

# *Olney Town Center*

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee  
Monday, December 17, 2007 – 7:30 p.m.  
Olney Inn Room, Sandy Spring Bank, Olney, Maryland

**Olney Town Center Advisory Committee (OTCAC) members in attendance:** Jim Smith, Gina Angiola, Eileen Cahill, Joe Fritsch; Paula Kahla; Dorothy Kane; Mark Feinroth; and Helene Rosenheim.

**Others present:** Khalid Afzal, OTCAC's liaison from Park and Planning; Bob Beard, GOCA/OTCAC Outreach Subcommittee

Chairman Jim Smith called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. The agenda was accepted with no changes. The minutes from the November meetings were approved with no additions or corrections.

Jim reviewed the OTCAC's accomplishments for 2007, noting that the group had accomplished more than he had anticipated:

- We have a great website that is useful, easy to navigate and helps give legitimacy to the committee.
- We had a very successful logo contest that was our first public outreach effort, resulted in a great logo design for use on our website and in our letterhead, and established a good relationship with our local high schools.
- We have a good subcommittee structure that has come of age, especially in recent months and has given the committee a good work process with much of the work being done by the subcommittees with items being brought to the full committee for recommendations and action.
- With significant help from Nancy DeLalio and RTKL, Inc, the architectural firm she works for, we have produced a draft illustrative concept plan that we can be very proud of.
- We put together and have been executing a great outreach plan that he sees being an effective tool as the committee moves forward

Bob Beard suggested the Outreach Subcommittee and/or one of its members could be the point of contact in the future. Khalid Afzal noted that as the Freeman Companies move forward with the renovation of their centers, more people will become interested in the work of the committee, so outreach will continue to be important. Joe Fritsch noted that a key role of the committee as things begin to redevelop will be to work to preserve existing businesses. It was suggested a subcommittee to work with affected tenants and businesses might be useful, with the caveat that the committee's role will largely be to advise on and direct them to options available to them for assistance. Eileen Cahill suggested having a speaker from Montgomery County's Office of Economic Development speak to the committee. Paula Kahla noted that the Chamber should be a conduit in this effort.

## SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Executive Subcommittee-** Jim noted that:

- Beginning in January 2008, the OTCAC's meetings will be moving to the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month.
- We will be completing the ICP and submitting it to the Park and Planning Commission.
- He recommended that in our written products we capitalize Olney Town Center and but not town center in running text.

**Outreach Subcommittee** – The Subcommittee asked whether to send the agenda to all interested parties. The consensus was to send the agenda to the County Executive, all County Council members via the Council mailbox, and to all members of the District 14 and 19 State delegations. We will also mail them invitations to upcoming presentations on the ICP and Development Guidelines. Bob Beard wants to mail about 80 invitations. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission will assist with printing the invitations and the Mid-County Regional Center will assist with mailing them.

Dorothy Kane noted that the Committee for Montgomery is made up of 40 leaders that represent different facets of the County and their goal is to achieve consensus on policies that impact the residents and businesses of the County. In order for a policy to be advocated for by them, 85% of the members must agree. The list of policies that the Committee agrees to is presented to the County's elected officials at the County, State, and Federal level annually at a breakfast held just before the opening of the State's legislative session. It has become a big event that is viewed as a kick-off to the session. Dorothy is a member based on her membership on the OTCAC. The members are not there representing their various organizations; their membership is just based on their participation in their respective organizations. Members and/or their organizations sponsor tables at the breakfast. Some also sponsor the breakfast. She had invited the OTCAC and PROJECT CHANGE to share a table. PROJECT CHANGE paid for their half of the table and she paid for the other half for the OTCAC. She, Jim, Gina, and Helene attended for the OTCAC, along with Barbara Falcigno who attended for the Greater Olney Civic Association. They spent time in face-to-face conversations with a number of legislators including County Councilmembers Mike Knapp and Nancy Floreen. These contacts will be helpful in the future as the OTCAC looks for funding sources and support for recommendations the OTCAC makes. Jim had an opportunity to meet the chair of the Clarksburg Advisory Committee. It was suggested that we may want to invite her to a future meeting to discuss lessons learned from their experience.

Presentations at the Olney Library went well. People attended the first meeting in spite of the inclement weather. It appears that there is confusion about what the town center is. Joseph Eagan, the Library manager, suggested that many people think the scope of the project only involves the Olney Village and Olney Town Shopping Centers. The two main panels prepared for the presentations will remain on display at the Library through the end of January. Copies of the feedback form are available there as well as online. They will do another presentation at the January 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Bob also noted that there were a number of articles in past Gazette about the OTCAC and he suggested links to them be added to the website.

**Website Subcommittee** – Helene Rosenheim reported that she has set up Yahoo mailboxes for the new members and noted that some of the older members have not activated theirs. She also indicated that the mailboxes were there for the convenience of the members, but they are not required to use them. She also noted that she had completed all the changes requested to date, although she still wants to do more work on the page with the Past, Present, and Future pictures

of the Rte. 97/108 intersection. She will be contacting Lawrence King, her contact at M-NCPPC for web assistance to ask him to incorporate the PO box address and the image of the town center into the masthead.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Concept for the Civic Center** – Jim feels that the Committee needs to develop a higher level document for the civic center that just a compilation of the programs of requirements. It should be brief and give a good sense of how the civic center relates to the town center. It should include a list of the facilities that will be included with reference to a web listing of the program of requirements. It should also include a prioritization of the facilities, in case all of the uses cannot be included and statements relating to things such as the parts of the building, the direction in which buildings should face, the parking, and the green space. It would describe a minimum of what the community expects, but developers would be welcome to do more. It will likely include the library, the Chamber of Commerce & a visitor center, a Mid-County Regional Center satellite office, the police satellite station, the teen center, community meeting area, a town commons, and now should include an area for the farmers market.

## **NEW BUSINESS** – None

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

Submitted by Helene Rosenheim