



March 18, 2010

**Testimony to the Montgomery County Planning Board, Royce Hanson
Chairman, on the Subject of the Olney Library Renovation and Addition.**

**Presented by: Jim Smith, Chair of the Olney Town Center Advisory
Committee**

The Library is in great need of extensive renovation and additional space. On April 28, 2009 the Olney Library development team paid a courtesy visit to the Olney Town Center Advisory Committee (OTCAC) to share their plans for redevelopment. OTCAC agrees with staff recommendations and recommends APPROVAL of the Olney Library Renovation with one significant functional change as indicated below.

The current design eliminates an entrance on the front of the building. The only entrance is planned for the rear of the building serving the parking lot. This is inconsistent with the master plan goals of creating a main street character and creating pedestrian-oriented spaces. If there is need for a single entrance for control and monitoring purposes then that entrance should rightfully be in the front of the building engaging the street. The current stand of old trees would make for a very scenic main entrance. A covered walkway out to the wide sidewalk would offer a safe path free of debris from the trees.

The maximum setback allowed for this development is 10 feet and this building setback just minimally meets that requirement through the narrow swoop feature the juts out toward the street. The north face of the building is more like 30 or 40 feet from the street. The building would gain a much greater sense of connectedness with the street if a walkway led to a main entrance in front of the building. The current building works with an entrance in the front and the rear.