in areas because of the strength of the three way partnership between landlords, MBQ, and the Housing Authority of Baltimore City. This program that HUD and Baltimore City set up was

the result of the most important fair housing lawsuit of the past decade, the Thompson Fair Housing Case. In this case, Thompson sought to change the racially segregated public housing in Baltimore, which at the time was considered one of the most racially segregated cities in America. Baltimore public housing had left thousands of low-income Black families locked in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty.

As administrators of this program, MBQ determines if a family is eligible for the program under the guidelines of HUD, determines allowable properties, assists families in relocating to opportunity areas, inspects properties under the program to ensure that federal health and safety guidelines are being met, pays the program's share of each participating families rent each month, and ensures that the program participants and landlords comply with the program's rules and regulations. The MBQ prepares families by administering group workshops, one-on-one counseling sessions, assigning a housing counselor, and by developing a plan and setting goals to help turn dreams of a better life into reality. The MBQ counselor will help families find a neighborhood and housing, assists with the housing search, serves as an advocate, introduces families to prospective landlords, and escorts potential families to available rental units.

As stated on the website, "Opportunity Neighborhoods are neighborhoods with lower concentrations of poverty and government assisted housing and greater ethnic diversity than the regional average. Every census tract in the region has been carefully evaluated, identifying multiple opportunity neighborhoods in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard and Queen Anne's counties."

One of OM residents brought this program to my attention because he strongly believed his family was living next door to a family that had this Special Mobility Housing Choice Voucher. The property is not being maintained nor does it seem that the tenants were properly vetted. According to Tom Carbo, the Special Mobility Voucher holders may only locate in Areas of Opportunity. Mr. Carbo also indicted that Oakland Mills was not on that census tract. I spoke to a few individuals who are familiar with voucher programs and it was mentioned that these vouchers can be used anywhere. The qualifications for the MBQ vouchers are less than for the users of the Section 8 vouchers.

Licensed Rental Housing Properties

Number	Exp. Date	Address	Status
RH14000663	8/11/2016	6332 Saddle Drive	Issued
RH14000666	none	9500 Kilimanjaro Rd.	Appt.Sent
RH14000659	8/8/2016	5752 Thunder Hill Rd.	Issued
RH14000611	7/29/2014	9811 Owen Brown Rd.	Cancelled
RH14000615	7/30/2016	9647 Whiteacre Rd. A3	Issued
RH14000589	NONE	9563 Landbreeze Row	not Issued
RH14000581	NONE	5626 Oakland Mills Rd.	Cancelled
RH14000571	NONE	9732 Basket Ring Rd.	Appt. Sent
RH14000577	7/21/2016	6405 Saddle Dr.	Issued
RH14000553	7/15/2016	9323 Matador Rd.	Issued
RH14000101	2/10/2016	9518 Pamplona Rd.	Issued
RH14000060	1/24/2016	5868 Morning Bird Ln.	Issued
RH14000056	1/23/2016	9633 White Acre Rd. B4	Issued
RH13001057	12/12/2015	5045 Netherstone Ct.	Issued
RH13001038	12/3/2015	5601 Mirrorlight Pl.	Issued

RH13000901	10/9/2015	5161 Orchard Green	Issued
RH13000882	10/3/2013	5161 Orchard Green	Cancelled
RH14000899	NONE	9641 White Acre C1	Pending
RH14000841	10/6/2016	5821 Humble Bee Rd.	Issued
RH14000818	NONE	9645 White Acre A2	Pending
RH14000819	NONE	9635 White Acre C2	Pending
RH14000757	NONE	5844 Morning Bird Ln.	Pending
RH14000723	NONE	9418 Merryrest Rd.	Pending
RH14000693	NONE	9466 Pinecone Row	Pending
RH14000688	8/18/2016	9600 Farewell Rd.	Issued
RH14000684	8/15/2016	9716 Basket Ring Rd.	Issued
RH14000661	8/11/2016	5868 Thunder Hill Rd.	Issued
RH14000835	NONE	9221 Creek Bed Ct.	Pending
RH14000787	NONE	9444 Brett Ln.	Pending
RH14000762	NONE	9209 Creek Bed Ct.	Pending
RH14000665	NONE	9500 Kilimanjaro Rd.	Pending
RH14000289	5/1/2016	5488 Sleeping Dog Ln.	Issued
RH14000227	4/7/2016	935 Enquiry Ct.	Issued

RH14000181	2/10/2016	5870 Thunder Hill Rd.	Issued
RH14000097	2/10/2016	5899 Morning Bird Ln.	Issued
RH14000539	7/10/2016	5724 Thunder Hill Rd.	Issued
RH14000474	6/20/2016	5757 Thunder Hill Rd.	Issued
RH14000460	6/17/2018	5895 Morning Bird Ln.	Issued
RH14000403	6/4/2016	5828 Humble Bee Rd.	Issued
RH14000382	5/30/2016	9462 Time Sweep Ln.	Issued
RH14000350	5/16/2016	8860 Goose Landing Cir.	Issued

Education Committee Report
Jonathan Edelson & John DiTomasso, Co-chairs

The committee met at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 3rd, in The Other Barn.

Special Guest: Ann DeLacy, Vice Chairperson, Atholton/Oakland Mills Cluster Representative, Howard County Board of Education

Ms. DeLacy responded to an inquiry submitted by Mr. Edelson regarding the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) test scores for HCPSS high schools, and, more specifically, Oakland Mills High School. In her response, Ms. DeLacy encouraged the committee to watch the Board of Education meeting that covered the OECD test. Several members of the committee watched the meeting, and Mr. Edelson followed up with reaction. In response, Ms. DeLacy offered to attend our meeting for face-to-face discussions about the Oakland Mills cluster.

Discussion covered a range of topics. HCPSS has hired a consultant to advise on considerations for future redistricting efforts. HCPSS is not considering the International Baccalaureate program for any of its high schools, but Oakland Mills High School may offer an early Associate's Degree program as soon as next year. OMHS would be the only high school in the county to offer this.

The committee again stressed equitable versus equal resources for schools so those with challenges have what they need. The committee also expressed its concern with the way HCPSS announced the OECD results versus what the BOE discussed at the meeting. At the meeting, the Superintendent and BOE members stressed that the OECD results were not about ranking or comparing our schools, nor were they about the average scores as there is a margin of error around the scores and there were other parts of the assessment not measured in these scores. However, the HCPSS news release was based on the average scores, and the data files accessible via the news release listed schools individually in a rank order against each other and other countries. The committee stressed that although test results are fact and should not be suppressed, it feels HCPSS needs to do a better job highlighting positive attributes of schools like those in the Oakland Mills cluster as it produces its weekly news releases. Ms. DeLacy agreed and said she would take this feedback with her to the BOE and Superintendent.

The committee also discussed with Ms. DeLacy holding another "State of Our Schools" education forum similar to the one held at The Other Barn with the Superintendent, HCPSS officials, and the 5 Oakland Mills cluster principals a couple of years ago. Ms. DeLacy agreed this is a good idea and suggested that we expand the forum to include all feeder schools to Oakland Mills High School (OMHS, Lake Elkhorn MS, Oakland Mills MS, Cradlerock ES, Jeffers Hill ES, Stevens Forest ES, Talbott Springs ES, Thunder Hill ES.) Mr. Edelson has begun working with the Oakland Mills Event Coordinator, Ms. Warren, to plan this event.

Next committee meeting: Tuesday, December 2, 6 p.m. at The Other Barn.

Other items of note

Stevens Forest ES is very grateful for the OMCA donation to the holiday adopt-a-family. The Assistant

Principal has requested we submit our donation as a Target or Wal-Mart gift card so the staff can shop for the designated families.

The Oakland Mills Village Manager is coordinating with the SFES PTA, the SFES administration, Howard County Police, Howard County Traffic, CA, and Councilman Ball to hold a meeting of all parties to discuss the traffic and parking situation at SFES during drop-off and pick-up. Efforts over the past two years have already led to the new crosswalk and pedestrian island, six-inch curbs in front of the school on Stevens Forest Road, and marked fire lanes inside the SFES carpool loop. Last week, Traffic added "No Stopping" signs further north on Stevens Forest Road to help combat parking and drop-offs between the carpool loop exit and Kilimanjaro Road.

Members of the Oakland Mills Village Board presented a donation to the Oakland Mills MS PTSA on October 28. We will do the same for the Oakland Mills HS PTSA on December 11.