



Civic Federation News

September 2008

Serving the Public Interest since 1925

Official Publication of
the Montgomery
County Civic Federation
Session 799
www.montgomerycivic.org

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September Community Hero: Neal Potter

March 22, 1915 – May 27, 2008

Anyone who was away in late May or early June may be forgiven for failing to notice the passing of one of Montgomery County's true heroes: Neal Potter. The Civic Federation has a long-standing tradition of not honoring our elected officials, no matter how well they are doing the job that we elected them to do. But Neal Potter was an exception. In 1990, the Civic Federation presented Neal Potter with our first ever "Special Citation for Distinguished Public Service." Jon Gerson's remarks will help us remember why we both loved and respected this remarkable man and why he will be so missed by so many.



Remarks at Neal Potter's Memorial Service, June 10, 2008

By Jon Gerson, Uniserv Director

If one is fortunate in life, they have individuals who offer them a role model, someone who provides solid structure and guidance about how one should proceed in life. As a young student interested in local government, I was incredibly fortunate to have had Neal Potter as a role model. His integrity, lack of ego and thought process were genuinely unequaled. As a high school intern

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September Program: Demystifying the County's Labor Contract Negotiations

By Marvin Weinman, Public Finance Chairman

Total compensation for county employees and retirees represents over 80 % of Montgomery County's tax supported budget - approximately 3.5 billion dollars. The contract negotiations between the Office of Human Resources and county labor organizations are governed by a set of complex bargaining agreements that are unknown to the general public and understood by few county officials.

The goal of our program on September 8 is to help us understand the collective bargaining and negotiation process so we may be better able to take part in the Council's review and approval of future contracts. Members of our panel will include Joseph Adler, Director of Human Resources, Sarah Miller, the lead county labor negotiator, and Michael Faden, Senior Council Legislative Attorney. The questions posed will focus on explaining the complex process that is currently in place. One might ask why the current process allows for a number of issues that appear to restrict reasonable county negotiation options. The answer is that they are allowable under the terms of the bargaining agreement approved by our elected officials over many years of bargaining agreement negotiations. Is it time to re-negotiate these terms, and if so, how can it be done?

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Neal Potter *continued*

working in his office, a Legislative Aide during college and later, as Director of Economic Development in his administration, he instilled in me a sense of what “Service to One’s Community” really meant.

And in many respects, he served as a role model for our community as well. Today, Montgomery County is a wonderful place in which to work and live and so many of the reasons can be traced to Neal’s work on the Council and his leadership as Executive. He stood against political bossism and back-room deal-making, while standing for fair taxation and sound planning. As Neal once told me “it’s not how fast you grow, it’s how well you grow.” The fact that nearly 1/3 of Montgomery County’s 314,000 acres is preserved forever as green space is testimony to his vision for our future as well as his courage in making it happen. While some marginalized his term as County Executive, it was Neal’s fiscal knowledge, combined with his ability to make difficult choices without fear of political reprisal that resulted in Montgomery County being one of only nine jurisdictions in the Country to retain its AAA bond rating during the recession of the early nineties. Neal had his own sense of the truth and he never allowed it to be compromised by political correctness.

There was always integrity in his motives and lack of ego in his style. Some of my fondest memories of Neal include one occasion during the final days of the 1990 County Executive’s Primary race when he came into the headquarters carrying a large bundle of his campaign lawn signs; when we asked about them, Neal explained he had been driving around the County, removing those of his signs which had been placed illegally on median strips. For Neal, integrity was never negotiable.

On another occasion, when he was serving as County Executive, Neal and I were riding the Metro down to the Council of Governments in Washington when I noticed a man seated across the aisle staring at Neal. When the train approached the stop before ours, the man got up and mumbled “You do a good job, Mr. Potter” as he quickly headed out of the door. Neal was taken aback and asked “How did he know who I was?” I was thinking perhaps it was because his picture had been on the front page of the Washington Post that morning. For Neal, who was a very public figure, there was no sense of his own importance or entitlement.

Finally, on another occasion, I accompanied Neal to a regional Civil Rights conference, which was being held in Rockville, featuring James Farmer as the keynote speaker. Seizing on my self-appointed role as Neal’s advance man, I proceeded to introduce him to Dr. Farmer, who stopped me mid-way through my first sentence, placed his hand on my wrist and said, “Young man, you do not need to introduce me to Neal Potter. Back in the 60’s when few other white men stood with us, Neal Potter was there.” For Neal, advocating for those who lacked a voice,

regardless of whether they would ever vote for him, was not negotiable.

Always civil in tone, calm and focused in demeanor, deliberate in speech and void of ego, Neal’s service as a role model for a student interested in government as well as an entire community was unparalleled. First elected to public office at the age of 55, he never positioned for the next election, yet served successfully for the next twenty-eight years on the Council and as Executive.

Today’s service reminds us of the importance of the way in which we treat each other, maximizing each day to its fullest and producing more than we consume during our time in this world. Neal Potter was an extraordinary individual, and our community, as well as our lives, are better for his having been a part of them.

September Program *continued*

During the Council’s contract approval process there were numerous county employees and union leaders testifying in favor of the new contracts but no members of the public or representatives speaking on behalf of taxpayers. When the future financial stability of the county becomes an issue, informed citizens and taxpayers deserve the right to address the Council. A significant audience at the presentation would be a major factor in getting the attention of our elected officials. Hope to see you on September 8th.

October 13 Regular Meeting Program

On November 4, Montgomery County voters will be asked to vote on two state-wide ballot issues and three local issues. The two statewide ballot questions are constitutional amendments, one on the Elective Franchise - early voting and polling places and one on Video Lottery Terminals - authorization and limitations. Of the three local questions, two are charter amendments, to repeal legally ineffective provisions of certain sections of the County Charter and to amend the County Charter to change the number of Councilmember votes needed to override the annual limit on property tax revenue. The third is a referendum on the Gender Identify Discrimination laws recently enacted by the County Council. Our October program will be a non-biased pro and con explanation of these five questions. We hope you and others in your association will join us.

Resolution on Ambulance Fee

At the April 14, 2008 Regular Meeting, the MCCF voted (20-0-2) to oppose the Executive's creating a new Emergency Medical Service Transport Fee (EMSTF) or "Ambulance" fee. At the request of County Executive Ike Leggett, we will take another look at this issue, this time with the opportunity for both sides to weigh in on all aspects and arguments of the matter. We will vote at the September regular meeting on the following resolution:

"Resolved, that previous resolutions of the MCCF notwithstanding, the MCCF supports the imposition of ambulance fees in accord with the County Executive's present proposals."

In Support of the Proposed Ambulance Fee By Arnie Gordon, President

1. Why is an Ambulance Fee necessary? As the County has grown, the demand for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) has also grown especially in the up-county areas. To respond to these increased demands, improve response time, and enhance firefighter/rescuer safety, several enhancements have been begun. These will necessitate more resources. These initiatives include:

- Implementing four person staffing
- Opening four new stations up-county
- Implementing an apparatus management plan that will replace, upgrade, and modernize apparatus, and provide additional maintenance staff, supplies, and maintenance facilities
- Implementing the state mandated Electronic Patient Care Reporting (e-PCR) System. On December 31, 2008, the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services systems will discontinue paper reporting. Currently MCFRS utilizes this method. MCFRS must quickly implement, on a fast track, an e-PCR program
- Expanding the number of officers consistent with supervisory and work hour requirements, which will result in a reduction in overtime.
- Supporting Local and Rescue Departments by funding on-going station maintenance and other needs.

100% of the net proceeds from the Ambulance Fee will go to strengthen and enhance the MCFRS. By law, the fees will be dedicated to that purpose and cannot be used for anything else.

2. No additional staff will be hired to implement this fee. The county intends to competitively contract the administration of the program (i.e. billing carriers) at a maximum of 5% of the fees collected. (This is the same percentage paid by some neighboring jurisdictions and less than most of them). Local FRS departments will deliver services as at present, the only difference being the entry of a code into the Electronic Reporting System to enable the contractor to process insurance company payments.

3. As proposed by the Executive, the Ambulance Fee will be billed to health insurance providers with information collected on insurers usually by the hospital for each person transported by ambulance to a hospital. For those not transported by ambulance, there will be no ambulance fee. Unlike previous proposals, those without health insurance will not be billed, and residents will not be billed for co-pays or deductibles. No resident will be charged for ambulance service whether or not he has insurance, or whether or not his insurance

In Opposition to the New Ambulance Fee by Jim Humphrey

1. Why is an Ambulance Fee unnecessary? Claims regarding Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service (MCFRS) budget needs are suspect. According to the County Executive's budget, revenue from the Fire Tax, fire code permits, and Federal/State grants in FY2009 will exceed fire/rescue operating expenses by \$12 million (assuming no ambulance fee). The County needs to examine its spending practices to insure efficiency in all areas, including within the MCFRS, before it creates a user fee for this essential public health service. The County's Inspector General has targeted the MCFRS for fiscal scrutiny, looking at both excessive overtime and the possibility of fraud and abuse.

2. Billing and collection functions would be contracted to a third party that specializes in EMS billing at a cost of around 5% of proceeds from the fees. And, 6 new DRFS employee positions would need to be created and funded to implement the program, bringing total overhead costs to 13 to 14% of revenue. Also, billing requires the filing of detailed reports by EMS staff as to care provided on each 911 call response. This will place an added training and workload burden on both volunteer and professional responders who are dedicated to serving our emergency medical needs, not to filling out paperwork.

3. The County Executive's position is that private health insurance companies, Medicare or Medicaid will cover the proposed medical transport fees, without increasing premiums to policy holders, and that those without health insurance coverage will not be billed. But the Federal Employees Health Association states they would deny claims from a Montgomery County ambulance fee because they do not cover supplies or services provided for which no charge is made if the covered individual has no health insurance. Other insurance programs contain similar exclusions.

covers this service in full or in part. The county will accept whatever payment is forthcoming from a health insurance company as “payment in full” for a county resident. *[Editor’s note: At the recent Council hearing there was considerable discussion as to how non-residents would be billed, how residents without health insurance would be billed but permitted to apply for a waiver of the fee in cases of financial hardship, etc.]*

4. Will this measure cause health insurance premiums to rise? The best answers to this are that: A- No documented evidence of this exists; B- Most carriers are already charging for this in their rates; C- Ambulance expenditures account for far less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a single percent of insurance expenditures in this country; D- Ambulance fees are typically in the hundreds of dollars and other medical expenses are typically in the thousands or tens of thousands. E- Since most insurance companies determine rates on a regional basis – and most jurisdictions in the region already bill insurance carriers for this service, we in Montgomery County are already paying for this service. F -there appears to be no good reason why we should not bill a non-resident of the county for this service when his home county would.

5. In communities that have implemented this fee there is no evidence that recruitment of new EMS volunteers has fallen off because of the fee.

6. In communities that have implemented this fee, there has been no evidence that fundraising by volunteer Fire & Rescue Services will drop when an ambulance fee is imposed.

7. In communities that have implemented this fee there has been no evidence that it deters anyone from calling for help.

8. The 200 city survey in the 2006 Journal of Emergency Services reported that across the U.S. an average of 61% of EMS system funding comes from user fees.

9. The rates to be charged are set below the average charges shown in the 200 City Survey cited above by about 23% on average.. We should also remember that the single biggest payer for these services is Medicare. Medicare has no discretion to deny any such legitimate claims. Health insurance companies are required by law to pay for covered services, which include ambulance services. Any question about any Medicare or insurance company payment would be handled by the contractor mentioned above and would not involve the covered individual.

This county is in a serious budgetary situation. We must do all in our power to limit government expenditures to those vital to our quality of life, and, as well, to increase revenues. The Executive’s initiative follows the current practice in all surrounding jurisdictions, i.e. to impose a fee for transporting persons to a hospital. At present ALL surrounding jurisdictions do just that. We do not, and are leaving approximately \$14,000,000 “on the table”. This is money which will not come from the pockets of our taxpayers but from health insurance providers who are already charging us (including all Montgomery County residents who have health insurance) for this service in their premium rate structure.

It ill suits us not to give this proposal every possible consideration. Citizens are too often quick to ask for more expenditures and more services. We are seldom as speedy in presenting proposals for greater thrift. The opinion of the writer (your President) is that the MCCF should reverse its position and support the County Executive’s initiative. In my humble opinion it is the necessary and responsible thing to do.

The claim that residents and those who work for employers in the county will not be billed for deductibles is meaningless since most private companies do not provide benefits until the annual deductible is met, which means individuals **must** pay the county the amount of any deductible required under their plan. Also, deductible and co-pays would be billed directly to all others needing ambulance service--friends or family here to see county residents or patients at NIH or Bethesda Naval Medical Center, and visiting scientists here for conferences or to network with Federal or private colleagues.

4. We are told that those covered by private health insurance plans will not see an increase in premiums because most companies determine rates on a regional basis, and most jurisdictions in the area already bill companies for this charge. It is claimed that "County residents may already be paying for ambulance service as a part of their premiums." Can we really believe if the insurance industry is faced with an added \$12 to 14 million a year for ambulance fees that premiums will not increase? And under the proposed plan, the Fire Chief **must** increase fees annually to adjust for inflation. Even if premiums do not go up right away, they would likely increase in the near future.

5. Many of our communities are served by professionally trained volunteer fire/rescue personnel. It would be wrong to charge for services they enthusiastically provide for free and discourage new volunteers from taking on this civic duty.

6. There is also a concern that fundraising by volunteer Fire & Rescue Services will shrink if an ambulance fee is imposed.

7. The concern has been raised that this fee will deter people, especially those without health insurance, the elderly and the poor, from calling 911 for ambulance service.

Groups opposing the ambulance fee include the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire-Rescue Association, the Western Montgomery County Citizens' Advisory Board, and the Montgomery County League of Women Voters. At our April 2008 meeting, MCCF delegates unanimously (with 2 abstentions) approved a motion to oppose imposition of an ambulance fee as proposed by the County Executive in the FY09 budget. I urge delegates to reject any call to reconsider that position.

Time For You To Speak Up!

By Marvin Weinman, Public Finance Chair

Bigger budget deficits, higher taxes and new challenges are making more and more residents of Montgomery County think twice!

- Can you afford to live here as your costs, including property taxes, skyrocket?
- Is it really possible to maintain the County's renowned quality of life while battling traffic gridlock and other signs of growing urbanization?
- With the tough budget choices facing the County, how can you hold your elected officials accountable and make sure that your tax dollars are well spent?

BUDGET FACTS: Current and projected fiscal realities underscore the urgency of the decisions facing Montgomery County:

- The initial FY 2009 County budget shortfall has already led to spending cuts and increased property taxes. The FY 2008 budget projected a 3.0% property tax increase for FY 2009 but it turned out the projected property tax increase is 12.8%.
- The projected revenue gap for the next budget cycle (FY 2010-2014) is \$2.64 billion.
- Almost half of the budget is for the Montgomery County Public Schools.
- 80.4% of the tax-supported budget, a \$190.9 million increase, goes for salary/ compensation and retirement benefits for County employees – criticized by some for being more generous than many in Federal Government and private sector.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Proposals for closing the budget gap without tax increases and cuts in services range from re-negotiating contracts with County employee unions, to limiting property taxes based on the County Charter limit -- as well as taking more drastic measures.

You can help your elected officials take constructive action by completing the attached Taxpayer Survey! Use this one-page survey (see reverse) to highlight your general concerns about spending, taxes and policy questions and indicate your specific priorities. The non-partisan Montgomery County Taxpayer League (MCTL) and Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF; www.montgomerycivic.org) will provide the results to your elected representatives and publicize the data via their websites, newsletters and in the press.

ACT TODAY! Mail your TAXPAYER SURVEY (overleaf) to MCTL P.O. Box 826 Rockville, MD 20848-0826 or email it to djwilhelm@verizon.net before November 8, 2008.

Announcements

Housing Affordability Report Online

At the June 9 MCCF meeting, the Planning and Land Use Committee released a report containing recommendations related to housing affordability, which delegates will be asked to consider adopting later this fall. The report is available on the Federation website, at http://www.montgomerycivic.org/committees/housing/2008_Housing_Affordability_Report.pdf.

Sentinel's "Civic Federation Corner"--An Opportunity to Have Your Say

MCCF member associations are encouraged to subscribe to the Montgomery County Sentinel newspaper. The Sentinel graciously gives MCCF the space for an 800 to 1000 word article or opinion piece each week in the "Federation Corner". If there's an issue your community would like to bring into the public eye or a grievance you wish to air, this is a great opportunity to do so. Our member organizations are encouraged to submit their

own pieces for publication in the "Federation Corner" as an email attachment to: waynengoldstein@hotmail.com

Awards Committee

It's not too early to begin thinking about our May 15, 2009 Awards Banquet and individuals and groups worthy of nomination for our awards. This is usually a pleasant task requiring little more than following our local news and media, keeping an ear to the ground to learn about local folks doing wonderful things, and meeting in the early spring to make final recommendations. Individuals interested in serving on the Awards Committee should make their interest known to President Arnie Gordon at 301-570-0481 or nmcaprexy@aol.com.

Jeffrey Slavin to Chair Public Safety Committee

At the September meeting, President Arnie Gordon will ask the delegates to confirm his appointment of Jeffrey Slavin as our new Chairman of the Public Safety Committee. *More Announcements next page*

TAXPAYER SURVEY FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY RESIDENTS

Check whether you think your elected County officials should (1) cut spending, (2) change taxes, and/or (3) address broader policy questions. For each of the three categories indicate a maximum of two specific priorities:

1. **Cut spending? If so, what?**

- a. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)
- b. Labor contracts
- c. Grants
- d. Supplemental appropriations
- e. Capital improvement cost overruns
- f. Other – Specify: _____

2. **Change taxes? If so, how?**

- a. Cut property tax rates for everyone
- b. Reduce property tax for low income citizens
- c. Curb property tax rises to less than the present 10% cap
- d. Reduce other taxes/fees - Specify: _____
- e. Raise property taxes to fund additional services -Specify
- f. Increase developer's infrastructure contributions
- g. Other – Specify: _____

3. **Address broader policy questions? If so, which ones?**

- a. Provide more budget accountability (such as increased use of recently introduced County/Stat mechanism for tracking budget compliance)
- b. Ensure more public input into policy process (such as more time to testify at County hearings and Committee sessions)
- c. Increase focus on impact of growing urbanization (such as development density, need for more mass transit, etc.)

Comments:

Please provide your ZIP Code _____

Name/Contact (Optional): _____

Announcements (continued)

Montgomery County Civic Federation 2008-2009 Calendar

Please mark these dates in your calendar now.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS are held the 2nd Monday of each month, September - June, 7:45 - 10:00 PM in the 1st Floor Auditorium, Werner Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville. Free evening parking in the adjacent garage.

September 8	February 9
October 13	March 9
November 10	April 13
December 8	May 11
January 12, 2009	June 8

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS are held the 2nd Wednesday after the regular meeting, 7:45 - 10:15 PM at various Executive Committee member's homes

Check the back page of the Newsletter for the location of the coming month's Executive Committee meeting.

September 17	February 18
October 22	March 18
November 19	April 22
December 17	May 20
January 21, 2009	June 17

MCCF ANNUAL AWARDS RECEPTION AND BANQUET Friday, May 15, 2009, 6:00 - 9:30 PM at New Fortune Restaurant, 16515 Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, in the Walnut Hill Shopping Center.

SUMMER POTLUCK July 2009 (date TBA)

Time to Renew Your MCCF Membership

It's that time of year! The list below shows the organizations and individuals **that have renewed** their membership as of August 22 for 2008-2009. If you don't see your name, we haven't gotten your membership renewal.

Please cut off the Membership Renewal form on page 15 or print out a copy if you receive the Newsletter electronically. Delegates, please work with your organization's leadership to fill in the contact information, then get the form to your treasurer so he/she can mail it to Bill Schrader with the dues check. And Associate Members, we want you too to renew and stick with us.

Allanwood-Gayfields-Willson Hills-Gaywood Estates
Citizens Coordinating Committee of Friendship Heights
Chevy Chase West Neighborhood Association
Congressional Forest Community Association
Flemming Park Community Association
Grosvenor Park Condominium Citizens Association
Hillmead Citizens Association
Kensington Heights Citizens Association
Kentlands Citizens Assembly
Layhill South Citizens Association
Layhill View Section Two Homeowners Association
Maplewood Citizens Association, Inc.
Montgomery County Taxpayers League
Norbeck Meadows Civic Association
Northwood – Four Corners Civic Association
Potomac Towne Homeowners Association
Riverhill Homeowners Association
Rock Creek Palisades Citizens Association
Seven Oaks Evanswood Citizens Association
Snowdens Mill Homeowners Association
Strathmore-Bel Pre Civic Association
Town of Somerset
West Bradley Citizens Association
West Montgomery County Citizens Association
Wheaton Regional Park Neighborhood Association
Wildwood Manor Citizens Association

Associate Members

Donna Barron
Cynthia Fain
Norman Knopf
Caren & Eric Madsen
Robert E. Redding
Andy Reed
Stan Schiff
S.J. Weiss

Minutes of the June 9, 2008

Regular Meeting – By Sandy Vogelgesang, Acting Recording Secretary

The 798th regular Monthly Meeting of the Civic Federation was called to order by President Wayne Goldstein at 7:45 PM.

Announcements: Peggy Dennis reminded all to send in membership renewal forms and dues for the new year starting July 1. Jim Humphrey noted that the May meeting of the County Forest Conservation Advisory Committee has been re-scheduled for June 24.

Agenda: President Goldstein called for adoption of the agenda, including three emergency resolutions. The agenda, as amended, was approved unanimously.

Awards: President Goldstein presented the following awards:

- Community Hero Award to Dick Kauffunger, former MCCF president. For achieving the precedent-setting decision by the County Council regarding Planning Board use of traffic analysis for new developments.
- Community Hero Award to Al Geske, former president of Rock Creek Palisades Citizens' Association, Pat Price, and Faye Nabavian, current RCPCA president. For winning County Council approval for a zoning text amendment which waives the permit fee for non-profit neighborhood and homeowner associations wanting to install signs at the entrances to their communities.
- Certificate of Appreciation to Luella Mast, outgoing MCCF Treasurer. For both her outstanding work as Treasurer and the wide range of her other longstanding work on behalf of the Federation.

Approval of Minutes for May 12 Regular Meeting: Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Luella Mast distributed copies of the latest report and updated members on proceeds from the Annual Awards Banquet. *(Continued on p 9)*

Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc. Proposed FY 2009 Budget

	FY 08 Budget	FY 08 Actual	FY 09 Budget
Income			
Membership dues	\$3,740.00	\$3,330.00	\$3,500.00
Local Associations	3,300.00	2,820.00	2,900.00
Umbrella Associations	-0-	-0-	110.00
Regional/County-wide Assn	90.00	135.00	135.00
Individual Associates	350.00	375.00	355.00
Associate Groups	-0-	-0-	-0-
Donations	70.00	60.00	50.00
Awards Dinner	2,300.00	2,745.00	2,500.00
Miscellaneous	25.00	54.50	25.00
In-kind (non-cash) Contributions	200.00	1,090.22	\$750*
Total income	\$6,335.00	\$7,279.72	\$6,075.00
Expenses			
Member Communications	\$2,475.00	\$2,367.79	\$2,250.00
Newsletter Printing	\$1,700.00	\$1,219.54	\$1,650.00
Newsletter Mailing	\$600.00	\$488.25	\$600.00
Website	\$175.00	\$660.00	-0-
Civic and Social Betterment	\$3,135.00	\$3,549.20	\$3,400.00
Federation Meetings	\$750.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Awards Dinner	\$2,300.00	\$2,625.31	\$2,500.00
Community Information			
Forums	-0-	-0-	\$90.00
Federation Memberships	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
Training	\$25.00	\$113.89	-0-
Organizational Support	\$700.00	\$593.17	\$400.00
Officers	\$75.00	\$60.00	\$200.00
Committees	\$625.00	\$533.17	\$200.00
Miscellaneous	\$25.00	\$35.00	\$25.00
In-kind (non-cash) Expenses	-0-	-0-	\$750*
Total expenses	\$6,335.00	\$6,545.16	\$6,075.00

* Amounts are not included in cash totals for FY2009.

Bank account balance a/o July 1, 2008: \$9848.79. Gain in account balance vs. that on July 1, 2007: +\$734.56

Respectfully submitted,

William H. Schrader
Treasurer

MCCF By-Laws, Article XVII. Financial Management, Section I. Annual Budget. An operating budget for the Membership Year shall be adopted to plan and manage the Federation's fiscal affairs. A proposed budget shall be prepared by the Treasurer and submitted to the Executive Committee for approval in August. The budget as approved shall be printed in the September Newsletter and included in the September Agenda for action by the Membership. The budget shall include all planned and expected expenditures and revenues. Federation officials shall assist the Treasurer as requested in developing the budget.

June 9 Minutes (continued)

Election of New Officers: President Goldstein introduced the candidates presented by the Nominating Committee for the 2008-2009 MCCF year. The following slate was elected unanimously: President – Arnold Gordon; First Vice President – Peggy Dennis; Second Vice President – Sandy Vogelgesang; District 16 Vice President – Lee Shipman; District 17 Vice President – Virginia Sheard; District 18 Vice President – Richard Zierdt; and District 20 Vice President – Dan Wallace; Recording Secretary (ExComm Meetings) – Luella Mast; and Treasurer – Bill Schrader.

Statement by New President: Arnold Gordon outlined his priorities for the coming year as follows:

- Increased service to Federation members
- More focus on broader County issues
- Bridges to other civic organizations
- More attention to increasing County urbanization (including expanded outreach to apartment residents)
- Greater outreach to attract more diversified and younger membership

Program: Allison Fultz, current Chair of the Board of Appeals, and Donna Barron, former Vice Chair, presented the main program on the Board of Appeals, the five-member body of Montgomery County citizens appointed by the County Council to exercise quasi-judicial powers authorized in the County Zoning Ordinance to decide and administer certain categories of land use cases involving individualized requests. They highlighted the three kinds of cases heard (variances, special exceptions and administrative appeals) and answered questions.

Bylaw Amendments: Luella Mast presented for discussion and approval the amendments introduced in the May 2008 Civic Federation News. The body approved unanimously both the proposed amendments and the bylaws as amended, effective June 9, 2008.

Resolutions: Wayne Goldstein introduced for discussion and decision the following items:

- Hillmead Park: Members approved the resolution approved by a majority of the Executive Committee and published in the June 2008 Civic Federation News to allow demolition of the house on the recently acquired addition to Hillmead Neighborhood Park. The vote (25 for, 1 opposed, 2 abstaining).
- Development at Bethesda Metro Center: After presentations by concerned parties, delegates voted on the following motion: “That the Regular Meeting of the MCCF support the position of the Executive Committee to oppose the proposal for redevelopment of 4 Metro Center in Bethesda, replacing a low-rise food court building with a 16-story office building, as it violates the Bethesda

Sector Plan”. The Resolution was approved (18 for, 0 opposed, 8 abstaining). [NOTE: Al Geske was not physically present during consideration of this matter and took no part in (1) the discussion of adding this matter to the agenda or (2) the discussion or vote on the matter.]

- Library parking fees. County Councilmember Phil Andrews addressed Delegates and requested MCCF support for a proposal to continue the existing County policy not to charge fees for parking at County libraries. The Resolution was approved (26 for, 1 opposed, 1 abstaining).
- Two Expedited Bills: Wayne Goldstein introduced two bills for Federation consideration. Delegates supported the position taken by the County Council Staff Director regarding Bill 6-08 opposing increased union membership on the Board of Investment Trustees. They approved the following Motion: “MCCF opposes Expedited Bill 6-08 on the composition of the Board of Investment Trustees.” The vote: 28 for, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining. Delegates also approved the following Motion: “MCCF opposes Bill 11-08 regarding the Guaranteed Retirement Income Plan.” The vote: 28 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Planning and Land Use Committee. Jim Humphrey, chair, distributed copies of the Committee’s “Housing Affordability Report”, outlining options for action by the County Government. He asked Delegates to review the report and prepare for next steps this fall.

Old Business: Delegates raised the issue of ambulance fees for Executive Committee review and Arnold Gordon reminded Delegates of the election, June 17, for Congressional District 4.

New Business: Dan Wilhelm requested approval of the committee chairs noted by incoming Federation President Arnold Gordon in the June 2008 Civic Federation News. The vote: 22 for, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining.

Conclusion: Wayne Goldstein presided over the passing of the gavels to new Federation President Arnold Gordon before the meeting adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Minutes of the June 16 Executive Committee Meeting, Luella Mast, Executive Committee Secretary

Opening and Attendance: President Arnie Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm at Sandy Vogelgesang’s home. Present: President Arnie Gordon, Peggy Dennis, Wayne Goldstein, Jim Humphrey, Chuck Lapinski, Luella Mast, Bill Schrader, Virginia Sheard, Lee Shipman, Marvin Weinman, Dan Wallace, Dan Wilhelm, Charles Wolff, and Sandy Vogelgesang,

Approval of the Agenda: President Gordon suggested the Executive Committee dispense with the approval of the minutes and the treasurer's report. Ms. Dennis moved that the approval of the May minutes and the June treasurer's report be on the agenda for the July Executive Committee meeting. The motion was seconded and approved: 7 yes; 2 no; 3 abstain.

Reconsideration of MCCF Position on Ambulance

Fees: Mr. Gordon has been contacted by County Executive's office asking MCCF to support a fee for ambulance service. Mr. Gordon distributed information provided by the County Executive in support of the proposal. Several Executive Committee members opposed placing the topic on the meeting agenda. Ms. Mast moved that the President and Executive Committee discuss the issue with the understanding that, since the Federation membership voted to oppose a fee for ambulance service at the May regular meeting, there could be no change in MCCF position without the full membership discussing and voting again at a regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dennis and passed: 9 yes, 3 no.

After discussion, Mr. Wilhelm moved, seconded by Ms. Dennis, that MCCF wait until the September regular meeting to re-address this subject, that the September newsletter include articles in support and opposed to the proposal and that said articles be posted on our web site. Discussion clarified that the motion does not include posting of the County Executive's literature on our web site. Additional discussion followed. Mr. Wolff moved that debate be closed. The motion failed: 6 yes, 6 no. After additional discussion, a vote was taken on Mr. Wilhelm's motion: 9, yes; 3, no. Motion carried.

Committee for Montgomery: Mr. Gordon reported that Mr. Wilhelm will continue to represent MCCF on the Committee for Montgomery. Mr. Wilhelm will send information on Committee for Montgomery meetings/events to members of the Executive Committee.

Workshops for MCCF Civic Association members:

Mr. Gordon met with Past President Dick Kauffinger on the need to provide training for local association members. They are proposing four Saturday programs, two in the fall and two in the spring at a facility to be determined. Possible topics: (1) Zoning (2) Special Exceptions (3) Director's Liability Coverage (4) Lobbying (5) Property Taxes.

Mr. Gordon asked if we needed to establish a training committee or a member education committee. After discussion, the Executive Committee informally decided that it was unnecessary to form such a committee.

Proposal: Periodic meetings with MCCF Civic Association presidents and MCCF President

Gordon: Mr. Gordon proposed that he meet regularly on some sort of formal basis with presidents of member associations. Following discussion the Executive

Committee determined that the "Community Comments" part of the regular meeting gives local presidents time to bring their issues to MCCF.

First Vice President's Report: Ms. Dennis reminded members that the July brainstorming pot luck will be at her home on Thursday, July 24 from 6 - 9:30 pm. The format for the meeting will be finalized at the July Executive Committee meeting on Wednesday, July 16.

Programs for the September, October and November MCCF Regular meetings:

September: Mr. Weinstein is organizing program to look at the County's Department of Human Resources and the processes used to negotiate contracts with county employee unions

October: The topic will be the questions on the November ballot. Mr. Wilhelm will determine if he is able to be the lead for the program.

November and December: Mr. Wilhelm suggested waiting to determine what issues emerge as "hot issues" at our July brainstorming meeting before finalizing program topics.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Mast asked members to provide in-kind contribution reports for inclusion in the FY 08 final financial report.

2008 and 2009 Awards Dinners: Income exceeded expenses for the 2008 dinner by about \$200. Ms. Shipman suggested the 2009 dinner be held later in May, perhaps May 15. She will also look into other restaurant choices.

Dues Increase: Ms. Dennis moved that dues be increased by \$10 at every membership level and that an additional \$10 charge per delegate be made for each individual who receives the newsletter by postal mail. The motion was seconded. Mr. Humphrey amended the motion: That the Standing Rules be changed to raise the dues by \$10 at each level and add an additional \$5.00 charge per delegate for newsletters received via postal mail. Clarifying the intent of the discussion, Mr. Gordon moved that MCCF increase dues by \$10 per dues category on July 1, 2009 and that the \$5.00 discount for electronic receipt of the newsletter remain as currently handled. Seconded by Mr. Wilhelm. The motion failed: 4 yes, 6 no, 2 abstain.

Second Vice President's Report: Ms. Vogelgesang will work on keeping our membership list current.

Public Finance Committee: Mr. Weinman reported on six employee personnel bills before the Council, two of which are significant. Bill 608 would increase the union membership on the Board of Investment Trustees by two members. The Montgomery County Taxpayers League is proposing a survey in hope of engaging the public in employment compensation issues. It could be given out at the MCCF July potluck with responses sent to a P.O. box.

Survey responses would be shared with the press. Ms. Vogelgesang will work with Mr. Weinman on the survey.

The guaranteed retirement investment program (GRIP) would require the county to make up the income difference in the employees' retirement investment fund account whenever investment returns dropped below 7-1/4%.

Councilmember Nancy Floreen will sponsor a public workshop on Thursday, June 19. Mr. Weinman will participate, representing the Montgomery County Taxpayers League, on the panel.

Public Utilities Committee: Mr. Lapinski reported that county water supplies are now OK to drink.

Planning and Land Use Committee: Mr. Humphrey reported that the Forest Conservation Law Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday, June 24 at 7:30 pm at Department of Environmental Protection's first floor auditorium in the building at 255 Rockville Pike. Membership on the committee is heavily slanted toward development interests. It is important for citizens to attend the meetings to demonstrate our support for those representing citizens. On July 5 starting at 6:30 pm the Department of Permitting Services Advisory Committee will meet to discuss DPS service delivery. Carol Placak has been fighting to get a stop work order on a house in her neighborhood. When the stop work order was appealed to the Circuit Court DPS lifted the order. Mr. Humphrey would like to send a letter to DPS in support of Ms. Placak. Mr. Wilhelm suggested adding wording to support a new law outlining the process for lifting stop work orders. We will also support having the County Attorney support Ms. Placak's Circuit Court appeal. Ms. Dennis moved that MCCF send the DPS a letter supporting Ms. Placak and include in it our support for a new legislation. The motion was seconded and passed, 13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

Education Committee: Mr. Goldstein has met with members of the Parents Coalition and also Phil Kaufman. He is looking for more members for the committee and wants to know what others on the Executive Committee see as issues of educational importance.

Sentinel Column: Mr. Goldstein will chair the Sentinel Column Committee. The column continues to be widely read. Mr. Gordon will review the articles prior to publication. Mr. Wilhelm has been working to broaden the source material for the column. He provided Mr. Goldstein with a Sierra Club article suitable for the column. Mr. Humphrey suggested the following be printed at the end of each article: "The views expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect formal positions taken by the MCCF. To submit a column, please send an email to: WayneMGoldstein@hotmail.com." Since much of the material in the column covers issues on which MCCF has never taken a position it is important that the disclaimer line appear in each column. Mr. Wilhelm

recommended that both Mr. Goldstein and Mr. Gordon have column oversight.

Legislation Committee: Mr. Wilhelm reported that the Committee for Montgomery will talk about issues for the next legislative session over the summer.

New Business--Proposal to use Teleconferencing for Executive Committee meetings: Mr. Wilhelm proposed that Executive Committee meetings be held over a teleconference link he can set up at his place of work. Ms. Shipman moved, seconded by Mr. Wilhelm, that the MCCF Executive Committee use teleconferencing for the July meeting. The motion was defeated: 6 yes, 7 no, 1 abstain.

New Business--ZTA 08-13: Mr. Humphrey reported on ZTA 08-13 which will modify the C-2 commercial zone. The maximum building height in the zone is three stories. The Folger-Pratt Development company wants to build an eight or nine story structure with residential over retail space on property across from Ourisman Ford adjacent to Montgomery Mall. Community members on the Montgomery Mall Citizens Advisory Panel are working on reorganizing the panel. Mr. Humphrey moved that MCCF oppose the attempt to rezone the property because we oppose spot zoning. The motion passed, 13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Minutes of the July 16 Executive Committee Meeting

By Acting Recording Secretary Sandy Vogelgesang

Call to Order. First Vice President Peggy Dennis, in the absence of President Arnold Gordon, called the meeting to at 7:45 PM. Present: Peggy Dennis, Wayne Goldstein, Dan Wilhelm, Jim Humphrey, Lee Shipman, William Schrader, Dan Wallace, Sandy Vogelgesang, Marvin Weinman, and Cary Lamari. Jeff Wolfe, husband of Sandy Vogelgesang, helped host the meeting. Peggy opened the meeting with a round of introductions for the benefit of new members of the Executive Committee.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes. The agenda was approved as amended to provide for discussion of historic preservation and transportation issues. Minutes of the May 2008 Executive Committee meeting were approved as printed in the *Federation News*. Approval of the June 2008 minutes was deferred until the August ExComm meeting.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Bill Schrader provided an update on membership renewal checks and the status of checking account options for MCCF funds.

Environment Committee. Wayne Goldstein and Jim Humphrey reported on a recently held meeting on

“sustainable communities,” which is part of overall consideration of County growth policy by the Park and Planning Board. They also noted the meeting on the Forest Conservation Law held on June 24, which is expected to lead to recommendations for Council action this fall. Wayne reported on work underway to seek a set of standards for five-year stormwater permit renewal.

Education Committee. Wayne Goldstein, Chair, reported that MCPS officials made a to the Fourth Annual State-of-the-Research Conference of the Achievement Gap Initiative (AGI) at Harvard University held in June 2008. The transcript of MCPS' presentation at this conference included the "cream of the crap" comment. Cary Lamari raised the question of School Board compliance with ethical guidelines precluding political use of Board positions.

Transportation Committee: Cary Lamari raised the matter of an interim project of the Inter-County Connector (ICC) in the Georgia Avenue-Norbeck Road area that raises concern about access for fire/rescue vehicles. The Executive Committee agreed that Cary and Dan Wilhelm would draft a letter on this matter (asking all relevant officials to look at the possible threat to fire and safety from the planned 18-month interim highway link and find a solution that addresses both short- and long-term concerns). The letter is to be sent to the State Highway Administration (SHA), the Maryland Department of Transportation, and County Department of Transportation, with a copy to County Executive Leggett. Dan Wilhelm raised the issue of parking spaces for more restaurants in the Colesville area. Dan will check with Senator Rona Kramer on a possible waiver from the parking requirements from Park and Planning or the Department of Permitting Services that might help the situation.

Planning and Land Use (PLU) Committee. Jim Humphrey, Chair, led discussion of the following:

- Sustainability indicators (environment, crime and safety, etc.) for the County growth policy, under Park and Planning consideration.
- Zoning text amendments (ZTAs). Jim noted several recent instances of the continuing tendency to use ZTAs to undercut County Master Plans, by leaving zoning in place on properties but changing building standards allowed by the zone.
- Housing. Jim warned it is likely that housing, particularly affordable housing, will continue to be used as justification to compromise zoning standards and undercut master plans. He reminded Executive Committee members to review the PLU Housing Affordability Report (dated June 9, 2008).

Historical Preservation Committee. Wayne Goldstein, Chair, reported that the non-profit

Montgomery College Foundation wants to build a for-profit mixed-use building on land that was purchased to be part of the Montgomery College Takoma Park-Silver Spring campus. In addition, he reported that the owner of the Falkland Apartments and affordable housing advocates are arguing to the Planning Board, as part of the historic designation process for the Falkland Apartments, that it is better for affordable housing to demolish these historic affordable garden apartments in exchange for more affordable apartments either in new high-rises on Falkland Apartments land, in existing Falkland Apartments buildings, or located five miles from Silver Spring. These claims have all been found to be factually inaccurate by those supporting historic designation for the Falkland Apartments, considered by some to be one of the most important historic resources in Montgomery County.

Legislation/Committee for Montgomery (CFM). Dan Wilhelm, Chair, noted the CFM summary of issues that will be addressed in the Fall 2008 election, including slots.

Public Finance Committee. Marvin Weinman, Chair, reported on latest developments on property taxes and provided copies of a draft taxpayer survey which could be used by the Federation, in collaboration with the County Taxpayer League, to elicit views from the public and help shape the final County budget. It was agreed that Executive Committee members would provide comments on the draft to Marvin, that completed surveys would be sought by November 1, and that Dan Wilhelm would help tabulate results for dissemination to the press and elected officials.

Membership. Second Vice President Sandy Vogelgesang noted that Dan Wilhelm, Manager of the Federation database, is tabulating the renewal of memberships.

Annual Potluck. Dan Wilhelm will send a reminder to possible attendees. Peggy reviewed arrangements and format

Annual Awards Banquet in May. Peggy led discussion of possible venues and date. There was unanimous approval for the motion, that a small committee will set the place and date.

Program. The Executive Committee confirmed topics as follows:

- September: Budget/Negotiations with labor unions (Marvin Weinman making arrangements)
- October: Ballot issues. The Executive Committee voted to focus on slots (8 yes, 1 opposed, 1 abstaining). Dan Wilhelm, Dan Wallace and Peggy Dennis agreed to work on the program. Dan Wilhelm also agreed to check with the League of Women Voters about addressing other ballot issues.

Standing Rules. Peggy noted, in Luella Mast's absence, that Luella advocates a meeting in September to complete

work on the Federation's Standing Rules. There was general agreement to defer that discussion until the next meeting.

New/Old Business and Adjournment. The proposed schedule for meetings for the 2008-2009 year was circulated. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Minutes of the August 20 Executive Committee Meeting By Luella Mast, Executive Committee Secretary

Call to Order and Attendance: President Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm at Mr. Gordon's home with Carole Barth, Peggy Dennis, Jim Humphrey, Dick Kauffman, Chuck Lapinski Luella Mast, Virginia Sheard, Lee Shipman, Bill Schrader, Dan Wallace, Marvin Weinman, Dan Wilhelm, and Charles Wolff attending.

Secretary's Report: The June 16 Executive Committee meeting minutes were unanimously approved. The July 16 meeting minutes were tabled until the September meeting. Notes taken at the July 24 brainstorming meeting were distributed. Items discussed at the brainstorming meeting will be used by the Executive Committee in setting a proactive agenda for the FY 09 program year. Ms. Dennis made a deposit for the 2009 awards dinner at New Fortune Restaurant, Friday, May 15. Committee chairs not confirmed at the June regular meeting will be confirmed at the September regular meeting. Executive Committee meetings will rotate among Sandy Vogelgesang's, Dan Wilhelm's and Arnie Gordon's homes with location decisions made on a month by month basis. The September meeting will be at Sandy Vogelgesang's.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Mast presented the FY 08 treasurer's reports; one, cash flow only, and one including in-kind contributions. Ms. Mast will ask Jerry Garson if he is available to audit the past 5 years' books. Mr. Schrader reviewed the August 20 interim treasurer's report and the proposed FY 09 MCCF budget. Mr. Humphrey moved approval of the proposed FY 09 MCCF budget as presented. Seconded. The in-kind income must be balanced by an in-kind expenditure. Mr. Schrader and Ms. Mast will modify the line item expenses under the Organizational Support category to reflect that change. The FY 09 budget as modified was unanimously approved. The request by a member association to send a hard copy of the MCCF newsletter to a non-delegate was clarified. Since one of their delegates receives the newsletter via email, a hard copy of the newsletter is being sent to a non-delegate from that member association

President's Report

Seminar Series: Mr. Kauffman has contacted potential speakers for a Saturday morning workshop on zoning and

is working to find a mutually agreeable date and rent-free location. Expected attendance is 25 - 40. Other possible workshop topics: how to oppose a special exception; liability insurance for associations and their officers; how to successfully appeal a property tax; effective lobbying. There may be some costs for printing of handouts.

Park and Planning is sponsoring three workshops seeking comment on a comprehensive re-write of the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance. This re-write will result in the loss of precedent-setting opinions established by the courts now part of the ordinance(s). A similar re-write of the Special Exceptions took a full year to complete and was done primarily for the benefit of the legal community.

The first MCCF seminar will explain how to prepare a challenge to a zoning decision. The seminars need to be advertised so that people can self-identify that they would benefit. Ms. Sheard suggested there are two different audiences: active civic association members and those who have little or no experience with zoning issues.

Public Safety Committee Chair: The Executive Committee supports appointment of Mr. Jeffrey Slavin as chair of the Public Safety Committee.

Sentinel Column:

Mr. Humphrey reported that the column this past week was a reprint of a Sierra Club article. Does an article reprinted from a non-MCCF source require additional vetting other than that of the President and Mr. Goldstein? Although many citizens do not read the Sentinel, every county official reads it. After discussion it was decided that additional vetting is not necessary. Organizations other than MCCF should be encouraged to submit column articles. Presenting a variety of views gives the column credibility and enables us to increase our rapport with other organizations. Ms. Dennis will include a note in the Newsletter reminding our members that they may submit articles for the column.

Committee Reports

Planning and Land Use: Mr. Humphrey clarified that the Park and Planning zoning ordinance re-write workshops were by invitation only. We expect to have representatives at all 3 sessions. The MCCF Housing Affordability report is on the website. Members will be asked to approve the recommendations at a meeting this fall. The school capacity report is out: Clarksburg is in moratorium for the middle and high schools. New residential development in seven school clusters will be charged school facilities payment fees as capacity exceeds 105% on the elementary level. Park and Planning has a new hand out: "How to Participate Effectively in Reviewing Development Applications." Mr. Humphrey will provide copies at a later date. The county government is still working on the move of facilities from the County

Service Park on Crabbs Branch Way. A site in Dickerson is out with other properties still under consideration.

One of MCCF's lobbying positions is the need for the county government to be more transparent in public land transactions. The citizens have a right to know about the proposed sale of county-owned land. The current Executive ran on a "open government" platform but has failed to make the land transfer/sale process more transparent. Mr. Wolff suggested the current closed process might be fought on the issue of being anti-competitive. The transparency issue is a good topic for a Sentinel column.

Mr. Humphrey will testify on September 16 on changes to the county's workforce housing program. Workforce housing is designed for those making over the MPDU income limits but under 120% of area median income. Using MPDU plus workforce housing credits, a developer can get a 31% increase in the square footage over the base zoning in a given zoning category. Mr. Humphrey moved to provide testimony before the Council to add the word "required" before the term "workforce housing" to make it clear that additional density or height allowances are only available in metro zones. Mr. Wilhelm seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Humphrey wishes to testify before the Council regarding the Avalon Bay development at the corner of Georgia Avenue and Blueridge in Wheaton. A mini-master plan amendment to rezone the site has been proposed in place of a ZTA changing standards of zoning in place. The mini-master plan would redraw the boundaries of the CBD so Avalon Bay will be eligible for CBD zoning. Mr. Schrader moved that MCCF support Mr. Humphrey's lobbying position on mini-master plans. Motion seconded and passed unanimously.

Public Finance: Mr. Weinman reported that the Council is changing the definition of spending affordability by changing the base month that will be used in calculations. Under new regulations the County Executive's office will now prioritize budget cuts for county government offices only, not the public schools, Park and Planning or Montgomery College. MCPS has appointed a 15 member preschool working group to study the provision of preschool services to four year olds. Under a bill passed by the Council, individuals who are eligible for two different pensions must choose to retire under one or the other, but not both; i.e. no double-dipping. There will be three county charter issues on the November ballot. We can expect to see a large jump in property taxes in the FY 09-10 budget year. Mr. Weinman handed out the taxpayer survey. It was agreed the survey should be publicized to reach as many as possible. It will be printed in the newsletter with a link to our website. Mr. Weinman will contact Mr. Schofield to see about getting the handout and questionnaire on our website.

Mr. Weinman has panelists for the September 8 regular meeting program and has provided them with a list of points we would like to cover. Mr. Humphrey moved that announcements of MCCF programs appear in the Sentinel column not more than twice prior to a regular meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

Mr. Weinman, with help from Mr. Kauffunger, will look into a microphone system for the September program as well as possibly taping it. Mr. Humphrey reported on the Maryland "House Keys for Employees" program which has the state match closing costs up to \$5,000 for home purchases. The County government can sign up for the program cost free, but the County Executive does not want to participate because feels it is "bargainable" under the County's contracts with employees.

Parks: Ms. Barth has recruited several committee members and welcomes more. Topics to be covered include: collection of all our hard-earned knowledge of park issues in one place; looking at current park problems; getting hard data on park usage; and, contacting the accrediting organization for parks departments to learn more about the accreditation process.

Public Utilities: Mr. Lapinski expects three to four pieces of legislation affecting WSSC to be submitted to the state delegation this fall. He will work on a program on WSSC for our January regular meeting.

1st Vice President's Report: Mr. Weinman has the September program well in hand. The October program will be on ballot issues. Discussion centered on whether the program should focus only on "slots" or all ballot questions, state and local. Mr. Humphrey moved that our program be an educational forum to cover all ballot questions, local and state, that will be on the November ballot. Seconded and passed; 10 yes; 2 no; 1 abstain. Ms. Mast will check with the Montgomery County League of Women Voters to locate a speaker(s). Mr. Humphrey and Ms. Dennis will help with the program. After discussion it was decided the November program will be on housing affordability led by Mr. Humphrey and including a vote on recommendations in the MCCF Affordable Housing report.

Transportation: Ms. Dennis reported that work on orphan roads is ongoing. The County Attorney and DPWT are moving through the process to have Marmary Road declared a public road.

September newsletter: Ms. Dennis reviewed newsletter assignments.

Old Business

Mr. Wilhelm moved that the Standing Rules be corrected to reflect the membership categories in the bylaws. Seconded and passed: 8 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain. Mr. Wilhelm will make the required corrections.

Adjourn: 10:13 PM.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Serving the County since 1925

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Mail to: William Schrader (Treasurer)
12824 Middlevale Lane, Silver Spring,
MD 20906
301-946-65458; schraderw@erols.com

Inquiries: Sandy Vogelgesang (2nd VP/Membership)
9009 Charred Oak Dr, Bethesda, MD
20901
301-365-2347;
everest.associates@erols.com

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. Cannot be a single local issue group.)	10 to 50		\$25*	1	Yes
	51 to 300		\$45*	2	
	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

***A \$5 discount may be taken for each person who elects to receive the newsletter via email – please check email box below.** You can also select less than the allowed number of members and pay according to that number. Please provide all the information below no matter the newsletter delivery method. 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, September 8
7:45 1st Floor Auditorium
County Council Office Building.
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD

Agenda:

7:45 Call to Order
7:46 Introductions and Announcements
7:50 Adoption of Meeting Agenda
7:52 Community Hero: Neal Potter
7:55 Committee Chair confirmation
8:00 Program: County Labor Union Negotiations
9:15 Ambulance Fee Resolution
9:35 Committee Reports
9:50 Old Business
9:55 New Business
10:00 Adjournment

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, September 20.** Prepare submission as an MS Word, Word Perfect or text-only document, **attach** it to an 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, September 17, 7:45 p.m.

At the home of Sandy Vogelgesang

9009 Charred Oak Drive
Bethesda 20817



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

First Class Mail

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