



Oakland Mills Community Association
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June 25, 2019

Oakland Mills Community Association Board of Directors
Annual Report - Board Actions and Activities May, 2018 – April, 2019
Board Members: Jonathan Edelson, Chair; Chris Esoldo, Vice Chair (through March 2019); Lynn-Steven Engelke, Architecture Chair; Bill McCormack Jr., Larry Pretlow II, Bageshwar Verma, Paul Verchinski
Virginia (Ginny) Thomas, Columbia Council Representative
Sandy Cederbaum, Village Manager

Board of Directors Activities

- Approved annual reimbursements to residents for street beautification and block parties
- Hosted CA Aquatics Director and Oakland Mills pool staff for overview of season
- Appointed Paul Verchinski, OMCA Rep. to the CA Senior Advisory Committee; Jim Alvey, OMCA Rep. to the CA Tennis Advisory Committee; Sheila Robinson, OMCA Rep. to the CA Watershed Advisory Committee
- Appointed Paul Verchinski as the liaison to the BWI Roundtable.
- Supported the initiatives of the BWI roundtable pertaining to airplane noise
- Filed a petition with the FAA to request that BWI revert to pre Next Gen standards
- Filled two vacant board seats, at separate times. Appointed Larry Pretlow II and Bageshwar Verma to the vacant seats
- Approved the CA Management Contract for FY19 – FY24
- Hosted Danielle Tyeryar, CA, to discuss the Columbia Solar Co-Op Information
- Hosted Howard County Dept. of Transportation to discuss bike lanes for Lightning View Road
- Discussed current and future tot-lot use with Dennis Matthey and staff from CA, specifically Tot Lot OM-18 located behind Castile Court and the tot lot located behind Woodblock Row. Surveyed Castile Court residents about the use of tot lot OM-18
- Discussed the impact of the new courthouse on traffic at the Mellonbrook/108/Bendix Intersection, Board sent a letter to County addressing concerns and met with county to provide specific list of vehicular/pedestrian and bicyclist concerns.
- Discussed CA President/CEO Strategic Initiatives for FY19 relating to the OM Village Center
- Hosted a presentation by the owner of the future Dunkin Donuts at the OM Village Center who provided an overview of the proposed exterior alterations to the site
- Submitted comments to the Maryland Public Service Commission on abandoned copper wire cable boxes
- Discussed the proposed Jordan Overlook development of 21 age 55+ townhomes,

and discussed community concerns. Submitted a letter to Howard County outlining the Board's objections to the proposed development

- Discussed and presented testimony on HC Council Bill CB76-2018 supporting electric vehicle charging stations in certain new residential structures
- Discussed donation requests and voted on donation disbursements, presented checks to recipients
- Held a discussion with tennis and pickleball players. Submitted a letter to CA indicated that the OMCA board would like to keep the same use as always for the tennis court behind the ice rink (used for either sport/first come, first served)
- Hosted CA Chair Andy Stack for a CA Update
- Hosted a presentation from new merchant Pizzaman regarding exterior alteration changes to the restaurant site
- Hosted a presentation from new merchant LA Mart and owner James Change regarding exterior alterations for the supermarket
- Hosted Howard County Councilman Opel Jones, District 2 for a "meet and greet"
- Hosted county resident Hiruy Hadgu to discuss proposed state legislation regarding developer school impact fees
- Discussed and submitted Oakland Mills Priority Issues to County Executive Ball
- Met with Covenant Advisors for their quarterly reports and updates
- Honored Mr. Philip Hale, OMHS Music Director, for the "WBAL Concert For Kids" and the successful concert raising \$10,000 for children in the Baltimore area
- Discussed the CA proposal to become a Community Benefit Association
- Discussed and agreed upon an Oakland Mills Political Activity Policy
- Hosted a presentation from CA's Climate and Sustainability Committee
- Honored the Oakland Mills Community Education Committee as the 2019 OMCA 2019 Volunteers of the Year
- Hosted a presentation from Howard County Department of Housing and Community Development, Kelly Cimino and Debbie Gilliam on the county's Reinvest, Renovate, Restore Home Improvement Loan program.
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Traffic and Roadways

- Discussed the new Circuit Courthouse and impact on intersection of Mellenbrook/108 and Bendix Road for vehicular, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic
- Held meetings with county officials and four property owners to discuss the design of the roundabout to be installed at Farewell/Stevens Forest/Nigh Street Hill
- Discussed traffic speed concerns on Stevens Forest Road and Kilimanjaro Road and HCPD conducted vehicle and speed studies

Architectural Committee and Covenant Issues, Lynn Engelke

- Collaborated closely with our covenant advisors and the RAC to assist residents, promote a positive view of the covenants and their value, and strengthen the effectiveness of our Covenant Process and Architectural Guidelines
- Selected members to serve on the Oakland Mills Non-Residential Architecture Committee. Committee reviewed three non-residential exterior alteration applications.

- Worked with the OMCA Board, acting as the Architectural Committee, to submit non-compliant properties to CA ARC for action and to remove properties from CA ARC when issues were resolved
- Interviewed and voted on applicants for the position of Covenant Advisor for Property Concerns to fill vacancy in May, 2018 and again in October, 2018.
- **In FY19 the following covenant activity occurred:**
 New Complaints/Violations: 173
 New Complaints/Violations Cleared: 135
 Outstanding Violations: 38

Exterior Alteration Applications Processed FY19

Applications Received: 252
 Applications Approved: 217
 Applications Denied: 11
 Applications Tabled: 39
 Applications Withdrawn: 23
 Applications Appealed: 1

Board Chair, Jonathan Edelson

- Provided oral and written testimony to the County Executive and County Council in support of program and initiatives to benefit Oakland Mills, including the Whiteacre Road Streetscape and Stevens Forest Road roundabouts, currently under construction.
- Met with Director, Department of Housing and Community and Executive Director, Howard County Housing Commission to discuss the relationship between housing and education in Howard County.
- Liaised between the commercial owner of the Village Center and the community to address community concerns and communicate community feedback during the closure of the anchor grocery store and search for a replacement tenant.
- Petitioned Maryland Public Service Commission regarding telephone boxes in disrepair throughout Oakland Mills and successfully had Verizon inspect and repair damaged boxes.

Education, Jonathan Edelson, Chair

- Lobbied for equity in Howard County schools, including academic programming, operational funding, and capital planning and expenditures
- Provided written and oral budget testimony to the County Executive, County Council, and Board of Education for school funding and programming to address the achievement gap
- Coordinated and hosted a Board of Education Candidates' Forum prior to the general election
- Maintained strategic partnerships with schools in Oakland Mills Village, including co-sponsorship of an elementary school bingo night, hosting high school Advanced

Placement testing in The Other Barn, integrating schools and school support organizations into the 50th birthday celebrations and festivals

- Successfully lobbied the state to grant matching funds for the reconstruction of Talbott Springs Elementary School
- Established partnership program with Oakland Mills High School to start an environmental awareness program during the 2019-2020 school year with scholarship funds provided by OMCA

Housing, Bill McCormack Jr., Chair

- Conducted monthly meetings with county housing authorities exploring Oakland Mills Housing Goals and Plans to address housing issues in the village and county.
- Conducted meeting with county housing authorities and Oakland Mills Education Committee Chair to explore interrelation between housing and education with a focus on data and policies.
- Advocated with Housing Affordability Coalition for creation of county wide Housing Affordability Master Plan to create housing balance throughout the county.
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Open Space Advisory Committee, Gerry Witte and Bill McCormack Jr., Co-Chairs

- Conducted joint open space/public space residents' issues meeting and created testimony to include solutions in CA budget.
- Secured CA commitment to use Oakland Mills as test village for pilot program to assess tot lots/playgrounds.
- Secured CA commitment to work with each village to address pathway sight line safety.
- Created testimony for CA budget for expert outside consultant to design open space for next 50 years.
- Met bi-monthly with CA Open Space Management Staff
- Provided comments to CA on their Five Year Strategic Plan. Suggested the plan add to the Environmental Stewardship Section plan to promote and measure progress on initiatives identified in the April 2017 CA Open Space Assessment Plan especially in the area of mitigating invasive species vegetation throughout CA Open Space.

Safety and Security, Judy and Steve Gottsagen, Co-Chairs

- Liaison between the Oakland Mills Outreach Officer and the community to identify safety and security issues, and to find resolutions through neighborhood meetings, and active communication with the HCPD.
- Hosed Coffee with a Cop programs and Bike with a Cop events.
- Arranged for the HCPD and HCF&R to attend the Oakland Mill Fall Festival.

Public Space Committee, Chris Esoldo, Chair

- Monitored and reported broken/abandoned cable boxes
- Followed the Jordan Overlook issue and reported to board

Columbia Council Representative/CA Board of Directors, Virginia (Ginny) Thomas
CA Completed FY 19 Projects in Oakland Mills

- OM-06 (Hound Hill) Tot Lot refurbishment. 7/10/19
- OM-17 (Pastoral Place) Tot Lot refurbishment. 7/10/19
- OM-13 (Gatsby Green) Tot lot repairs (replace liners, sitting pad, slide footer, spring animals And seal fort post) 8/27/18
Picnic table in tot lot off Wandering Way
Bio retention facility below Long Look Lane and bank stabilization below New Leaf
Patriot Pond clean up
Pushcart Pond
OM-03 (Thunder Hill N.C) Tot Lot repairs (Swing repair) 2/16/19
- OMBR-30 (Gatsby Green) Bridge repairs. 6/6/18
- OMBR-13 (Blue Coat Lane) Bridge repairs 9/4/19
- Oakland Mill Other Barn Courtyard Steps Competed 1/10/19
- Other Barn – Silo tuck-pointing and sealing
- Other Barn – Bulkhead lighting
- Other Barn – Silo flooring/stair treads
- Other Barn – Baby changing stations
- Other Barn – electrical improvements
- Other Barn/Teen Center – Courtyard pavers
- Other Barn lift replacement
- Other Barn dumbwaiter repairs
- Stevens Forest – Fencing around transformer
- Phase II Ice Rink Improvements – flooring replacement, lobby improvements
mechanical upgrades
- Sponsored volunteers and provide equipment and supplies for the Stream bio-monitoring through the MD DNR Stream Waders Program in the stream below Long Look Ln.
- Collaborated with the Community Ecology Institute and the Oakland Mills Community Association on the Community Reforestation Project off Farewell Rd.
- Provide plants and equipment for the pull and plant organized by the Oakland Mills Watershed Advisory Committee representative.
- Built 5 rain gardens for residents through CA's Rain Garden Cost Share Program.
Created a Climate and Sustainability Advisory Comm. CA liaison is Ginny Thomas

BWI Metroplex Roundtable, Paul Verchinski, Board Liaison

- After 2 years of meetings, the DC Metroplex BWI Roundtable and the Oakland Mills Liaison recommended that the Federal Aviation Administration relocate the Runway 28 departures further south of Oakland Mills to emulate pre Next Gen departures. This new Procedure may take up to two years to implement.

CA Senior Advisory Committee, Paul Verchinski, Board Representative

- Continue to monitor and suggest implementation measures to the CA for the "Community for a Lifetime - Columbia Association's Comprehensive Plan for Serving the Older Adult Community" adopted by the CA Board in May 2014

OMCA Community Events

- Sponsored six "Lively Arts" for little ones performance
- Sponsored four "Jazz in the Mills" performance
- Sponsored the annual Oakland Mills Fall Festival
- Sponsored the annual Breakfast with Santa and Gingerbread House Making
- Co-Sponsored Family Bingo along with Stevens Forest Elementary School
- Sponsored the annual Plant Sale
- Created the Oakland Mills 50th Birthday Planning committee, had OM 50th logo designed and purchased OM 50th flags/banners/magnets, and goblets
- Co-sponsored villages Searching for Spring event
- Sponsored bird house making "Adult Night Out"
- Co-Sponsored annual Columbia Cleans day
- Sponsored annual Oakland Mills Pool Party
- Hosted a dinner honoring OM Volunteers and OM Pioneers (living in OM 45+ years)
- Sponsored a 50th birthday kick-off celebration 50th July 4th Parade, 50th Fall concert, 50th Jazz in the Mills Celebration, and 50th Volunteer and Pioneer Recognition Dinner