



Civic Federation News

Serving the Public Interest since 1925

Official Publication of the
Montgomery County
Civic Federation
October 2007
Session 790
www.montgomerycivic.org

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October Program: WSSC - The “Drink Water and Flush Story” by Chuck Lapinski, Public Utilities Committee Chairman

Our program for the October 8 regular meeting will feature the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC). Yes, these are the same folks who bring you that clean, clear, no-calorie, healthy beverage at a comparatively inexpensive cost. And then take away and process everything you don't want, and recycle it in an environmentally sensitive way.

WSSC serves a tad over 1.8 million of us ratepayers, residences and businesses, principally in D.C., Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties. It is one of the largest water and sewer systems in the country: a capital intensive business that requires a large and rather expensive infrastructure (e.g., reservoirs, big and

little pipes, sewage processing facilities and, oh yes, access to lots of water, etc.) and much, much more.

We are going to talk about a lot: a little history on how WSSC got started and how it has changed over time, and will be changing to meet our growing needs. We are also going to describe how big and complex the system is; its operations; its future and some of the issues that will affect us. We are also going to talk about what it costs to build, maintain and operate it. And, a bunch of other interesting stuff. The bottom line: this is a pretty darn good news story! Yup! That's what I said, and you ought to make the time to hear it.

Did you know?

By Marvin Weinman, Co-chair, Public Finance Committee

The Montgomery County government has 33,000 employees

Labor costs represent 80.1% of the county's tax supported budget. In FY 08 this will equate to \$3,427,470,207. Yes, that is over three billion dollars!

The average annual revenue increase during the 5 year period from FY 2003 to FY 2008 has been 10.16% or \$244.3 million.

Our school system is 74% self-funded with the state contributing 18% and 8% coming from federal and “other” sources

The City of Baltimore public school system is 20% self-funded with the state contributing 69%.

The Montgomery County's public school student population decreased 3,076 over the last three years

The average cost of salary and benefits for an MCPS employee in FY 2007 is:

- MCEA (Teachers) \$88,181
- SEIU (Service Workers) \$47,014
- MCAASP and Non-scheduled (Administrators) \$146,329

Tired of your property tax assessment increasing by the maximum allowable 10% each year? Some alternatives are:

- Talbot County 0%
- Mt. Airy 0%
- College Park 1%
- Anne Arundel 2%
- Prince Georges' 4%
- Baltimore County 4%
- City of Baltimore 4%
- Kensington 5%
- Frederick 5%
- Howard County 5%

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MCCF Officers & Committee Chairs, October 2007

Position	Name	Home Phone	Office Phone	Email
Elected				
President	Wayne Goldstein	301-942-8079	Same	waynengoldstein@hotmail.com
1st Vice-President	Arnold Gordon	301-570-0481	Same	nmcaprexy@aol.com
2nd Vice-President	Peggy Dennis	301-983-9738	same	hotyakker@comcast.net
District 14 VP	Alyce Ortuzar	301-774-6617	same	farmparity@starpower.net
District 15 VP	Sandy Vogelgesang	301-365-2347	same	everest.associates@erols.com
District 16 VP	Lee Shipman	301-229-2005	same	plannerlee@earthlink.net
District 17 VP	<i>Vacant</i>			
District 18 VP	Richard Zierdt	301-881-0283	703-464-1617	richard.zierdt@asg.com
District 19 VP	Bill Schrader	301-946-6545	same	schraderw@erols.com
District 20 VP	<i>Vacant</i>			
District 39 VP	<i>Vacant</i>			
Treasurer	Luella Mast	301-384-4178	same	luellam@comcast.net
Recording Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>			
Appointed				
Historian	Charles Wolff	301-585-9744	301-286-8185	wolff99@starpower.net
Website Manager	Lyle Schofield	301-785-7437	301-951-5340	lyle@norbeck.org
Newsletter Editor	Peggy Dennis	301-983-9738	same	hotyakker@comcast.net
Parliamentarian	<i>Vacant</i>			
Past President	Dan Wilhelm	301-384-2698	703-883-6847	djwilhelm@verizon.net
Standing Committees				
Education	<i>Vacant</i>			
Environment	Caren Madsen	240-793-4603		carenmadsen@msn.com
Legislation	Dan Wilhelm	301-384-2698	703-883-6847	djwilhelm@verizon.net
Planning Land Use & Housing	Jim Humphrey	301-652-6359	same	theelms518@earthlink.net
Public Finance & Utilities	Chuck Lapinski	301-384-0392	202-548-5578	clapinsk@mcri.com
Public Finance & Utilities	Marvin Weinman	301-946-3799	same	weinmanm@msn.com
Public Safety	Chuck Floyd	301-273-5620	same	chuck@chuckfloyd.com
Transportation	Byron Bloch	301-299-1801	301-299-1800	byron@autosafetyexpert.com
Special Committees (Not Part of the Executive Committee)				
Bylaws				
Database	Dan Wilhelm	301-384-2698	703-883-6847	djwilhelm@verizon.net
Sentinel Article Coordination	Wayne Goldstein	301-942-8079		waynengoldstein@hotmail.com
Historical Preservation	Wayne Goldstein	301-942-8079		waynengoldstein@hotmail.com
Committee for Montgomery	Dan Wilhelm	301-384-2698		djwilhelm@verizon.net

Should the Day MCCF Meets be Changed?

By The MCCF Executive Committee

Several organizations that might join and several new member organizations that have joined have told us that Monday is the worst day of the week for county-wide civic meetings. Would another day fit more schedules better? We now meet the second Monday of the month. Is this too early in the month, or about right? Would a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evening be

better? We know that no date/time/place will please everyone, but.... we can't explore the possibilities unless we hear from our current members. We invite you to email Dan Wilhelm, djwilhelm@verizon.net, with your thoughts. We promise to share them with everyone, and not to make any changes in our calendar until all opinions have been heard.

Time to Renew Membership

By Peggy Dennis, Membership Chair

If your organization's name does **not** appear below, then it's time you renewed your membership in the Civic Federation. Delegates, please complete the form on page 11 (yes, you may cut it off!) and give it to your organization's treasurer so it can be mailed in with the dues check.

Associations Paying Dues for 2007-2008

Allanwood-Gayfields-Willson Hills-Gaywood Estates
(AGWG) Civic Association, Inc.
Bannockburn Civic Association
Bradley Boulevard Citizen Association
Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights
Congressional Forest Community Association
Glen Echo Heights Citizens Association
Grosvenor Park Condominium Citizens Association, Inc.
Hillandale Citizens Association
Hunting Terrance Citizens Assn
Layhill South Citizens Association
Norbeck Meadows Civic Association

North Hills of Sligo Civic Association
North White Oak Civic Association
Parkwood Residents Association
Potomac Pond Homeowner's Association
Potomac Towne Homeowners Association
Rock Creek Palisades Citizens Association
West Montgomery County Citizens Association
Wildwood Manor Citizens Association

Individual Associates Paying Dues for 2007-2008

Blair Ewing
Bernard Fisker
Wilbur Friedman
Agnes Jones Trower
William Neil
Robert E. Redding
Helen A. "Andy" Reed
Stan Schiff

State Budget Forebodings: The Dance of the Elephants

by Chuck Lapinski, Public Finance Committee Chairman

Are you having trouble keeping up with all the conflicting news? Are they going to cut my taxes? What is this structural deficit? Why do we have it and what is it doing for me or to me? But I read that the county is going to get less back from the state? And the sales tax may go up? And are they really going to tax the rich more? And they said we're trying to protect you? Now the slots are a sure thing if??? And what are all these elephants about? Sure has been a lot being said, and I don't think I understand it?

Well the elephants are: Governor O'Malley; Mike Miller, the President of the Maryland Senate; and Michael Busch, the Speaker of the House. The Senate President definitely wants slots to help pay for the deficit, but says he won't agree with the Governor's plan. The Speaker doesn't want slots. The governor says maybe he might agree to "some" slots if he gets his way. Each is throwing the weight and power of his elected office around with a lot of noise and heavy foot

thumping. They say they'll fix the deficit? You ask, "where do you and I fit in, in all of this?" Right now, other than being the little mice, (I mean pawns), we aren't that important and surely our concerns don't count for much.

On the deficit, yes, the Governor inherited it, sort of. Most of the deficit was caused by spending significantly more than we were taking in over the last 10-12 years. Now that your profits from your stocks and house have dwindled back to some level of normal, the income picture isn't so rosy any more. "Thornton" for education, that was how we were sold things, shrouding the fiscal realities in the protective cape of education. Very ambitious expenditure of money it was and is.

Some are finally asking the important question: "Is it making a difference". In a few places, yes, a little. But even Chairman Thornton is in the press lately questioning the rest. They built a bill to redistribute money; some with good reason and effect. But he also had to agree that they hadn't put in enough measures, objectives, and expectations. The "over grades" and "passing rate" and "demonstrated subject proficiency" appear to have gone down across the state generally over the last 4 years. No one dares to do a program assessment and figure out what is really wrong and maybe how to fix it. But they want to spend more.

The elephants continue to dance. It's hard for you and me to stay out of their way.

ZTA 07-13 to Alter Commercial Zoning **by Jim Humphrey, Chair, Planning and Land Use Committee**

On September 11, at the request of the County Executive, Council President Praisner introduced Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 07-13 to allow use of Planned Development Zone standards on certain commercially zoned sites in or adjoining a Central Business District. For a site to qualify, the commercial zoning must already allow a minimum residential density of 2 dwelling units per acre. A finding of substantial compliance with the use recommended by the relevant master plan would no longer be required for qualifying sites. The PLU Committee has identified Bethesda and Wheaton as two areas that would be affected by this ZTA.

In the past, ZTAs such as this that change the building standards of a zone category have been sought by developers to allow approval of development not permitted under the existing zoning or the master plan recommendation for a property. However, the PLU Committee does not know whether that is the case in this instance, since they have not been contacted regarding the rationale for this ZTA.

Of concern is the provision that would allow a qualifying site to be developed to the maximum density allowed elsewhere in the relevant master plan area. For example, a site that could currently be developed with a 3 story building might be approved for a building 10 stories high, using the altered standards proposed in this legislation. But the targeted sites for application of this ZTA are next to or quite near single-family detached home neighborhoods, rendering the proposed standards incompatible with adjacent development.

The PLU Committee believes that such a significant change in building standards for properties in an area should be considered in the context of a comprehensive revision of that area's master plan. At its September 19 meeting, the MCCF Executive Committee unanimously approved a motion in opposition to this ZTA. A similar motion to oppose Council approval of ZTA 07-13 will be made at the October 8 Civic Federation meeting.

Report on the Committee for Montgomery **By Dan Wilhelm, Legislative Committee Chairman**

Committee for Montgomery (CfM) is a coalition of 40 leaders representing a broad cross-section of Montgomery County business, labor, education, civic and community-based organizations. MCCF is one of five civic representatives. CfM's mission is to advocate in Annapolis on issues of importance to Montgomery County and the State. Through its membership, CfM

represents more than 250,000 Montgomery County residents.

While its membership is diverse and reflects a broad spectrum of political views, CfM members unite in support of its priorities, which include: education, health and human services, economic and workforce development, fiscal responsibility, transportation and the environment. CfM shapes its state legislative and

budget priorities based on its goal of preserving and strengthening Montgomery County and Maryland as a place to live, work and learn.

An adhoc committee met three times over the summer to discuss what position CfM might take regarding the expected \$1.7B state deficit for next year. We concluded that CfM should follow our county and delegation leaders and wait to see what the Governor proposes, which he has been doing during the later half of September. CfM is also actively working to develop its priorities for the next legislative session.

The CfM priorities will be presented at a "must attend" legislative breakfast on Friday, December 14, at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center on Rockville Pike. It will be attended by some 600 people, including many county leaders, and will feature a high ranking official to give the keynote speech (the official has not yet been announced.) The breakfast is CfM's main fund raising event. The cost is \$50 per person and for 501(C)(3) organizations, a table of 10 seats costs \$600. I encourage civic groups and activists to attend by sending checks payable to CfM, P O Box 7912, Gaithersburg, MD 20898. If you have questions, please call or email me, Dan Wilhelm at 301-384-2698 or djwilhelm@verizon.net.

New Filing Requirements For 501(C) Organizations

By Luella Mast, MCCF Treasurer

Traditionally, small tax-exempt organizations with gross receipts normally \$25,000 or less have not been required to file an IRS Form 990. However, with the enactment of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA), beginning in 2008 small tax-exempt organizations will be required to file an electronic Form 990-N, also known as the "e-Postcard". Letters to organizations expected to be affected by the Act started going out this past July and will continue to be sent out through December of this year. If you do not get this letter, you should not assume that your organization is exempt from the PPA requirements. Beginning in 2008, the e-Postcard will be due every year by the 15th day of the

fifth month after the close of the organization's tax period. For example, organizations whose fiscal year ends on December 31, 2007 will need to file their e-Postcard no later than May 15, 2008. The IRS web site, www.irs.gov/charities/article_0,,id=169250,00.html has further information, though I also found speaking with a live person using the "Telephone Assistance for Exempt Organizations, Retirement Plan Administrators, and Government Entities," line, 1-877-829-5500 very helpful. I would suggest you check out the web site and then use the phone number for any follow-up questions.

Treasurer's Workshop

By Luella Mast, MCCF Treasurer

Second and Final Call.

There will be a Treasurer's Workshop on **Wednesday, October 24, from 7:30 to 9:45 (or so) PM** at my home, 809 Hobbs Drive, Colesville (Silver Spring) 20904, just north of the intersection of Randolph Road and New Hampshire Avenue in the east county. All treasurers, or a representative of your member association, are invited. Light sandwich supper will be served.

So far I have heard from the treasurer of my own civic association, Greater Colesville. I like to hope that most treasurers don't know we are planning a workshop as no one from their civic association who is on our MCCF mailing list has told them about it. So, **Delegates! Please pass this information to your treasurers immediately, and ask them to RSVP**

to me at 301-384-4178 or luellam@comcast.net by Wednesday, October 17.

I expect topics to include federal and state financial reporting requirements, local budgets, friendly banks, reasonable reserves, finding someone to audit the books, ideas on how to get money and what can be done with it, generally an open discussion of any topics of interest to all. My goal is to save us individually from inventing and re-inventing the civic wheel by providing a form in which we can share best practices and ideas which will strengthen our local organizations.

If fewer than 7 additional people plan to attend, the workshop will be canceled for lack of interest. I will need contact information for the people who would like to come no later than Wednesday, October 17.

Volunteers Sought for 2008 Awards Committee

MCCF has three awards to present at the May 9, 2008 Awards Dinner. The awards are:

- The Sentinel Award, presented to an individual or group for a significant contribution to good government at the local level.
- The Gazette Award, presented to an individual or group who performs exemplary volunteer service for the residents of the county.
- The Star Cup, awarded to a MCCF delegate or committee for outstanding public service on behalf of Montgomery County.

Finding the right people or organizations for MCCF to honor is both a challenge and a pleasure. We

call for volunteers to serve on the Awards Committee in the autumn so that there will be ample time to solicit recommendations, research the many different individuals and organizations we might honor, and make our final recommendations at the March Executive Committee meeting. Members interested in serving on the Awards Committee should contact President Wayne Goldstein at 301-942-8079 or waynemgoldstein@hotmail.com. The committee will be nominated by the president and confirmed at the November Executive Committee meeting and work should start no later than January.

Bylaws Committee

Several additional topics have been raised as areas for further improvement in our governance. So, it has been suggested that the Bylaws Committee should be

reconstituted. This will be brought up for a vote by the membership at the October meeting.

Around the County

Purple Line NOW! (www.purplelineNOW.org), a nonprofit organization founded in 2002 to advocate for building the Purple Line, is having a benefit fundraiser on Wednesday, October 10, 6:00 - 8:30 pm at the Montgomery County Student Services Building. Enjoy the smooth jazz sounds of Marcus Johnson and the Marcus Johnson Project, wine, beer, non-alcoholic beverages and a selection of light fare and hors d'ourves. \$50 for individuals, \$20 for students. For further information contact Eric Cathcart/Potomac Talent at 301-587-6267 or 800-669-9576.

The Montgomery County League of Women Voters will meet for lunch on Monday, October 22 at Normandie Farms Restaurant. The topic is "The UN Millennium Campaign". Call 301-984-9585 for more information.

Montgomery County's Community Service Day on Saturday, October 27. What we began here 20 years ago has now become a National Day of Service.

The theme for this year's Community Service Day is "Working Together." County government can't do it all. The goal of Community Service Day is not only to accomplish something worthwhile on that day, but also to serve as a model for volunteering throughout the year. Examples of Community Service Day projects that you might consider are: a neighborhood clean up; a food drive; clean up a nearby stream; crafts projects to benefit a senior center in your area, and many more.

This year, for the first time, you can find out more about Community Service Day by going online. Go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteer and click on the link to "Community Service Day." You can also call the Volunteer Center at 240-777-2600.

Minutes of the September 10 Regular Meeting

Luella Mast, Acting Secretary

Call to Order: MCCF President Wayne Goldstein called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM. There were 29 present with 17 member organizations represented.

Announcements: The Greater Olney Citizens Association is partnering with the Olney Chamber of Commerce and several Olney businesses to sponsor the Olney Arts and Farmers Market which will take place every Sunday on the street behind the Olney Village Mart, 9 - 1 PM, October 7 to mid-November and then starting again in May 2008. The MCCF Environmental Committee report is on the back table along a flyer announcing our December 10 regular meeting program on forest and tree conservation. Dates and places for informational meetings sponsored by Councilmember Elrich on two competing bills to revise the Montgomery County Forest Conservation Laws is on the back of that flyer. The Montgomery County League of Women Voters will have a brown bag supper on Monday, October 24 at Wheaton Library from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. The topic will be the Growth Policy. The Planning Board's approval of the Preliminary Plan for redevelopment of Indian Spring County Club was upheld by the Circuit Court. Edgemoor is the correct spelling for the Edgemoor Citizens Association.

Agenda, Minutes and Treasurer's Report: The Planning and Land Use Committee's request the MCCF take a position on the rezoning of the Christ Lutheran Church property on Old Georgetown Road near Battery Lane in Bethesda which is to come before the Hearing Examiner on Monday, September 17 was added to the agenda. The agenda was approved as amended. On motion made by Arnie Gordon minutes of the June 11 Regular Meeting approved. The August treasurer's report was available. There will be a treasurer's workshop on Wednesday, October 24. See the September newsletter for further information.

Program: Arnie Gordon introduced Carla Reid, Director of the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (DPS) and Hadi Mansouri, Chief of the Division of Building Construction in DPS. They reviewed the Department's scope of responsibilities, goals and administrative structure. The program ended with questions from the audience.

Maryland College of Art and Design site on Georgia Avenue: Beverly Sobel representing the Plyers Mill Citizens Association asked MCCF to support their proposal that the site of the closed Maryland College of Art and Design building on the west side of Georgia Avenue remain as open space through a purchase using Legacy Open Space funds. The motion

was made and seconded that: MCCF send a letter to the Planning Board, County Council and County Executive endorsing the Legacy Open Space nomination for the Maryland College of Art and Design property on Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring. Discussion: The Montgomery College Foundation owns the property which is proposed for rezoning for townhouse development. The property is being nominated for LOS funds under the need for green space in an urban environment designation. The County Council has agreed to hear oral arguments on the rezoning on Tuesday, September 11. Should the property be rezoned it will increase its value and the costs for Legacy Open Space purchase. The motion passed; 14 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention.

Planning and Land Use Resolution: Jim Humphrey introduced the resolution to amend the MPDU laws relating to the sale of MPDU units as printed in the September newsletter. The motion for introduction was seconded. Limited discussion followed. The resolution was approved: 18 yes, 0 no, 2 abstentions.

Confirmation of Committee Chair appointments: The motion was made and seconded to approve the President's nominations for MCCF Appointed Officials and Standing Committee Chairs as printed in the September newsletter. Passed: 13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

Committee Reports: Planning and Land Use: The Planning Department still intends to conduct a study on the preservation of affordably priced housing. The Growth Policy debate is ongoing. The Council will vote on September 11 on whether to extend their time limit to reach consensus on the policy to November 15. Any changes made by that date would apply to project applications submitted after January 1, 2007. The Planning Department will finish the 355/I-270 corridor study before revisions of master plans along the 355/I-270 alignment go forward. There has been no response from Planning Board Chair Hanson to the MCCF recommendation to model build-out.

The recommendation made by consultants to the Park and Planning Commission to close several community recreation centers without public input has been sun-lighted by MCCF and other community organizations. The Planning Board has scheduled a town hall meeting, exact date still open, end of September at Brookside Gardens. Following that meeting, from October through January, Park and Planning staff will meet with individuals and associations in communities where recreation centers may be recommended for closure. There will be another town hall meeting the end of

January to announce findings and the Recreation Department staff will make a recommendation to the Board in February 2008. It is not over, but we got a public process!

The Planning and Land Use Committee will seek to reinforce the intended environmental benefits of requiring "green area" in Planned Development zone projects by proposing an amendment that would disallow rooftop area from qualifying.

The Washington Post reported that the Office of the Inspector General has found there was no competitive bidding on Clarksburg Town Center road projects as required by county code. The Clarksburg developers will be reimbursed by the county for the work done without an open bidding process. By ignoring requirements for competitive bidding the county also failed to enforce the requirements for minority set asides on these projects.

The Council will take up ZTA 07-10 tomorrow. This ZTA will revise the process for allowing public use space, or a required amenity to be provided off-site, or accepting a payment-in-lieu-of, in Central Business District (CBD) zone projects.

Mr. Humphrey introduced the motion to support the community and oppose the Development Plan accompanying the rezoning of the Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church property in Bethesda as incompatible with the adjacent neighborhood which was added to the agenda at the beginning of the meeting. The church building will remain. The plan is to construct a new five story church education building and an eight story 107 unit rental apartment building located immediately

adjacent to a neighborhood of 22 single family detached homes. The Planning Board has refused to address the compatibility issue. The rezoning request will go before the Council. Motion to participate in the case before the Hearing Examiner and support the community, seconded and passed: 17 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

Committee for Montgomery (CfM): Dan Wilhelm reported on the CfM meeting this morning (September 10). County Executive Leggett was the speaker. A special session to work on the state operating budget is still possible. There are also short falls in the transportation trust fund. Mr. Wilhelm will serve on a CfM committee developing CfM's positions for the coming legislative session.

Transportation: Bryon Bloch reported the Maryland Department of Transportation (MD DOT) presentation of the FY 09 Consolidated Transportation Plan (aka "Road Show") will be Thursday, October 4 in the 3rd floor auditorium, Werner Council Office Building. The committee is researching safety and infrastructure problems that Mexican trucks now allowed on U. S. roads under NAFTA regulations may create in Maryland. MCCF can present testimony based on our transportation positions at the Delegation's priorities hearings in October.

There were no Member Issues or Old Business.

New Business: The motion to approve the 2007-08 MCCF budget was made and seconded. Passed: 17 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

Adjourn: The motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed at 10:00 PM.

Corrections to the Minutes of the August 23 Executive Committee Meeting

By Luella Mast, Acting Recording Secretary

The minutes of the August 23 Executive Committee meeting were approved at the September 19 Executive Committee meeting with the following corrections.

Housing: The first paragraph is corrected as follows: The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) report on the Moderately Priced Dwelling Units (MPDU) program omitted two important recommendations for program change: (1): Better oversight for the Department of Housing and Community Affairs; (2) Allow the Housing Opportunities Commission the right of last (not first) refusal when MPDU units are sold. Changes in the current policy must be done by statute. Mr. Humphrey will prepare a resolution to be voted on at the September meeting that MCCF support the recommended changes. He will also prepare a short

newsletter article explaining and supporting the resolution.

Planning and Land use: Delete the last sentence in the first paragraph of the report.

Growth Policy Workshop: The third and fourth sentences are corrected as follows: MCCF will ask for creation of a "stand alone" transit test as part of the plan. Currently proposal tests transit and road capacity together. Last sentence: change Poolesville to rural areas.

The sixth paragraph as corrected: Mr. Humphrey is working with Councilmember Knapp on problems that

have arisen with regard to child lots in the up county. Child lots on agricultural land have traditionally not required a record plat to pull a building permit. The waiver expires for these child lot owners when associated farm property is sold for development, as has happened in Clarksburg. Estimates of cost for getting a record plat range from \$7,500 to \$21,000 and it takes at least 9 months. Mr. Humphrey is working with Mr. Knapp to (a) notify property owners in this situation and (b) find a solution.

Corrections to paragraph seven: The first sentence is corrected as follows: On August 15 The Historic Preservation Commission voted 4 to 1 to include the Falklands Apartments in the master plan of historic

places. This is the first step in getting protection. The third sentence is corrected as follows: Neighbors living around the Maryland College of Art and Design site on Georgia Avenue are trying to have that property purchased and maintained as part of Legacy Open Space but non-education use of the property may be constrained by covenants.

Transportation: Mr. Pagnucco's report is corrected as follows: A tunnel is feasible at that intersection [Georgia-Forest Glen]. A tunnel may not be feasible at every single intersection in the county, necessitating a broader approach to pedestrian safety. The FECA has not yet considered the idea of a special unit focused on pedestrian safety within the Department of Police.

September Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

by Jim Humphrey, Acting Recording Secretary

Meeting called to order on September 23, at 7:50 p.m. by President Wayne Goldstein with Peggy Dennis, Dan Wilhelm, Marvin Weinman, Sandy Vogelgesang, Luella Mast, Jim Humphrey, George Sauer, Chuck Lapinski attending.

Minutes of June and July ExComm meetings were approved as recorded. Minutes of the August meeting were approved with corrections.

Treasurer (Ms. Mast) reported that a number of associations and a majority of individuals have not yet renewed membership. There was discussion of changing membership year, but this must be done by Bylaws amendment. Motion to seek reinstatement of the Bylaws Committee was approved unanimously.

Environment Committee report (Mr. Goldstein for absent Chair) - Forest Conservation law amendments to be voted on by Planning Board on September 20. Stormwater Partners Coalition is holding a Watershed Summit on October 27. Wayne and Committee Chair Caren Madsen will attend. Wayne and Planning Department staffers attended recent NOAA focus group on sustainable regional development and impact of growth on the Bay. Audience at recent meetings of the Council's Residential Infill Development Task Force was packed with representatives of the building industry. Conservation District proposal still under consideration.

Education Committee (Mr. Goldstein) - Wayne has gotten additional feedback on editorial column on MCPS published in the Washington Post, but no response from MCPS or Weast. MCCF needs Education Committee Chair. Peggy suggested asking Cluster Coordinators if one would be interested. Wayne mentioned possible conflict of interest. Sandy suggested Lilo Mitz be contacted.

Planning and Land Use/Housing (Mr. Humphrey) - MCCF Resolution recommending MPDU sale unit offering process change, which was approved at September general meeting, sent with cover letter to Council, County Executive, Director DHCA, and MPDU Program Coordinator. ZTA 07-13 introduced 9/11/07 by Council President at request of County Executive proposes allowing PD Zone standards to be applied to development on Commercial Zone properties in or adjoining a Central Business District. Of concern is provision allowing such projects maximum density granted elsewhere in same master plan area. Motion made and seconded for MCCF to testify in opposition, approved unanimously with one abstention. During 9/18 Council briefing on rezoning process Mr. Leventhal asked members at some future time to revisit issue of when County Attorney should defend Board of Appeals rulings challenged in Circuit Court. Council President did not include the issue in recap of expected follow-up. Planning Department Acting Director Gwen Wright told MCCF on August 30 that a Master Plan Process Reassessment project would take place next year, but Board held discussion on 9/17 and a focus group with stakeholders scheduled for 9/26 (same night as meeting with developer LCOR on North Bethesda Town Center project at White Flint). Council Resolution introduced 9/11 would approve most recent attempt of developer to purchase public right-of-way to increase allowable square footage in project which is based on multiple of lot size, with r-o-w being deeded back to County for free after approval. Motion was made to send letter to Council opposing such purchase of density, approved unanimously.

Wayne attended recent meeting of County Executive's Affordable Housing Task Force, group still intending to

release draft recommendations in January followed by some process for public comment. Marv made general observation that 3 minutes usually granted for public testimony is insufficient to address details of any issue.

Public Relations (Mr. Goldstein) - Wayne has asked Steve Kanstoroom to help Lyle Schofield post information to website, may happen in near future.

Legislation/Committee for Montgomery (Mr. Wilhelm) - CfM met on 9/17. Issues Committee beginning to develop list of legislative priorities prior to November meeting when final must be decided. Meetings took place over summer particularly regarding State budget. All waiting on decision of Governor in discussion with House and Senate leadership to call General Assembly Special Session on budget this fall; such a session, if called, would have to occur in late October to mid-November. State projected budget deficit now grown from \$1.5 to \$1.7 billion, so Montgomery's \$270 million shortfall may increase if state funding levels are further cut. Annual Breakfast is Friday, December 14.

Public Safety (Mr. Floyd did not arrive to provide details of Police Department response to violence in schools.

Transportation (Mr. Goldstein for absent chair) - Wayne attended recent Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) meeting for planned Walter Reed Army Hospital move to National Naval Medical Center. Rep from Nuclear Regulatory Commission at White Flint announced that 47% of their employees do not use single-occupancy vehicles to commute. Environment Impact Study due months ago has been delayed in reaction to public criticism. George noted BRAC Coordinator will speak at next Keep Montgomery Moving meeting. Peggy wrote draft letter for MCCF to send to DPWT Director Holmes re Orphaned Roads issue, seeking details of completion of Department's study following MCCF providing extensive study to County free of charge. Purple Line NOW!, a Purple Line advocacy group, is having a benefit fundraiser on

October 10, 6:00-8:30 p.m., at the Montgomery College Student Services Building, \$50, Students: \$20.

Public Finance & Utilities (Mr. Weinman) - Marv attended 3 meetings of Council Task Force on Infrastructure Financing, group attempting to find \$100 million extra to fund needed infrastructure work. Doing follow-up on FY08 budget and what will be happening in FY09. The "five year out" county budget is unrealistic; OMB had identified 2 possible scenarios but agreed to go with the more unrealistic one, in Marv's view, which leaves a significant five year revenue gap. Council held 9/18 closed meeting on salaries and compensation, firefighters coming back for renegotiation and police may also open negotiations. Marv noted problems with County meeting required retirement and amenity benefits payments.

Membership (Ms. Dennis) - Plugging along on re-upping delinquent members and recruitment of new members. Dan will update current member database.

Programs (Wayne for absent First Vice President) - Reiterated that October program is Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (moved and approved that Jim will seek to provide a substitute if WSSC is unavailable), November is Montgomery County Police Chief Thomas Manger, and December is Forest Conservation.

Newsletter assignments were coordinated by Peggy.

New Business - Chuck noted Montgomery County has not formally come out against slots, asked for sense of committee. Discussion ensued with no consensus.

Old Business - Luella brought up possibility of changing day of the week for MCCF delegate assembly monthly meetings starting September 2008, her process for securing meeting space calls for setting dates on the 2008-09 schedule by this October. Peggy will write newsletter item asking delegates to contact Dan with their preference.

Meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Serving the County since 1925

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008

Mail to: Luella Mast (Treasurer)
809 Hobbs Dr, Colesville, MD 20904
301-384-4178; luellam@comcast.net

Inquiries: Peggy Dennis (2nd VP/Membership)
301-983-9738
hotyakker@comcast.net

Name of Organization/Individual _____ Date _____

Number of Households (Approx) _____ Annual Dues (see below) \$ _____

(Make checks payable to **Montgomery County Civic Federation**)

Membership Type	Number of Households	PLEASE CHECK	DUES	Max Number of Members	Voting Privileges
Local Association (civic, community, homeowner or municipality. Must represent at least 30 households - not paid members. Can not be a single local issue group.)	30 to 300		\$45*	2	Yes
	301 to 600		\$65*	3	
	601+		\$85*	4	
Umbrella Association (Two or more local associations. Cannot be single local issue group.)	60 to 500		\$45*	2	Yes
	501 to 1000		\$65*	3	
	1001+		\$85*	4	
Regional or County-Wide Organization (environmental, transportation, or other civic/community).	50+ memberships, not households		\$45*	2	Yes
Individual Associate	(not applicable)		\$20*	1	No
Associate Group (Gov't agency, business, or other organization)	(not applicable)		\$85*	2	No

Can select less than the allowed number of members and pay according to that number. List your members below. Each member will receive our newsletter via US Mail unless he/she elects to receive an email notice that the newsletter is available for downloading. Please check the email box below for those who will receive the email notice. ***You may also take a \$5 discount off the dues for each person who elects to receive the newsletter email notice.** Please provide the email address whether or not newsletter email notification is selected. We are planning to produce a membership directory. Please identify whether you want your email address included.

1.	Name (President+)		Phone (H/W)	
	Street		E-mail Address	<input type="checkbox"/>
	City, State, Zip		Put email address in directory: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
2.	Name		Phone (H/W)	
	Street		E-mail Address	<input type="checkbox"/>
	City, State, Zip		Put email address in directory: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
3.	Name		Phone (H/W)	
	Street		E-mail Address	<input type="checkbox"/>
	City, State, Zip		Put email address in directory: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
4.	Name		Phone (H/W)	
	Street		E-mail Address	<input type="checkbox"/>
	City, State, Zip		Put email address in directory: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

+President of applying organization or permanent substitute designated by the president.

Federation Meeting

Monday, October 8
7:45 1st Floor Auditorium
County Council Office Building,
100 Maryland Ave.
Rockville, MD

Agenda:

7:45 Call to Order
7:46 Introduction and Announcements
7:55 Adoption of Meeting Agenda
7:56 Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report
8:00 Program: WSSC
9:15 Vote on Reconstitution of Bylaws Committee
9:20 Committee Reports
9:40 Member Issues
9:45 Old Business
9:55 New Business
10:00 Adjourn

The **Montgomery County Civic Federation** is a county-wide nonprofit educational and advocacy organization. It was founded in 1925 to serve the public interest. Its monthly Federation meetings are open to the public and are held on the second Monday of each month September through June at 7:45 p.m. in the First Floor Auditorium, County Office Building, Rockville, MD.

The **Civic Federation News** is published monthly. It is mailed to Delegates; associate members; news media, and local, state, and federal officials. Permission is granted to reprint any article provided proper credit is given to the "**Civic Federation News of the Montgomery County Civic Federation.**"

Submit contributions for the next issue by: **Midnight, Saturday October 20.** Prepare submission as an MS Word, Word Perfect or text-only document, **attach** it to e-mail, and send it to hotyakker@comcast.net

Please send all address corrections to Dan Wilhelm, 904 Cannon Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904, 301-384-2698, or djwilhelm@verizon.net.

NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, October 17, 7:45 p.m.

Julius West Middle School

651 Great Falls Road, Rockville



**Official Publication of the
Montgomery County Civic Federation**

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Silver Spring, MD 20904
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First Class Mail

Address service requested