



oakland mills
we value connections

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
Jonathan Edelson, Vice-Chair ~ Kay Wisniewski, AC Chair ~ Lynn-Steven Engelke
Judy Gottsagen ~ Paul Verchinski
Reginald Avery, Columbia Council Representative

November 9, 2016

OMCA Regular BoD Meeting

Mr. McCormack called the regular meeting of the OMCA Board of Directors to order at 7:11 pm.

Present: Ginny Thomas; Co-Chair, Bill McCormack; Co-Chair, Jonathan Edelson; Vice Chair (arrived 7:53pm), Kay Wisniewski; AC Chair, Judy Gottsagen, Paul Verchinski, Reginald Avery; CA Rep (arrived at 7:55pm), Sandy Cederbaum; Village Manager, Brigitta Warren; Event & Administrative Coordinator,

Also Present: Kris Jagarapu, Chief, Howard County DPW Traffic and Engineering Division; Kim Pruum, Special Assistant to Councilman Ball; HCPD Officer Luke Buchanan; See resident list.

Absent: Lynn Engelke

Opening of Meeting

- **Ms. Wisniewski** motioned that the agenda for November 9, 2016 (ATTACHMENT "A") be approved. **Ms. Gottsagen** seconded and the motion passed (5-0-0).
- **Ms. Wisniewski** motioned to accept the October 25, 2016 OMCA Board meeting minutes (ATTACHMENT "B"). **Ms. Gottsagen** seconded and the motion passed (5-0-0).

New Business

Community Police Update and Neighborhood Watch Program

- **Officer Luke Buchanan** was present to give an update regarding Oakland Mills Village. He stated that currently there are no trends happening in Oakland Mills. There is now one form used by all villages for banning individuals, if necessary. A HCPD officer has been present at dismissal time at SFES to help to enforce the no parking signs. HCPD held a roundtable meeting with CA in Long Reach and is hoping to hold one in Oakland Mills. Officer Buchanan gave suggestions regarding safety tips and security. He stated most crimes are crimes of opportunity.
- A resident asked if there was someone who worked in the police trailer and if so how often. Officer Buchanan responded that yes there is someone in the police trailer, but not 24 hours a day. It has been decided to keep the trailer, but it will be getting a facelift. If residents see a negative trend occurring, please contact the police trailer number, but in an emergency situation, please call 911.
- A resident asked Officer Buchanan to explain how the banning process worked. Officer Buchanan responded that a business would complete the aforementioned form relating to a specific incident. If a person has been banned from a property, they can appeal.
- A resident mentioned the meeting in Long Reach with the HCPD and asked when there would be another similar meeting. The resident also requested the meeting be accessible to residents of Oakland

Mills. Officer Buchanan responded that he is not sure when and where the next meeting will be but the HCPD is trying to have these meetings throughout Columbia.

- **Ms. Gottsagen** introduced herself and Steve Gottsagen as Chairpersons of the Safety and Security Committee and gave her email safety.omvc@gmail.com. **Ms. Gottsagen** asked Officer Buchanan to discuss how to start a Neighborhood Watch Program. Officer Buchanan indicated all those who would be interested would attend a mandatory training class and a volunteer would be sought to be the leader of the group. Once these two requirements are met and the neighborhood watch group is established, Officer Buchanan would accompany the volunteers on their neighborhood walk throughs.
- **Ms. Thomas** asked how a resident can safely deal with a possible drug house. Officer Buchanan responded that HCPD has a drug tip line on the HCPD website. A resident can also report any incidents to Officer Buchanan. The tip can be anonymous. Officer Buchanan can be reached at lbuchanan@howardcountymd.org.
- A resident asked how to report negative activity on the walkways. Officer Buchanan responded that if the activity is dangerous, please report immediately to 911. If there is negative activity that is becoming a trend on the walkway, please email Officer Buchanan with as much information as possible and he will follow through.
- **Ms. Gottsagen** asked about additional lighting on residents' property as well as on public walkways. Officer Buchanan responded that additional lighting is being placed on the CA pathways. The paths do close at 10pm every night. **Ms. Gottsagen** indicated she has been in touch with a representative regarding solar motion lights for resident property, but has not heard back.
- Officer Buchanan asked community members to speak to other community members to pass the word on to come to community meetings. Neighbors should talk to neighbors. Use common sense and be vigilant.
- A discussion took place regarding a possible transfer of Officer Buchman to another community. **Ms. Thomas** indicated that the OMCA Board would be writing a letter to Officer Buchanan's superiors to request he stay in Oakland Mills. She encouraged residents to contact the County Executive and the County Council to keep Officer Buchanan in Oakland Mills.

Farewell Road/Stevens Forest Road Roundabout Study Presentation and Discussion

- Kris Jagarapu, Chief, Howard County DPW, Traffic Engineering Division, was present and gave a presentation explaining the two concept designs for the Stevens Forest Road/Farewell Road Roundabout (ATTACHMENT "C").
- Background information regarding how this issue came about and what steps have been taken so far was given.
- Mr. Jagarapu stated that there are comment cards available tonight and residents can also email him at traffic@howardcountymd.gov to give feedback regarding the two designs. You can also send problems with signs, etc. in the neighborhood to this email as well as using SeeClickFix.
- **Mr. McCormack** asked about the timeframe for the completion of the project. Mr. Jagarapu stated that at this point 30-35% of the project is complete. Currently the County is taking feedback about the proposed concept designs. After the comment timeframe is over, a final design will be created. At this point, funding for the project will be sought through the upcoming County budget process.
- Ms. Pruiim encouraged residents to come out as a community to support funding for the roundabout at the citizens budget hearings in January, February or March.
- A resident stated that the roundabout will slow drivers down, but could it be possible to lose traction on Farewell Road and the roadway could become a slippery slope. She was also concerned that the roundabout would create additional traffic.
- Another resident stated that she was in favor of the roundabout but is not in favor of a stop light or stop sign on Stevens Forest Road.
- Resident Ron Meserski brought forth a petition in favor of the roundabout.

- Resident Jervis Dorton asked Mr. Jagarapu which option he would chose. Mr. Jagarapu stated there are positives to both options. Mr. Dorton stated that if the intent of the OMCA Village Board is to get more traffic to the village center, a roundabout might be a detraction.
- Resident Carol Brain stated that the intersection has been an issue for 45 years. She stated that design concept number 2 is good for Stevens Forest Road residents but not for Farewell Road residents. She does not feel it will deter residents from going to the village center citing the efficiency of the Homespun/Cradlerock roundabout
- Resident Heidi Knott stated that she was in favor of the roundabout but was concerned about the bike lanes. Mr. Jagarapu stated he will take into the design consideration all modes of traffic.
- A resident asked what the impact would be on the four corner properties. Mr. Jagarapu stated that is why there is not an option for a full roundabout but instead a mini roundabout.
- A resident indicated that he was concerned about residents parking on the corner near the roundabout which could lead to a possible collision.
- A request for traffic calming (street humps) on Stevens Forest Road was made. Mr. Jagarapu stated that traffic calming on Stevens Forest Road is not an option because Stevens Forest Road is classified as a collector roadway and thus cannot have street calming devices. There is currently automated enforcement only in the school zones.
- A resident asked if there would be an after study following the placement of the roundabout. Mr. Jagarapu stated that the county observes other similar situations and uses those comparisons.

Discussion and Vote on 2016-2017 OMCA Donation Disbursements

- A discussion took place regarding the 2016-2017 donation requests.
- **Ms. Thomas** motioned to distribute the following donations to the following organizations: THES PTA - \$464; SFES PTA - \$500; TSES - \$500; OMMS PTSA - \$500; OMHS PTSA - \$500; Forest Ridge Apartments After School Child enrichment Program - \$800; OMHS Fine Arts Boosters - \$736. **Mr. Edelson** seconded and the motion passed (6-0-0).

Old Business

Pedestrian Bridge Improvement Options

- **Mr. Verchinski** provided a summary of the November 2nd Howard County meeting regarding the Route 29 Pedestrian Bridge.
- He stated that Option 2 was given overwhelming support. Bridge Columbia is in support of Option 2 with a few caveats that they addressed in their letter to Howard County.
- **Mr. Verchinski** had sent a draft letter addressed to Howard County to the OMCA Board for review. This letter was in support of Option 2 and asked Howard County to find money to make this option happen.
- A suggestion was made to write three separate letters: one to the County Executive, one to the County Council and one to the Columbia Association Board of Directors with a carbon copy going to Milton Matthews, CA President.
- **Ms. Thomas** motioned to approve writing and sending the three separate letters to the Howard County Executive, the Howard County Council and the CA Board of Directors with a carbon copy to Milton Matthews in support of the proposed Option 2 for the Pedestrian Bridge over Route 29. **Mr. Edelson** seconded and the motion passed (6-0-0).
- **Ms. Gottsagen** motioned to accept and send the draft proposed letter to Howard County Police Chief Gary Gardener with a carbon copy to the County Executive in support of keeping Officer Luke Buchanan as the community resource office in Oakland Mills. **Ms. Thomas** seconded and the motion passed (6-0-0).

Columbia Board of Directors Report

- The CA Board of Directors will be discussing with the Howard County delegation regarding changing the law to lower the decibel levels at Merriweather Post Pavilion. **Mr. Avery** asked the OMCA Board for their position. **Ms. Cederbaum** referred to the letter that the OMCA Board had sent to the County Council regarding this issue last month. **Ms. Cederbaum** will forward the letter to **Mr. Avery** and the **OMCA Board** for reference.
- **Mr. Edelson** asked if anyone had gone out into the communities with the proper equipment to test the decibel level recently following all of the changes that have been made around Merriweather.
- **Ms. Thomas** stated that a system needs to be developed that is enforceable.
- **Mr. Avery** stated that the Downtown Partnership has requested \$500K for the next ten years. The CA Board has been in discussion regarding this issue. **Mr. Avery** stated that Howard Hughes will provide funding until 2017. The OMCA Board provided their input on this issue.
- **Ms. Thomas** motioned to oppose the Columbia Association giving \$500K for the next ten years to the Downtown Partnership. **Ms. Wisniewski** seconded and the motion passed (6-0-0).

Manager's Report

- **Ms. Cederbaum** distributed her report (ATTACHMENT "D") and asked if there were any questions.
- **Ms. Cederbaum** stated that Clive Graham was present at the Managers meeting today and announced the community input into the Central Maryland Transit Development plan. The information about the plan along with comment cards are available at The Other Barn. Bridge Columbia is very involved with this process.
- The Village Managers are having an outside source look at CA's Assessment Shares to each of the villages. Two village managers will represent the villages in this process.
- **Ms. Cederbaum** distributed the OMCA 2017 Holiday Schedule (ATTACHMENT "E"). **Ms. Wisniewski** motioned to approve the 2017 Holiday Schedule. **Ms. Thomas** seconded and the motion passed (6-0-0).
- **Mr. Verchinski** asked about the status of the request for funding for the roundabout at Stevens Forest Road and Whiteacre. **Ms. Cederbaum** responded she had forwarded the email sent to her by Councilman Calvin Ball that stated it has been put on hold to wait for the results of the Feasibility Study.

Committee Reports

Architecture Committee

- The AC Guidelines are in the process of final proposed revisions and should soon be ready to submit for review and comments.

Arts Advisory

- **Mr. Verchinski** is working with the OMHS teacher who is working with the art students about setting up what ifs for the police trailer art. **Mr. Verchinski** has spoken with Officer Buchanan about what is being planned. He is not sure if all sides of the trailer will be used.

Education

- **Mr. Edelson** reminded the OMCA Board to look at the email he had sent regarding the elementary school model. The SFES PTA President has reached out to other schools in Howard County that are

using the elementary school model. The OMMS PTA president suggested sending out a survey to parents at these schools to gain the necessary feedback.

- **Mr. Avery** stated that several current HC Board of Education members have asked to put some issues on hold until the new BOE members are in place.

Housing

- The County Council should have passed all downtown legislation which will allow **Mr. McCormack** to begin the process of the OMCA Housing goals.

Safety and Security

- **Ms. Gottsagen** announced the next meeting will take place on November 16th from 6pm to 7pm at a home on Ourtime Lane. Please contact The Other Barn for the address.

Board Bulletin Board

- **Mr. Edelson** thanked the OMCA Board for their donation on behalf of the SFES PTA.
- **Mr. Verchinski** announced the various happenings of the Symphony of Lights which will be back this year.
- **Mr. Avery** acknowledged Veteran's Day thanking all veterans for their service.
- **Ms. Thomas wished Ms. Warren a happy birthday.**
- **Ms. Cederbaum** thanked all who were able to make it to the Volunteer Reception for coming.

The OMCA Board meeting was adjourned at 9:56pm

Respectfully submitted: Brigitta Warren, Event and Administrative Coordinator

Action Items from November 9, 2016 OMCA Board Meeting

FOR BOARD MEMBERS:

FOR STAFF:

Cederbaum – send Mr. Avery the letter from the board regarding noise from MPP

Cederbaum – send Mr. Verchinski email from Councilman Ball regarding SF/Whiteacre Streetscape

Cederbaum – draft letter to Chief Gardner in support of Officer Buchanan

Cederbaum – draft letter regarding Option 2 for Pedestrian Bridge

Cederbaum – process donations checks