

**Oakdale Civic Association
General Monthly Meeting
Monday December, 13 2010**

Officers

President:	Carol Schwasnick	Present
Vice President:	Stan Feldman	Not Present
Treasurer:	Pat Kassten	Present
Corresponding Secretary:	Brian Bast	Present
Recording Secretary:		
Directors:	Cathy Cohen	Present
	Ray Carta	Present

Minutes Recorded by Bob Mirro

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Carol Schwasnick called the meeting to order at 7:35 with the pledge of allegiance.

Immediately after the pledge, Islip Town Councilman Gene Parrington presented a citation to outgoing OCA President Ray Carta. Mr. Parrington mentioned several of Mr. Carta's accomplishments in the community, and mentioned that Mr. Carta worked very well with the Town in the capacity of Civic Association President.

After the awarding of the citation, Mr. Parrington swore in the new board consisting of President Carol Schwasnick, Treasurer Pat Kassten, and Corresponding Secretary Brian Bast.

Treasurer's report: Pat Kassten

Ms. Kassten discussed the fiscal state for the month of December. Disbursements included \$400 for Christmas decorations at the train station. Treasurer Kassten also mentioned that the postal account needed to be replenished. To date there are 152 paid members for 2011.

President Schwasnick asked for a motion to accept the November meeting minutes as presented. The membership made a motion, this was seconded. She then asked for a motion to waive the rules of the meeting so that Assemblyman Al Graf could speak to the membership.

Guest Speaker: NY State Assemblyman Elect Al Graf

Mr. Graf will be officially sworn into office in January, but he mentioned that he is already busy working throughout the state trying to form a coalition to bring northern and southern parts of the state together. He briefly discussed his background as a navy vet and ex police officer. Mr. Graf also discussed his experience as past two term town supervisor in small town upstate. Mr. Graf discussed a legislative breakfast he is establishing to facilitate getting the job done for the district and the state. Mr. Graf also mentioned that he is arranging meetings with the school districts. Mr. Graf mentioned that he is not in his official capacity yet, but he is doing his homework gearing up for day one of his tenure.

Mr. Graf noted that he has several ideas to improve communication in the district. These include establishing website links and assigning a contact person for various community scholarships, along with explanation of the scholarship to facilitate an efficient process for making people more aware of the available scholarships. Mr. Graf discussed the impact that unfunded mandates have on the school system and the state's desire for potential tax caps. He also discussed possibilities for how to lessen the burdens on the schools as well as on the tax payers.

Mr. Graf referenced the unfortunate phenomenon of "spreading" families and the importance of trying to keep young people from fleeing Long Island, in order to secure the area's future. Mr. Graf is looking to relocate his office more centrally in the district such as up near Sunrise or Vets Hwy. He noted that he was born and raised on Long Island and what happens in the future is important to him, and a reason he wanted this job.

President's report:

President Carol Schwasnick introduced herself and mentioned how proud she was to step in to the role. President Schwasnick discussed upcoming guests that she is working on setting up. Ms. Schwasnick discussed the need for a permanent recording secretary. In the absence of a note taking recording secretary, she has purchased a recording device and is trying it out tonight. Member Bob Mirro was kind enough to take notes this evening; Ms. Schwasnick will continue to ask for volunteers until a permanent Recording secretary is identified.

President Schwasnick next asked for a vote to invite Mr. Carta in as a Director for the OCA. The Board voted unanimously in favor and Mr. Carta accepted. Mr. Carta will stay on as an advisor to the OCA Executive Board in this new role.

New Director Ray Carta began by discussing surveys that were sent out to OCA members recently. He mentioned that there were none returned. The nature of the survey is to query ideas from the membership and make sure that the OCA is addressing the needs of the community and your ideas for future meetings. If you have not returned a survey, please take the time to do so.

In response to recent inquiries, President Schwasnick gave an update on the gas station on the corner of Oakdale Bohemia Rd. and Montauk Hwy. She noted that the gas tanks have been dug up and removed and remediation has been done, as required. Planning for the new building is complete and approved. The project is scheduled to be complete in Spring of 2011, but there is a potential hold up, which has to do with MTA ownership of several feet of the property - not just along the railroad tracks as would be expected, but along Oakdale Bohemia Rd., from the tracks south to Montauk Hwy. A stall in the process could be a problem because the lessee is still paying rent but unable to use the property until this is resolved. President Schwasnick solicited help from Mr. Graf on the resolution of this problem. Mr. Graf stated he would be happy to get involved with the negotiations.

President Schwasnick attended her first Oakdale Round Table meeting last month where the members discussed potential opportunities for development and businesses along Montauk Hwy., in order to incorporate some of the ideals of the Oakdale Vision Plan. The Vision Plan is a long term view and means to establishing a stronger downtown for Oakdale.

Oak Creek Commons:

The developer is looking to remove the 55 and over restriction from this development on Oakdale Bohemia Rd, because they are finding it hard move units. A discussion ensued about concerns regarding the planning of this project and how it may affect other similar

housing in the area. The original intent of this housing was restrictive partly because it backs up to a wetlands area.

Mr. Graf suggested talking to other associations with regard to how they have handled similar situations in their respective neighborhoods. It was mentioned that if the terms of the property and housing were switched to regular rentals, that other unintended problems could emerge. Mr. Graft cited that a similar problem has surfaced in other communities and has initiated the reorganization of their otherwise defunct Civic Associations. It was suggested to have a leader from another Civic Association come in and share their experience with similar circumstances.

President Schwasnick stated that she would like to re-instate the town report. She put it out to the membership for volunteers to step up. It was suggested that President Schwasnick explain what was involved with obtaining the town report. She mentioned that it was mostly a monthly or bi-monthly phone call to inquire from the town the status of different projects and land transactions that are of interest for the community of Oakdale.

It was also suggested that President Schwasnick explain the position of recording secty. She mentioned that the OCA board needed someone to take notes at the meetings and to prepare the monthly minutes. Other historical duties of the Recording Secretary have included communicating out meeting notices to the membership and to the local papers.

Suggestions were made about different ways to accommodate folks that can't make it to the OCA meeting either because of night time driving issues or child care. President Schwasnick stated that people hopefully could get a ride if unable to drive at night, and that while some of these issues might be difficult to resolve but that we would keep an eye on them for the future – one idea discussed was a possible car or van pool. Ms. Schwasnick stated that a suggestion was also made recently regarding whether an occasional daytime meeting could be included.

Mr. Carta discussed the aspect of not-for-profit groups and their requirements and qualifications. The upside of forming 503 is that there is grant money available and donations could be obtained through an endowment where people that donated could receive a tax benefit based on their donation. There are pitfalls as well pertaining to requirements to adhere to rules and regulations, which create much more work on the reporting site with tax returns, etc. President Schwasnick will look into it further to determine merits for our organization.

Open Session:

It was mentioned that poles and chains were put up to prevent access to the old Bronco Charlie's lot – which has recently been used for valet parking for Mannino's restaurant, which is right across the street. A member asked if Dowling had done this. Although no one in attendance had an answer, liability was mentioned as a probable cause by another member. It is likely that Dowling did not want responsibility for vehicles and potential accidents on property it owns.

Member Lee Kennedy addressed the membership on the conditions of her street, Princess Gate – which has not been repaved in 30 years. There are ongoing issues with garbage pickup and snow removal as well.

Member Joanne Festa noted that there is a high level of trash on Locust Ave. around the deli; this requires better maintenance by the Town.

Linda Hart gave a thank you to the OCA on behalf of the beautification society for the help in preparing the train station for the holidays. It was also mentioned that this year's tree and menorah lighting events were very well attended this year.

Beverly Ruggiero thanked Ray Carta for his contributions to the Oakdale Tree Lighting event.

There was interest expressed in contacting member Mr. Siemsen about discussing the potential of developing an Oakdale Historic Society. President Schwasnick to reach out to him. Members also suggested contacting Chris Kretz, the librarian at Dowling and Dave Holliday, also of Dowling.

Mr Graf offered to come back and speak about some of his areas of expertise at a future meeting including estate planning, gangs, Meghan's Law, or Living Wills/Healthcare Proxies. President Schwasnick offered to take him up on that for a future month and would poll the membership on the preferred topic.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:50pm, motion seconded, meeting adjourned.

Our next meeting will take place on Monday January 10, 2010 at 7:30pm.