



Civic Federation News

September 2010

Serving the Public Interest since 1925

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September Program: Zoning Code Rewrite Project by Jim Humphrey, Chair, MCCF Planning & Land Use Committee

Our program for the Monday, September 13 meeting will be on the Zoning Code Rewrite Project. The main speaker will be Lois Villemaire, Project Manager with the Planning Department. She will provide an introduction and background on the project, and explain the revision process and timeline, who is involved, proposed general approach, and opportunities for public involvement. Members of the Zoning Advisory Panel, a citizens working group advising on the project, have also been invited to participate.

A complete overhaul of the zoning ordinance has been discussed by county officials for over a decade, and the current effort proposes creation of four major zoning districts. A district is a broad, general land use category containing multiple individual zones which could be applied to properties assigned that land use. The four anticipated major districts are the CR (Commercial-Residential) mixed use, the Residential, the Agricultural, and Industrial. In addition to these four major districts, the new ordinance may retain some existing districts including Planned Development and overlay zone districts applied to specific locations, and a possible new mixed campus district.

The rewrite effort started in earnest early last year when appointments were made to the Zoning Advisory Panel, and the Planning Department staff began drafting the language for the first major zoning category, the CR mixed use district, for initial use in the White Flint master plan. Legislation to create the CR district was transmitted from the Planning Board to the County Council in July of 2009, following which the Planning Department hired a consultant, the Code Studio of Austin, Texas, to advise on the Zoning Code Rewrite. CR zoning was also applied to properties in the Great Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan area, although changes are anticipated before it is used next in the Kensington Plan.

Members of the public are invited and encouraged to attend monthly Civic Federation meetings, especially the informational programs we offer. Information on the Zoning Code Rewrite Project can be found on the internet at www.zoningmontgomery.org.

Public Hearing on PEPCO

In response to the prolonged power outages caused by the July 25 electrical storm, the Maryland Public Service Commission will host a public hearing on August 30 at the Council Office Building in Rockville. The hearing will begin at 6 p.m. Residents may sign up to speak (maximum of 5 minutes) beginning at 5:30

The Commission is accepting written comments as well, as long as they are submitted by August 31. Written comments should be mailed to:

Terry Romaine, Executive Secretary
Maryland Public Service Commission
William Donald Schaefer Tower
6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202.

President's Message: Why the Civic Federation Needs You, And Why You Need the Civic Fed By Peggy Dennis

For 85 years the Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF) has represented a broad array of civic, citizens, homeowners and interest groups from across the county. Throughout this time our objective has been "to protect and enhance the Quality of Life for current and future residents of the county." We accomplish this by keeping our members CIA – Connected, Informed and Activated. First, we connect people from all over the county. Folks who live in Bethesda don't know the problems facing those in Long Branch. People in Friendship Heights have little knowledge about the issues confronting residents of the Agriculture Reserve. By bringing together and connecting residents from all over the county, we overcome the tendency of the government and media to "divide and conquer" us.

Second, local government is most responsive to highly organized and well-funded interest groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, development and construction companies, and public employee unions. Although the MCCF is not a well-funded interest group, we do function effectively to inform our members about actions our county and state governments are contemplating and how these actions may impact us. We lobby for the broad

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interests of all our members, and we activate and guide our members in how to best advocate for themselves with the government.

Most of our work is carried out by a core of well informed and highly dedicated volunteers, particularly our committee chairmen and those who work with them. I will take this opportunity to thank our committee chairs – Jim Humphrey with Planning and Land Use, Ginny Barnes and Caren Madsen with Environment, Dan Wilhelm with State Legislation and Committee for Montgomery, Carole Ann Barth with Parks and Recreation, Paula Bienenfeld with Education, and Charles Lapinski with Public Finance and Public Utilities – for their excellent work. Without them we would literally be clueless and toothless! But, like all civic organizations, we need to keep up and grow our membership and bring in new blood with new ideas and new energy. That's why we need you!

Why do you need us? To help make your communities safer, and more welcoming and supportive. Community is described as “a body of people having common organization or interests or living in the same place under the same laws.” Montgomery County is often derisively described as being a “bedroom community” where people commute into D.C. to work, eat out and go to theaters, then return home to drop into bed. While this characterization may be true for a few residents, it is also grossly inaccurate.

Our suburban neighborhoods are incredibly diverse with old timers who are retired and aging in place, new comers, baby boomers, empty nesters, singles and young adults living with parents, young families with children of all ages, commuters, telecommuters and self-employed. We have a plethora of diplomatic and international organization employees living here plus immigrants from virtually every country in the world. And our growing urban centers – Friendship Heights, Bethesda, White Flint, Rockville, Silver Spring and Wheaton - with increasing numbers of high rise apartment and condominium buildings are also packed with demographic diversity. Where and how future development and redevelopment takes place will affect the quality of life for all of us.

Park & Planning's office of Community Outreach lists many hundreds of civic, citizens and homeowners' associations. Many of these are well organized, vibrant and responsible for engendering a first rate sense of community among their residents. Many other community associations are, unfortunately, either dormant or defunct. I will be writing in the coming year about both the importance of our local community associations, and the various other forms of “community” that can greatly enrich our individual lives. It will be our goal during the coming year to work with the five Regional Services Centers to enhance the work of the county's many active civic associations and to revive many of the non-functioning local associations as well. I look forward to working with one and all to help keep

Montgomery County wonderful and improve on those areas where things can and should be even better.

Time to Join the Civic Federation or Renew Your Membership

Our fiscal year began on July 1. As of August 22, the following associations and individuals had renewed their membership. If you/yours is listed below, thank you for being quick off the mark. If you/yours is not listed below, please print out the Membership Form on page 11, complete it and mail it in to Bill Schrader with the check (from your treasurer) as soon as possible. We appreciate your cooperation.

Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights
 East Silver Spring Citizens Assn
 Flemming Park Community Assn
 Greater Colesville Citizens Association, Inc.
 Greenwich Forest Citizens Assn
 Huntington Terrace Citizens' Assn
 Kenwood Condominium
 Layhill South Citizens Association
 Manor Lake Civic Association
 Stonegate Citizens Association
 Twunbrook Citizens Association
 Villages of Bethesda
 Woodside Park Civic Association Inc.
 Mid-Atlantic Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Jennifer Fajman
 Timothy J French
 Julie Greenberg
 Norman Knopf
 Ben Petree
 Beverly Sobel
 Maria Stephens
 Evan Stephens
 Joan Snow

Support Historic Designation for Greenwich Forest by John Jessen, Co-President, Greenwich Forest Citizens Association

Preservation of neighborhoods with significant architectural and environmental history is coming into focus across the country, as suburbs closest to city centers mature. In Montgomery County, some of our older neighborhoods have been declared “historic districts”.

Over a two-year period, residents of Greenwich Forest, a neighborhood of 89 homes located off Wilson Lane in inner Bethesda, considered several ways to preserve the unique character of our community. At the conclusion of the process, an overwhelming majority of our voting households--over two-thirds--voted to seek Historic District status for the neighborhood, and the request was filed. Last fall, the MCCF voted unanimously to support us

in our bid for inclusion in the county's Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

On September 24 last year, the County Planning Board formally accepted the Historic Preservation Commission's recommendation that Greenwich Forest be designated as a Historic District, and the Board voted to transmit the recommendation to the County Council. The Board cited the neighborhood's value to the County's history, the developer's sensitivity to the environment and preservation of mature trees when creating the subdivision in the 1930s, and the architectural distinction of the houses. In addition, the Maryland Historic Trust and the State Historic Preservation Office determined that Greenwich Forest meets the requirements for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

The final step in the process is consideration and, hopefully, approval by the County Council for including a new Greenwich Forest Historic District in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation. The public hearing on this issue is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21 at 1:30 p.m. in the Council Office Building in Rockville.

We need your vocal support in order to be successfully approved by the Council, and we ask every community to send letters of support to Council members. Why do we need support from around the county? Developers see ours as an important test case on the issue of neighborhood preservation

The Greenwich Forest Citizens Association, a member of MCCF, requests you and your neighborhood associations to send letters of support to the County Council (to county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov). Please copy me on any emails you send the council on this issue (jjessen@voa.com), so that my neighborhood can track the amount of support we receive. Please let the Council know that neighborhood preservation counts.

Civic Federation Meeting Dates Autumn – Winter 2010

Please mark your calendars now for our meeting dates for the remainder of 2010.

Regular Monthly Meetings

Second Monday of the month

September 13

October 11

November 8

December 13

Executive Committee Meetings

Third Wednesday of the month (*with exception)

September 22

October 20

November 17

December 15*

Mark Your Calendars By Dan Wilhelm, Legislative Chairman

The Montgomery County Annapolis Delegation's fall calendar is provided below. You can always get the latest information at their website:

www.montgomerycountydelegation.com

- Thursday,
October
7, 2010 **Consolidated Transportation Program Presentation ("Road Show") by State Highway Administration**
7:00 p.m. - 3rd Floor Hearing Room, Stella Werner Council Office Bldg., 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- Thursday,
Nov 18,
2010 **Joint House and Senate Priorities Hearing**
7:00 p.m. - 3rd Floor Hearing Room, Stella Werner Council Office Bldg., 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850 - This hearing is an opportunity for the public to respond to the Road Show and to bring other issues of importance for the 2010 Session to the attention of the legislators.
- Monday,
Dec 6,
2010 **House Hearing for local bills**
7:00 p.m. - 3rd Floor Hearing Room, Stella Werner Council Office Bldg., 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850 - Local bills refer to legislation affecting issues specific to Montgomery County.
- Thursday,
Dec 9,
2010 **House Hearing for bi-county bills**
7:00 p.m. - 3rd Floor Hearing Room, Stella Werner Council Office Bldg., 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850 - Bi-County bills refer to legislation that requires the approval of the Montgomery County and the Prince George's County Delegations.

County Council Adopts Groundbreaking Environmental Site Design Bill By Caren Madsen & Ginny Barnes, Co- chairs, MCCF Environment Committee

In late July, the Montgomery County Council unanimously passed Expedited Bill 40-10, amending the county's stormwater code to require Environmental Site Design (ESD) in building standards. The final language of the bill was the result of cooperative work between stakeholders initiated by the T&E Committee of the Council which included a team from Montgomery Stormwater Partners Network (of which MCCF is a member), Council legal staff, as well as staff from the County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Department of Permitting Services (DPS), Park and Planning and representatives of the building industry.

"We believe that this ordinance is now one of the strongest and most progressive local green infrastructure laws in the East, and possibly in the country as a whole," said Diane Cameron, Conservation Director for the Audubon Naturalist Society and leader of the Stormwater Partners

Network, a coalition of 22 organizations. "This is a win-win for the community."

Environmental site design, or low impact development (LID) uses vegetation, soils, and other landscaping and rainwater harvesting practices to capture, infiltrate, and treat polluted runoff on-site at urban and suburban building projects.

Cameron said developers were able to get grandfathering eligibilities as part of the bill for projects with preliminary approval prior to May 4, 2010. At the same time, the environmental community achieved a goal of keeping the county's strong stormwater volume requirements for redevelopment, while shifting the new basis over to Environmental Site Design. This accord between the environmental, building community, and County government stakeholders also removed and clarified waiver language in the bill. According to Cameron, the waiver provisions in the draft bill would have created additional project review and would have caused the permitting process to be more cumbersome for developers while still subjecting county streams to more stormwater pollution.

The revised ordinance requires that redevelopment, as well as new development projects, manage both the first inch of each storm as well as the channel protection volume, which is equivalent to the largest storm that typically occurs once per year, 2.6" of rain in 24 hours. The bill was brought to the Council by request of County Executive Isiah Leggett in order to comply with the Maryland Stormwater Management Act of 2007. To read the legislation, please click: <http://bit.ly/envirosite>

Proposed New Transportation Test for Growth by Jim Humphrey, Chair, Planning & Land Use Committee.

During consideration of changes to the county's growth policy last fall, County Executive Ike Leggett requested the County Council delay action until an alternative to Policy Area Mobility Review (PAMR), the current transportation test applied during approval of new development, could be drafted.

Council President Nancy Floreen and Mike Knapp, Chair of the Council's Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee, informed Mr. Leggett that it was clear he disapproved of PAMR since it was adopted by Council in 2007. But, they said, he is also aware that changes to the growth policy are considered every 2 years in odd-numbered years, and had 2 years to have drafted an alternative to PAMR for Council consideration. Ms. Floreen urged Mr. Leggett to proceed with work on alternative road and transit capacity tests, and said the Council would consider the proposal when submitted.

The County Executive, in consultation with Department of Transportation officials, hired Robert Winnock, a former Planning Department staffer, as consultant to explore an alternative growth policy transportation test to replace PAMR. After consulting with citizen stakeholder groups, Mr. Winnock and DoT Deputy Director Edgar Gonzalez rolled out their alternative growth policy transportation tests this past April. A PowerPoint presentation of their proposal is available online at:

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/dot/tpar_at_landb_seminar.ppt

The Civic Federation is planning a program on the topic for one of its upcoming monthly meetings this fall.

Education Committee Report By Paula Bienenfeld, Education Chair

School Begins. The new school year is upon us; public school begins on Monday August 30th. Welcome to our new and returning students, parents, teachers, and staff.

2011-2012 Budget Meetings: Here we go again. MCPS will hold two "Community Roundtables" on the upcoming budget process, with the focus on "What do you value about Montgomery County Public Schools?" MCPS cannot do it all! So, what are the things we cannot do without? What will be needed to improve public education in the next 5–10 years, and beyond?" To sign up for the roundtables, call 301-279-3617, beginning three weeks before the forum. The roundtables will be held as follows:

- October 13, Carver Educational Services Center Auditorium, Rockville, 7–9 p.m.
- October 28, Wheaton High School, Silver Spring, 7–9 pm.

Remember that the MCPS budget is over half of our entire county budget. So, even if you do not have a child in the school system, MCPS affects you. This year our libraries budget was cut by 24%; there are hiring freezes countywide, essential services are being cut countywide, and the County Council has raised our taxes. Please pay attention and speak up.

Board of Education Candidates – The Primary Election is **September 14**. This year there is early voting as well. Please do your homework regarding the candidates running for the Board of Education. Information on the candidates will be provided in the "Voters Guide" prepared by the Montgomery County League of Women Voters available starting September 1 at all libraries, the five Regional Services Centers and in the Beacon newspaper. Many people have told me they are not involved, they don't have a child in the school system, and they don't know much about the candidates. As stated above, the Board of Education is the primary recipient of over half of our budget, so the Board Members are important to you whether you have a child in the public school system or not.

Thank you to Board Member Laura Berthiaume.

Ms. Berthiaume spoke up passionately and voted against both the Pearson-MCPS contract, and the proposed budget, stating that the Board did not have sufficient time to study the Pearson contract; and that the Board should be more than a 'rubber stamp' for MCPS employees and MCPS business. Ms. Berthiaume will be thanked at our September meeting.

Minutes of the June 14 Monthly Meeting by Dan Wilhelm, Acting Recording Secretary

Call to Order, Announcements, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, and Treasurer's Report: President Peggy Dennis, MCCF President, called the meeting to order at 7:48 P.M. with introductions all around. Peggy reminded the group of the July 16 Potluck Dinner and discussion with state delegates and senators about the upcoming year. The agenda for the meeting was approved as were the minutes of the May 10, 2010 meeting. Bill Schrader, Treasurer, circulated copies of the latest report, showing a Federation bank account balance of \$12,136.93. Bill Schrader also handled out a list of meetings for the next year.

Short Program. Peggy Dennis introduced speakers for the short program on Montgomery County 311 (MC311): Tom Street, Montgomery County Chief Information Officer; and Leslie Hamm, MC311 Customer Service Center Manager (leslie.hamm@montgomerycountymd.gov; 240-773-3565). The MC311 program had been scheduled for the February meeting, which was cancelled due to snow. MC311 was one of the Mr. Leggett's eight priorities when he became County Executive. It will become formally active on June 17 and consolidate call centers from throughout the County Government (not WSSC, MCPS, or MNCPPC) into a single center, which can answer basic questions and refer the caller to other contacts for further information, thus avoiding the need by the public to hunt for the correct office. The center can be reached by calling 311 Monday-Friday, 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM or anytime by accessing the county web site (www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311).

A total of 52 people were transferred to the new call center and a large number of other positions were eliminated, saving \$10M annually. They can communicate in over 108 languages and they track requests in a database to ensure the service request is acted upon, allow the requester to check upon the status, and for analysis purposes in management reports, including County Stat. As MC311 is just starting, expect some glitches to begin with. However, Leslie is looking for feedback so that corrective actions can be taken.

Main Program: Carole Ann Barth, Parks and Recreation Chairman, introduced the speakers for the evening's main

program on deer in Montgomery County – Bill Hamilton, Parks Department's principal natural resource specialist dealing with deer; John Hench, Parks Department Division Chief (Bill's boss); and Darien Manley, Chief Park Police. The Parks Department has two staff assigned to deer management. With the FY11 budget reductions, it is not clear whether staff reductions will affect the deer management program.

Bill reported that a Deer Management Work Group was formed in 1994-1995. In 1996 they worked to reduce the number of deer in two parks. Now they are active in 27 parks. They employ three deer-reduction methods: shotgun hunting (5 parks), tenant-based hunting (7 parks) and Park-Police-based sharp shooting (11 parks). Deer contraception is not planned because of the high cost and labor intensity. In FY10, Deer Management removed 950 animals. The target deer density by park is 30 per acre for biodiversity areas and 50 for all others, but it is difficult to count how many deer are in each park. Many deer are killed in collisions with vehicles – some 2000 reported annually in Montgomery County - and many others are not reported. Allstate Insurance has indicated that collisions with deer cost them \$18M annually across the county.

There was a limited amount of discussion about the effect of the FY11 budget reduction on the Park Police staffing (drop from 97 officers to 70 with 18 of the eliminated 27 positions actually filled). There was general interest in having a separate program dealing with the proposal to combine Park and County Police. It was pointed out that historically county police have not been interested in participating in the management of deer.

Business

MCCF 85th Anniversary. Cake and punch was provided in the lobby to celebrate MCCF's anniversary.

Annual election: The slate as presented in the newsletter was approved by acclamation.

Public School Gardens: The resolution (printed in the newsletter) was passed that supports the efforts of Montgomery Victory Gardens and the Montgomery Master Gardener Association to encourage healthy vegetable gardens on public school property; supports removing any obstacles that prevent food gardens from being planted on school grounds; and encourages the development of healthy vegetable gardens on our public school properties.

Committee Reports:

Education: Paul Bienenfeld, chair, reported that the Board of Education approved their revised \$2.1B budget, which included the \$160M reduction set by the Council. One Board Member voted against the budget in protest since it was only presented to them the day before the vote and there was no discussion by the Board concerning the best areas to cut. The Board also rejected the request for two charter schools. Paula also summarized the contract with

Pearson, the world's largest education publisher, where they will acquire the expertise from MCPS and the right to use its name and its top employees as sales tools. The company will hold the copyright, market the materials, and help develop the program's tests and training. MCPS in turn will open their classrooms to prospective customers and speak on behalf of the program at Pearson's request. The company will have final say over content, although Montgomery schools will retain control over it in their classrooms. MCPS will receive royalties of up to 3 percent on the curriculum's sales, a discount on Pearson materials and a \$2.25 million advance payment.

Planning and Land Use: Jim Humphrey, chair, reported on Growth Policy. He indicated a bill is before council to change the update from a two year cycle to a four year cycle. The results of the Schools Test is on the Planning Board's agenda for June 17. A total of six elementary schools, one middle school cluster and one high school cluster exceed the 105% threshold; thus development in those areas will be assessed the impact tax. Richard Montgomery is the only cluster placed in moratorium, but that will have little effect since development for that cluster is controlled by the City of Rockville, not the County. Jim also reminded us that the update to the Housing Chapter of the General Plan is still pending before the Council – MCCF submitted testimony last September.

Budget: Chuck Lapinski, chair, reminded us of the bad budget situation for both the state and county.

Old and New Business and Adjournment: There was no new or old business. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Minutes of the June 23 Executive Committee Meeting By Carole Barth, Acting Recording Secretary

Call to Order: President Dennis called the meeting to order at 8:10 pm at Dan Wilhelm's home. Attendance: President Peggy Dennis, Carole Ann Barth, Jim Humphrey, Bill Schrader, Paula Bienenfeld, Jim Zepp, Dan Wilhelm.

Agenda and Minutes: The agenda was distributed and accepted. Minutes of the May 19 ExComm meeting were approved.

President's Report

Programs: Peggy Dennis will put together a bicycling program for the September meeting.

Planning Bd. Chair: Peggy will schedule a meeting with Francoise Carrier, the new Planning Board Chair and a few of the ExComm members.

July Potluck: Five legislators have RSVPd. State legislative issues to be discussed at the potluck include accountability

of county/state agencies (MCPS, MNCPPC, WSSC); public financing of elections, and land trust.

Membership: Peggy is continuing to work with the Regional Services Centers to identify groups who could become members. She would like a link to the centers from the MCCF's website.

Newsletter: Peggy will write an article on panhandling and no soliciting in roadways legislation. She noted that Bethesda Cares has printed cards you can give panhandlers. The cards show where to get meals. The meals are provided by non-profits coordinated through the services center. Laws prohibiting roadway soliciting has been enacted in P.G. and A.A. Counties, but the volunteer firefighters have opposed such legislation in MoCo. Eileen Finnegan (White Oak, PLU Committee member) is on a working group dealing with this issue.

At-Large Candidates' Forum: The League of Women Voters is interested in co-sponsoring a candidates' forum, perhaps at the Montgomery College Rockville campus during the week of August 30th. Peggy and Dan to coordinate.

Committee Reports

Planning and Land Use – Jim Humphrey reported the Hearing Examiner issued a report on the Suburban Hospital special exception. The big issue for the Civic Fed is the closure of Lincoln Street. The case now goes to the Board of Appeals. We do not know how Francoise Carrier's move to Park and Planning will affect this process. Jim also discussed a sloping lot zoning text amendment. Currently, developers are allowed an extra story on the downhill side of any building or addition erected on a sloping lot. ZTA 10-06 would allow the extra story only on lots that slope down from the front to the rear of the lot.

Jim also discussed Zoning Text Amendment 10-09 for central business district zones (such as Silver Spring, Wheaton, and Bethesda) which would allow developers to have the same FAR for hotel space as for mixed use developments with a residential component.

Finally, Jim discussed a bill sponsored by Marc Elrich which would limit the amount of parking allowed in the RNC (Rural Neighborhood Cluster) zone. No more than 50 spaces would be allowed unless the lot entrance is within 500 feet of a 4 lane or arterial road. Nancy Navarro is co-sponsoring.

Legislation – Dan Wilhelm noted that CFM discussions are beginning to determine legislative priorities for the next term. The issue of funding teachers' pensions is expected to come up again. There are task forces to work on transportation funding and on state funding of municipalities.

Parks and Recreation – Carole Barth thanked Jim Humphrey and PLU committee member Eileen Finnegan for

alerting the press (and us) to the removal of porta-potties from County parks. Eileen's research into the County porta-john contract revealed that porta-johns in the parks costs the County only about \$69.4k. However, removing the porta-johns was supposed to save \$154.9k. Eileen has asked for an explanation of the \$85 difference. Parks Director Mary Bradford said the contractor also hauls portable toilets in and out for special events, but did not provide a cost for that service. Peggy indicated that discussions were now taking place between Council staff, Parks staff, and the County Executive's staff in an effort to keep porta-johns in the parks.

In a follow-up to the June program on deer, Jim Zepp provided some information on lyme disease occurrence in the region. Looking at the cases by zip code, a Baltimore professor discovered a "hot zone" for lyme disease which roughly parallels the fall line. Jim has contacted the professor to see if he has done any further analyses that may be valuable for targeting control efforts in the County.

Education - Paula Bienenfeld reported that on July 1, the T & E committee will have a briefing on artificial turf. Kathy Michaels and Diane Cameron have been working with the regional advisory committees on this issue. The idea is to point out the negative environmental and financial impacts of artificial turf before more schools install it.

Transportation – Peggy Dennis has suggested an "adopt a bus stop" program where neighbors will volunteer to clear a bus stop of snow to ensure that riders have a safe place to wait for the bus. Peggy also suggested that MCDOT have community-based meetings to discuss ways to boost ridership on vulnerable routes.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Minutes of the July 22 Executive Committee Meeting

By Sandy Vogelgesang, Acting Recording Secretary

The Executive Committee met via teleconference arranged by Dan Wilhelm.

Call to Order. President Peggy Dennis called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM. Present: Peggy Dennis, Dan Wilhelm, Jim Humphrey, Virginia Sheard, Carole Ann Barth, Jim Zepp, Paula Bienenfeld, and Sandy Vogelgesang.

Adoption of Agenda. Peggy called for and received unanimous approval of the proposed agenda.

Announcements. Jim Humphrey reported that the County Council had voted, July 20, to approve amendment of the Master Plan Work Program proposed by the Planning Department. This vote will result in delayed action on most plans.

Adoption of Minutes for June 23 ExComm meeting: ExComm deferred vote on minutes until August meeting.

Treasurer's Report. In the absence of the Treasurer, there was no report.

President's Report

Summer ExComm Meetings: ExComm agreed to hold the August 18 meeting via teleconference arranged by Dan Wilhelm.

Meeting with Montgomery County Planning Board Chair: Six members of the ExComm (Dennis, Wilhelm, Sheard, Humphrey, Barth, Zepp) will meet with the new Chair, Françoise Carrier, on July 28. Peggy requested questions to raise in the session.

Membership Building Activities: Peggy Dennis reported on her outreach to the County's five Regional Service Centers. One apparent positive result of this outreach was the record turnout for the annual MCCF potluck dinner in July. To help build membership, Sandy Vogelgesang suggested that individual civics and MCCF might increase membership appeal by providing more material on community services and contacts. ExComm members noted relevant County websites and other sources that MCCF might publicize as part of its expanding outreach.

Candidates' Forum: Dan Wilhelm reported on the forum that will be sponsored jointly with the League of Women Voters, MCCF and the Montgomery College Alumni Association. The forum will take place at Montgomery College Rockville (Performing Arts Center), August 23, 7-9 PM. It will feature Democratic Party at-large candidates for the County Council (other party candidates are uncontested). The forum will use League format. Forum sponsors hope that the event can be televised. A comparable forum for candidates of all parties may be held after the September primary but there has been no planning for such an event yet.

Membership Issue: ExComm discussed the membership application for a new organization and the appropriate membership category for that applicant.

Committee Reports

Planning and Land Use (PLU): Jim Humphrey, chair, reported that he planned to testify on three items in the coming week:

- County Council action of Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 10-09 regarding hotels in a Central Business District (CBD) zone. ExComm approved unanimously a motion authorizing Jim to explain to the Council why the pending request is inappropriate because of the continuing need to provide an incentive for residential housing.
- Planning Board approval for re-subdivision of Brooke Park property in the Palisades. ExComm approved unanimously a motion authorizing Jim to oppose this request on two grounds: it conflicts with Bethesda Chevy Chase Master Plan and sets a

dangerous precedent for drawing of building lines. Planning Board consideration of Wheaton Master Plan. ExComm approved unanimously the motion authorizing Jim to reiterate MCCF's position regarding design guidelines because of their implications for adjoining neighborhoods and compatibility with master plans.

Education: Paula Bienenfeld, chair, reported on the status of MCPS position regarding community gardens at county schools, press accounts on renewal of Superintendent's contract, and candidates for Board of Education. On the last point, it was noted that all open posts will be contested this year. One issue that appears to be attracting more public attention is the fact that MCPS spending accounts for about half the County budget at a time when many other valued County services are being cut.

Parks and Recreation: Carole Ann Barth, chair, reported on the issue of portable toilets in County parks. Jim Humphrey noted that a contract has been signed to keep the facilities in place until the end of the new fiscal year although the Parks Department continues to seek sponsors for some facilities. Further, if the Parks Department suffers more budget cuts, the issue could be re-visited. Jim also reported on the planned launch of a new community group, Conservation Montgomery.

Committee for Montgomery. Dan Wilhelm, chair, reported on the meeting held two weeks ago to help prepare for the next session of the General Assembly in Annapolis. The two issues likely to dominate are funding for transportation and for teacher pensions. There will be increasing pressure in the educational area because no Federal stimulus funds are likely to be available and because slots will not produce the expected revenue for schools. The budget outlook for both Montgomery County and the State of Maryland is likely to be even more dire than was the case this last year.

Transportation: Peggy Dennis reported that two public information meetings are to be held on Orphaned Roads this fall.

Environment: Peggy Dennis noted the expanding campaign to use coffee grounds for compost. Jim reported on the Clarksburg Water Quality Working Group Reports released on July 16. It is not clear whether the County Council will act on the report before the October 31 deadline for action.

Business

Old Business: Jim Humphrey reported that the County Council may vote before October 31 on the Housing Chapter revision to the Master Plan. If so, MCCF and others will need to weigh in to help assure that the rewrite does not eliminate protection of neighborhoods.

New Business: Jim Zepp reported on a recent meeting in Silver Spring regarding access to the Regional Service Center there,

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Minutes of the August 18 Executive Committee Meeting By Paula Bienenfeld, Acting Recording Secretary

Call to Order: President Dennis called the meeting to order at 7:50 pm. The meeting was held via teleconference.

Attendance: President Peggy Dennis, Carole Ann Barth, Jim Humphrey, Chuck Lapinski, Bill Schrader, Paula Bienenfeld, and Dan Wilhelm.

Agenda and Minutes: The agenda had been distributed by email, and was approved. There was discussion about tabling the approval of the June & July ExComm minutes as not everyone had not seen them. Peggy will print both sets in the September newsletter. The minutes were approved subject to possible amendment at a later date.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Schrader reviewed financial status, membership totals, etc. Account balance as of June 30 is \$11,953.54. There was discussion of the cost of the banquet. MCCF did very well. There was a discussion on breaking out the membership dues within the proposed budget, and it was decided to not break out the dues by category. There was discussion on the amount of money for the website. It is proposed at \$340. Peter Dennis is still working on the website and MCCF may hire a high school student to manage the site. There was a question as to what is meant by 'organization support.' Bill said that category is for whatever miscellaneous items come up, for example, general expenses and postage. A question was asked about foundations. Answer: that includes the Committee for Montgomery, for example, the annual breakfast. A motion was offered, seconded and approved unanimously to send the proposed budget on to the general membership. The proposed budget will be printed in the September newsletter and voted on by the membership at the September meeting.

President's Discussion Items

The **September program** was to have been about Bicycling in Montgomery County. Because one of the presenters is not available on 9/13, that program will instead take place in October and the September program will be on the Zoning Rewrite Program with Jim Humphrey organizing. Board of Education member Laura Berthiaume will be invited to speak briefly at the September meeting.

Our **At-large Candidates Forum** co-sponsored by the MC League of Women Voters and Montgomery College is set to take place on August 23. Dan Wilhelm noted that all

details are taken care of, and the primary focus will be to hear from the candidates and from the audience. Ground rules will be set so it should come off smoothly.

The **September ExComm meeting** will be held at P. Bienenfeld's house. There was discussion of the teleconference v. in person ExComm meetings. Many people like the teleconference meetings and in future we may alternate with the in-person meetings.

Committee Reports

Planning & Land Use: Chairman Jim Humphrey reported on the meeting in July between ExComm members and the new Chair of the Planning Board, Francoise Carrier. She was very gracious and it was an interesting meeting, with discussions of both Planning and Parks issues. Other issues raised included a discussion about public meetings; and the concerns about splitting off Design Guidelines from planning.

Historic Preservation resources are coming up on September 21, these are for Higgins Cemetery, Greenwich Forest Neighborhood, Agricultural Industry Building. The 3 resources are all coming as a packet. Jim plans to support all 3 in a resolution.

Public Finance/Utilities – The discussion was centered on PEPCO and the outages experienced countywide, including non-storm related outages. People are upset about what transpired; do we want the Civic Fed to write a letter or communication regarding the most recent outages? Carole Ann stated one concern is that when you lose power you have to keep paying PEPCO, even during a power loss. There are transformers with old switches; the age of the equipment was discussed. There is a \$250 million 6-point plan that was outlined for the next 5 years. We would want to see the plans to see if they are adequate. PEPCO needs to 'pay attention to the candy store,' i.e., maintenance and upkeep. For example, at White Flint, there is not adequate planning. Government needs to make sure capacity meets growth. Conclusion: Chuck L. will draft a letter regarding the above points.

Parks and Recreation – Carol reported that there were questions on cleanup after the July 25 storm. She will look into concerns at Northwest Branch. She is looking for a copy of the interim operating agreement at Sligo Golf

Course. Chuck asked if there is any further discussion regarding the Park Police. We are 19 police officers down. The question still is whether to proceed with merging the 2 forces. Leggett has said he has the authority as County Executive, to merge the 2 forces. Carole stated there is no update on that. All the Park Police leave from one central location now. If the two forces are merged, there will be officers in each precinct. There was a discussion regarding certified police and training of the 2 different types of police officers. A large number of officers have retired and are being brought back on 3-year contracts. There was a discussion regarding allocation of resources, especially in tight budget years. Jim reiterated that we need chairmen for the Public Safety and Transportation Committees.

Public Finance Committee: Chuck discussed the tax/fee issues, including ambulance and utility fees. Maryland is having no substantive turn-around as is happening in Virginia. There was some discussion on tying the hands of the county on balancing the budget; the Civic Fed should write a letter to the County Executive on long-term implications of the promise of the extra vacation days to county employees.

Committee for Montgomery - Dan stated there are several meetings of the MoCo delegations coming up. He will provide dates and information for the newsletter. There are also several meetings on the Committee for Montgomery to cover topics like teachers' pensions, and transportation. Not much is going to happen in the coming year.

Business

Old Business: Discussion about community heroes for the upcoming year and programs.

New Business: future program on Transportation Area Policy Review changes; discussion of the member organizations that have joined; discussion on new or changed venue for the next banquet; dates of state legislature and meetings upcoming.

Newsletter Assignments: General discussion of assignments; Paula to write something about Laura Berthiaume. The aim is to have the newsletter out by September 1.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Montgomery County Civic Federation Proposed FY 2011 Budget

	FY 2010 Budget	FY 2010 Actual	FY 2011 Budget
Income			
Membership dues	\$3,400	\$3,475	\$3,500
Local Associations	\$2,800	\$2,815	\$2,800
Umbrella Associations	\$150	\$65	\$65
Regional/County-wide	\$150	\$170	\$150
Associate Groups	\$0	\$0	\$85
Individual Associates	\$300	\$425	\$400
Donations	\$50	\$40	\$50
Awards Dinner	\$2,500	\$2,485	\$2,500
Miscellaneous	\$25	-0-	\$25
Total income	\$5,975	\$6,000	\$6,075
Expenses			
Member Communications	\$2,400	\$1,797	\$2,290
Newsletter Printing	\$1,450	\$1,365	\$1,450
Newsletter Mailing	\$500	\$432	\$500
Website	\$450	\$0	\$340
Civic and Social Betterment	\$3,370	\$3,649	\$3,580
Federation Meetings	\$750	\$900	\$900
Foundation Meetings	\$60	\$120	\$120
Awards Dinner	\$2,500	\$2,569	\$2,500
Community Informatic	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federation Membershi	\$60	\$60	\$60
Training	\$0	\$0	\$0
Organizational Support	\$180	\$150	\$180
Officers	\$130	\$150	\$150
Committees	\$50	\$0	\$30
Miscellaneous	25	-0-	\$25
Total expenses	\$5,975	\$5,596	\$6,075

Respectfully submitted,

William H. Schrader
Treasurer

Serving the County since 1925

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

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

Inquiries: Dan Wilhelm (1st VP, Database)
 904 Cannon Road, Colesville, MD 20904
 301-384-2968; djwilhelm@verizon.net

Name of Organization/Individual _____ Date _____

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

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

Membership Type	Number of Households	PLEASE CHECK	DUES	Max Number of Delegates	Voting Privileges
Local Association (civic, community, homeowner or municipality. Must represent at least 10 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 advocacy organizations).	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 e-mail box below.** You can also select less than the allowed number of delegates and pay for the lesser number. Please provide all the information below regardless of newsletter delivery method. Please indicate whether you want your email address included in a membership directory.

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

* Organization president or a permanent substitute designated by the president.

Federation Meeting

Session 819

Monday, September 13, 2010
7:45 1st Floor Auditorium
County Council Office Building.
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD

Agenda:

- 7:45 Call to Order
- 7:46 Introductions & Announcements
- 7:56 Approval of Meeting Agenda
- 7:57 Approval of Minutes from June 14 meeting
- 7:58 Treasurer's Report & Approval of Budget (see page 10)
- 8:00 Program on Zoning Code Rewrite Project
- 9:15 Committee Reports
- 9:44 Old Business / New Business
- 9:45 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, 100 Maryland Avenue, 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 25.** Prepare submission as an MS Word, Word Perfect or text-only document, **attach** it to an e-mail, and send it to: **hotyakker@gmail.com**

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 22, 7:45 p.m.

At the home of Paula Bienenfeld

6018 Tilden Lane
North Bethesda, MD 20852



Official Publication of the
Montgomery County Civic Federation

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