



Oakland Mills Community Association

Village Board Meeting Minutes

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

Board Members: Jonathan Edelson, Chair ~ Lynn-Steven Engelke, Architectural Committee Chair
Bill McCormack Jr., Vice-chair ~ Rebecca Bryant ~ Paul Verchinski
Bageshwar Verma ~ Virginia (Ginny) Thomas, Columbia Council Representative

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February 8 & 9, 2021

Link to YouTube recording of the February 9, 2021 OMCA Board Meeting:

https://youtu.be/M_LtPGFPH2Y

February 8, 2021

OMCA Board Vacancy Interview (held February 8, 2021)

This meeting was conducted via Zoom remote virtual conferencing due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mr. Edelson called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Present: Jonathan Edelson, Board Chair; Bill McCormack, Board Vice-chair; Lynn Engelke, Architectural Committee Chair; Ginny Thomas, Columbia Council Representative; Rebecca Bryant; Paul Verchinski; Sandy Cederbaum, Village Manager.

Absent: Bageshwar Verma

Quorum Present: Yes

Ms. Thomas motioned to open the interview meeting. **Mr. McCormack** seconded, and the motion passed (5-0-0).

The candidates, Rena Ross and Rashida George, introduced themselves, and the Board conducted the interview.

Mr. Edelson adjourned the Board vacancy interview at 7:00 p.m.

February 9, 2021

OMCA Regular Board Meeting

This meeting was conducted via Zoom remote virtual conferencing due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mr. Edelson called the regular meeting of the OMCA Board of Directors to order at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Jonathan Edelson, Board Chair; Bill McCormack, Board Vice-chair; Lynn Engelke, Architectural Committee Chair; Ginny Thomas, Columbia Council Representative; Rebecca Bryant; Paul Verchinski; Sandy Cederbaum, Village Manager; Amy Carpenter, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Bageshwar Verma

Quorum Present: Yes

Also Present: Columbia Association Aquatics Director Marty Oltmanns; Howard County Council District 2 Aide Ashley Alston; Samuel Hahn, Executive Director of Oakland Mills United; Michael Golibersuch, Owen Brown Board Chair; see resident list

Opening of Meeting

- **Mr. McCormack** motioned to approve the January 26, 2021 OMCA Board meeting minutes (ATTACHMENT A). **Ms. Thomas** seconded, and the motion passed (5-0-0).
- **Mr. McCormack** motioned to approve the February 9, 2021 OMCA Board meeting agenda (ATTACHMENT B). **Mr. Verchinski** seconded. **Mr. Edelson** asked that the agenda be amended. The Board voted to approve the amended agenda (5-0-0).

Resident Remarks

Resident Alex Hekimian spoke regarding proposed CA outdoor pool summer closures. He asked that CA open all 23 outdoor pools and suggested strategies for re-opening all outdoor pools. He asked that the Board support reopening all pools.

Howard County District 2 Aide Ashley Alston provided updates on Board requests.

Owen Brown Board Chair Mike Golibersuch said he was visiting other CA village board meetings to observe and find ways to work together as villages. He asked that anyone looking for funding or advocating for Oakland Mills schools to reach out to the Owen Brown Board since many students from Owen Brown attended OM schools. Mr. Golibersuch answered Board questions about Owen Brown's position on CA outdoor pools.

New Business

CA Aquatics Discussion

CA Aquatics Director Marty Oltmanns updated the Board on CA Aquatics. The CA Board would decide on how many pools to open with the CA Staff recommendation of opening 15 outdoor pools for the 2021 season. There was a projected lifeguard shortage. Pool users would need sign in online to register for pool time due to Covid-19 capacity limitations. A discussion ensued.

Vacant Board Seat

Mr. Edelson said **Mr. Verma** would be moving out of the village and would be resigning his position on the Board, effective February 28th. **Mr. Verchinski** then announced that he was resigning from the OMCA Board, effective after the February 9th OMCA Board meeting. **Mr. Edelson** discussed options, and members of the Board thanked Mr. Verchinski for his service to the community.

Old Business

CA Proposed Summer Pool Openings

The Board discussed CA's proposed summer pool openings and closures (ATTACHMENT C). After discussion, the Board agreed to table the issue until the February 23rd Board meeting. **Ms. Bryant** volunteered to write a draft letter for the Board to discuss.

Board Vacancy Discussion

Mr. Edelson shared options for the vote, given the additional Board vacancy announced by Mr. Verchinski earlier in the meeting. **Mr. Edelson** motioned to appoint Rashida George and Rena Ross to fill two vacant Board seat positions, effective February 10, 2021. **Mr. McCormack** seconded. The vote was conducted by electronic secret ballot, and the motion passed (5-0-0).

OMCA Board Elections Candidate Nomination Petitions

Mr. McCormack motioned to include a proposed by-law amendment, if the 2021 OMCA Board election was contested, on the ballot to eliminate the requirement of candidate nomination petitions and replace with a Candidate Application Form. **Ms. Engelke** seconded, and the motion passed (5-0-0). **Ms. Cederbaum** said she would work on the wording for the by-law amendment and present it to the Board for approval.

Oakland Mills United

The Board agreed to become a partner with Oakland Mills United.

Board Chair Report

Mr. Edelson reported that Oakland Mills High School Principal Jeffrey Fink would be contacting Howard County Public School System Grounds personnel and the Watershed Stewards Academy to find ways to address erosion, invasive species, and aesthetic concerns on the hill behind OMHS located along Thunder Hill Road.

Mr. McCormack requested Board involvement and asked to be included in the process.

Mr. Edelson updated the Board on village center business vacancies.

Columbia Council Representative Report

Ms. Thomas discussed County subsidies of CA programs. **Mr. Edelson** suggested that Ms. Thomas bring the subject back to the board as New Business at a future Board meeting and include specific details.

Village Manager Report

Ms. Cederbaum gave an update on operations, rentals, and elections. She reported that OMCA would be conducting a monthly food donation drive for the OMHS Food Pantry.

Committee Reports

Architecture Committee

Ms. Engelke gave an update on RAC meetings and thanked Ms. Cederbaum for ensuring that RAC meetings were streamlined and effective.

Board Bulletin Board

Ms. Cederbaum thanked Mr. Verchinski for his service on the Board.

Ms. Carpenter also thanked Mr. Verchinski.

Mr. Edelson also thanked Mr. Verchinski. He welcomed new Board Members Rena Ross and Rashida George.

Mr. Verchinski reported on airport noise dome updates and the BWI Roundtable. **Mr. Edelson** asked that Mr. Verchinski contact him about continuing in his OMCA committee roles.

Mr. Edelson adjourned the regular OMCA Board meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Amy Carpenter, Administrative Assistant



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Bill McCormack Jr., Vice-chair ~ Rebecca Bryant ~ Paul Verchinski
Bageshwar Verma ~ Virginia (Ginny) Thomas, Columbia Council Representative

January 26, 2021

Link to YouTube recording of the January 12, 2021 OMCA Board Meeting:

<https://youtu.be/gXN4kfYwn8s>

OMCA Regular Board Meeting

This meeting was conducted via Zoom remote virtual conferencing due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mr. Edelson called the regular meeting of the OMCA Board of Directors to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Jonathan Edelson, Board Chair; Bill McCormack, Board Vice-chair; Lynn Engelke, Architecture Committee Chair; Ginny Thomas, Columbia Council Representative; Rebecca Bryant; Paul Verchinski; Sandy Cederbaum, Village Manager; Amy Carpenter, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Bageshwar Verma

Quorum Present: Yes

Also Present: Howard County Council District 2 Aide Ashley Alston; Samuel Hahn, Executive Director of Oakland Mills United; Kiana Angela Macharia, Director of Community Engagement, Oakland Mills United; Katherine McCarter, Margaret Mauro, and Meghan McHenry, CA Climate Change Committee Subcommittee members and Master Gardeners; see resident list

Opening of Meeting

- **Mr. McCormack** motioned to approve the January 12, 2021 OMCA Board meeting minutes (ATTACHMENT A). **Ms. Bryant** seconded, and the motion passed (5-0-0).
- **Mr. McCormack** motioned to approve the January 26, 2021 OMCA Board meeting agenda (ATTACHMENT B). **Ms. Bryant** seconded. **Mr. Verchinski** and **Mr. Edelson** asked to amend the agenda. The Board voted to approve the amended agenda (5-0-0).

Resident Remarks

Resident Alex Hekimian spoke regarding CA outdoor pool summer openings and closures. He supported reopening the Talbott Spring pool.

New Business

Oakland Mills United Presentation

Samuel Hahn, Executive Director of Oakland Mills United (OMU), and Kiana Angela Macharia, Director of Community Engagement for OMU, presented the purposes and goals of OMU (ATTACHMENT C). Mr. Hahn said that the organization was run by OM cluster students and former students with a governing board to provide stability. Its purpose was to advocate for OM schools and the community. He also said that OMU

sought to organize a community coalition and had already officially partnered with Oakland Mills Online. He expressed OMU's desire for the OMCA Board to join the coalition. A discussion ensued. **Mr. Edelson** proposed that the subject of joining the coalition be brought back as Old Business at the February 9th OMCA Board meeting.

Candidate Nomination Petitions

Mr. Edelson explained that candidate nomination petitions with at least ten signatures were required by OMCA By-laws in order for candidates to run for the OMCA Board. There were questions regarding the purposes and need for the nomination petitions and signatures. **Ms. Cederbaum** suggested reviewing the By-laws and other OMCA legal documents to determine if changes should be made. Changes to the By-laws would require a vote by general OMCA membership. A discussion ensued. **Mr. Edelson** encouraged board members to review the By-laws. **Mr. McCormack** requested that the issue be put on the agenda as Old Business for the February 9th OMCA Board meeting.

Lawn Alive, CA Climate Committee Initiative

Ms. Bryant introduced the CA Climate Change Committee's initiative, Lawn Alive. The initiative would encourage residents to engage in native gardening and sustainable landscaping on their properties. Master Gardener Katherine McCarter, who served on the Lawn Alive subcommittee/initiative, presented the goals of the program and how it would be implemented. A discussion ensued. Ms. McCarter said that CA had asked to conduct a pilot program in one of the villages and Ms. Thomas had suggested Oakland Mills. **Mr. Edelson** suggested the hill between Oakland Mills High School and Thunder Hill Road as a project. The schools had been studying options for the hills and were interested in partnering with an organization. Master Gardener Megan McHenry said she would look into partnering with the Watershed Stewards Academy for the project. Ms. McCarter said she would send information about the Lawn Alive initiative to Ms. Cederbaum to share with the Board.

Old Business

2021 OMCA Board Election Guidelines

Ms. Cederbaum reviewed changes made to the Election Guidelines (ATTACHMENT D). She also shared the 2021 OMCA Board Election Calendars (ATTACHMENT E). A discussion ensued regarding the guidelines. **Mr. Edelson** motioned to approve the 2021 OMCA Board Election Guidelines and Regulations as just edited. **Mr. McCormack** seconded, and the motion passed (5-0-0).

2021 OMCA Election Monitor Committee

Mr. Edelson motioned to nominate Bob Berlett and Bob Bartolo as Co-chairs of the OMCA Election Monitor Committee. **Ms. Engelke** seconded, and the motion passed (5-0-0). **Mr. Edelson** motioned to appoint Bob Berlett, Bob Bartolo, Carol Brain, Judy Gottsagen, Steve Gottsagen, Barb Haezel, and Claudia Hollywood as Election Monitor Committee members. **Mr. McCormack** seconded, and the motion passed (5-0-0).

Vacant Board Seat

Ms. Cederbaum reported that she had received two letters of interest for the vacant OMCA Board seat. She said she would send the candidates to the Board's subcommittee if needed. If only two candidates expressed interest, she would send their names directly to the Board.

Talbott Springs Pool

Mr. Verchinski endorsed Mr. Hekimian's statement during Resident Remarks and said that he thought the Board should support keeping all pools open and send a letter to CA regarding the matter. A discussion ensued. **Ms. Thomas** said she would look into programming at Stevens Forest pool and whether there would be time in the pool's schedule for free swim. **Mr. Verchinski** motioned to support opening Talbott Springs pool in line with CA lien payer priorities for use of the lien. **Mr. McCormack** seconded, and the motion failed (2-3-0). **Mr.**

Edelson proposed drafting a letter to address concerns regarding the pools for the Board to review, and the Board agreed to discuss it as Old Business at the February 9th board meeting

Deferred Maintenance of OM Schools

Mr. Edelson shared a letter he had written and reviewed with the OM Education Committee addressing concerns about deferred maintenance in OM schools and HCPSS's plans to reopen schools for hybrid learning (ATTACHMENT F). **Mr. Edelson** motioned to send the letter as revised to the Board of Education and HCPSS Superintendent with copies sent to the County Executive and County Council. **Mr. McCormack** seconded, and the motion passed (5-0-0).

Board Chair Report

Mr. Edelson gave back his time for the next agenda item.

Columbia Council Representative Report

Ms. Thomas reported on questions from residents that were sent to CA departments. She suggested a future problem-solving virtual meeting that would involve residents. She encouraged residents and OMCA Board members to continue sending questions and concerns to the CA Board. She also encouraged partnering with outside organizations/government for funding.

Village Manager Report

Ms. Cederbaum reported that OMCA's recent donation drive for the OMHS Food Pantry was a success. Residents were very generous.

Committee Reports

Architecture Committee

Ms. Engelke reported that RAC meetings continued to be productive and effective and gave a positive image of the covenant process.

Public Space Advisory Committee

See the PSAC's Committee Meeting notes (ATTACHMENT G).

Board Bulletin Board

Mr. Edelson congratulated OMHS Principal Dr. Jeffrey Fink and the OMHS staff on receiving the College Board's award for female diversity in AP computer science classes.

Mr. Edelson adjourned the regular OMCA Board meeting at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Amy Carpenter, Administrative Assistant



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**Oakland Mills Community Association
Village Board**

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

Board Members: Jonathan Edelson, Chair; Bill McCormack Jr., Vice-Chair

Lynn-Steven Engelke, Architecture Committee Chair;

Rebecca Bryant, Paul Verchinski, Bageshwar Verma

Columbia Council Representative: Virginia (Ginny) Thomas

Two Open Meetings of the Oakland Mills Board

Monday, Feb. 8, 6:15 pm – 7:00 p.m.

Board Interviews Candidates for Vacant Board Seat

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 7:00 p.m.

Oakland Mills Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, Feb. 8, 6:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Board Interviews

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81253704874>

Meeting ID: 812 5370 4874

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,81253704874# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 812 5370 4874

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 7:00 p.m.

Topic: Oakland Mills Board of Directors Meeting _ February 9, 2021

Time: Feb 9, 2021 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84767010314>

Meeting ID: 847 6701 0314

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,84767010314# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 847 6701 0314

7:00 p.m.

Opening of meeting

Approve Minutes from January 26, 2021 Board Meeting

Approve Agenda for February 9, 2021 Board Meeting

7:05 p.m.

Resident Remarks, 3-minute remarks (10 min)

Please note that meeting attendee's audio is muted. If you wish to participate in Resident Remarks please "raise your hand" which is one of the options available for participants and appears as an icon on the screen.

7:15 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS (20 minutes)

CA Aquatics presentation, Marty Oltmans, Director of Aquatics (20 min)

7:35 p.m. OLD BUSINESS

CA proposed summer pool openings, board discussion (10 min)

Discussion of vacant seat, board discussion (15 min)

Nomination Petitions, possible by-law amendment, board discussion (10 min)

Oakland Mills United, request to partner with OMCA, (5 min)

8:15 p.m. Board Chair Report, Jonathan Edelson (10min)

**8:25 p.m. Columbia Council Rep. Report, Virginia (Ginny) Thomas (10 min)
Vice-Chair of the Columbia Association Board of Directors**

**8:35 p.m. Village Manager Report, Sandy Cederbaum (5 min)
Financial and Operations Update**

**8:40 p.m. Committee Reports (5 min)
Architecture, Lynn Engelke, Chair (5 min)**

8:45 p.m. Board Bulletin Board (5 min)

8:50 p.m. Adjourn

The Oakland Mills Community Association (OMCA) Board of Directors reviewed the staff recommendations to the Columbia Association (CA) Board of Directors for summer 2021 pool operations. Within Oakland Mills, the proposal would open the Thunder Hill and Stevens Forest pools while keeping the Talbott Springs pool closed for the second consecutive year.

OMCA understands the financial constraints CA faces as a result of the pandemic. However, we want to ensure that CA is doing all it can to serve its residents and at least maintain membership levels at what many Columbians consider a top amenity – the pool system.

Before making a final determination on which pools will be open and what programming will be offered at the pools that are open, we recommend that CA assess members' intentions toward using the pools this summer, given the current state of the pandemic and vaccination roll-out. For example, how many members will likely retain their pool memberships if capacity and number of pools are limited? How many members will plan to return to the Columbia Neighborhood Swim League? How many members will plan to attend aquatics and aerobics classes at pools? This information should drive decisions about pool openings, schedules, and programming. CA does not want to hurt its long-term position due to short-term financial stress. If members do not see adequate opportunities to attend a pool this summer due to limited facilities and limited capacity within facilities, they may not see the value in starting or continuing a membership.

We strongly encourage you to reach out to all members whose membership includes access to pools to get a clearer picture of intent. During this outreach, please be as transparent as possible, based on what you know today, about what the pool situation may look like this summer. If pools will require pre-registration and time limits on attendance due to capacity limitations, share this information and assess how many members feel the membership is still worth the price if they do not have the access they once had. You may find that closing some facilities to save money actually costs money in cancelled memberships.

Thank you for your consideration. As always, we are committed to a partnership between OMCA and CA to address short-term financial issues and the longer-term viability of our organizations and the amenities and activities we offer.