

Report from the OTRA Meeting (12/16/04)

Three issues were discussed that evening.

- (1.) Pedestrian Safety across 410 - Philadelphia Avenue.
- (2.) The Main Street Program of The Old Takoma Business Association.
- (3.) Election of officers.

Ms Margo Kabel presented three letters signed by the Principals and PTA presidents of the Middle School and Elementary Schools regarding the danger for kids who have to cross 410 - East-West Highway on their way to school. Of concern is the crossing at the TP library and at Piney Branch.

Solution 1: It was proposed to have a stoplight synchronized with the Maple Avenue Stoplight, so cars would be made to stop, but traffic would not be hindered.

Solution 2. It was proposed to have a sidewalk from Philadelphia to the middle school and an additional crossing with a crossing guard at the south side of the Philadelphia - Piney Branch intersection.

Wolfgang Mergner is to write a letter in support of the proposals to the City Administrator.

Mary Stover, program manager for Old Takoma Business Association. Presented the Main-Street-Program. Designation of Mains Street is significant.

Lets start from the beginning. Since 1980, the National Main Street Program has worked with communities across the Nation to revitalize their historic or traditional in-town commercial areas The Main Street Program will revitalize the Maryland and DC part of Old Takoma business by improving economic management, rehabilitating buildings and expand parking. Most of all, the Main Street Program is designed to create a sense of place.

Why is OTRA interested? Our questionnaire has expressed a significant concern with the quality and usefulness of the Old Takoma Businesses. The Main Street Program asks for citizen's input and participation. There are four committees seeking members:

- (a.) Design (Committee meeting 1/11/05 6:30 PM at Savory)
- (b.) Organization (Committee meeting 1/13/05 8:00 PM at Savory)
- (c.) Promotion (Committee meeting 12/14/04 7:30 at home of D.Potts-Dupre 7017 Sycamore inquire about next meeting at 202-223-0888)
- (d.) Economic restructuring. (1/01/05 at 7:30PM at Savory)

Contact information: Mary Stover 240-253-4229, P.O. Box 5440 TP 20913

Election of officers: President: Wolfgang J. Mergner (301-587-3050, wolfgang.mergner@verizon.net); Vice president: Steve Shapiro, Treasurer: Dick O'Connor.

Other business: Keats Kirsch and Wolfgang Mergner will design a membership form

OTRA is considering to sponsor a forum on the Takoma Park Bond Issue.
Reported: 12/23/04 Wolfgang J. Mergner