



Olney Town Center
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee
Tuesday, January 22, 2008 – 7:30 p.m.
Olney Library, Large Meeting Room, Olney, Maryland

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee (OTCAC) members in attendance: Jim Smith, Sunita Batra, Eileen Cahill, Nancy DeLalio, Mark Feinroth, Paula Kahla, Walter Lee, and Helene Rosenheim.

Others present: Khalid Afzal, OTCAC’s Park and Planning liaison; Bob Beard, GOCA/OTCAC Outreach Subcommittee; Joseph Eagan, Olney Library Manager; Dave Eskenazi

Chairman Jim Smith called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public Presentation of the Olney Town Center Illustrative Concept Plan Draft

Jim introduced Khalid Afzal, Park and Planning Commission. The two provided some background information about the creation and role of the Olney Town Center Advisory Committee, a brief overview of the Olney Master Plan and Mixed-Use Town Center Zone that form the basis of the concept plan, and the content of the draft illustrative concept plan. The floor was then opened for questions and answers.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to Order/Acceptance of Agenda/Approval of Minutes/Announcements

Following the public presentation and discussion, Jim called the regular meeting of the OTCAC to order. The agenda was accepted with no changes. The minutes from the December meetings were approved with one addition (sending agenda to County Executive), and 4 corrections (pg 2, paragraph 1, 3rd bullet – inserting “but not”; paragraph 3, changing “have” to “half “; clarifying that Barbara Falcigno attended the Committee for Montgomery breakfast as a representative of the Greater Olney Civic Association, pg 3, paragraph 1, changing “order” to “level”).

Eileen Cahill announced that she had sent an email to Tina Benjamin, Department of Economic Development, asking her to attend the February meeting to discuss mechanisms for helping businesses that may need to be relocated.

Khalid Afzal noted that he had begun a Georgia Avenue Concept Study that is looking at pedestrian problems along Georgia Avenue from the District Line to the Howard County Line. They are taking a comprehensive look at the whole corridor, but are focusing primarily on the area between Forest Glen and Glenmont. The report they produce will likely refer to the work of the OTCAC for a discussion of the area in Olney. There will be a Study Status Forum on 2/5/08 at Saddlebrook Elementary.

Bob Beard noted that the County has decided to move forward with their plans to renovate the Olney Library. Joseph Eagan, the Library manager noted that there would be a public meeting on 1/24 to get input from the community on what services and aspects of the building they like or dislike or want to see.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Subcommittee- Jim noted that:

- As Eileen had noted, there would be a speaker from the Department of Economic Development at the February meeting.
- Joe Buffington has also asked to speak at the February meeting to give a little historic perspective to the town center.
- In the coming months, the Freeman Company will make presentations to GOCA and the OTCAC regarding their development proposals.

Committee on Montgomery – No Report

Outreach Subcommittee – The Subcommittee noted that the next presentation of the draft illustrative concept plan will take place at the Olney Chamber of Commerce Breakfast Meeting on 2/19 at the Inn at Brookeville Farm. While the presentation is primarily directed at local business owners, the public is welcome to attend, with the note that there is a \$15 charge for the breakfast. Following that meeting, the Subcommittee will meet to decide what their next step is going to be.

Website Subcommittee – Helene Rosenheim reported that she has emailed Lawrence King, her web consultant at Park and Planning, to ask for assistance with several items on the website and is waiting to hear from him.

Illustrative Concept Plan Subcommittee – Nancy DeLalio reported that Bill Caldwell left RKTL, but that Laura Ryland will continue to work with the OTCAC. Nancy presented the one-page flyer made by compiling much of the information on the 3-panel display boards. Walter Lee suggested adding a legend of the colors used for the various types of structures contained in the plan. She also noted that the Subcommittee wants to wait till the OTCAC has more input before developing the development guidelines. Khalid suggested waiting for the report from the High Priority Pedestrian Crossing Subcommittee because they may have some suggestions that should be included. Nancy also noted that she would work with RKTL's historic preservation staff regarding the Olney House to get suggestions for a list of resources that could be included in the Plan. It was suggested that we can decide if we need to have someone from the Historic Preservation Commission speak to us after we hear from Joe Buffington.

High Priority Pedestrian Crossing Subcommittee – Helene Rosenheim reported that the Subcommittee's first meeting will on January 25th at location to be determined. The other Subcommittee members are Bob Beard, Sunita Bahtra, and Paula Kahla.

NEW BUSINESS

OTCAC Membership Changes – Jim noted that Gina Angiola will not be a GOCA officer after their February elections. So, she did not feel it would appropriate for her to represent that organization. Jim suggested that since Bob Beard has been actively participating already and will continue to be a GOCA officer, that it would make sense for Bob to be the GOCA

representative. Jim would get confirmation from Sharon Dooley, the incoming GOCA President, that GOCA would want to name Bob as their representative.

Jim also noted that Sunita Bhatra has been serving as a representative for the Olney Coalition which recently dissolved itself. He had suggested at the last GOCA meeting that GOCA have 2 delegates, with Sunita being one and Bob filling the vacancy created by Gina leaving. He noted as well that the By-Laws only deals with categories of representation rather than stating the number from each organizations. Walter Lee suggested that we need to be sure that in the positions people take within the Committee they are representing the position(s) of the type of group they are representing.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Submitted by Helene Rosenheim