



Civic Federation News

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October Program: County's Police and Public Safety Issues By Peggy Dennis, President

The program for our October 12 meeting will be on the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) and Public Safety Issues, and it will **start promptly at 7:45**. Chief of Police Thomas Manger will be our program presenter, and we plan to spend the majority of our time on questions and answers. The following is a list of topics and issues we believe will be of interest to our members: The **Budget** - how are deficits affecting the MCPD? **Police Training**: how many new recruits? minority and bilingual recruits? Diversity awareness training? **Undocumented immigrants**: are the police working with ICE and Homeland Security on enforcement issues? **Community Policing** - is it still in vogue? How is it being implemented? How's it going? **Neighborhood Watch and Crime Prevention Programs**: same questions. **Youth crimes**: would later start and finish times for high school students have a positive effect on after-school violence and crimes? **Gangs and gang-related violence**; cross jurisdictional problems; the gang "czar" (if there is one); statutes under which gang members can successfully be arrested and /or prosecuted. **High profile cases**: do you have the resources needed to solve such crimes quickly? What is the interplay between **police, prosecutors and the judicial system**? Impact of the **recent Supreme Court decision** requiring lab technicians and experts to appear in person at court proceedings for cross-examination? **Speed cameras and speed humps**? Police **Disability Retirement** issue, where does this stand? Please come to hear a discussion of these issues and add more of your own.

President's Message: Parks – Our Best Idea By Peggy Dennis

I am writing this on September 26th, National Public Lands Day. I live across the road from the C&O Canal National Historic Park (NHP) at Great Falls. My husband and I walk or run there every week. We are trail maintenance volunteers who clear trash and cut out "blow-downs" from our appointed section of trail, and join with fellow volunteers to take on major projects and share a convivial meal afterwards. Yet I am frequently amazed by the number of people who live in Montgomery County who don't even know that we have a major national park here, or who are vaguely aware of the fact but have never made the effort to visit the park, one of the most heavily used in the country.

This past week, we took the time to get to know the entire park – all 184 miles of it. With two cars, four bicycles and my brother and sister-in-law (over from England), we drove to Cumberland. Over eight days we aging baby boomers cycled the full length of the Canal from Cumberland to Georgetown. Was it tiring or grueling? No. Was it a great escape? Yes. Was it exhilarating, tranquilizing, soothing, fascinating and fun? Definitely!

The C&O NHP is as much a historical park as a nature park. We spent half a day at Harper's Ferry where the 150 anniversary of John Brown's raid is being commemorated. We took the time to stop in at several Visitors' Centers and read dozens of informational message boards along the way. Fort Frederick was never included in my sons' school field trips but it should have been, and we enjoyed several hours there. We learned about Civil War battles and maneuvers that took place close to the river; locks, lock keepers houses, aqueducts, dams and the ruins of past industrial enterprises, so we took in an enormous amount of history as we traveled.

The park is also a green, serene escape from the stress of life in Montgomery County, and cycling is a great way to discover hidden and extraordinary things. We spent sunset at a scenic overlook admiring a breathtaking view of a perfect horseshoe bend in the Potomac River near Little Orleans in Allegheny County. This overlook is rated as one of the best views in the country by *National Geographic*, yet it's on an obscure dirt road. It does not

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show up on any of our Maryland maps, and there are no signposts directing visitors to it. Only a local like Steve, our B&B host for our second night, would think to tell you, “you’ve got to go see this place!”

We saw lots of wildlife: deer, rabbits and squirrels (just like here in MoCo), great blue herons, green herons, pileated woodpeckers, humming birds, several sleek black rat snakes and painted turtles by the dozens. Three otters swimming in different spots were the most entrancing critters I saw. I thought the very fat, complacent couple sitting on the far bank on their broad, flat tails and wearing beaver coats looked for all the world like founding members of the Cumberland Chamber of Commerce. A raccoon four feet up a tree beside the tow path lunged out at me, hissing and growling at me as I cycled past. I must have startled him out of his warm, afternoon nap!

Do I recommend this adventure for everyone? You bet! Mobility issues? Tell that to the guy who makes his living by driving his electric wheelchair 6 miles up the towpath to Harper’s Ferry every day to sell chilled bottled water to thirsty hikers. Children? No problem and no deterrent! Plenty of folks are cycling the towpath with toddlers in tow or on carrier seats, and young children can easily ride for many miles on this virtually flat and very safe trail. If the whole shebang is too daunting, try just a day trip in Montgomery County starting at White’s Ferry and ending at Georgetown. You can put your bicycles on the Metro at Foggy Bottom and get close to home without having a friend drive into the city to rescue you. Don’t know how to organize for a bike ride or hike like this? Pick up a book about bicycling the C & O Canal Towpath at the Old Tavern at Great Falls or at a local store like REI or Hudson Trail Outfitters. Or visit the website: www.bikewashington.org/canal and look for the C & O Canal Bicycling Guide. But whatever you do, don’t look for excuses to avoid or postpone this wonderful adventure! And please, volunteer to help our in a county, state or national park convenient to you. So many different kinds of assistance are needed with a number of different organizations from “weed warriors” to stream monitors, from docents to hiking guides and helpers at special events. An excellent website to learn about volunteer opportunities in our many parks is: www.trailvoice.com. So, get out and get busy in the best possible way!

Position on Proposed New Mixed-Use Zones

By Jim Humphrey, Planning & Land Use Chairman

At the September 23 Executive Committee meeting, we approved the following draft position on ZTA 09-08, legislation creating new mixed-use zoning (see <http://j.mp/zFSzg> for introduced version.) At the monthly meeting on October 12, I promise **I will not read the proposed position verbatim**, so please read this carefully now. At the meeting we will discuss its points, then delegates will be asked to vote on adoption of the position as a whole, including any amendments approved that evening.

1) The MCCF is concerned that the legislation to create a new Commercial Residential (CR) District, which is in fact a family of related mixed-use zones, is far too complex. The draft zoning text amendment (ZTA) is part of a purported effort to simplify and reorganize the current Zoning Ordinance. Yet the ZTA is dozens of pages long and contains complex provisions and standards which developers and their land use attorneys will no doubt understand, but which will likely perplex neighborhood citizens groups and their leaders.

2) The Federation is troubled that the flexibility in the CR Zones, in the allocation of commercial and residential FAR (floor area ratio) for any given property, will result in uncertainty over the amount of FAR devoted to particular uses until Planning Board approval of the project. The number of housing units, or amount of retail and office space, in any given project will not be known until Project or Preliminary Plan approval. Multiply this problem by the total number of properties located in the area of a master or sector plan proposed for CR zoning, and MCCF believes this uncertainty will prevent any effective long-range infrastructure planning by the County government for adequate schools, roads or transit capacity.

3) MCCF is concerned that there will be little input from residents, and any input will be largely disregarded, when Planning Department staff develop lists of acceptable Density Incentives to be allowed by developers seeking maximum allowed FAR under Optional Method. In addition, several of the incentives listed in the ZTA would allow density in exchange for so-called amenities which a developer should provide as a matter of good design and sound land use planning (e.g.; pedestrian mid-block connections for large projects, structured or below-grade parking, and safe drop off areas for day care centers).

4) Federation members believe the Minimum Public Use Space Requirements are unacceptably low--ranging from zero for certain lots of one acre or less, to a maximum of only 10% for larger lots. In addition, we are troubled that developers could be allowed to provide public use space offsite within 1/4 mile of their project site, or buy out of the requirement entirely by making a payment to a "Public Amenity Fund" (akin to buying out of Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit requirement). The draft legislation, however, does not specify who will make decisions on use of such a Fund, or whether it will be administered on county wide or local basis.

5) MCCF opposes the provisions in the ZTA reducing or eliminating the Residential Amenity Space requirement for certain Moderately Priced Dwelling Units and Workforce Housing Units. We assert that residents living in MPDUs and WHUs have at least as much need for recreation and amenity space as those living in market rate units.

6) MCCF suggests that since a cornerstone of the new CR District is encouragement of mixed-use projects, and a maximum amount of commercial and residential FAR will be specified in each zone, the Table of Permitted Uses should specify which of the permitted uses are considered as residential, which are considered as commercial, and which, if any, qualify as both.

7) The Federation is concerned that CR zoning could be applied to properties for which it is not recommended in a master or sector plan. The draft legislation lists a number of existing zone categories which could be replaced with CR zoning, through the Local Map Amendment (LMA) process. Language in the ZTA requires only that the densities and heights of the CR zoning be consistent with the maximum density and height of the zone currently applied to a property or the one recommended for it in the master or sector plan. This seemingly facile replacement of current zones with CR presents at least two problems.

a) Several zones recommended for application to properties in master plans do not have building height limits (e.g.; Transit Station-Residential and Transit Station-Mixed), making replacement with CR zoning less of a certainty.

b) Unlike the floating zone requirements now in place, it does not appear that the Council in approving a CR Zone LMA will be required to make any finding as to "compatibility" with existing or planned adjacent development, or approve a detailed development plan at the time of rezoning.

8) MCCF is concerned that the rapid degradation of the natural environment will be continued, if not hastened,

through implementation of the proposed CR District. Not only is there no requirement for minimum "green area" (a portion of a property left undeveloped, with no buildings or vehicular access surfaces on it), but the Density Incentive provision in an earlier draft of the ZTA for "permeable area" has been replaced in the introduced version by "vegetated area with a minimum 12 inch soil depth." The term "vegetated area" refers to the equivalent of a large planter box located over below grade parking, and cannot provide the same benefit as real permeable surface in allowing rainfall to percolate into the ground and recharge the water table.

"Permeable area" should be reinstated in the Incentive Density Provisions.

Finally, the Civic Federation strongly urges the County Council to fully explore the costs, implications, and possible unintended negative consequences of master plan application of the CR zone as proposed. Until you have completed such an analysis of the CR zone, we urge members to postpone further consideration of the Gaithersburg West Sector Plan and White Flint Sector Plan, since both these plans propose use of this untested and complicated new zone.

Position on Proposed White Flint Plan

By Jim Humphrey, Planning and Land Use Chair

As with the previous piece, the Planning & Land Use Committee has developed the following position points on the White Flint Sector Plan. The Executive Committee has approved these position points. We will discuss the position at the October meeting at which time delegates will be asked to vote on adoption of the position as a whole, including any amendments approved that evening.

1) The Federation strongly opposes the density of development proposed in the Plan revision (12,000 more housing units and 25,800 more jobs than currently exist). We believe this level of density will result in traffic gridlock on major arterials in the area, a situation not addressed by the inaccurate transportation study conducted for the Plan.

a) The transportation study assumes a level of Metro Red Line service that doesn't exist. It assumes rush hour Metro service of 8 car trains with 2 1/2 minute headways in each direction and elimination of the current turnaround at Grosvenor Station for many Red Line trains. To implement that level of service from end to end on the Red Line, from the Shady Grove to Glenmont stations, would require a substantial additional number of Metro cars, storage for those cars,

and operational costs. Also, WMATA estimates adding a Metro station in the area would cost at least \$50 million, and take 10 years to build--nearly the lifespan of the Plan.

b) In order for the arterial Level of Service (LOS) in the Plan area to be deemed "acceptable," the boundaries of the Policy Area will need to be expanded in order to increase CLV (Critical Lane Volume) capacity of key intersections, and the Growth Policy would need to be amended to allow LOS of E--traffic moving at less than 25% of free-flow speed. MCCF believes that allowing this service level on our roads would make a mockery of the term "adequate" as contained in Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance.

c) The transportation study acknowledges that Strathmore Avenue and Rockville Pike will fail Local Area Transportation Review (LATR) even with the Metro Station Policy area congestion standard. Strathmore Avenue is the major east-west connection south of the Sector Plan area and already experiences severe backups. In his testimony on the Plan, delivered to the Planning Board on January 12, County Executive Leggett noted that even with the transportation improvements called for in the Plan and "even with the higher threshold of acceptable congestion, the Plan assumes that two intersections--MD 355 and Old Georgetown Road, and Old Georgetown Road and Executive Boulevard--will fail LATR." MCCF believes this planned inadequacy, proposed to be dealt with by eliminating LATR, is unacceptable.

2) The MCCF opposes the recommended distribution of density in the Plan. To minimize the impact of added density in this area the Plan should promote true transit-oriented Smart Growth, concentrating development within a 1/4 mile core around the existing Metro station (as recommended in the 3rd paragraph, page 26 of the Plan). But, the Plan doesn't follow its own recommendation. Instead, highest densities in the proposed Plan go from well north of Old Georgetown Road to Security Boulevard, while 300 foot building heights are planned from north of Old Georgetown Road to south of Executive Boulevard.

3) The staging in the Plan places improvements to Rockville Pike, and its conversion into a boulevard, into Phase 3--the last stage of the development. As a result, nearly all of the redeveloped density in the Plan could be in place before improvements are made to Rockville Pike, including the addition of bus priority lanes which could be extremely helpful in reducing private vehicle trips in the area.

4) At this time, the MCCF opposes adoption of the implementation authority process proposed to replace

and eliminate use of Local Area Transportation Review (LATR) and Policy Area Mobility Review (PAMR), since no details are contained in the Plan. There is also no financing plan included in the Plan. The Plan only recommends a staging element providing 12 months to determine the financing mechanisms as well as a transportation approval mechanism and monitoring program. Residents are being asked to buy into something with no way of determining its viability or impact.

5) The MCCF objects to, and registers serious concern over, the Plan's proposed use of a new zoning category--the CR (Commercial/Residential) mixed-use zone--since the zone does not currently exist. It is impossible for residents to weigh in on use in the Plan of a new zone category without knowing the specific criteria recommended for each individual property to which the CR Zone might be applied (i.e.; total FAR, maximum commercial and residential FAR, maximum height) or possible public amenities which may result.

There is no way of knowing the residential capacity, or number of new housing units, which could result from this Plan or any Plan that uses the proposed CR Zone category, since the zoning would not set a maximum number of dwelling units per acre, but rather a maximum residential square footage. This uncertainty will make long term infrastructure planning impossible, since the number of housing units on any property will not be known until each project is approved by the Planning Board. The staging plan will provide some limit on the pace at which new housing can be built in the area, but it only covers 75% of the zoning envelope. Again, residents are being asked to buy into something with no way of determining the impact.

6) The Sustainability section of the Plan includes recommendations to create a healthy, livable urban environment by improving air and water quality, yet individual aspects of the proposed Plan work against this.

a) The Plan proposes achieving a healthy, livable urban environment in the White Flint area by maximizing the use of environmental incentives contained in the proposed CR mixed use zone category, which has not yet been approved by Council. Yet the proposed CR Zone would require that only 30% of total density (above the base of 0.5 FAR) must come from environmental amenities. Furthermore, there is no telling which environmental amenity any individual developer will offer in exchange for maximum density in their project, or which the Planning Board will require.

b) The recommendation to maintain the current amount of impervious land cover (87%) is too weak,

even though the Plan also calls for increasing the overall tree canopy in the area and incorporating stormwater management as part of project approval. The Planning staff anticipates that stream degradation will continue in the two watersheds located in the area, but at a lesser rate. We find this is unacceptable.

c) The Plan promotes a land use pattern intended to minimize carbon emissions, ignoring the fact that the traffic gridlock generated by the density levels in the Plan will increase auto emissions.

7) The Federation opposes the proposed building height limit of 60 feet, or 5 stories, for development which is adjacent to existing single-family home neighborhoods just outside the boundaries of the Plan area. This is, quite simply, a bad design standard that will obstruct vistas into the Plan area from edge neighborhoods. For this reason, until recently and with few exceptions, the county standard for transition height of development located adjacent to existing edge neighborhoods of single-family homes has been 3 stories, or 43 feet, for commercial development.

8) MCCF believes that the schools recommendations in the Plan are inadequate. We believe a responsible Plan should address the need for an elementary school in a safe, walkable location in proximity to the hundreds of elementary students to be generated by new development in the Sector Plan area.

Community Service Day 2009 - Make A Difference!

Now more than ever, our community nonprofits, businesses, schools, and civic groups can work together on Community Service Day, the weekend of October 24 and October 25. What began as "Community Service Day" in Montgomery County 22 years ago has become a national day of service known nationally as "Make a Difference Day." This year the day is part of President Obama's "United We Serve" national campaign. The effort to promote volunteerism is strongly supported by County Executive Ike Leggett through the Montgomery County Volunteer Center. Groups can develop their own projects to be completed in just a few hours or consider the many opportunities registered by nonprofits. A list of organizations hosting collection drives of food, clothing and other items is also included. Find out about Volunteer Center resources on organizing your own self-directed service project or signing up with an existing project by going to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteer and click on the Community Service Day link. Register your group's project and get recognized in the Montgomery County Gazette. For more information on how to create,

manage or get matched with a nonprofit, contact Harriet Shugerman, Community Service Day Coordinator at 240-777-2620 or harriet.shugerman@montgomerycountymd.gov.

MDTA Announces Proposed ICC Tolling Plan From MDTA Press Release

60-day Public Comment Period Began September 23

BALTIMORE, MD – In preparation for opening the first segment of the Intercounty Connector (ICC)/MD 200 in fall 2010, on September 23 the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) announced the proposed tolling plan for Maryland's first all-electronic toll facility. The proposed mileage rate range will vary for peak and off-peak traffic and will set the lowest and highest per-mile toll rate for travel on the roadway.

"Tolling has become an effective way of managing congestion, while variable tolling allows for reliable travel times," said Transportation Secretary and MDTA Chairman Beverley K. Swaim-Staley. "This will be a different kind of facility using all electronic and variable-priced tolling to help us better manage traffic volumes – the key purpose of the ICC."

The mileage rate ranges for two-axle vehicles (passenger vehicles and light trucks) vary from \$0.25 to \$0.35 per-mile during proposed peak periods (6 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 7 p.m. weekdays except federal holidays) and \$0.20 to \$0.30 per-mile during off-peak periods. Peak and off-peak periods may be adjusted up to 60 minutes earlier and/or later once the roadway opens and travel patterns can be assessed. Once the public comment process is complete, and the mileage rate range has been approved, the actual toll rates will be set by the MDTA's Executive Secretary. Toll rates will be adjusted within the approved rate range to manage congestion.

"Tolls on the ICC will be a congestion management tool that will save drivers time and will help improve safety and convenience for motorists using MD 200," said MDTA Executive Secretary Ronald L. Freeland. "With today's announcement, we have begun our public comment period. Citizens are encouraged to provide written feedback prior to 5 p.m. on Nov. 23, attend one of our public informational open houses or give testimony before our Board Members at a public hearing."

The ICC will be the first cashless, all-electronic toll facility in Maryland where tolls will be paid at highway speeds using E-ZPass® via overhead gantries. The ICC will have video-tolling capability if a driver does not have a valid E-ZPass.

The 18.8-mile roadway will link I-270/I-370 in Montgomery County and the I-95/US 1 business corridor in Prince George's County. While the tolled portion of the highway is 17.5 miles, less than five percent of drivers are expected to travel this distance. The average trip length is estimated to be 6.6 miles. When adjusted for inflation, the proposed toll ranges are comparable to the ranges used for discussion during the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) study in 2004.

Opening of the first segment, from I-370 to MD 97 (5.65 miles), is expected in fall 2010, with the roadway from MD 97 to I-95 scheduled to open in late 2011 or early 2012. Once open, the ICC will improve mobility and connectivity for Marylanders, whether they drive the roadway; use it to access Metrorail, MARC, or local transit services; use the Maryland Transit Administration's new commuter bus service; or enjoy connections to the bike trails and pedestrian paths.

The MDTA is partnering with the State Highway Administration (SHA) to manage construction of the facility. Once construction is complete, the MDTA will operate and maintain the ICC, which will become Maryland's eighth toll facility.

Public comments on the proposed tolling plan parameters will be accepted until 5 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23, 2009. After reviewing and considering all comments, the MDTA Chairman and Board Members may take final action on the tolling plan in December.

MDTA staff will be available to address the public's questions at two open houses:

October 19, 2009, 6-9 p.m.
High Point High School Cafeteria
3601 Powder Mill Road
Beltsville, MD 20705

October 21, 2009, 6-9 p.m.
John F. Kennedy High School Cafeteria
1901 Randolph Road
Silver Spring, MD 20902

Citizens who have questions about the ICC tolling plan can call 1-866-847-7310. However, those wishing to have their comments become part of the public record should:

- Attend a public hearing with the Authority Board to provide verbal testimony:

October 28, 2009, 6-9 p.m..
High Point High School
3601 Powder Mill Road
Beltsville, MD 20705

October 29, 2009, 6-9 p.m
Shady Grove Middle School
8100 Midcounty Highway
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

- Submit comments electronically using the website: iccproject.com

- Write: ICC Project Office

Attn: ICC Tolls
11710 Beltsville Drive
Suite #200
Beltsville, MD 20705

Minutes of the August Executive Committee Meeting By Virginia Sheard, Acting Recording Secretary

Attendance

President Peggy Dennis, Carole Ann Barth, Paula Bienenfeld, Jim Humphrey, Bill Schrader, Virginia Sheard, Charles Wolff, Jim Zepp

Ms. Dennis called the meeting to order at 7:55 PM at Mr. Schrader's home.

Minutes of July 21st meeting were discussed and approved

President's Report: Richard cannot serve as Secretary, as hoped, so members will rotate task until slot is filled

Treasurer's Report: Copies of current budget, Proposed Budget for FY 2009-2010 and fiscal status were distributed. Proposed budget was accepted as presented. September Newsletter will include Proposed Budget which will be voted on by membership at September meeting.

Membership update reported, including renewed memberships by Audubon Society and Montgomery Preservation

Rental costs for regular monthly meetings in COB likely to increase for 2010.

Bill has received letter of appreciation to MCCF from Historic Preservation Montgomery acknowledging contributions made in memory of Wayne Goldstein. rental costs (Council Building)

Committee Reports and Discussions

History/Archives: Charles discussed options for disposition of MCCF historical records. As much as possible of paper materials will go to the Historical Society in Rockville; position papers should be scanned

and uploaded to website, working from present backwards as time allows; Charles will continue to follow up.

Website: (1) need to contact current host John Nelson of Community Web to verify status, process for updating/redesign, updating and maintenance costs projections, status of domain name and hosting (who owns and how long?); (2) Peggy and Dan will create list of contents for revising structure; (3) need to create process for updating so ExComm members can update/upload and maintain specific site pages;

May Banquet: the University at Shady Grove was suggested as an alternative site for the awards banquet. Jim to contact and provide more information at next ExComm.

Membership: Drew Powell has agreed to chair Membership Committee

Planning and Land Use: Jim reported on proposed Growth Policy. Council hearing on September 22, MCCF position testimony to be circulated for comment. Traffic metrics continue to be an issue; there should be three basic tests, a road test separate from one for transit, and one for schools. PHED Committee will be reviewing II recommendations submitted by Planning Board. Jim reviewed suggested issues with that version and proposed MCCF alternatives. Planning Board recommendations weaken existing processes, decrease revenue from new development, under estimate impact on schools, and fail to address future sustainability of new development. Relationship of Growth Policy to Master and Sector Plans. Jim will continue to monitor county activities and update draft MCCF recommendations as appropriate.

Parks: Carole Ann Barth reported on the status of Sligo Creek Golf Course, The course is currently scheduled to cease operation on October 1. County Executive Leggett has asked the County Council for an appropriation of \$150,000 to keep the course open for 1-2 years while studying ways to make golf financially sustainable at Sligo. Issues include the lease agreement with Montgomery County Revenue Authority (MCRA); the management fees charged by MCRA, and the financial viability of all county golf courses.

Other parks and recreation issues continue including: lack of maintenance, improper maintenance, and whether public parks are truly set aside by the county as "forever green" or whether they are merely market-driven "greenback" generators.

Education: Paula Bienenfeld is contacting all PTAs to introduce MCCF—who we are, what we do, and how we can be a resource for groups. Discussions on-going

about pros and cons of reversing school start times so elementary schools begin first and high schools last. Parents Coalition advocating more transparency in school use of credit cards, such as online reporting. Recent incident highlights problems with school sports teams practicing/playing in extreme hot weather and playing on artificial turf

Public Utilities – Mr. Lapinsky discussed activity at state level and plans for November program.

Future Programs

October – County Police & Public Safety. Police Chief Manger has agreed to be presenter. Topics to include: crime stats reporting, cross jurisdiction actions, County Police vs Parks Police, County vs Metro and more.

November – Public Utilities organized by Chuck Lapinski

Future – possible topics include library system, county stat implementation and assessments

Other Discussions

Need chairs for Environment Committee (Ginny Barnes being recruited); Public Safety; Historic Preservation (Mary Reardon suggested)

Newsletter deadline set at August 29.

New Business – Jim presented overview of San Jose CA growth policy model; Carole Ann presented review of Park City, UT strategies on Sensitive Area Overlay Zoning; Jim announced that a Bethesda Community is looking at a 'neighborhood overlay zone'

Adjournment Ms. Dennis adjourned the meeting at 10:10 pm.

Minutes of the September 14 Monthly Meeting By Virginia Sheard, Acting Recording Secretary

Meeting called to order by President Peggy Dennis at 7:45 PM. Introductions of all present were made.

Announcements:

- Montgomery County Senior Citizens Guide now available at libraries and other public buildings.
- Community Service Days – Saturday and Sunday, October 24 and 25
- Montgomery County Board of Elections will hold an Open House at their new facility at 18753 N. Frederick Avenue (Rte. 355 north of Montgomery Village Avenue) on October 8.

- If you receive MCCF Newsletter electronically, please forward to other interested neighbors and friends.
- 'Federation Corner' is a weekly feature of the Sentinel newspaper and available for members and other civics to write columns on issues and concerns to communities, etc. Contact Jim Humphrey for additional information or to submit content.

Meeting Agenda as printed in Newsletter was adopted

Approval of President's appointments to chair MCCF committees:

Education – Paula Bienenfeld

Environment – Ginny Barnes & Caren Madsen

Legislation & CfM – Dan Wilhelm

Membership - Drew Powell

Parks & Recreation – Carole Ann Barth

Planning & Land Use – Jim Humphrey

Public Finance – Marvin Weinman

Public Utilities – Chuck Lapinski

Transportation - Arnie Gordon

Treasurer's Report: Bill Schrader, Treasurer, announced that about half of last year's members have renewed. Check list on page 4 of September newsletter to see if your organization has renewed

Minutes of June 8th Regular Meeting were approved unanimously.

FY10 Budget: ExComm recommendation for approval of budget as printed in Sept. Newsletter was approved unanimously.

Program: MCCF Position on Proposed Changes to County Growth Policy – Jim Humphrey, Land Use and Zoning Chair

- Overview; Planning Department recommends changes; only Council can approve biennial Growth Policy. Council hearing scheduled for October 20.
- In June Planning Board denied three Planning Department recommendations (alternative to Policy Area Mobility Review (PAMR) traffic mitigation for 'urban areas'; waiver of Local Area Transportation Review (LATR) for projects in certain locations; and, school cluster capacity trigger for moratorium); Board added two new items and forwarded 11 recommendations for change to the Council
- Jim led discussion of MCCF position paper commenting on the Planning Board's 11 recommendations and suggested MCCF alternative proposals (see article on draft position in September Newsletter).

- Delegates approved the MCCF Growth Policy position, with minor amendments, by majority vote.

Randolph Citizens Association explained why they generally abstained from voting on the Growth Policy positions – this was their first attendance and they were not familiar with content and issues, did not know enough about growth policy and the recommendations, particularly the PAMR and LATR parts. They did participate on the White Flint Plan Working Group, however, and believe that Plan should go forward.

Position on Proposed Gaithersburg West (aka 'Science City') Sector Plan Revision Jim Humphrey noted the Council hearing scheduled for September 15th. Delegates approved the MCCF Gaithersburg West Sector Plan position, with minor amendments, by majority vote (see PLU's draft position in September Newsletter.

New Business: MCCF Website – improvements are in progress, responsibilities and accountability with current hosting service being reviewed, other options being considered, draft content list being developed

Motion to Adjourn: Offered and passed unanimously at 10:00pm

Minutes of the September 23 Executive Committee Meeting By Sandy Vogelgesang, Acting Recording Secretary

Call to Order. President Peggy Dennis called the meeting to order at 7:57 PM at Dan Wilhelm's home. Present: Peggy Dennis, Dan Wilhelm, William Schrader, Jim Humphrey, Jim Zepp, Carole Ann Barth, Paula Bienenfeld, Charles Wolff and Sandy Vogelgesang. Introductions were made all around for the benefit of new ExComm members.

Agenda and Minutes: Peggy proceeded with the usual agenda format and said that minutes for the September Executive Committee would be approved after being printed in the next Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bill Schrader provided an update on membership renewals. Forty-two associations and 13 individuals have joined for the 2009-2010 year.

Webpage: Peggy reported that John Nelson, who runs Community Web, says that he can reorganize the MCCF site for about \$200. There was agreement to proceed with this proposal.

Programs: Montgomery County Chief of Police Tom Manger will be the presenter at the October 12

meeting. Dan Wilhelm confirmed that Chuck Lapinski is arranging a program on public utilities for November. Options for the December meeting include a program on aging in place (Carole Ann Barth to explore) and County libraries and media services (Peggy to explore). There was discussion of other ideas for programs in 2010 including a program for increased accountability (CountiStat) and the need for more transparency and follow-through in local government (Office of Legislative Oversight).

Public Finance: Marvin Weinman provided materials on the FY 2010 County Operating Budget and explained next steps for County Council review, particularly in light of Federal stimulus funds and expected shortfalls in the budget for the State of Maryland. He explained that, due to a range of personal issues, he plans to step down from his role with the Montgomery County Taxpayers' League and his chairmanship of the MCCF Public Finance Committee.

Parks and Recreation: Carole Ann Barth provided an update on County plans to close the Sligo Creek Golf Course. The County Executive has asked for funds to keep the course open for another year, and the issue will be discussed at several County Council sessions. In response to concerns expressed by Marvin Weinman and others, Carole Ann will check on the status of needed maintenance for Wheaton Regional Park.

Education: Paula Bienenfeld reported that she has sent letters to about half of the County elementary schools, introducing herself as the new MCCF education chair and requesting feedback on issues of concern that MCCF might help address. She reported that graduation rates for Montgomery County high school students have fallen to a 13-year low, thus continuing a trend of decline that ranks Montgomery County 11th among Maryland's 24 school jurisdictions. MCPS and the School Board have begun briefings for the County Council on the next Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget.

Transportation: In Chairman Arnold Gordon's absence, Peggy reported that the Orphan Roads Report will be introduced on October 6 and discussed by the County Council's Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment (T&E) Committee on October 12.

Historian: Charles Wolff reported that he had taken MCCF files and documents to the Red Brick Courthouse in Rockville for permanent, safe storage. In light of the fact that most Federation documents are now in this facility and that the Federation is increasingly using electronic storage of its material, Charles said that the role of historian as traditionally performed is no longer needed and that he is therefore stepping down.

He did confirm that he would remain available to answer questions that do not require access to materials no longer in his possession.

Planning and Land Use: Jim Humphrey updated us on the status of work on historic preservation in the County. He reported on sessions to occur the week of September 28 (so-called "Zoning Week") at the Planning Board. He then led an in-depth discussion of draft statements on two issues: (1) ZTA 09-08 for the establishment of Commercial Residential (CR) Zones and (2) revision of the White Flint Sector Plan. MCCF is to testify before the County Council on the former on October 27 and on the latter on October 20. After providing suggested amendments of the two position papers, the Executive Committee approved the submitted drafts unanimously. They will be printed in the October newsletter, discussed and voted on at the October meeting.

Other Business and Adjournment:

Assignments were made for the Newsletter.

Dan Wilhelm reported on his work with the Committee for Montgomery (CFM) News on Maryland's fiscal outlook and budget deficits remains bad.

Jim Humphrey reported on one possibility for a different location for the annual awards banquet. He and Peggy will follow up.

The next ExComm meeting will be at the home of Sandy Vogelgesang on October 23.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM.

Membership Renewal By Dan Wilhelm, Database Manager

A great many of you responded to last month's appeal to renew memberships. Thanks! We also had five groups join which were not members last year – Welcome or Welcome back!

The associations and individuals who have not renewed as of September 26 are listed below. Please use the Membership Form on page 11 to correct this matter. Delegates should fill in the form and get it to their association treasurers to mail in with the needed check.

Action Committee for Transit
Burnt Mills Hill Civic Association
Clarksburg Civic Association
Deerfield Weathered Oak Citizens Association
Edgemoor Citizens Association
Hillandale Citizens Association
Hillmead Citizens Association
Huntington Terrace Citizens' Assn
Kensington Heights Citizens Association

Kensington View Civic Association
 Layhill View Section Two HOA
 Manor Lake Civic Association
 Potomac Towne Homeowners Association
 Riverhill HOA
 Rock Creek Palisades Citizens Association
 Donna Barron
 Derick Berlage

Jenny Sue Dunner
 Jennifer Fajman
 Norman Knopf
 Caren & Eric Madsen
 Ben Petree
 Robert E. Redding
 SJ Weiss

MCCF Executive Committee

October 2009

Position	Name	Home Phone	Office Phone	Email
Elected				
President	Peggy Dennis	301-983-9738	same	hotyakker@comcast.net
1st Vice President	Dan Wilhelm	301-384-2698	703-983-6847	djwilhelm@verizon.net
2nd Vice President				
Treasurer	Bill Schrader	301-946-6545	same	schraderw@erols.com
Recording Secretary:				
Appointed and Past President				
Member at Large	Virginia Sheard	301-949-3372	same	boots3303@aol.com
Member at Large	Drew Powell	301-520-2642		drewpowell@verizon.net
Member at Large	Jim Zepp	301-593-7863		jzepp@mindspring.com
Member at Large	<i>vacant</i>			
Member at Large	<i>vacant</i>			
Public Relations Officer	Sandy Vogelgesang	301-365-2347	Same	everest.associates@erols.com
Newsletter Editor	Peggy Dennis	301-983-9738	same	hotyakker@comcast.net
Database	Dan Wilhelm	301-384-2698	703-983-6847	djwilhelm@verizon.net
Immediate Past President	Arnold Gordon	301-570-0481	Same	nmcaprexy@aol.com
Committees				
<u>Education</u>	Paula Bienenfeld	301-984-2944		paula_bienenfeld@yahoo.com
Environment	Ginny Barnes	301-762-6423		ginnybarnes@juno.com
Legislation/Committee for Montgomery	Dan Wilhelm	301-384-2698	703-983-6847	djwilhelm@verizon.net
Planning, Land Use & Housing	Jim Humphrey	301-652-6359	same	theelms518@earthlink.net
Utilities	Chuck Lapinski	301-384-0392	703-874-8430	charles.lapinski@yahoo.com
Public Finance	<i>vacant</i>			
Public Safety	<i>vacant</i>			
Transportation	Arnold Gordon	301-570-0481	Same	nmcaprexy@aol.com
Parks and Recreation	Carole Ann Barth	301-593-7863		cbarth@mindspring.com

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, October 12, 2009
7:45 1st Floor Auditorium
County Council Office Building.
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD

Agenda:

7:45 Call to Order

7:46 Program on MC Police Dept. & Public Safety

9:00 Adoption of Meeting Agenda

9:02 Approval of Minutes from Sept. 14 meeting

9:03 Vote on proposed CR Zone

9:17 Vote on proposed White Flint MP

9:30 Treasurer's Report

9:32 Committee Reports

9:45 Announcements & 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, October 24.** 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, October 21, 2009, 7:45 p.m.

At the home of Sandy Vogelgesang

9009 Charred Oak Drive

Bethesda, 20817



Official Publication of the
Montgomery County Civic Federation

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Silver Spring, MD 20904

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