



Civic Federation News

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Serving the Public Interest since 1925

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Peggy Dennis, Editor - Phone: 301-983-9738 - Email: hotyakker@comcast.net

September Program: The County Growth Policy by Jim Humphrey, Chair, Planning and Land Use Comm.

The program for our September 14 meeting will be on the proposed County Growth Policy. At our June meeting, the Planning and Land Use Committee discussed the proposed changes to the Growth Policy that were being considered by the Planning Department. On July 16 the Planning Board adopted their formal position on those recommendations, voting to disapprove three of the staff's proposals and adding two new ones of their own. Subsequently, our Executive Committee voted on August 19 to submit our own draft position to the full delegate assembly for discussion and vote at the upcoming meeting. Assuming a favorable vote, our Growth Policy position will be presented to the County Council at their September 22 hearing.

The MCCF Growth Policy position contains three parts: an introduction expressing our views on the value and appropriate use of the Growth Policy; a section with our responses and recommendations regarding the Planning Board proposals for changes to the existing county policy; and, a section containing the Federation's recommended changes. On Page 2 is a synopsis of the points in parts two and three of the MCCF draft position. These points will be further explained and discussed during the program at the September meeting, prior to a vote being taken. I will bring paper copies to the meeting, but I urge those interested in reading the complete and more detailed version to contact me by email and request the expanded version electronically:

theelms518@earthlink.net.

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On the Loss of Stuart Rochester

Montgomery County lost another of our most effective, respected and cherished civic activists this summer. Stuart I. Rochester, long-time activist and champion of the Eastern side of the county died of melanoma on Wednesday, July 29 at his home in Burtonsville, Md. He was 63.

Many of us knew that Stuart worked in the Pentagon's Office of the Historian. But few knew that he had worked there for nearly 30 years, becoming its deputy historian in 1987 and chief historian in 2008. We knew that Dr. Rochester had a PhD. but not that he had taught at Loyola

College in Baltimore.. Some of us knew that he had spent 10 years researching and co-authoring the definitive, "Honor Bound: American Prisoners of War in Southeast Asia, 1961-1973" – a book nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. Stuart was always very matter-of-fact about his accomplishments.

Although Stuart didn't often make it to our MCCF monthly meetings, he was heavily involved in civic life. He chaired the Fairland Master Plan Citizens Advisory Group, served on numerous committees and work groups and led a variety of land use battles for the eastern side of the County. I think I first got to know him when he chaired a series of Civic Federation interviews with candidates for the Planning Board. His charm, intelligence, skill at leading an interview, thoroughness, and ability to write succinct but polished letters outlining our justifications for recommending a specific candidate for the job put him in a league by himself.

But Stuart was also a kind and dear friend. I will especially remember him for a personal favor. Our son was considering pursuing

(Continued on p 3)

September Program (continued)

Planning Board Proposals

PB1. For mixed-use projects meeting certain standards and located within 1/2 mile of a major transit center or corridor, trip mitigation payments should be allocated as follows--50% directed to transit infrastructure, 25% to provide affordable housing units above the amount required, and 25% retained by the developer. In addition, 75% of transportation impact taxes collected in Metro Station Policy Areas (MSPAs) should be dedicated for improving public transit. MCCF URGES DISAPPROVAL.

PB2. Change to a symmetrical Policy Area Mobility Review (PAMR) chart and allow Roads level of service (LOS) E in an area with Transit level of service of B. [In 2007, Council did not allow Roads LOS below D.] MCCF URGES DISAPPROVAL.

PB3. Expand types of non-automotive facilities that can be provided by a developer to mitigate trips generated by a proposed development. MCCF URGES DISAPPROVAL.

PB4. Allow transfer of Adequate Public Facilities capacity to new projects in MSPAs from projects elsewhere in the policy area with approved but unused capacity that developer does not intend to build. MCCF URGES DISAPPROVAL.

PB5. Reduce residential trip generation rates in MSPAs by 18%, similar to levels in Bethesda, Silver Spring and Friendship Heights. MCCF URGES DISAPPROVAL.

PB6. Replace Local Area Transportation Review and PAMR in White Flint with implementation authority process. MCCF URGES DISAPPROVAL.

PB7. Establish a Life Sciences Center Policy Area, and expand the boundaries of the White Flint, Germantown Town Center, and R&D Village policy area boundaries. MCCF URGES DISAPPROVAL.

PB8. Raise threshold for School Facilities Payment from 105% to 110% of projected cluster capacity on any grade level. MCCF URGES DISAPPROVAL.

PB9. Retain threshold for school based moratorium on new residential approvals at 120% of cluster capacity on any grade level. MCCF URGES APPROVAL.

PB10. Allow residential preliminary plan applications for projects in areas in moratorium, which were completed within 12 months prior to imposition of moratorium, to proceed to the Planning Board for approval. MCCF URGES DISAPPROVAL.

PB11. Allow approved but unused school capacity from a specific development project to be transferred to

another project in the same school cluster. MCCF URGES DISAPPROVAL unless transfer was in same elementary school area, not cluster.

MCCF Proposals

MCCF1. Separate the current PAMR test into two stand-alone tests, a Policy Area Roads Test and a Policy Area Transit Test.

MCCF2. Improve Policy Area Roads Test using latest generation modeling software.

MCCF3. Improve Policy Area Transit Test, perhaps by switching to test comparing travel times for same point-to-point transit and car commute trips.

MCCF4. Policy Area Roads Test should use data from either AM or PM weekday peak hours, whichever indicates poorer level of service. [Current test uses only data obtained during PM weekday peak hours.]

MCCF5. Use the Federation's Policy Area Roads Test recommended application, using roads data from latest PAMR chart.

MCCF6. In MSPAs, where projects use a lower trip generation rate than same project elsewhere in county, the full percentage of trip mitigation or other remedy required in the policy area should be applied to that lower number of trips.

MCCF7. Use the Federation's Policy Area Transit Test recommended application, using transit data from latest PAMR chart.

MCCF8. Institute a single countywide rate for the Transportation Impact Tax and School Impact Tax imposed on new development by eliminating the 50% reduction in MSPAs and the higher rate imposed in Clarksburg area.

MCCF9. Retain imposition of School Facilities Payment when a school cluster exceeds 105% of capacity on middle or high school level, and retain moratorium when cluster exceeds 120% of capacity on middle or high school level.

MCCF10. Calculate capacity on individual school basis on elementary school level, and apply same levels for School Facilities Payment and moratorium as that applied to middle and high school cluster capacity.

MCCF11. Reinstate capacity ceilings as part of Growth Policy, by setting a maximum total number of dwelling units and jobs for each policy area which the Planning Board can approve in projects located there over the ensuing two years.

Stuart Rochester (continued)

a master's degree in history, and I asked Stuart if Alex could spend a day with him at his office to see how the study of history may be carried out in careers other than classroom teaching. Stuart was most obliging, and Alex returned home that evening enthusiastic about his time with Stuart, the Office of the Historian and the resources and processes used to study history.

Stuart's death was a shock because it caught us all unexpectedly. Who knew that he had been diagnosed with melanoma 20 years ago? While living year after year "on borrowed time", Stuart kept his condition quiet and private. He did not want his friends and colleagues to worry about him or agonize over his situation. And that was Stuart to the very last - always considerate and thoughtful of others. We will all miss him terribly.

Peggy Dennis – MCCF President

I had worked with Stuart for several decades on many issues, often revolving around the master plans and transportation. We didn't always place the same priorities on different aspects of a given topic but we were always able to share our different views and often develop a position that reflected both. I always had high regard and respect for Stuart and considered him a trusted friend and fellow civic activist.

Dan Wilhelm – MCCF Past President

I met Stu in 1987 through our shared love for good reading—particularly history. When I became MCCF president in 1999, I relentlessly tried to recruit him to serve as District Vice President. He wanted to know my position about the ICC. He said in jest that he was "pathologically obsessed" with making sure that the ICC would not impact Burtonsville, and that his activism would create problems for the Civic Federation. But Stuart did contribute a great deal during my tenure in an unofficial capacity. At the end of my tenure he thanked me for "investing myself" on the preservation of the Civic Federation, an organization he saw as essential in ensuring the preservation of our quality of life. Stu was the shrewdest civic leader I have ever met and a person of extraordinary integrity. Sharon and I miss him a great deal already.

Jorge Ribas – MCCF Past President

We have lost so many valued community leaders recently that Montgomery County will most certainly suffer. These people are the core to the making of good government. Stuart was the most articulate civic activist I know. During my term as President of the Civic Federation, Stuart was kind enough to be our representative for the Print Media. I remember Stuart

enjoyed writing op-editorials for the Gazette, and really loved taking on the Gazette Editor, Chuck Lyons. I remember feeling they were two sides to the same coin but Stuart was always the one more capable and equipped with his sharp wit.

Stuart never was one to be in front of the camera. He always felt easier behind the scenes making sure the "i" was dotted and the "t's" were crossed. At the last Montgomery County Civic Federation meeting he reported on the zoning rewriting committee and most especially the new commercial mixed-use zone. He cautioned us that this zone could, if not monitored, be deleterious to Montgomery County.

Stuart will be missed and my prayers are with his wife Shelly, his kids and his grandkids. I hope they know how much we in Montgomery County respected and appreciated him.

Cary Lamari – MCCF Past President

President's Message By Peggy Dennis

How did I ever end up serving as president of the Civic Federation? That's another story for another time. But now I want to answer the related questions: why should anyone become a civic activist, and why should local civic and citizens' groups join the Montgomery County Civic Federation?

Most of us became civic activists because of specific and local threats to our neighborhoods: the outrageously large nursing home in a totally inappropriate location; the cherished local elementary school slated to be demolished and rebuilt in a smaller, inaccessible and ludicrous place; a peaceful local park bulldozed to make way for playing fields to accommodate scores of rowdy soccer players coming and going in boisterous waves every weekend; century-old trees cut down by avaricious developers so McMansions can be squeezed into small lots in formerly cool and leafy neighborhoods; programs for special needs and gifted/talented students cut on the erroneous assumption that every child learns at the same pace; professional planners, educators and bureaucrats who treat us with thinly veiled arrogance. There are so many reasons why we are galvanized and why we become frustrated, angry and indignant.

Our local civic and citizens' associations are our first line of defense against unwanted special exceptions, ill conceived rezoning applications, misguided master plans, growth policies that allow new developments to be approved when roads are already gridlocked and schools bursting at the seams. But too often our local civic associations lapse into a coma or even die when there is no immediate threat to be fought off. Once the threat is

past, our neighbors who led the campaign against “the bad guys” resume their normal work-a-day lives. Park & Planning ceases to get yearly updates on the association officers. Folks stop watching, stop communicating and stop organizing in the hope that their communities will be at peace for the indefinite future.

The Montgomery County Civic Federation is the equivalent of the local National Guard when it comes to fighting off threats to our quality of life. Since 1925 we have brought together local groups from all corners of the county. Our committees parallel the most important functions of our government and our committee chairmen have in depth knowledge and understanding of the applicable governmental processes and personalities. We proactively advocate for better policies that are applicable countywide. We reactively advocate against the negative consequences of misguided policies and advise and support local activists fighting to protect their neighborhoods.

United we stand; divided we fall. That old saying is still so very true. The Gazette newspapers do a good job of covering local issues. But folks in Bethesda don't know what's going on in Burtonsville. People in Potomac don't care about what happens in Poolesville because they don't know. Residents of Derwood don't support their neighbors in Dickerson because they're not aware of the issues. Only the Montgomery County Civic Federation works to bring us all together, to know about the issues that affect us locally and, by extension, across the county. Only the MCCF serves as watchdog and “loyal opposition” to the county government. We try to know what's working, what's not working, and suggest ways of improving our government's services so that we all get better government for our tax dollars. We try to keep an eye on legislation proposed by the County Council to make sure it will support rather than detract from our quality of life.

I want to thank those individuals who have stepped up to the plate during the summer and agreed to chair committees: Ginny Barnes co-chairing Environment, Paula Bienenfeld on Education and Drew Powell on Membership. I will ask the membership to approve these volunteers at the September meeting. We are still looking for someone to serve as Secretary, so please consider taking on this important function.

Renewed members

We thank the following member organizations and individual associate members for renewing their membership in a timely manner. If your organization is not listed below, please cut or print the Membership Renewal Form from page 15, fill in the necessary

information and forward it to your treasurer as soon as possible. And if you personally know leaders of other associations not listed here, please ask them to renew their memberships or join the MCCF as new members. Growth is more important now than ever before.

Local Associations

Allanwood-Gayfields-Willson Hills-
 Gaywood Estates Citizens Association
 Chevy Chase West Neighborhood Assn
 Fleming Park Community Association
 Flower Valley Citizens' Association
 Grosvenor Park Condo. Citizens Assn.
 Kentlands Citizens Assembly
 Layhill South Citizens Association
 Luxmanor Citizens Association
 Maplewood Citizens Association
 Norbeck Meadows Civic Association
 North White Oak Civic Association
 Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association
 Parkland Residents Association
 Snowdens Mill Homeowners Association
 South Tuckerman Inverness Citizens Assn
 Stonegate Citizens Association
 Villages of Bethesda
 West Bradley Citizens Association
 Wheaton Citizens Coalition
 Wheaton Regional Park Neighborhood Assn
 Woodmoor Pinecrest Citizens Association

County-wide Organizations

Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central
 Atlantic States, Inc.
 Montgomery Preservation, Inc.

Individual Associate Members

Marie De Maria
 Timothy J. French
 Luella W. Mast
 Helen A. (Andy) Reed
 Stanley D. Schiff
 R. L. (Dick) Strombotne
 Dale A. Tibbitts

Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc. Proposed FY 2010 Budget

	FY 09 Budget	FY 09 Actual	FY 10 Budget	
Income				
Membership dues	\$3,500	\$3,075	\$3,400	
Local Associations	\$2,900	\$2,480		\$2,800
Umbrella Associations	\$110	\$170		\$150
Regional/County-wide Assn	\$135	\$115		\$150
Individual Associates	\$355	\$310		\$300
Associate Groups	\$0	\$0		\$0
Donations	\$50	\$10		\$50
Awards Dinner	\$2,500	\$2,980		\$2,500
Miscellaneous	\$25	\$13		\$25
Total income	\$6,075	\$6,078		\$5,975
Expenses				
Member Communications	\$2,250	\$1,477		\$2,400
Newsletter Printing	\$1,650	\$1,123		\$1,450
Newsletter Mailing	\$600	\$354		\$500
Website	\$0	\$0		\$450
Civic and Social Betterment	\$3,400	\$3,595		\$3,370
Federation Meetings	\$750	\$750		\$750
Foundation Meetings	\$0	\$120		\$60
Awards Dinner	\$2,500	\$2,665		\$2,500
Community Information Forums	\$90	\$0		\$0
Federation Membership	\$60	\$60		\$60
Training	\$0	\$0		\$0
Organizational Support	\$400	\$217		\$180
Officers	\$200	\$181		\$130
Committees	\$200	\$36		\$50
Miscellaneous	\$25	\$250		\$25
Total expenses	\$6,075	\$5,539		\$5,975

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 1. 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.

MCCF Position on Gaithersburg West Sector Plan

by Jim Humphrey, Chair, Planning and Land Use Committee

The Executive Committee approved a draft position paper on the proposed Gaithersburg West Sector Plan revision. The following is the list of Federation recommendations which will be presented at our September 14 meeting for discussion and vote. If approved by the delegates, we intend to submit our recommendations to the County Council at their September 15 public hearing.

1 MCCF recommends reducing overall density of development proposed in the Plan, which will generate less of an increase in traffic congestion in the area (since Plan target is 30% non-auto drive mode share, and the other 70% of new residents and employees generated by the Plan are expected to drive).

- The Federation recommends reducing commercial density by 3.3 million square feet, or approximately 10,000 jobs. This reduction will prevent absorption of all science and technology market demand for space along the I-270 Corridor, allowing some remaining capacity to be reserved for the East County Science and Technology Center site.
- The Federation supports the Planning Department recommendation for 5,000 new dwelling units (DU) in the area, not the Planning Board approved level of 5,700 additional DU. This lower number will go further to correct the existing imbalance in the jobs-to-housing ratio along the I-270 Corridor.

- 2 MCCF supports the general approach to staging that links approval of density to construction and availability of the Corridor Cities Transitway to serve the Plan area.
- 3 Since new housing added by the Plan is proposed for use by new employees in the area, housing should be staged along with commercial use to prevent residents moving into the area prior to availability of new employment, which would serve to increase the number of drivers using cars to reach jobs outside the area.
- 4 MCCF recommends strengthening compatibility of new development with the historic Belward Farm by allowing buildings of no more than 3 stories in height adjacent to the Planning Board recommended 10 to 12 acre farm setting.

What Happened to Forest Conservation Law Reform?

by Ginny Barnes, Environment Co-Chair

This time last summer hopes were running high for meaningful revisions to the Montgomery County Forest Conservation Law. The newly appointed Forest Conservation Advisory Committee (FCAC) had spent the summer wrangling over two sets of introduced amendments; one a modest update from MNCPPC and the other, more sweeping changes from Councilmember Marc Elrich. The Transportation and Environment Committee (T&E), chaired by Councilmember Nancy Floreen started to review the proposed amendments in late Spring of 2008, but Chairwoman Floreen declared it was all too complicated for the T&E Committee members to understand and handed the job off to the FCAC to review and deliver recommendations to the County Council. Advisory Committees appointed by the County Executive and approved by the County Council are always a wide mix of stakeholders. In this case, development interests outweighed conservation advocate, and the analysis delivered to the T&E Committee reflected tension and dissent between the two. There was little consensus to make it easy for legislators. T&E Committee members (Floreen, Leventhal and Berliner) were unwilling to put the time into studying the FCL amendments and failed to come up with a stronger law that would have actually stemmed the steady loss of our remaining forests.

So, the amendment problem was passed off again, this time to the County Executive where it landed in the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) toward the end of 2008. There, staff started looking at ways to fold forest conservation and tree protection into a single matrix that will preserve more of both trees and forest during the development process. They are still working on it. Meanwhile the time to act on the two sets of legislative amendments has run out and they are effectively dead. So, basically 4 years after the push to reform a highly inadequate law which was failing to preserve our dwindling trees and forests, we have nothing. Some would say we have less than nothing. We continue to lose forest to development and our tree canopy to re-development in older neighborhoods. We don't even have the hope we had last September.

Education Committee Report

By Paula Bienenfeld, Chairman

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Education Committee Chair for MCCF. In the coming year the Education Committee plans to focus on the following issues which we believe are important to the county and our quality of life.

1 Changing the start time for high school students at the public schools. This issue has been brought up numerous times, most recently by students at Richard Montgomery High School and our own MCCF President, Peggy Dennis.

2 Checkbook Online. This is a basic transparency issue that has been very successful nationwide, including in some of the largest public school systems in the country, like the Miami/Dade Public Schools, the fourth largest school system in the country.

3 Overcrowding at the public schools caused in part by inappropriate development.

4 This is the year our county will have a public discussion about what qualities we want in our next superintendent, as Dr. Weast will be retiring next June. What kind of superintendent do YOU want?

If you have questions or issues you want the Civic Fed to bring up, please call me at 301-984-2944 or email: paula_bienefeld@yahoo.com.

Public Forums on MCPS Education By Shirley Brandman, President, MCPS Board of Education

I invite you to participate in one of two upcoming community forums that the Montgomery County Board of Education will be hosting this fall. These forums are an opportunity for the Board of Education to come into community and hear directly from parents, students and interested citizens about what is working and what isn't working in our schools. Your input will be important as we make difficult decisions in the next months regarding our school budgets given the fiscal challenges we face.

The forums will be held from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. on September 17 at Quince Orchard High School, 15800 Quince Orchard Road, Gaithersburg, and on October 15 at John F. Kennedy High School, 1901 Randolph Road, Silver Spring. Individuals or group representatives may sign up to speak at 301-279-3617 or 1-800-735-2258 (Maryland Relay) beginning on August 27 for the first forum and beginning on September 24 for the second forum. Each participant will be allotted three minutes to comment. Please consider offering feedback on the following question: "During difficult economic times, what priorities should we focus on to improve achievement for all students?"

Both forums will be video taped and cablecast at a later date on Channel 34 and webcast on the school system website.

If you are unable to attend either of the forums, you can still give us your feedback in writing (850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850) or via email at boe@mcpsmd.org. You can also post your comments on our website at www.montgomerycountyschoolsmd.org/community/forums.

I am asking for your assistance in sharing this information with other members of the community. By working together, we can continue to ensure a quality education for all our children.

Montgomery County Civic Federation Meeting Dates Bill Schrader, Treasurer

Dates for September 2009 - June 2010

Regular Monthly Meetings (Second Monday of the month)

September 14	October 12
November 9	December 14
January 11, 2010	February 8
March 8	April 12
May 10	June 14

Executive Committee Meetings (normally Third Wednesday of the month)

September 23	October 21
November 18	December 16 (2nd Wednesday)
January 20, 2010	February 17
March 17	April 21
May 19	June 23

The annual awards banquet is tentatively scheduled for May 14 at the New Fortune restaurant or a location TBD, subject to reservation confirmation.

Minutes of the June 8 Regular Monthly Meeting By Peggy Dennis & Richard Zierdt, Acting Recording Secretary

MCCF President Arnie Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:49 p.m. with introductions of the attendees.

Announcements: Chuck Lapinski reported an opening on the Planning Board with 7 candidates under consideration. MCCF candidate interviews on Wednesday & Thursday evening will take place at Dan

Wilhelm's home. Dan will email candidate resumes to those wishing to participate in the interviews.

An engraved picture frame was presented as a permanent memento of the Star Cup Award to Luella Mast. A Certificate of Appreciation was given to Arnie Gordon for his service as President.

Agenda: adopted without changes.

Minutes of the May 11, 2009 meeting were adopted.

Treasurer's Report. Peggy Dennis reported for Bill Schrader: MCCF has \$9,887.77 in cash assets. \$5244 expenses for 2008-09.

Civic Association Concerns: Cary Lamari reported Governor O'Malley has proposed delaying the widening of Norbeck Road in order to fund the Purple Line. Issue referred to the Transportation Committee.

Bylaws: The bylaws amendments printed in the May Newsletter were approved unanimously.

Elections. The following persons were elected for the 2009-2010 year by acclamation:

President – Peggy Dennis
 First Vice President – Dan Wilhelm
 Second Vice President – Open
 Treasurer – William Schrader
 Recording Secretary - Open.

Program on Planning and Land Use and the Proposed New Commercial Residential Mixed-use Zone. Jim Humphrey introduced attorney Bill Chen. Bill explains his role on the Zoning Advisory Panel (ZAP). He does not represent developers, but he will represent individual small-business owners who need help in a special exception. There are more development-oriented persons on the ZAP than non-development-oriented persons. This proposed new zone will go to the County Council this month, with the White Flint Sector Plan. A concern is that the proposed zones will be more administrative and shutout public hearings and debate. Jim distributes a five-page MCCF Planning and Land Use Committee report. Percentage of land coverage.

Public Utilities: Chuck Lapinski reported that Governor O'Malley wants to have certain utilities put back under regulation again, a move that will be difficult to achieve.

Transportation: Arnie Gordon reported on a community meeting with the County Attorney and residents of Marmary Road, a residential street owned by a private individual who bought it through a tax sale years ago and who creates problems for residential owners on the road. Public hearings on I-270 and "multi-modal transportation" will take place Tuesday,

June 16 at Gaithersburg Middle School. Arnie will represent the MCCF.

Legislation: Dan Wilhelm. Committee for Montgomery (CfM): First meeting tomorrow morning, and next Wednesday.

Parks and Recreation: Carol Barth. Park and Planning Revenue Authority returned the Sligo Creek golf course (9 holes) to Park and Planning, but it will not be operated as a golf course. Soccer fields have been proposed. So has Frisbee golf. A major issue is whether or not recreation facilities are supposed to generate revenue or be self-supporting.

Final announcements: Renew MCCF membership and pay dues now using form at end of the Newsletter. June 17 Potluck Dinner at home of Peggy Dennis.

Adjournment. Meeting adjourns at 10:01 pm

Minutes of the June 17 Executive Committee Meeting By Richard Zierdt, Acting Recording Secretary

MCCF President Peggy Dennis called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m. at the home of Sandy Vogelgesang & Geoff Wolff. Attending: Peggy Dennis, Dan Wilhelm, Jim Humphrey, Chuck Lapinski, Sandy Vogelgesang, and Richard Zierdt. Guest presenter: Isaac Ferreira of FWD, web design firm.

MCCF Web site. Mr. Ferreira made a presentation about website design, capabilities, and maintenance. His firm is a Graphic Design company which builds and maintains Web sites. About \$1200 - \$1800 to redesign startup costs, \$73 per month maintenance. Website features discussed included Document management capabilities (\$400 - \$600), e-mail, bulletin boards. Compare: Arlington County Civic Association website (www.civfed.org).

Treasurer's report. No changes from the June 8 delegates meeting.

Minutes of the May 20 ExComm meeting are approved.

Sandy Vogelgesang has agreed to continue her role as Public Relations Officer.

A small MCCF delegation will meet and greet the new County Council member, Nancy Navarro.

Potluck dinner, Friday, July 17, 2009, 6-10 PM at Peggy Dennis's home.

Next ExComm meeting Wednesday, July 22 at Richard Zierdt's home.

Zoning & Land Use: Jim Humphrey discussed the Council's work program and land use-related growth policies.

Jim will talk with County Executive Ike Leggett about the proposed Growth Policy.

Planning Board nominees. Dan Wilhelm, Chuck Lapinski, Peggy Dennis, and Virginia Shearder, and Sharon Dooley, interviewed six nominees for the Planning Board.

Utilities. Chuck Lapinski. State revenue for April, 2009 was down 20% from last year (2008).

Program. September meeting on Growth Policy. October meeting on Gangs and other public safety issues; November meeting on Public Utilities.

Adjournment. Meeting adjourns at 10:12 pm.

Minutes of the July 21 Executive Committee Meeting By Dan Wilhelm, Acting Recording Secretary

Call to Order, Secretary and Treasurer's Reports: President Peggy Dennis called the meeting to order at Sandy Vogelgesang's home at 7:50 p.m. Attending were: Sandy, Peggy Dennis, Jim Humphrey, Bill Schrader, Virginia Sheard, Dan Wilhelm, Charles Wolff and Chuck Lapinski.

The June ExComm minutes were handed out and approved. Bill provided the treasurer's report.

President's Topics

ExComm. Vacancies. Peggy has been recruiting people to fill vacant positions: Paula Bienenfeld will serve as Education Chair; Ginny Barnes possibly for Environment Chair, Drew Powell possibly for director at-large (dealing with membership), and Jim Zepp possibly for director at-large. The membership will be asked to approve those who accept.

MCCF Historian and archived records. Charles indicated he has recent newsletters and meeting handouts at his house. Prior records are kept by the Montgomery County Historical Society at the Red Brick Courthouse. Charles was urged to place records he has with the older records. Once the web site has been updated it will also have recent records.

MCCF Web site. Peggy reported she is working on the web site. An ad was posted on Craig's List and a lot of responses were received. She is also attempting to reach John Nelson who hosts MCCF's current web site and also is owner of our domain name. Peggy's husband, Bob, started experimenting with using free software to

develop an updated web site and it appears to be easy to accomplish.

July 17 Potluck Social. Sandy provided a summary of discussion at the potluck. Much of the concern related to growth, the master plans being developed, the need for both public transit and housing. Other issues included the environment (water quality, WSSC repairs and need for more forest conservation), historical preservation, support for small business, public safety, saving the Wheaton Library, and schools.

Committee Reports

Land Use and Housing Committee

Planning Board Appointment. Jim reported that the Council approved Marye Wells-Harley for the vacant Planning Board position. She was one of the three we recommended as qualified.

Zoning. The Council will hear testimony on July 28 concerning ZTA 09-05. It was introduced by Nancy Navarro to keep self-storage out of the Burtonsville Overlay Zone and is supported by residents in the area. Jim will investigate whether the ZTA actually achieves that objective, with Committee voting to provide MCCF testimony in support.

Growth Policy. Jim reported the Planning Board was busy on July 16 approving many items related to Growth Policy that will be submitted to the Council for action. The Board approved a provision that would allow a developer who can't use his adequate public facility approval to sell it to another developer. The Planning Staff is investigating changes to lower the trip generation rates in transit station areas. There was an attempt to increase the definition of school crowding from 120% to 135% for imposing a moratorium but three Board members opposed it. (The minimum number of classrooms MCPS will build is four.)

Proposed Commercial Residential (CR) Zone. The Planning Board also approved the CR zoning, after making changes largely on the fly at the meeting. The Board had not seen copies before the meeting.

Germantown Master Plan. Jim reported that the Council PHED Committee removed all staging from the Germantown Master Plan they are working on. Jim had testified for MCCF that the staging language needed to be made stronger to indicate that the Corridor Cities Transitway must be built before all the development can occur. The staging was not strongly linked to transportation. The plan does not call for limit on imperviousness, which it should because some of the area is designated as a special protection area. The Planning Board had requested the Council remand the Plan back to them since the PHED Committee had

made so many changes, but the Committee sent the plan to the full council for action, now expected to occur in September. Also, the 40 acre Rolling Hills parcel could have 1600 residential units. However, the number of MPDUs within the new development will be less than the number of affordably priced housing units that presently exist there. This goes against the County's thrust to provide such housing. Committee voted to support memo to Council urging Council to amend the Plan to insert staging, imperviousness limit, and 18 dwelling unit per acre density for Rolling Hills prior to approval.

Future Programs

Dan reminded everyone about the next three programs to insure that everything was progressing:

- September: Growth Policy Work session to develop MCCF positions (lead by Jim)
- October: Public Safety issues including gang activity, organized by Peggy
- November: Public Utilities, organized by Chuck

Legislative Committee and Committee for Montgomery.

Dan reported that CFM has had two meetings so far this summer to develop its issues for the 2010 state legislative session. The state is already facing a \$700M shortfall for the fiscal year that is only three weeks old. The Board of Public Works will decide what to cut. The cuts will likely affect aid to Counties. The outlook for next year is for more of the same.

Utilities Committee Report. Chuck indicated that WSSC is considering combining the Citizen Advisory Committee and Environmental Committee.

New Business:

- Chuck spoke about speed humps and the poor design of the older ones. The speed humps are causing the pavement to break up from the pounding of vehicles coming over the humps.
- Peggy indicated it is time to reserve the restaurant for the May 14, 2010 Annual Awards Program. She has not found a different place other than New Fortune. Jim will check out the Universities at Shady Grove.
- Virginia reminded everyone to review the draft survey.

Meeting adjourned at 9:43.

Peak Rewards Program for BG & E Customers

Honeywell Utility Solutions is partnering with BG & E to market the PeakRewardsSM program. Like the "Energy Savers" program offered by PEPCO in the '80's, "PeakRewards" is a win-win program for the community and the region since participation helps the environment, keeps the cost of electricity lower than it otherwise would be and reduces Maryland's demand for electricity.

What's in it for homeowners? Program participants will receive a programmable thermostat professionally installed in their home, and they will earn \$50-\$100 in bill credits each summer they are in the program – plus a matching bonus of \$50-\$100 in the first year. When customers enroll, they agree to help ease high electricity demand by allowing BGE to "cycle" their air conditioning on and off from time to time, typically during the summer months when electricity demand is at its peak. Reducing electricity demand during peak times will help to ease the burden on Maryland's energy delivery infrastructure and reduce emissions from electricity generation plants by reducing the need for building and running additional plants.

If you are a BG & E customer and want to learn more about this program, contact Linda Foy at the BG&E Communications Dept., 410-470-7433 or Candace McCrae at Honeywell Utility Solutions, 410-682-8253 (Office).

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010
Make checks payable to **Montgomery County Civic Federation**

Mail To: William H. Schrader (Treasurer)
12824 Middlevale Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20906
301-946-6545; schraderw@erols.com

Inquiries Dan Wilhelm (1st VP and Database)
904 Cannon Road, Colesville, MD 20904
301-384-2698 djwilhelm@verizon.net

Name of Organization/Individual _____ Date _____

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

Membership Type	Number of Households	PLEASE CHECK	DUES	Max Number of Members	Voting Privileges
Local Association (civic, community, homeowner or municipality. Must represent at least 30 households - not paid members. Can not be a single local issue group.)	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**	Phone (H/W)	
	Street	E-mail	<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	<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	<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	<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 14, 2009
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
7:53 Approval of President's appointments
7:55 Treasurer's Report
7:58 Approval of June 8 Minutes
8:00 Program on County's Growth Policy
9:15 Vote on MCCF Growth Policy
9:22 Vote on MCCF Gaithersburg West MP
9:30 Committee Reports
9:45 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, August 22**. 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, June 17, 7:45 p.m.

At the home of Sandy Vogelgesang

9009 Charred Oak Drive

Bethesda,



Official Publication of the
Montgomery County Civic Federation

Dan Wilhelm, Database Manager

904 Cannon Road

Silver Spring, MD 20904

DJWILHELM@VERIZON.NET

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