



Oakland Mills Community Association
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May 16, 2017

Oakland Mills Community Association Board of Directors
Annual Report - Board Actions and Activities May – March, 2017
Board Co-Chairs: Virginia Thomas and William R. McCormack Jr.
Board Members: Jonathan Edelson, Vice-Chair; Kay Wisniewski, Architecture Chair;
Lynn-Steven Engelke, Judy Gottsagen, and Paul Verchinski

- Feasibility Study of the Oakland Mills Village Center and Surrounding Area – Howard County and CA jointly paid for the study, Bolan-Smart contracted to conduct study. Three Community meetings, numerous focus group sessions with stakeholders. Final presentation scheduled for late March 2017.
- Hosted Presentation on Downtown Columbia Affordable Housing Legislation with Councilmember Jen Terrasa; Carl DeLorenzo, County Executive's Office; Greg Fitchett, Howard Hughes Corporation
- Met with Morgan Properties the new owners of Grand Pointe. Morgan is currently making large scale improvements to the entire complex and working with Architecture Chair and Covenant Advisor
- Supported Merriweather Post Noise Reduction Legislation
- Hosted presentation on BWI airplane noise
- Discussed and Met with Mr. Steve Smith regarding the Oakland Ridge Industrial Park and Architectural Covenants
- Submitted budget testimony to CA for the FY18 budget
- Testified at the County Executives FY 18 Citizens Budget Hearing
- Hosted CA Board Chair Andy Stack for a CA Update
- Amended OMCA Donation Policy
- Donated to the Stevens Forest/HC Rec and Park Scholarship program in honor of all Oakland Mills volunteers
- Hosted Oakland Mills Community Policing Officer Luke Buchanan for a community safety and neighborhood watch presentation
- Hosted HC Director of Traffic/Engineering Kris Jagarapu to present finding for a roundabout at Stevens Forest and Farewell Roads. Board supported mini-roundabout option
- Hosted Howard County Office of Transportation to present options the Route 29 Pedestrian Bridge Improvement Options. Board support Geodesic Design and sent a letter to County supporting that option.
- Approved funds for the creation of a new Employment Handbook, edited draft handbook and approved the handbook.

- Formed a committee to review and revise Architectural Guidelines. Draft guidelines to be voted on (pending legal review) on Feb. 28, 2017
- Reviewed and approved the draft
- Had quarterly Complaint Violations Updates from Covenant Advisor of Property Concerns
- Discussed proposed Maryland State Legislation and testified in support of noise reduction at Merriweather Post Pavilion
- Discussed and approved a survey for community to select art pieces for murals to be painted on the Police trailer. Artwork created by OMHS Art Honors students. Board to vote on selections on Feb. 28, 2017
- Approved Election Monitor Committee Chairs and committee members
- Hosted presentations from Oakland Mills Public Space Advisory Committee, Gerry Witte; CA Watershed Committee, Daniel Kirk Davidoff; CA Tennis Advisory, Jim Alvey; CA Senior Advisory, Paul Verchinski
- Supported a Design Advisory Task Force to work with Public Space Advisory on community issues pertaining to public/open space, non-residential design elements and other issues as needed
- Presentation and White Paper on Oakland Mills Village Center Zoning and County Bill CB29-2009 by OMCA consultant, Marsha McLaughlin

Bridge Columbia

- Continue to work closely with the Bridge Columbia committee. Paul Verchinski liaison to committee
- County Office of Transportation working with Friends of Bridge Columbia on a transit route that could potentially go from Howard County General Hospital through Oakland Mills, Long Reach and to the Gateway Business Area utilizing established right-of-ways

Traffic and Roadways

- Supported mini-roundabout for Stevens Forest/Farewell Road
- Continue to support streetscape improvements to Stevens Forest/Whiteacre and Thunder Hill Roads
- Support the Farewell Road Traffic Calming committee initiative for street humps
- Will contact county regarding street calming for Kilimanjaro

Architectural Committee and Covenant Issues, Kay Wisniewski

- Reviewed and revised proposed Architectural Guidelines
- Working closely with Morgan Properties on Grand Point renewal
- Working closely with covenant advisors
- Submitted properties to CA ARC and removed properties from ARC
- Hosted two information sessions with OM HOA's. Bob Frances from Dept. Of Licenses, Inspections, Permits presented at one and Sean Harbaugh, CA Open Space presented.

Arts Advisory, Paul Verchinski

- Worked with OMHS Honors Art teacher on mural for police trailer and submitted

student's artwork in a survey to the community for mural selection

- Community survey of mural artwork had 195 respondents, OMCA Board selected the artwork for the murals that the majority of the respondent's selected. Artwork proposal along with artwork and survey sent to Howard County Police requesting that the murals be considered for the police trailer.

Education, Jonathan Edelson and John DiTomaso

- Hosted a BOE Candidate's Forum
- **Elementary School Model:** Pat Harrington and Jonathan Edelson are representing the Education committee on a committee of ESM schools. PTAs are gathering data on ESM and its impact on schools.
- Submitted a letter to the Planning Board during their FY18 Capital Budget hearing in support of replacement of renovation of Talbott Springs Elementary School.
- John DiTomaso represented us on the redistricting policy committee and advocated for the redistricting policy that Jonathan Edelson wrote and the previous board adopted.
- Working with other ESM schools to create a parent survey on the ESM
- Will host OM School Cluster BOE representative Dr. Altwerger at an upcoming meeting

Housing, Bill McCormack Jr.

- Obtained unanimous Board approval of Oakland Mills Housing Goals and Plans
- Helped defeat proposed terms in Downtown Columbia Affordable Housing legislation that would have allowed placement of additional affordable housing in Oakland Mills to count for Downtown.
- Reviewed and provided feedback on proposed RENEW Howard program to purchase and remodel neglected homes at market rate.
- Consulted with County Councilman to create Public Nuisance legislation to deal with bad landlords
- Obtained final covenant documents dictating subsidized status of 15 years for Housing Commission owned home in Steven Forest.

Neighborhood Enhancement Advisory Committee, Lynn-Steven Engelke

- Developed, organized and held the first two of a series of three workshops for homeowners (*Renew.Rehab.Replace*) on design options for home renovations and for aging in place. A third workshop on lawn & garden renewal is planned for April.
- Reviewed and revised the proposed Architectural Guidelines
- Partnered with the OM Public Space Advisory Committee to create a task force to address specific public space issues
- Collaborated with OM staff on a resource list for addressing property issues,
- Hosted representatives from FIRN, Haitian community and CA Sister Cities for a roundtable discussion
- Met with apartment manager to discuss community needs

- Reviewed recommendations for a Property Evaluation Survey to be revised and reintroduced for approval and funding

Outreach, Virginia M. Thomas

- Testified in support of Oakland Mills needs and concerns before CA, the Howard County State Delegation to Annapolis, County Executive, County Council, and county staff. Topics included funding for schools, safety/crime concerns, need for re-development of Oakland Mills Village Center area, noise concerns, etc.
- Organized many meeting with private and public sector investors with the goal to encourage them to develop in Oakland Mills.
- Organized, with Bill McCormack, meetings with the Housing Department and the Housing Commission to obtain funding opportunities to deal with the issue of vacant and deteriorating housing in our community. Lobbied the County to put money in the budget for this issue.

Safety and Security, Judy and Steve Gottsagen

- Hosted six (6) neighborhood meetings with Officer Buchanan
- Hosted 3 HOA Meetings
- Arranged for Officer Buchanan to attend the OMCA Pool Party
- Arranged for Officer Buchanan and Fire & Rescue to attend the Oakland Mills Fall Festival
- Track crime and stats in Oakland Mills
- Organized Bike with a Cop