



# Civic Federation News

March 2008

Serving the Public Interest since 1925

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the Montgomery  
County Civic Federation  
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## March Program - County Fire and Rescue Services by Arnold Gordon, First Vice-President

For our March 10th program, Chief Tom Carr will talk with us about our county's fire and rescue services. I have asked Chief Carr to cover the following topics:

- The organization, mission and operations of the Fire & Rescue Services
- Coordination with other county and state agencies such as the Police Department, and with neighboring jurisdictions (e.g. Prince Georges, Howard and Frederick Counties, and the District)
- The funding, planned and future, to implement all proposed and necessary services and projects
- How Fire and Rescue will fare under the present budget shortfalls and the savings targeted by the County Executive
- Progress made in preparation for emergencies and disasters, as well as Homeland Security matters
- Impact of BRAC on future operations and the costs to prepare for the additional demands related to BRAC
- The nature and content of planned future expansions of the Department's physical plant such as fire stations
- The status of readiness of major equipment such as ambulances and fire apparatus
- Plans for relocation of the Department's training, maintenance and operational facilities from the Shady Grove area as announced by the County Executive
- Steps, taken or planned, to mitigate or accommodate concerns expressed by surrounding neighborhoods as to your plant expansion, new construction or relocations

The program will be followed by our usual Q and A session.

For our April program (April 14th) we will, as we do each year, focus on the County Budget. What is unusual this year is that by the time of our meeting the Budget will have been announced and introduced before the Council, so we will have an actual budget before us, rather than hypothetical proposals.

Our program in May will feature Chief Justice (retired) DeLawrence Beard on the County's judicial system. Peggy Dennis will organize visits to the county's "drug court" and to Baltimore's "mental health court" before our May

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

FOR THE

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION'S 2008 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 6:00 TO 9:30 P.M.  
NEW FORTUNE RESTAURANT

meeting with the objective of having at least some of our delegates and members gain advance knowledge about these two innovative programs. Look for details in the April Newsletter.

For our future programs we again solicit your input: The Executive Committee of your Federation has a number of suggested topics in mind, but would like feedback from you and your associations on what topics would be most timely and important to you. Your opinions on this are important to us. Please contact me at [nmcaprexy@aol.com](mailto:nmcaprexy@aol.com).

## Whose Music Hall Is It Anyway? by Wayne Goldstein, President

Who decides how important land use decisions are made? Government officials, community residents, or both? How are these decisions made? By established rules or by ad hoc, secret negotiations? In the case of decisions about the proposed Silver Spring Music Hall, the County Executive's office appears to be working without including the community, ignoring basic rules of competitive procurement, giving special benefits where none are needed or justified, and is undermining its reputation for

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fair and open dealings with all.

The development of any public deal should follow the standards of government procurement, where one either seeks the best bid or one offers a sole source contract. If there are a number of qualified businesses which can do the work, it is both sensible and legally required that there be competition, whether by awarding the contract to the lowest bidder or to the bidder who offers the best package of benefits. If only one business can do what is a highly specialized job, then that business is the obvious choice for a sole source contract.

Who does the planning for such a facility? The government officials, the community, or both? In the case of the Silver Spring Civic Building, the community was asked to provide specific details of what it wanted. Community members helped shape the uses as well as the management concept for the building. When it came time to design the building, architects were invited to submit their plans. A number of these plans were shown to the community for its comment before a final decision was made. When MNC/PPC was considering how to build its new Silver Place headquarters, it had three finalists make a public presentation of their proposals, so that the public could also comment on them. When Montgomery County was given the badly deteriorated National Park Seminary site by the U.S. Government, it invited proposals for how to reuse the historic buildings and the rest of the site. After the county chose two finalists, both made public presentations to the community and the community members then told the county which finalist they preferred. After various government officials spent a decade battling with the Silver Spring community, first over plans for the Silver Triangle, and then over plans for the American Dream theme park, the county finally decided to create a group where community members were well-represented. This working group came up with plans for redevelopment that formed the basis for Downtown Silver Spring. These are all examples from the last decade of instances when that the government has worked closely with the local community to make important land use decisions.

When the opportunity to create a music hall in Silver Spring arose, the community's choice was for a venue with bands where the audience would be seated and served food and drink. The only business that came forward with such experience was the Birchmere. When the Birchmere group backed out, the community was dropped from the process of looking for another provider, and the proposal abruptly morphed into a "standing only" concert floor ringed with bars serving alcohol but no food, a concept for which a number of experienced companies could have bid against one another to offer the best deal for the government, the taxpayers and the community. Instead, Live Nation, which grossed \$3.2 billion in the nine months ending 9/30/07, and which issued \$200 million in bonds this past year, was brought in and was offered the same

deal, with millions of dollars of benefits to be funded by taxpayers, that had been offered to the far smaller Birchmere.

As anecdotal evidence accumulates that shows that both the development and management of the Music Hall is important to the community, the government instead responds by reciting the history of the failed Birchmere negotiations while declaring that it must negotiate solely with Live Nation if the county's reputation for keeping its word is to survive. Otherwise, apparently, no one will ever again trust the County in future negotiations.

While this argument may resonate with some, there is another explanation that could resonate far more. It is the perception that this is just another example of corporate welfare in which the county gives big financial favors to very large and profitable corporations in exchange for these corporations doing what they would have done anyway. The best examples of this in the last decade have been the \$50 million dollar deal with Marriott Corporation to get it to stay in Montgomery County when it had no intention of leaving, and the multimillion dollar deal with Discovery Communications to get it to move to Silver Spring when it had every intention of doing so.

Another example of preserving the county's reputation by negotiating in good faith without public participation was the deal with a private religious school to first allow it to buy the former Belt Junior High School and then to persuade this religious school to sell back Belt to then have it be relocated to the former Montgomery Hills Junior High School. As an unintended consequence of honoring this lavish commitment, former County Executive Duncan was stricken with a severe case of Abramoffitis. Interestingly, Mr. Duncan, having persuaded the Birchmere to come to College Park, now intends to persuade the state to make sure that the \$4 million in promised state money for the Birchmere Music Hall will follow the company to College Park, rather than stay in Silver Spring.

The current County Executive is committed, in a number of ways, to changing how this county does business. One hopes that this means an end to the kind of special deal making that goes on behind closed doors and an expansion of efforts to fully engage the community in important decisions. Simply put, it means that the County Executive needs to open up the Music Hall process to all qualified bidders, allow the public to review and comment on proposals from these bidders, and then make a decision based on what is the best deal for the county government and for the community. It may be that Live Nation would win such a competition, but it is unlikely that it would win with terms as generous as those that are on the table right now.

As for the ad hoc actions up until now, it is far more important to admit error and to correct it rather than to

stubbornly stick with a position that could well be undermining public confidence in the County Executive. A County Executive so completely committed to a process as public and as transparent as CountyStat truly does not have to prove that he is decisive by being unwaveringly decisive in all things. It's time for him to listen to the community to find out what it wants its Music Hall to be.

## Want More Accountability In Your County Government?

If so, sign up or propose nominees for the elected offices in the Civic Federation! The Federation is Montgomery County's main umbrella organization of community associations and civic activist, committed to standing up for you and your neighbors! We welcome nominations for the following elected positions:

- President
- First Vice President
- Second Vice President
- Eight District Vice Presidents (one from each state legislative district)
- Recording Secretary
- Treasurer

We also welcome volunteers who would like to chair or serve as a non-elected member on any of the Federation's Standing Committees. There are great opportunities to shape County policy and programs on the following Committees: Education, Environment, Legislation, Planning and Land Use, Public Safety, Public Finance and Utilities, and Transportation.

To volunteer or suggest a nominee for either an elected or a non-elective position, contact any member of the Nominating Committee:

Sandy Vogelgesang (301-365-2347)  
everest.associates@erols.com

Luella Mast (301-384-4178) luellam@comcast.net

Dan Wilhelm (301-384-2698) djwilhelm@verizon.net

Deadline for nominations to the Nominating Committee: April 1. The Committee will publish its slate of nominees in the May 2008 issue of the Civic Federation News and present its report to the monthly meeting of Federation delegates on May 12. The election itself will take place at the Federation's Annual Meeting in June.

## Proposed Bylaws Amendments By Luella Mast, Bylaws Committee Chair

At this month's regular meeting members will first vote on changes to the bylaws that were printed in the February 2008 newsletter (see pages 4 and 5).

After that vote is completed, we will introduce this second set of proposed bylaws changes (printed below). This second set of proposed amendments continues the thorough review of the bylaws we started in February.

We will ask if you have any questions or comments about these amendments. The final vote on this second set of proposed amendments will be taken at our April regular meeting. Words we propose to be deleted are shown with *[italics]*. Words we suggest adding are underlined.

### Article II. Membership

1. Categories and Requirements for Membership. There are three basic categories of membership: Association, Individual, and Associate Group. All members are expected to support the objective of the Federation.

#### 2. Association Member

##### A. Local Association

(1) Definition. Membership in the Federation shall be open to any organized Montgomery County civic, community, homeowner association or municipality *[which supports the Federation's objective and whose primary purpose is to further the public interest.]*

##### B. Umbrella Association

(1) Definition. An umbrella association is any group composed of two or more local associations as defined above. *[Membership shall be open to any umbrella association that has as its primary purpose to further the public interest.]*

##### C. Regional or County-Wide Organization

(1) Definition. A regional organization (defined as one with an intra-county membership) or county-wide organization is any civic or community organization other than local or umbrella *[which supports the Federation's objective and whose primary purpose is to further the public interest.]*

#### 4. Associate Group

A. Any government agency, business, or organization *[which supports the Federation's objective]* may participate in Federation activities by becoming an Associated Group.

Change: Remove the words that specify the criteria that individual categories of members are expected to abide by from each individual category definition. Instead, since these criteria are the same for all membership categories, add one sentence which covers all membership categories.

Because: Simplify the bylaws by removing repetitive wording from several individual membership definitions.

### Article IV. Officials and Organization

9. Eligibility. All *[officials]* Executive Committee members shall be *[Delegates]*members at the time of their appointment. *[or election.]* A Delegate may hold any office *[or position]*, but may hold only one elected office. *[A Delegate's]* An Executive Committee member's eligibility to serve as an elected or appointed official shall immediately terminate upon the *[Delegate's]*Executive Committee member's announcement or filing for elected political office. A Delegate may not serve more than two consecutive terms as president.

**Change:** Expand the definition of Executive Committee members to include all Federation members, not limited to Delegates.

**Because:** This change assumes the membership approval of amendments to Article IV., Section 3-Executive Committee which expand the voting membership on the Executive Committee to include Federation individual members. The words in Section 9 need therefore to be changed to agree with the wording of Section 3 as amended.

#### Article IV. Officials and Organization

12. Recall of Officials. All members of the Executive Committee shall hold office at the pleasure of the Federation membership and may be recalled upon [Affirmative] two-thirds vote at any meeting of the Federation.

**Change:** Change Affirmative to two-thirds.

**Because:** Simplify the bylaws by removing wording that may not be clear to all members.

#### Article VII. Duties of Elected Officers

3. Second Vice President. The Second Vice President shall be responsible for membership recruitment and retention. [*He shall conduct membership drives, evaluate the eligibility of applicants for membership, and transmit to the Treasurer all dues collected with identity of member and year.*]

**Change:** Transfer this sentence from the bylaws and place it in Standing Rules.

**Because:** This sentence describes in detail how the Second Vice President should handle his responsibilities. The bylaws should be confined to a description of responsibilities, not how responsibilities should be carried out.

#### Article VII. Duties of Elected Officers

5. Recording Secretary. The Recording Secretary shall [keep a correct record] take minutes of the proceedings of the Federation. [*preserve the reports filled by the various committees; keep a roll of all Federation officials; and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Committee.*]

**Change:** Transfer parts of the description of duties to Standing Rules.

**Because:** Some of the specified duties are being handled by other officers. The bylaws should be confined to general descriptions of the duties of each office. More detailed outlines of responsibilities belong in the Standing Rules.

Thank you! We will be happy to answer your questions, and of course welcome your attendance at our next meeting which will be at Hollywood East on the Boulevard (great Chinese food) in Wheaton on Tuesday, March 11. Our meetings start at 7:15 and finish at 9:15. Richard

Zierdt, Sandy Vogelgesang, Dan Wilhelm, Luella Mast, and Peggy Dennis.

## Minutes of February 11, 2008 MCCF Regular Meeting By Peggy Dennis, Acting Recording Secretary

**Call to Order:** MCCF President Wayne Goldstein called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM. On the sign-in sheets, 38 people were present.

Wayne introduced Steve Kanstoroom and 8 residents and property owners of "Farm Road" - the privately owned road recently in the news when it was chained off and the residents denied access to their homes and properties. The road, in existence since about 1885, has recently been made to disappear by Park & Planning, and residents denied building permits because they do not have street addresses on a public road. The group asked for help from MCCF in getting their issue successfully adjudicated. They will meet with Leon Rodriguez of DPWT on Wednesday evening, Feb. 13 to discuss alternatives. Wayne will attend and report back on developments

**Agenda Adopted** unanimously with the addition of emergency resolutions on (1) the Farm Road issue in Sandy Spring requested by Wayne Goldstein (2) HB-1159 concerning the taking of property by eminent domain, requested by Dan Wilhelm; (3) HB-676/SB561 concerning residential vs. commercial real estate tax rates requested by Marvin Weinman; and (4) the extension of a cease & desist order to halt the cutting of trees and bulldozing of land in the North Four Corners Park requested by Carole Barth. Each emergency resolution was seconded by delegates from more than five Federation member organizations.

**Program:** Mr. Phil Alperson, the County Executive's Program Director for implementation of the DOD's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Program discussed Maryland's two large BRACs at the Aberdeen Proving Ground and Fort Meade. In addition, and most important for Montgomery County, the closure of Walter Reed Army Hospital in D.C. will result in those responsibilities, jobs and patients being moved to the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC) in Bethesda and Fort Belvoir in Va. NNMC will receive 2,500 new jobs, significant numbers of new patients and their families with approx. 1860 additional visits per day. Realignment must be completed by Sept. of 2011. The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not yet finished despite Jan. 28 deadline. Federal government hasn't committed money needed to fund road improvements in surrounding area which is already "maxed out" for growth and traffic congestion. We cannot build more roads and highways, need alternatives to meet needs of shift workers, parking for elderly VA patients, etc. State has \$45 million in consolidated transportation program for upgrading key

intersections. Feds have earmarked \$ to fund study of Rt. 355 corridor. We need a new WMATA/Metro entrance on east side of Wisconsin Avenue and a grade separated interchange at Wisconsin and Cedar Lane. Need \$70 million just for short term needs. MNC/PPC staff had only one week to review BRAC plans. EIS doesn't include impact of additional lodging and daily visits. Seven major recommendations were discussed.

**Approval of Minutes** of the January regular meeting was tabled due to need for the following amendments to be published: Planning and Land Use Committee Report at the meeting on 1/14/08 should read:

- MCCF has requested opportunity to present Oral Arguments to Council on zoning request for Post Office site on Arlington Road, Bethesda.
- New combined Local Area Transportation Review (LATR) and Policy Area Mobility Review (PAMR) Guidelines are under consideration by the Planning Board, to implement 2007 Growth Policy changes. Board staff has proposed that the percentage of PAMR trip mitigation required for projects in policy areas where a Metro station is located be reduced or even eliminated in some cases, by allowing a credit for proximity to the Metro station.
- Oral arguments are scheduled before the Council on the rezoning for Glenmont Metro project. Hearing Examiner Carrier recommended remanding it back to her because traffic impact on nearby intersections was not adequately addressed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Luella reported one more organization has joined.

**Resolution** on the Sandy Spring Farm Road issue as printed in the February Newsletter was presented by Wayne Goldstein. Resolution was seconded, discussed and passed unanimously: 24 yeas, 0 neas.

**Bylaws Amendments:** Luella presented and explained the bylaws amendments printed in the February Newsletter. They will be voted on at the March meeting.

**Resolution** expressing support for Prince Georges County's approach to WSSC's proposed monthly fee increase for infrastructure maintenance was printed in the February Newsletter and presented by Dan Wilhelm. Resolution was discussed and passed unanimously: 20 yeas, 0 neas.

**Emergency Resolution:** motion made by Arnie Gordon and seconded by Jim Humphrey: "Resolved that the MCCF support HB-1159 which requires that a credit of recordation tax and transfer fee attributable to a replacement property up to 125 % of an increase over the amount received for the replaced property acquired by the state by eminent domain." Resolution passed unanimously: 19 yeas, 0 neas, 1 abstention

**Emergency Resolution:** motion made by Marvin Weinman and seconded: "Be it resolved that the Montgomery County Civic Federation support the introduction and approval of HB-676 and SB-516 which provide for counties to have the same option as municipalities in being able to set independent tax rates for commercial and residential properties." Passed unanimously: 19 yeas, 0 neas, 1 abstention.

**Emergency Resolution:** motion made by Carole Barth of the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association and seconded: "Resolved, that the MCCF urges MNC/PPC to cease and desist all tree cutting, vegetation removal and boulder removal in North Four Corners Park until (1) an independent review has been completed of the damage done, (2) a consensus management plan has been developed and (3) site remediation is guaranteed." Passed unanimously: 20 yeas, 9 neas.

**Zoning & Land Use Planning:** Jim Humphrey reported that ZTA-08-01 has been introduced by Councilmember Marc Elrich to change the definition of "green area". Jim asked that MCCF support this ZTA at the Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> hearing. Approved.

Arnie Gordon reported that State Delegate Mano has co-sponsored a bill that will allow civic associations to be party to an environmental suit, a measure he believes we should plan to support because at present, civic groups in Maryland have no standing to sue or be a party to an action if we are not property owners directly affected by the matter.

**Adjournment:** the meeting was adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

## Minutes of the February 20, 2008 Executive Committee Meeting) By Acting Recording Secretary Sandy Vogelgesang

MCCF Executive Committee met at the home of Sandy Vogelgesang, 9009 Charred Oak Drive, Bethesda MD 20817.

**Call to Order.** MCCF President Wayne Goldstein called the meeting to order at 7:46 PM. Present: Wayne Goldstein, Arnold Gordon, Peggy Dennis, Dan Wilhelm, Luella Mast, Jim Humphrey, Marvin Weinman, William Schrader, and Sandy Vogelgesang. Guest: Audrey Schaefer (for presentation on Silver Spring Music Center)

**Minutes Approval.** Minutes of the January 23, 2008 Executive Committee Meeting, printed in the *Civic Federation News* (February 2008), were approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Luella Mast distributed copies of the latest (Feb. 17) report and noted that the Federation is financially ahead of where it stood this time last year.

**Environment Committee.** Wayne Goldstein reported for Caren Madsen. He reported attending the recent meeting of the County Council Transportation and Environment Committee and said that efforts are still underway to find the right mix for the advisory committee. He will follow up with Caren to identify top priorities and next steps, including participation of County environmental organizations.

**Education Committee.** Wayne Goldstein drew our attention to his latest article, "What's New in MCPS Land?" published in *The Sentinel* (February 19, 2008). The article highlights the report by the County's Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO), "Defining and Describing Progress in Closing the Achievement Gap." The report found that, in contrast to the rosier picture depicted by the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), there has been mixed progress in closing the gap between White and Asian students on the one hand and Black and Latino students on the other hand. Sandy Vogelgesang flagged questions raised at the County Council Education Committee, February 19 – particularly regarding lack of transparency in MCPS request for transfer of CIP funds. Most notable: 35 percent increase (\$6.1 million) in cost of Bells Mill Elementary School modernization since contract was put out for bid in October 2007.

**Public Safety Committee.** Wayne Goldstein said that there is nothing new to report.

**Planning and Land Use (PLU) Committee.** Jim Humphrey, Chair, reported on the following:

- Provision in Bill 36-07 would amend definition of "infrastructure improvement" in Chapter 14 of the County Code that currently excludes "any improvement which is the responsibility of a single developer under the Planning Board's site plan and adequate public facilities requirements." The Committee agreed that Jim will send a letter on behalf of the Federation opposing the proposed amendment and making clear that developers should pay for infrastructure improvements as required by Planning Board approvals.
- County Council resolution remanded re-zoning for the Arlington Road Post Office in Bethesda. The Committee agreed that the Federation applauds the resolution indicating that re-zoning does not conform to the Bethesda Master Plan and that great deference is owed the master plan in the Planned Development Zone.
- County housing study. The study, originally intended to focus on affordable housing, has evolved into a broader study of the housing section of the County's Central Plan. Jim noted March 13 PHED Committee work session on MPDU issues and planned April release of recommendations from County Executive's Affordable Housing Task Force.

- Changes at Department of Park and Planning. Jim reported on several changes of key personnel, including the appointment of John Carter to serve as Coordinator of the Silver Place Project and Glenn Kreger to replace Carter as head of community-based planning.
- Sandy Spring Farm Road. Wayne reported that he had attended a recent meeting on this subject. The Committee agreed that Jim would send a letter to County Executive Leggett, thanking him and his staff, on behalf of the Federation, for convening the meeting and helping to assure a fair outcome.
- Silver Spring Music Hall. Audrey Schaefer reported on the perspective of the 9:30 Club, one of the firms interested in the music hall project. The County Council must decide whether to help finance the renovation of the old J.C. Penney building on Colesville Road into a music venue. According to some press reports and the presentation by Ms. Schaefer, some questions about process have surfaced since the County Executive signed a lease with Live Nation.

#### **Legislation/Committee for Montgomery (CFM).**

Dan Wilhelm, Chair, said that he had nothing new to report. Peggy Dennis reminded the Committee of the bill on campaign finance reform pending in the Maryland General Assembly. Peggy noted the objectionable language inserted into the public financing bill (requiring a \$1 billion increase in revenues). The Committee agreed that the Federation will oppose that language via letter or testimony prepared by Peggy. Jim Humphrey flagged two Planning Board bills pending in Annapolis, HB 931 and HB 936. The Committee agreed that Jim will send a letter or testify on both. The Federation supports HB 931 which would grant authority for the Board to appoint a hearing examiner. The Federation opposes HB 936, which would allow a Planning Board member who has served two consecutive four-year terms as a Commissioner to be appointed to an additional two four-year terms as Planning Board Chair.

**Transportation Committee.** Peggy provided an update on the County's orphan roads program.

**Public Relations Committee.** Action is underway to find assistance on the Federation's website. Sandy Vogelgesang will continue sending notices of Federation monthly meetings to the *Gazette*, *Almanac* and *Washington Post*.

**Public Finance and Utilities.** Marvin Weinman, Chair, presented a written summary of data on the County Operating Budget which the Montgomery County Taxpayers League plans to present to the County Executive on February 21. The data show the huge deficit facing the County, starting with \$400 million in FY 2009 and increasing to almost five billion in FY 2014. According to the League, "The six-year gap is 122% greater than the

FY 08 total use [operating] budget.” The County operating budget is to be presented on March 15, 2008. A public hearing is scheduled for April 10. The Federation’s annual budget meeting will be held on April 14. Wayne reported that he will send a copy of his testimony on behalf of the Federation regarding WSSC rate changes to the County Council.

**Bylaws Committee.** Luella Mast, Committee Chair, reported on the revisions proposed by the Committee. They were approved unanimously, for printing in the March newsletter and vote by the membership in April.

**Membership Committee:** Peggy Dennis, Chair, said there is nothing new to report.

**Program Committee.** Arnold Gordon, Chair, reported on plans for upcoming meetings:

- **March:** Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service. Fire Chief Thomas W. Carr, Jr. will speak.
- **April 2008:** County budget. Arnold will follow up with Chuck Lapinski on program speakers and details and will report back to the Executive Committee.
- **May 2008:** County judicial system. Peggy has arranged for Judge (Retired) Beard to speak on the County’s judiciary.

**Newsletter Assignments:** Peggy Dennis, Editor, noted assignments for the March 2008 issue of the *Civic Federation News*.

**Awards and Nominations Committees.** Peggy Dennis, chair of the Awards Committee, distributed list of nominees and requested feedback and additional nominations for consideration at the next Executive Committee meeting. She also reported on new prices for the annual Awards Banquet. Sandy Vogelgesang, chair of the Nominations Committee, reported that the Committee had met and begun to identify possible candidates. In response to Dan Wilhelm’s suggestion, the Committee agreed that more nominations will be sought both for elected positions as well as for chairmanship and members on Federation Standing Committees.

#### **New Business.**

- The Executive Committee agreed to accord Honorary Federation Membership for ten years to the Kapiloffs, publishers of *The Sentinel*. (Vote: 5 for, 2 opposed, 1 abstention).
- Luella Mast requested agreement on where to hold Executive Committee meetings for the rest of Spring 2008. The Committee agreed to meet as follows: March (Julius West MS), April (Sandy Vogelgesang’s home), and May (Arnold Gordon’s home).
- The Committee concluded new business by addressing the presentation made earlier in the evening (noted above under PLU Committee

report). In light of the issues highlighted by that presentation and similar issues raised by other projects, the Committee voted unanimously to send a letter to the County Executive expressing Federation concern about the process used by the County to commit public funds to build private-sector projects in the sports, cultural and entertainment fields. The Executive Committee, while not taking a position on any particular project, underscored the need to take into account the concerns and interests of the most affected communities and civic associations and the need to assure maximal transparency in expenditure of public funds

**Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

### **Federation Meeting**

Monday, March 10

7:45 1st Floor Auditorium

County Council Office Building.

100 Maryland Avenue

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: County Fire & Rescue Services

9:20 Bylaws Amendments

9:30 Committee Reports

9:45 Member Issues

9:50 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, March 22**. 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, March 19, 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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