

# *Olney Town Center*

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

Olney Town Center Advisory Committee  
Monday, September 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, Sunita Bhatia, Paula Kahla, Tom Gallagher, Helene Rosenheim, Dorothy Kane, Nancy DeLalio, Walter Lee, Gina Angiola, and Joe Fritsch. **Others present:** Joseph Eagan, Manager, Olney Library; Maura Walsh, Camelback Village Resident; Glenna Langley, Camelback Village Resident; Janet Terry, Olney Farmers' and Artists' Market; Bob Beard, GOCA; and Khalid Afzal, OTCAC's liaison from Park and Planning.

Chairman Jim Smith called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The agenda was accepted with one change, Daryl Mobley, District Engineer, SHA District 3 will attend the November meeting. The minutes from the July and August meetings were approved with no additions or corrections.

Helene Roseheim recorded the minutes for the meeting currently in progress.

**Olney Farmers Market** – Janet Terry noted that the idea for a farmers market in Olney started with an idea she brought to the Greater Olney that she thought Olney would be a perfect place for a farmers market similar to one she had seen in South Carolina. It would include produce from local farmers, food vendors, local artists, and entertainment. The idea caught on much more rapidly than she expected and the Olney Farmers/Artists Market will have its grand opening on Sunday, Oct 7, 2007 in the parking lot of the Olney Town Shopping Center. Next year the market will operate from May – December. So far they have 10 farmers, a number of juried artist, and several chefs who will do demos and provide samples. She requested that a space for a farmers market be a permanent part of the town center plans.

**Debriefing from August Meeting at Rockville Town Square** – The following are observations and comments made in response to the tour and presentation the OTCAC received from Rockville's Mayor Giammo.

- Mixed-use development - walking was impressive.
- For population density, the lack of vehicles is impressive. Maryland Ave can be congested in the am.
- Process used for getting community input and buy-in to the concept was interesting.
- Roof top over the arts center, technology incubator, community space on roof.
- Common space is very functional/useful, but also not big.

- The Rockville Town Square is less than half of the Carl M. Freeman property.
- We don't have a local government champion.
- Public-public and public-private partnerships have in a small amount of time.
- Looking forward to how Rockville ties in green space, playgrounds, neighborhood folks
- In Silver Spring, the County used eminent domain powers. Then County Executive Doug Duncan made it (Silver Spring's renovation) a focus of his administration.
- Need to find distinction to the town center, not copy of another space transferred to Olney

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Nominating Subcommittee** – Jim reported that the Subcommittee had received an application from Mike Reilly, the Freeman Companies Vice President for Realty who is the project manager for the Olney shopping centers. He will be replacing Tom Gallagher on the OTCAC who felt that Mike would be good for the Committee because of his retail experience and it was important to keep someone on the Committee from the Freeman Companies. Mr. Reilly's membership application was accepted unanimously. Helene Rosenheim noted that it was likely that the Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board would designate a representative to the OTCAC at its September meeting. It was suggested that nominees be sent a copy of the Committees rules.

**Outreach Subcommittee** – Gina Angiola reported that the Subcommittee had met, but felt that they should not begin until they have more input from the Freeman Companies on their property. The timing of their efforts will be related to the mechanisms Freeman Retail has for getting input from the community, and they will use mechanisms such as the PTAs, and community events like Community Night. They want to have a meeting with the town center property-owners, and to do a presentation at a Greater Olney Civic Association meeting. They may also want to develop an online-survey and a paper survey to get input from the community about what they are looking for in the town center.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Program of Requirements** – Members discussed the program of requirements and their status. Nancy DeLalio agreed to take the Library POR from Tom Gallagher since he is retiring from the committee; Paula reported that the Visitor Center and Chamber are included in the same POR and it is complete and delivered as of a couple months ago; the agenda was corrected to show that Paula is heading up the Police Satellite Station POR; and a POR for the Town Commons was added to the list with Gina Angiola heading it up..

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.