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# Oakland Mills Community Association Village Board Meeting Minutes

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

**Board Members:** Jonathan Edelson, Chair ~ Lynn Engelke, Architectural Committee Chair  
Bill McCormack Jr., Vice-chair ~ Rebecca Bryant ~ Jerome Rollerson ~ Warren Wortman  
Virginia (Ginny) Thomas, Columbia Council Representative

**December 13, 2022**

**Link to YouTube recording of the December 13, 2022 OMCA Board Meeting:**

<https://youtu.be/wlchX1tSlul>

## 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 7:08 p.m.

**Present:** Jonathan Edelson, Chair; Lynn Engelke, AC Committee Chair; Bill McCormack, Vice-chair (arrived 7:10 p.m.); Ginny Thomas, Columbia Council Representative; Rebecca Bryant; Warren Wortman; Sandy Cederbaum, Village Manager; Amy Carpenter, Administrative Assistant.

**Absent:** Jerome Rollerson

**Quorum Present:** Yes

**Also Present:** Maryland State Delegate Jen Terrasa; OMCA Events and Facility Coordinator Brigitta Warren; Howard County Council District 2 Aide Ashley Alston; see resident list.

## Opening of Meeting

- **Mr. Wortman** motioned to approve the November 22, 2022 OMCA Board meeting minutes (ATTACHMENT A). **Ms. Bryant** seconded. **Ms. Engelke** moved to amend the motion to change the wording under the CA leadership section. The Board approved the motion as amended (5-0-0).
- **Mr. Wortman** motioned to approve the December 13, 2022 Board meeting agenda (ATTACHMENT B). **Ms. Thomas** seconded, and the motion passed (5-0-0).

## Resident Remarks

Resident Paul Verchinski spoke in support of electric vehicle charger installation in neighborhood centers, an item included in the draft CA FY2024 budget.

## Old Business

### *Maryland State Delegation Local Legislation*

The Board reviewed the Maryland State Delegation's local legislation bill Ho. Co. 10-23, which would change the process for voting/appointment of Howard County Board of Education members. Mr. Edelson

was unable to sign up for oral testimony due to a requirement to state a position on the bill (sign up date was prior to the board meeting). The Board agreed to email OMCA's testimony. **Mr. McCormack** moved to put in writing a request that Delegate Courtney Watson and Senator Clarence Lam withdraw the bill. **Mr. Wortman** seconded, and the motion passed (5-0-0).

The discussion on the Maryland State Delegation's local legislation bill Ho. Co. 7-23 was tabled until Maryland State Delegate Jen Terrasa's arrival at the Board meeting.

### **Board Chair Report**

**Mr. Edelson** reported that a crossing guard would be assigned to the crosswalk on Stevens Forest Road in front of the Stevens Forest Neighborhood Center starting January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Return to Tabled Discussion on Ho. Co. 7-23**

The Board discussed with Delegate Terrasa the delegation's local legislation bill Ho. Co. 7-23, which would require each Columbia village association to require that candidates for their boards and Columbia Council representative file a report with the village association of any donations they have received and disbursements they have made. The bill would also require that a candidate who fails to file a report of donations and disbursements be prohibited from taking office. **Ms. Engelke** motioned to support the bill with the provision that the villages be allowed to get legal help from the State in determining how they implement the law to prevent village liability. **Mr. Wortman** seconded, and the motion passed (5-0-0).

### **CCR Report**

**Ms. Thomas** gave an update on the CA FY2024 budget process. The CA Board voted not to support an increase in the annual charge. She said that she requested funding for The Other Barn's Loft bathroom in Category 3 of the budget. CA would not be funding the Orchard Green path because the County and State had not done anything for Red Branch and 108.

**Ms. Thomas** said CA would be discussing the analysis of the Howard County General Plan in January and February. CA would be voting on its village elections process at the CA board's January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, and **Ms. Thomas** asked that the village managers request a written document concerning the process. There would be a resident speak out on village play areas (formerly called tot lots) on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Village Manager's Report**

**Ms. Cederbaum** shared OMCA's FY23 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financial Statement (ATTACHMENT C). **Mr. McCormack** motioned to approve OMCA's FY23 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financial Statement. **Ms. Bryant** seconded, and the motion passed (5-0-0).

OMCA Events and Facilities Coordinator Brigitta Warren reported on rentals and the upcoming Holiday Lights in the Courtyard event.

### **Committee Reports**

#### ***Housing Committee***

**Mr. McCormack** reported that the Howard County Housing Commission would be able to refinance The Verona at the end of 2023 and would then be able to begin the process of redevelopment. **Mr. McCormack** said that he, Mr. Edelson, Ms. Cederbaum, Ms. Thomas, and Jervis Dorton, former architect for the Rouse Company, met with the Housing Commission's Executive Director Peter Engel. Mr. Dorton shared with Mr. Engel sketched ideas for redevelopment of The Verona as mixed townhouses and apartments.

*Architectural Committee*

**Ms. Engelke** discussed issues with trucks parking on Kilimanjaro Road in front of Oakland Mills Middle School and Cinnamon Tree. **Mr. McCormack** added that another truck had been parking near Woodblock Row on Farewell Road.

**Mr. McCormack** motioned to go into closed session at 9:18 p.m. to discuss matters pertaining to employees and personnel. **Mr. Wortman** seconded, and the motion passed (5-0-0).

The closed session of the OMCA Board (ATTACHMENT D) began at 9:19 p.m. and ended at 9:28 p.m.

Mr. Edelson went into the regular open session of the OMCA Board at 9:29 p.m.

Upon return to open session, it was announced that during the closed session the Board made decisions about end-of-year staff bonuses.

**Mr. Edelson** adjourned the OMCA Board meeting at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Amy Carpenter, Administrative Assistant



# Oakland Mills Community Association Village Board Meeting Minutes

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Virginia (Ginny) Thomas, Columbia Council Representative

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**January 3, 2023**

## **OMCA SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

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

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

**Present:** Jonathan Edelson, Chair; Lynn Engelke, AC Committee Chair; Bill McCormack, Vice-chair; Rebecca Bryant; Jerome Rollerson; Warren Wortman.

**Quorum Present:** Yes

### **Opening of Meeting**

- **Mr. Wortman** motioned to approve the January 3, 2023 Board meeting agenda (ATTACHMENT A). **Mr. Rollerson** seconded, and the motion passed (6-0-0).

**Ms. Engelke** motioned to go into closed session at 7:04 p.m. to discuss matters pertaining to employees and personnel. **Mr. Wortman** seconded, and the motion passed (6-0-0).

The closed session of the OMCA Board (ATTACHMENT B) began at 7:05 p.m. and ended at 7:51 p.m.

Mr. Edelson went into the open session of the OMCA special Board meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Upon return to open session, it was announced that the Village Manager search committee made its recommendation to the full Board. The Board voted unanimously on the person to be offered the Village Manager position as well as the terms of the offer.

**Mr. Edelson** adjourned the OMCA Board meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Amy Carpenter, Administrative Assistant



**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 Engelke, Architecture Committee Chair;

Rebecca Bryant, Jerome Rollerson, Warren Wortman

**Columbia Council Representative:** Virginia (Ginny) Thomas

**Oakland Mills Board of Directors Virtual Meeting Agenda  
Tuesday, January 10, 2023  
7:00 p.m.**

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**Topic: OMCA Board of Directors Meeting**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84488940099>

Meeting ID: 844 8894 0099

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,84488940099# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 844 8894 0099

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kB851QZK0>

**7:00 p.m.**

**Opening of meeting**

Approve Minutes from December 13, 2022 Board Meeting

Approve Minutes from January 3, 2023 Special Closed Session Board Meeting

Approve Agenda for January 10, 2023 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 (30 min)**

**Discussion and Selection of an OMCA representative to CA Senior Advisory Committee,**

Board Discussion (15 min)

**Election Guidelines Review, Calendar discussion and Election Monitor Committee,**

Board Discussion (20 min)

**7:50 p.m.**

**OLD BUSINESS (15 min)**

**CA Play Areas, Board Discussion (15 min)**

**8:05 p.m.**

**OMCA Board Chair Report, Jonathan Edelson (10 min)**

**8:15 p.m.**                    **Columbia Council Rep. Report**, Virginia (Ginny) Thomas (10 min)  
**Vice-Chair Columbia Association Board of Directors**

**8:20 p.m.**                    **Village Manager Report**, Sandy Cederbaum (5 min)  
Financial and Operations Update

**8:25 p.m.**                    **Committee Reports (5 min)**  
**Architecture**, Lynn Engelke, Chair  
Approval of Carl McKinney to serve on the Resident Architecture Committee  
**Education**, **Jonathan Edelson**, Chair  
**Public Space**, Warren Wortman, Chair

**8:30 p.m.**                    **Board Bulletin Board (5 min)**

**8:35 p.m.**                    **Adjourn**

Mr. John A. Cooney  
9778 Owen Brown Road  
Columbia, MD 21045-4304  
410-730-8601

8 December 2022

Sandy Cederbaum  
Village Manager  
Oakland Mills Community Association  
The Other Barn  
5851 Robert Oliver Place  
Columbia, MD 21045

Dear Ms. Cederbaum,

I am interested in serving as the Oakland Mills representative on the Columbia Association Senior Advisory Committee.

My family has lived in Columbia for nearly 35 years and in Oakland Mills since 1997. In fact, my daughter just bought her first house in Oakland Mills.

I recently retired from Federal service after 35 years.

I would be eager to represent others in my age group on common issues in Columbia, specifically Oakland Mills.

Sincerely,

John A. Cooney  
jcooney@technologist.com

**Draft to Oakland Mills Board: Jan. 10, 2023**  
**Approved by the Oakland Mills Board:**

**OAKLAND MILLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**ELECTION GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS**

Village Elections are officially guided by Article VIII, Section 8 of the By-laws. In addition, tradition, experience, and press deadlines contribute to the effective administration of an annual election. These rules and regulations draw from the By-Laws and past elections to serve as guidelines for the Village Board, the staff, and the Election Monitor Committee before, during, and after the village elections. The procedures are described according to the timeline of the election activities.

The Board of Directors of the Oakland Mills Community Association (OMCA) affirms their great appreciation for and confidence in the Oakland Mills Election Monitoring Committee (EMC). The OMCA Board confirms that Oakland Mills continues to adhere rigorously to fair election standards and established guidelines. These guidelines are finalized by the EMC and approved by the OMCA Board prior to each year's OMCA election day. After finalization, the guidelines for that election day cannot be altered or amended.

At its discretion and based on village, county, state, or federal circumstances, the Oakland Mills Board of Directors may decide that village elections will be held remotely (partially or fully). This would include the authority to provide for online voting and mail-in ballots, cancel on-site voting and on-site ballot counting, and cancel on-site election events.

All questions regarding the elections should be directed to the Election Monitor Committee Chair(s).

**GOALS**

The following major goals have been identified in administering village elections:

1. The election should be fair and be perceived as fair by the establishment of clear procedures.
2. The election procedures should encourage potential candidates to run in the election and encourage people to vote.
3. Elections should be efficient and run at a reasonable cost.

**Non-Contested Election**

In 2016 the Members of the Association passed a by-law amendment stating that if the number of candidates for the Board of Directors was equal to or less than the number of open seats, those candidates who submitted a valid candidate application and met other criteria required for holding a seat on the Board of Directors would be deemed elected with the one-year term of office beginning May 1. The members also passed a by-law amendment stating that if the number of candidates for the Columbia Council Representative seat was equal to or less than one candidate, that candidate who submitted a valid candidate application and met other criteria required for holding the Oakland Mills seat on the Columbia Council would be deemed elected, with the one-year term of office beginning May 1.

If both races are non-contested, there will be no election held. An election will be held if either or both races are contested.



## "ELECTION ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS"

### I. BEFORE ELECTION

#### A. Selection of Election Monitor Committee and Chair

1. Appointment by Village Board
  - a. The Village Board is responsible for appointing the Election Monitor Committee by Jan. 31. The Committee will number at least 5 people.
  - b. The Chair(s) of the Election Monitor Committee is appointed by the Village Board.
2. Duties and responsibilities of Election Chair(s) and Committee
  - a. The chair(s) must be completely familiar with the rules and regulations of the election. The chair works very closely with the Village Manager to ensure that the By-Law requirements are met and that all duties are performed. However, it is the chair's ultimate responsibility to the Oakland Mills Village Board that the election conforms to the By-Laws and that all deadlines as required by the By-Laws are met.
  - b. The chair(s) or chair's designee is responsible for explaining the rules and procedures of the election to all candidates. Candidate packets are prepared by village staff and made available to candidates.
  - c. The committee coordinates Candidates' Night/Candidates' Forum, and the chair or chair's designee(s) traditionally serves as moderator.
  - d. The committee is responsible for training poll workers. It is particularly important that all poll workers clearly understand how to determine voting eligibility, how to read the voters lists, and how to handle special problems.
  - e. The Village Manager, chair(s), or chair's designee prepares all material needed for counting ballots. The chair(s) or chair's designee is responsible for validating or not validating all "irregular" ballots received.
  - f. The chair(s) or chair's designee act as spokesperson for the Committee and, after the election, is responsible for compiling final election results, handling challenges to the election, and submitting an election report to the Village Board.
3. Personal qualities of Election Chair(s)
  - a. With the duties and responsibilities of this position also comes the need to handle pressure and, sometimes, confrontations with people who have personal investments in the election results. The chair's style of dealing fairly and authoritatively with candidates and volunteers is critical for a fair election.
  - b. It is preferable that the chair(s) have previously worked on the Election Monitor Committee.

#### B. Schedule for Election

1. Setting Election Day

The Village Manager is responsible for setting the date of the election with other Village Managers so that elections are held simultaneously throughout Columbia. Election Day will be Saturday April 22, 2023.
2. Setting election schedule
  - a. The Village Manager prepares an election timetable based on the By-Law requirements after the Election Day is established. Important dates are outlined below:
    - April: required month for village elections

- By Jan 31: appointment of Election Monitor Committee and the election chair
  - 45 or more days prior to election: begin accepting candidate applications
  - 45 or more days prior to election: eligibility date for members in good standing
  - 30 or more days prior to election: finish accepting candidate applications; deadline date for candidates' statements established by EMC
  - Within 10 days of the deadline for receipt of candidate statements, publish candidate statements online and post at The Other Barn.
  - All mail-in ballots must be postmarked on or before April ~~2221~~, 2023 and received by April 27, 2023.
  - 5 days after posting of election results: deadline for written challenges to elections
  - Within 5 days of receiving a challenge: Election Monitor Committee will meet
  - 5 days after election or until disposition of any challenge: chair will hold ballots
  - By May 9, 2023 results: certify election
- b. The Village Manager will consider the need for transition time between the election of Village Boards and their taking office on May 1 to allow time for challenges to take place and for the election results to be accepted by the Board.

### **C. Candidate Application –**

In 2021 Members of the Association approved a by-law amendment to **Sections 8.02 and 8.03 of the Oakland Mills Community Association By-Laws**. The By-Law amendment eliminates the requirement for submitting a nomination petition and adds the requirement to submit a candidate application. The candidate can submit only one application, either for the Oakland Mills Board of Directors or for the Columbia Council Representative.

### **Members of the Association – OMCA Articles of Incorporation, Article EIGHTH (approved by the members of the Association on July 28, 2017):**

The Affairs of the corporation shall be managed by at least (5) directors, all of whom shall be members of the Association as of the date of their election and through their entire term. If a director ceases to be a member before that director's term expires, that director's seat shall be considered vacant and the remaining members of the Board of Directors shall may fill that position pursuant to the procedures provided herein and in the By-Laws.

### **OMCA By-Law Change, Section 2.03 (approved by members of the Association on April 29, 2017):**

#### **Section 2.03 – Change the title to: Election and Removal of Directors**

#### **Section 2.03 – Add the following sentence to the end of the paragraph:**

If a director is no longer a member of the Association before the expiration of that director's term, the Board of Directors may remove that director from office and appoint a successor.

#### 1. Preparation

Each candidate application shall show the full name and address of the candidate, their signature, and the office they are seeking. A candidate whose

name is on a lease must submit a copy of the lease along with their candidate application. This will be kept in confidence and only used to validate the candidate's address.

2. Validation

A member of the Election Monitor Committee will declare the candidate application valid when the requirements of section Preparation 1-a are met.

**The following resolution was passed by the Oakland Mills Board on February 28, 2017 and effective immediately:**

To ensure that Oakland Mills residency can be established for candidates for the Oakland Mills Board of Directors and the Oakland Mills Representative to the Columbia Council, the Oakland Mills Election Monitoring Committee will adopt the following criteria to establish the residency of candidates, effective as of the 2017 election cycle:

- The election committee will perform a State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) online search to confirm candidates claiming property ownership in Oakland Mills.
- If the election committee is unable to confirm ownership, or if the candidate leases property in Oakland Mills:
  - Candidates will present to a member of the committee a valid and current government-issued identification including a driver's license, state identification card, passport, or other state or federal government issued identification displaying the candidate's name, photograph, and home address.
  - Candidates will present to a member of the committee a signed original, current lease or deed with candidate's address, valid dates, and signature(s).
  - Candidates will present to a member of the committee a current (issued within one month of the election filing date) utility bill for services at a fixed address that includes candidate's name and address (e.g., landline telephone, gas, electric, water, cable bill)
  - Address on each of the three documents presented should match to establish residency at that address.

The election committee will develop a process and check sheet to ensure each candidate meets these criteria and will return rather than retain the documentation to the candidate for protection of privacy after two election committee members review the documentation. The election committee will determine whether the candidate for the Columbia Council has Oakland Mills residency and whether the ~~correct minimum number of~~ candidates for the Oakland Mills Community Association Board of Directors have Oakland Mills residency, per the OMCA by-laws, and report to the Village Manager and sitting Board of Directors prior to finalization and printing of election ballots.

**D. Election Information Packets** - Election Information Packets can be viewed and downloaded from the Oakland Mills [website](#) or available at The Other Barn. Email [manager@oaklandmills.org](mailto:manager@oaklandmills.org) to obtain a hard copy of the packet.

1. Preparation and distribution of packets

- a. The Village Manager and Village Staff are responsible for the preparation of election information packets for candidates.

2. Contents of information packets
  - a. The information packets shall include, for Columbia Council Representative:
    - 1) CA Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws
    - 2) Calendar of Important Columbia Association Board of Director meetings/events
    - 3) All of the following:
  - b. For Village Board:
    - 1) Village Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws
    - 2) Election Guidelines and Regulations
    - 3) Calendar for election
    - 4) Recent copies of the e-newsletter.
    - 5) Other information about the village as prepared by the Village Manager.
    - 6) Association Approved Budget
    - 7) Candidate Application
  - c. The Village Board appoints the members of the Architectural Committee. It has been the practice in Oakland Mills that the Village Board appoints itself as the Architectural Committee. Information regarding Board Member architectural covenant compliance shall be included in the election packet.

**E. Candidates' Statements**

1. Length - Candidates' official statements must be 150 words or less. All words in excess of 150 will be deleted from the statement. Candidates will also be asked to supply a shorter 100-word statement (all words in excess of 100 will be deleted from the short statement) for use when space will not allow printing the official statements. Statements will be published exactly as submitted by the candidate.
2. Publication
  - a. Complete statements are published 10 days after the date for candidate statements to be submitted.
  - c. The statements shall be posted on the Oakland Mills website, in the lobby of The Other Barn, and on the front door of The Other Barn.

**F. Volunteers for Election Day**

1. Recruiting
  - a. The Village Manager is responsible for recruiting workers to staff the polls on election day.
  - b. The Election Monitor Committee chair or a member from the committee is responsible for the supervision of poll workers on election days and for answering their questions during election hours.
2. Training
  - a. Each poll worker must be specifically trained.
  - b. Poll workers should be asked to arrive at least 10 minutes before their shifts begin to review and observe procedures.

**G. List of Eligible Voters**

1. Acquiring voters list
  - a. The Village Manager is responsible for securing a list of eligible voters according to the Village By-Laws.
  - b. The list of property owners shall be obtained from the CA assessment office.
  - c. The list of apartment tenants shall be a list of apartment dwelling units, not residents of the units, for each apartment complex.

## 2. Format of list

- a. Two lists of property owners should be available at the polls, one printed out in alphabetical order by owner, one by address. Both are important to validate all possible ballots.
- b. A current list of apartment dwelling units must be available.

**H. Online Voting** – On November 9, 2021 the Oakland Mills Board of Directors approved the option to **allow online voting** for Oakland Mills village elections. Voter eligibility remains the same, and a voter can choose to vote **EITHER** online, by mail-in ballot, or in person on election day.

**Only one form of voting will be accepted: either online, mail-in, or in person. If multiple ballots are received from the same address, NO ballots from that address will be counted.**

Oakland Mills will use an outside company to tabulate online voting. All votes are anonymous whether cast online, mail-in, or in-person. The OMCA election chair(s) will receive a list from the company that handles the online voting which shows the address of the property that voted. At the conclusion of online voting, OMCA will receive a spreadsheet that lists all votes cast. OMCA will not receive any information that identifies how a particular property voted as the spreadsheet will be anonymized. No one from the company handling Oakland Mills elections will be a member of or affiliated with the Oakland Mills Community Association in any way beyond the provision of online voting services.

## I. Regular and Mail-in Ballots

### 1. Preparation

- a. The Village manager and village staff are responsible for the preparation of all ballots.
- b. The order of candidate names on the ballot is determined by lottery at the time that the candidate applications are verified. Names are “drawn” by an election committee member with either another member or OMCA staff member present, in person or electronically, to verify order drawn. Names will be listed on the ballot according to the order that they were drawn.

### 2. Mail-in ballots: mail-in ballots are available as provided by the By-Laws.

- a. **Each ballot will contain an online voting code specific to the property address.** The code should be used to vote online and can only be used one time. Once the online vote is cast, it cannot be deleted or changed. **If a property casts an online vote and also sends a mail-in ballot and/or votes in-person, no vote will be counted.**
- b. The ballot will be enclosed in the election mailing and can be used as a mail-in ballot if the voter chooses to vote by mail-in ballot.
- c. If choosing to vote by mail-in ballot, the ballot should be submitted by mail in the return envelope provided by the village. The Election Committee shall accept mail-in ballots postmarked on or before April ~~2221~~, 2023 and received by April ~~2927~~, 2023.
- d. The return envelope flap of the mail-in ballot shall have space for the sender’s Oakland Mills address and a check box indicating that the sender is an owner or lessee. By checking the box the sender shall attest to the fact that they are a valid property owner or valid lease holder at the address listed on the return envelope flap.

- e. Oakland Mills has a joint Business Reply Mail account with other Columbia villages. All mail-in ballots are sent to the Wilde Lake Community Association and held securely by the Wilde Lake Village Manager. The Oakland Mills Election Monitor Committee Chair(s) are authorized to obtain Oakland Mills sealed ballots from Wilde Lake and keep the ballots in their possession for validation and counting.
3. Procedures for validating ballots
- a. Ballots will be validated by the Election Monitor Committee.
  - b. Under the authority of the Election Monitor Committee Chair(s), mail-in ballots may be validated prior to election day. On election day or during the five days thereafter, all ballots shall be validated and counted.

**I. Campaigning** - Candidates' volunteers who serve in any capacity for Oakland Mills Community Association as elected members or as volunteers (with the exception of the members of the Election Monitor Committee) can actively campaign for or against candidates. **This must be done separately from their volunteer roles for the Association.**

**Campaign Signs and Campaigning:** The Oakland Mills Election Monitor Committee will follow the Howard County Sign Code as it pertains to sign codes and the Oakland Mills Architectural Guidelines.

- Here is a link to the Howard County Sign Code:  
<http://library.municode.com/index.aspx?clientID=14680&stateID=20&statename=Maryland>
- Here is link to the Oakland Mills Architectural Guidelines:  
[https://oaklandmills.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Guidelines\\_04-25-17-revision\\_Final-Approved-Version-FINAL-TO-USE-FOR-WEBSITE.pdf](https://oaklandmills.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Guidelines_04-25-17-revision_Final-Approved-Version-FINAL-TO-USE-FOR-WEBSITE.pdf)

Additionally, no campaign signs are permitted on Columbia Association property. CA properties in the Oakland Mills village center area are the Ice Rink, The Teen Center, The Other Barn, sidewalk/courtyard in front of and around all facilities, and the parking lot behind Dunkin' where the police office is located. Additionally, it is recommended that candidates contact ~~Cedar Realty Trust~~Klein Enterprises (owners of the Oakland Mills Village Center) for permission to campaign in the village center. Candidates can contact ~~Cedar's~~Klein Enterprises property manager. Contact the village manager for ~~Cedar's~~Kleins property manager contact information.

Individual storeowners should be contacted for any type of campaigning within the stores.

The Oakland Mills Board of Directors has no role in the manner in which candidates' choose to campaign.

## II. DURING THE ELECTION

**\*Please note that if a decision is made to cancel or alter on-site voting, some of the provisions below will not be applicable and all ballots will be cast online, received by mail, or placed in the secure box affixed the front exterior wall of The Other Barn.**

## A. Voting Time and Place

1. Location  
Voting takes place at The Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, and possible other locations at the discretion of the EMC.
2. Hours for polls to be open:  
In order to encourage voter turnout, polls *may* be open Friday hours as well as Saturday hours. **Voting in 2023 will take place at The Other Barn on Saturday, April ~~23~~22 only from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**
3. Visibility and location of polling sites
  - a. Voting tables should be in a clear, obvious place, not obstructed by other special events or displays.
  - b. People setting up poll sites should be aware of the electioneering boundaries.

## B. Who Can Vote

1. Owners of property in Oakland Mills and tenants with a lease on property in Oakland Mills
  - a. If a property is jointly owned, the voting right is jointly held, so only one vote may be cast.
  - b. If a "fee simple" lot, condominium or cooperative unit is leased to a tenant, the tenant is also entitled to cast one vote per unit.
2. Eligibility and identification
  - a. A member who has resided in Oakland Mills at least 45 days prior to the election is eligible to vote. The actual date is set by the Election Monitor Committee.
  - b. For on-site voting only: A member will be considered eligible to vote if they can present identification showing that they rent and/or own at an address subject to Columbia Association assessment within Oakland Mills Village. On-site voters who do not have identification with them will be asked to sign a form providing their name and address and attest to the fact that they are an Oakland Mills property owner or valid leaseholder.
  - c. For mail-in voting only: The mail-in ballot envelope flap shall have space to attest to voter eligibility.
  - d. The election mailer shall include voter eligibility and identification requirements.

## C. Voters Lists and Procedures for Validating Ballots at the Polls

Online voting will close at NOON on April ~~22~~21, 2023. The Election Committee will have a list of all properties that voted online. **Only one form of voting will be accepted. If a property submits multiple ballots, whether online, by mail, or in person, NO ballots will be counted for that property.**

1. Voters lists
  - a. There should be at least two poll workers and poll workers will determine the best method to efficiently verify voter information utilizing voter lists and apartment dwelling lists.
2. Validation of property owners
  - a. After showing suitable ID, property owners whose names are on the voters list will be checked off by the poll worker. A ballot will then be issued to them. (See 2b above for those who do not have ID.)
  - b. After showing suitable identification, property owners **whose names are not on the voter lists** will place their ballots in a cover envelope with their name and address on the outside, and the ballot, in the envelope, will be placed in the ballot box.
  - c. After showing suitable ID, an apartment tenant will be checked off the apartment

unit at the appropriate address. Apartment tenants will also be asked if they have lived at the address for at least 45 days. (See 2b above for those who do not have ID.)

#### **D. Electioneering**

##### 1. Electioneering boundaries

- a. There shall be no electioneering within the area established annually by the Election Monitor Committee. Boundaries established for 2023 are:

**No electioneering may take place** inside The Other Barn or inside the courtyard, or on the sidewalk area directly in front of, on the side or behind The Other Barn (except as outlined below) or the parking lot on the side of The Other Barn or the parking lot in the rear of The Other Barn.

**Electioneering may take place** in front of and behind the CA Youth & Teen Center and on the sidewalk in front of the Courtyard up to the end of the Courtyard fence where the sidewalk leads to the handicap door of The Other Barn and the same area behind the Courtyard. **Electioneering may also take place** to the left of The Other Barn (when looking at the building from the street) on the section of the sidewalk abutting Robert Oliver Place and in front of the grass area.

Candidates may not stand under the canopy in front of The Other Barn entrance doors.

Candidates and their supporters must adhere to all electioneering boundaries.

No electioneering means that no canvassing, electioneering, campaigning, or posting of any campaign material is permitted within the zone. "Posting of any campaign material" includes wearing any article of clothing, hat, sticker, or button that indicates support of or opposition to any candidate, question, or political party.

**However**, electioneering does not apply to a voter going to vote in his or her polling place. A person on his or her way to vote may wear campaign paraphernalia or carry, but not distribute, campaign literature. He/she must leave the voting zone promptly after voting.

- b. Poll workers should take care to remove any electioneering hand-outs from the voting tables and from anywhere else in The Other Barn

##### 2. Violations

- a. The Election Monitor Committee chair(s) or their designee is responsible for warning candidates and their representatives if they electioneer within the electioneering boundary.
- b. If a serious problem results, the Election Monitor Committee should document the violations in writing and may recommend that the Village Board invalidate the election.

### **III. AFTER THE ELECTION**

**Election results shall be provided to the community on or after April 2927, 2023, which is**



## the deadline for receiving mail-in ballots.

### A. Vote Count

1. Setting up for the vote count
  - a. Members of the Election Monitor Committee and assigned helpers shall count the ballots. The chair is responsible for the smooth processing and counting of the ballots.
  - b. The vote count shall be held in a room separate from post-election socializing.
  - c. Candidates (and/or their representatives) are permitted to be present in the counting room but they may not verbally question the counting or any other election procedures. If they have any objections to the procedures, they must submit a written challenge. **If the election vote counting is held remotely there will be no option to observe vote counting.**
2. Preparation and validation of ballots
  - a. All ballots will first be scanned to be sure none has more than 7 votes cast for Village Board slots and no more than 1 vote cast for Columbia Council Representative. If part of the ballot is invalid, only the invalid section will not be used in the count.
  - b. The Election Monitor committee chair and designee(s) will open all mail-in validated ballots. These ballots will be added to the other ballots. The Election Monitor Chair will then determine the validity of the ballots that were cast by voters who were not on the voter list. (Ballots were placed in sealed envelopes.)
3. Counting the ballots
  - a. The ballots are divided into piles of up to 40 ballots and each pile of ballots is assigned to two counters.
  - b. Each counter records ballots on a counting grid. The grid shall be numbered vertically from 1 to 40 and have candidates' names across the top. Each ballot shall be assigned a separate line.
  - c. Each counter counts one pile of 40 ballots on a separate grid. The two grids are totaled and compared for accuracy. If a discrepancy exists, the pile of 40 ballots shall be recounted until the discrepancy is resolved.
4. Official election results - Official election results shall be released by the Election Monitor Committee Chair(s) after all mail-in ballots received by the deadline are counted.
5. Challenge procedure
  - a. Challenges must be in writing or sent by email and submitted to the Election Monitor Committee chair within 5 calendar days after the release of the election results. After receiving a challenge, the committee shall meet within 5 days for discussion on the challenge and, if necessary, to make any recommendations to the Village Board.
  - b. The committee is not required to consider any challenges, unless they could affect the results of the election, until after the election is certified. The committee should then evaluate the election procedures and the complaint and make recommendations in the final report of the election.
6. Certification of results
  - a. The Village Board shall certify, or invalidate, the election after reviewing the election report submitted by the Election Monitor Committee.
  - b. The committee must submit its report **by Tuesday, May 10, 2023.**



# 2023 Oakland Mills ELECTION CALENDAR

This calendar is based on a **contested race** for either OM Board or Columbia Council Rep. (CCR)

- Tues., Jan. 24** Election Committee members and Chair appointed  
2023 Election Guidelines approved by the Oakland Mills Board
- Tues., Feb. 21** 9:00 a.m. “Candidate Packets” available online. and, if requested, a hard copy may be obtained by sending an email to [manager@oaklandmills.org](mailto:manager@oaklandmills.org).
- Mon., Feb. 27** 6:30 p.m. **Virtual Information Session on Serving on OM Board/CCR.** Learn more about serving on the Oakland Mills Board or as a Columbia Council Representative. **Session will be held virtually, use this link to attend:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86348627702>
- Fri., March 10** 4:00 p.m. “Candidate Application” due.  
Candidate Application can be submitted on or before March 11 at 4:00 p.m. by email to [manager@oaklandmills.org](mailto:manager@oaklandmills.org). Staff member will be at The Other Barn on 3/11 at 4:00 p.m. for those who would like to hand deliver the candidate application.
- Drawing of names to determine placement order on the election ballot**
- Mon., March 13** **Candidate Statements (both 150 and 100 word count) due - statements must be sent by email to both [manager@oaklandmills.org](mailto:manager@oaklandmills.org) and [office@oaklandmills.org](mailto:office@oaklandmills.org).** Statements are expected from all candidates, regardless of whether the election is contested or non-contested.
- April 1 – April 20** Oakland Mills Covenant Advisor will inspect each Board candidate’s property and issue either a Letter of Covenant Compliance or a Letter of Non-Compliance. (Refer to By-Laws and Covenant Compliance Policy in the Board Candidate Packet.)
- Late March/  
Early April** **Election Newsletter w/Ballot to be mailed to every OM property, single family home, townhome, condo, and apartment.**
- Tues., April 4** 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. **Election Forum – Possible Hybrid Forum-virtual and in-person).** Link for Forum: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81137453085>
- Sat., April 22** 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **Voting at The Other Barn\***  
Voting at The Other Barn following all Covid protocols that may be in place.  
**\*Members of the association who are eligible to vote have the option of voting one of three ways: online (details to be included in election mailing), by absentee ballot, or in person on election day at The Other Barn.**

**All ballots postmarked on or before April 21, 2023 and received by April 27, 2023 will be counted. Online voting will end on April 21, 2023 at noon.**

**May 1, 2023 2023-2024 Board and CCR Term Begins**

# 2023 Oakland Mills ELECTION CALENDAR

This calendar is based a **non-contested** Election for BOTH OM Board and Columbia Council Representative (CCR).

- Tues., Jan. 24** Election Committee members and Chairs appointed.  
2023 Election Guidelines approved by the Oakland Mills Board.
- Tues., Feb. 21** 9:00 a.m. “Candidate Packets” available online. A hard copy may be obtained by sending an email to [manager@oaklandmills.org](mailto:manager@oaklandmills.org).
- Mon., Feb. 27** 6:30 p.m. **Virtual Information Session on Serving on OM Board.** Learn more about serving on the Oakland Mills Board. Session will be held virtually, use this link to attend: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86348627702>
- Fri., March 10** 4:00 p.m. “Candidate Application” due.  
Candidate Application can be submitted on or before March 10 at 4:00 p.m. by email to [manager@oaklandmills.org](mailto:manager@oaklandmills.org). Staff member will be at The Other Barn on 3/10 at 4:00 p.m. for those who would like to hand deliver the candidate application.
- If both races are non-contested (7 or less candidate applications for OM Board and 1 or less candidate application for CCR), the Oakland Mills Board will deem the candidates elected for the term beginning May 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024.**
- Mon., March 13** **Candidate Statements (both 150 and 100 word count) due**—statements must be sent by email to both [manager@oaklandmills.org](mailto:manager@oaklandmills.org) and [office@oaklandmills.org](mailto:office@oaklandmills.org). Statements are expected from all candidates regardless of whether the election is contested or non-contested.
- For a non-contested election for both OM Board and CCR, the candidate statements will be emailed to a distribution list and posted on the OM website, front door of The Other Barn, and Facebook.
- Tues., April 4** **7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Virtual “Meet the Candidates”**  
Follow this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81137453085>
- April 1 – April 20** Oakland Mills Covenant Advisor will inspect each Board candidate’s property and issue either a Letter of Covenant Compliance or a Letter of Non-Compliance. (Refer to By-Laws and Covenant Compliance Policy in the Board Candidate Packet.)
- Tuesday, April 25** **OMCA Board confirms appointment of candidates as Board members and CCR for the 2023-2024 Board Term.**
- May 1, 2023** **2023-2024 Board and CCR Term Begins**