

Olney Town Center

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee
Monday, April 16, 2007 – 7:30 p.m.
Sandy Spring Bank, Olney Inn Room

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee (“OTCAC”) members in attendance: Jim Smith, Sunita Bhatia, Dorothy Kane, Walter Lee, Paula Kahla, Helene Rosenheim, Gina Angiola (nominated for membership), Nancy DeLalio, Mark Feinroth, and Joe Fritsch. Members not in attendance: Tom Gallagher. Visitors: Mary Jane Heinbuch from Library, Amy Soukup logo award winner, Alan Soukup award winner’s father, Bob Beard from GOCA. Staff member Khalid Afzal was not present due to work travel.

Chairman Jim Smith called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and proceeded to make the award of the logo contest to Amy Soukup. Amy’s entry features a municipal-looking building with a cupola on top in a style prevalent to this area. The name of the committee is incorporated into the design. Amy said that the inspiration for the design came from the Sandy Spring bank building. A \$500 scholarship award check, courtesy of Carl M. Freeman Companies, was presented to Amy as her award. Photos were taken of Jim presenting the award to Amy in front of a large rendering of her winning design.

Approval of the minutes from the March 16, 2007 meeting was tabled until a future meeting due to the unexpected absence of the recording secretary Tom Gallagher. Tom had a coworker deliver in advance of the meeting copies of the January and February minutes that had each been approved at previous meetings.

The minutes for the current meeting are from Jim’s meeting notes.

Subcommittee Reports

Nominations Subcommittee—Subcommittee Chairman Sunita Bhatia nominated Gina Angiola for the seat representing GOCA vacated by John Lyons. Sunita presented highlights from Gina’s application including her status as resident of Olney, her role as 2nd Vice-President of GOCA, and organizational involvement including tutor at Cashell Elementary, Board Member for Chesapeake Climate Action Network, and Meeting Host and State Organizer for Democracy for America. The nomination was seconded and Gina Angiola was voted onto the committee by a unanimous vote of 9-0.

Executive Subcommittee—Jim provided an update of our progress on the committee’s work program for the first two-years. He summarized that of the committee’s nine objectives the following three are complete: Objective 1 Selecting a core set of materials

for educating new members in the future; Objective 2 Identify and tour a variety of urban planning forms in the metro area; and Objective 9 Participate in community visioning exercises within Montgomery County. Objectives that are ongoing and/or underway include Objective 3 create an illustrative concept plan; Objective 4 facilitate communication among landowners in the town center; Objective 5 create a concept plan for the civic center/town commons; and Objective 6 review development proposals in the town center that are slated to go to the Planning Board. Jim reported that two of the objectives are yet to be initiated and that we need someone from the committee to step up for these. They are Objective 7 monitor development proposals for neighboring developments and Objective 8 develop recommendations for capital improvement projects (CIP) that support the realization of the vision in the illustrative concept plan.

As part of the discussion on the CIP it was pointed out by Joe that the Go Montgomery plan calls for a MD 97 Busway project (a state transit project) that will run between Glenmont and Prince Philip in Olney.

Website Subcommittee—Helene Rosenheim provided an update on the status of the website and asked if members' email accounts are functioning.

Logo Subcommittee—Paula reported that thank you letters would go out to the three schools that participated and that all the entries would be posted on the website. Paula and Helene will consult with school officials to determine the best method for giving credits to the artists. Paula provided a copy of the draft press release that will be sent to the Gazette.

Illustrative Concept Plan Subcommittee—Nancy Delalio reported that RTKL has reviewed the master plan and identified pedestrian improvements and intersection improvements as action items. The subcommittee met Friday, April 13. The following themes concerning the illustrative concept plan were discussed: allowing for visual access to green space, the treatment of boundaries, showing street connections, and considering how the plan will be presented to the public. It was noted that the county council is looking for money for emerging communities like Olney and that we should be free to push the design envelope. Four members were assigned a quadrant and asked to develop a list of key connections. Areas identified include:

- Sidewalk connection for Buehler so pedestrians can conveniently access town center.
- Maintenance of private drive behind the center with Paula's Boutique, Blockbuster, and CVS.
- Crossing of Spartan at Buehler is identified as dangerous to pedestrians having been designed for high speed with no crosswalks and it has a bend in the road.
- The walkway connecting Homeland Village to the library parking lot (through Golden Spring) is not a complete connection for pedestrians.

Nancy and the committee will continue to pull together issues with connections in the town center for to help inform the illustrative concept plan. Bill Caldwell will plan to come to a meeting soon to present a draft of the concept plan. Nancy wanted to know if the meeting room has wireless broadband as that may be useful. Jim will find out.

Unfinished Business

Template of Program of Requirements (POR)—Jim previously emailed the committee (and provided hardcopy at the meeting) a template for the POR documents that can be used by the members who volunteered to lead in filling them out for different elements. The elements identified in the January meeting were teen center, library, police substation, chamber/visitor center, community meeting area, mid-county services facility. The template includes a statement of need and general description sections that would be filled in once per element. It also has space characteristics that will be repeated as many times as necessary to describe the different rooms/components of the facility. Dorothy led us through how the template might be filled out using the teen center as an example. The components identified for the teen center might include: quiet study room with computer access, game room, media room, tutoring room, washrooms, music rehearsal and performance space, kitchen space/snack area, meeting space, and small buy/sell space.

Nancy agreed to be a resource for the POR leaders.

New Business

None.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 P.M.