



Civic Federation News

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Peggy Dennis, Editor - Phone: 301-983-9738 - Email: hotyakker@gmail.com

November Program: Proposed New Transportation Tests by Jim Humphrey, Chair, Planning and Land Use Committee

The program for the November 8 monthly Federation meeting will be on the new Transportation Policy Area Review (TPAR), which County Executive Leggett is proposing the Council adopt as part of the County's growth policy. The speaker will be Edgar Gonzalez, Deputy Director of our Department of Transportation (DOT). He will explain the two new tests comprising TPAR that were formulated by consultant Robert Winnock and DOT staff which, if adopted by Council, would be applied to all development projects seeking Planning Board approval.

The county has a law which requires that before the Planning Board approves a Preliminary Plan for a new development, they must first make a finding that there are adequate public facilities--including roads and transit facilities--to accommodate the new project. In 2007, the County Council adopted the Policy Area Mobility Review (PAMR) to be applied to new development approvals. But many, including the County Executive, believe PAMR is too complicated and inappropriately weighs transit capacity against road capacity, allowing inadequate roads in areas with better than average transit service and vice versa.

The new TPAR would replace PAMR with two stand-alone tests: one to determine if roads in a given area are sufficient to handle traffic generated by a new development in that area; and a second to assess level of transit capacity in the area. This new approach to evaluating adequacy of transportation facilities to handle new development will need to be adopted by the Council early in 2011, if it is to be applied as part of the

2012 growth policy.

Deputy Director Gonzalez was invited to explain the new TPAR proposal at the MCCF November monthly meeting so that our delegates, and members of the public who are encouraged to attend the meeting, will have a good basic understanding of the details when the next Council considers the matter. As always, our meetings and programs are open to the public and we encourage a lively Question & Answer session with presenters.

Community Heroes: Young Environmental Activists By Paula Bienenfeld, Education Committee Chair

Our November meeting will honor the Piney Branch Elementary School Young Activists Club (YAC), whose members have been working tirelessly to replace the styrofoam lunch trays used throughout Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) with more sustainable reusable plastic trays. The YAC has conducted studies and made formal presentations on this issue before the MCPS Board of Education. The YAC has raised enough money for MCPS to institute a pilot program to replace polystyrene trays with washable trays. The YAC consists of third, fourth, and fifth graders at Piney Branch Elementary School and sixth graders from Takoma Park Middle School. They meet once a week. Please join us at the November Civic Federation meeting to honor these young activists who, through exemplary environmental consciousness, hard work and persistence are making a difference in our community

Vote - - But Carefully! By Peggy Dennis, MCCF President

Yes, it's the silly season again; the time of mail boxes stuffed with costly bulk political campaign literature, annoying "robo-calls" and requests for campaign contributions. Will I volunteer to serve as an election judge again or won't I? Will I go miles out of my way to vote early or stop by my neighborhood polling place on Tuesday, November 2 and perhaps have the pleasure of seeing some of my neighbors? I can't wait for it to be over!

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Two unusual yard signs are worth mentioning as the campaign cycle draws to the finish. Mike Phillips is running on the Republican ticket for U.S. Congress in District 8. His yard signs were the standard patriotic, red, white and blue until about a week ago when they suddenly sprouted a banner reading “REPLACE PEPCO”. I did a double take when I saw that. Wishful thinking to the max! Yes, Montgomery County residents are fed up with frequent power outages. Yes, we are furious over the days without AC, the lost food from our refrigerators and freezers, the desperate neighbors with medical requirements or babies and young children who have to retreat to motels or bunk in with more fortunate friends or family. But does Mike Phillips honestly believe that being elected to Congress will give him the power to oust PEPCO? What would be put in PEPCO’s place? Or is this just a ploy to garner votes from those who are both angry and ignorant?

Does anyone remember the signs that “CitPAC” used to put up in median strips listing candidates who were endorsed by civic activists? This was followed just a few years ago by endorsements for County Council by “Neighbors for a Better Montgomery”. This group did the arduous task of “following the money” - analyzing campaign financial reports, then publicizing which candidates were getting big bucks from development and building interests, and which candidates were declining to take campaign contributions from these special interests. The presumption was that elected officials who were heavily beholden to developers would be more accessible and “helpful” to their backers while those who shunned this special interest money would be more responsive to the residents in general and the long term needs of the county in particular.

A new watch dog is making a splash in median strips and road sides this time around. Yard signs are appearing asking voters to “BOYCOTT the ROTTEN APPLE BALLOT”. These are the work of www.rottenappleballot.com and they call attention to the disturbing relationship between the Montgomery County Education Association (MCEA), candidates for elective office and the good old “Apple Ballot”. Most voters are familiar with the “Apple Ballot” – that cute little red, apple-shaped card listing the candidates who, we are led to believe, will do right by our students and public school teachers. How many voters know that the Apple Ballot is not produced by teachers but by their union? How many voters know that while teachers cannot be required to join the MCEA, it is the only affordable way to obtain liability insurance as protection from legal suits by disgruntled parents? This is apparently a real concern in a county known for its high number of resident lawyers and litigious atmosphere.

How many voters know that teachers do not have to work on Election Day and are asked to pass out the Apple Ballot to voters at their precincts? And how many folks are aware that candidates endorsed by the Apple Ballot are expected to make large “contributions” to the MCEA as a quid pro quo for their endorsement? Doesn’t it stand to reason that successful Apple Ballot candidates will be expected to champion the MCEA and its contracts with the County? Does this mean that voters should not vote for any candidate on the Apple Ballot? No. But voters should know more about each candidate than that they are endorsed by the MCEA.

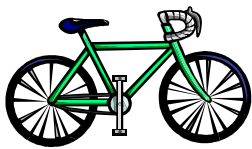
We all want great teachers and fine schools. We all want our teachers to be well paid, fairly treated and have good benefits. The same goes for our police, firefighters, rescue squad members and other public employees. Montgomery County is not, however, a profit generating corporation or business. Whatever pay and benefits the MCEA wins for its teachers, the other public employee unions want and have traditionally gotten for their members too. In the years when the economy was flush with money, public employee contracts were approved that not only treated our public employees very well, but assumed that tax revenues would never plummet. Contractual obligations were put in place that were barely sustainable in good times and are now impossible to meet. The only way for our County Executive to balance the budget in the present economy – a legal requirement – is to eschew union contracts and furlough employees to bring the budget into line with financial realities.

Montgomery County government is the largest employer in Montgomery County, and public workers are not just well paid, but well organized and politically powerful. Public employee unions have become a powerful special interest group in their own right. Unlike the development community, they don’t limit their activity in campaigns to making out checks. They can get really nasty! A case in point is the Fraternal Order of Police. They not only threatened Councilmember Duchy Trachtenburg at the public hearing on a very reasonable and long overdue bill to reform the much abused Police Disability Retirement System. They picketed her re-election campaign kick-off and several other campaign events with outrageous signs and chants. Their opposition was a fundamental factor in causing Ms. Trachtenburg to lose the primary. And this is a pity because no other member of the Council has worked as hard to understand the County’s budget and try to put restraints on its unsustainable growth.

One must now ask, when considering for whom to vote, what candidates for Council will have the long term and

county-wide interest of the entire county in mind and the resolve to stand up to the public employee unions?

At the same time, we must thank Councilmembers George Leventhal, Phil Andrews, Marc Elrich and Roger Berliner for building the support on the Council to defeat the request to extend sewerage to a small commercial center in rural Potomac. Had this sewer category change been approved, pressure from developers to extend sewerage into yet more parts of the Agriculture Reserve would have been irresistible. The Council is responsible for approving master plan revisions, and we applaud them when they honor those same master plans in the years that follow adoption.



MCCF Explores Bike Commuting as a County Transportation Alternative **By Caren Madsen, Environmental Committee Co-Chair**

Traffic congestion, climate change and integrating bicycle riding as a form of daily exercise are all good reasons to commute by bike as much as possible. To that end, MCCF presented a program in October on bicycle commuting as a transportation alternative in Montgomery County. Silver Spring resident Casey Anderson, an attorney in private practice who chairs the Advocacy Committee for the Washington Area Bicycle Association (WABA), and Richard Layman, an urban revitalization and transportation planner, were the speakers. Both presenters are daily bike commuters.

Anderson quoted statistics from the Council of Governments to show that by local jurisdiction, Washington, D.C. holds the best record for daily short-trip bicycle commuting with 49% of D.C. residents using two wheels instead of four each day. Montgomery's share is 17%, however, the county is second to D.C in the number of weekday trips made by bike. The MCCF program focused on why and how Montgomery County residents can shift commuting patterns to include bicycling despite current limitations in infrastructure, such as designated bike lanes and bike paths that are necessary for safe bike commuting.

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) conducted a greenhouse gas emissions inventory that set a baseline for the county. The county goal for reducing greenhouse gas emissions is an 80% reduction by the year 2050, with incremental reductions

of 10% every five years until 2050. A 2005 DEP baseline measurement of county greenhouse gas emissions (ghg) showed that (non-bicycle) transportation accounts for 34% of ghg emissions in Montgomery County. A County Climate Protection Plan calls for increasing the number of bike lanes in our communities. Anderson pointed out that adding capacity for bike commuting is not as costly as building new roads or expanding lanes on existing roads to add capacity for vehicular transportation.

Some of the gaps that Anderson noted in Montgomery County transportation policy are constrained right of way (ROW) areas that limit the ability to retrofit county roads for bike commuting, ad hoc improvements to bike infrastructure with no focus on connectivity of bike routes, an unclear mandate for county planning to improve bike access and inadequate secure parking at Metro stations and workplaces. He said there are few incentives to encourage and accommodate bicycle commuting in workplaces in our area compared to areas such as Chicago and its suburbs, where Mayor Richard Daley implemented an aggressive bike commuting program.

Linda Mack, owner of the Silver Cycles bike shop in Silver Spring, was a guest at the October meeting and has been a bike commuter for 37 years. She started commuting by bike as a result of the gas crisis in 1973. Mack pointed out that the county has made progress in some of the infrastructure that bike commuters need, but said more can be done to entice commuters to leave their cars parked and opt for bike commuting.

“One of the biggest challenges for bike commuters is safety,” said Mack. “Safety on crowded country roads is a tough call for the cycling community, along with theft. Our customers and my employees who commute by bike find that the two big issues for bike commuters are finding safe routes between their homes and jobs, along with theft of their bikes.”

The presentation concluded with Anderson's recommendation to make Silver Spring a county test bed for bike commuting. To accomplish this, he said we need to improve current connections between residential, job, retail, and recreational nodes (Bethesda, Wheaton, White Oak, D.C.), add secure bike parking/station at Metro stations, develop a bike sharing program in Silver Spring and Bethesda, integrate bike commuting into planning, and add an auto trip mitigation requirement for schools. He said marketing bikes as a transportation option would also help.

“Silver Spring is a great idea for a test bed,” said Mack. “One of the reasons I bought my home in Silver Spring and opened my business there is that the community has

a good start as a bike-friendly urban area. People will ride bikes if they feel safe. It's that simple."

A follow-on MCCF program is planned for this winter when representatives from MNCPPC and the County Department of Transportation will discuss planning and implementation of the infrastructure needed to promote bike commuting as an alternative to other modes of transportation.

Join a "Community Stroll" By Caren Madsen, Environment Committee Co-Chair

Conservation Montgomery has launched a series called "Community Strolls" to highlight the connection between our natural resources and quality of life across the county. Please join us for a stroll through Blockhouse Point Conservation Park on Nov. 20th from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m.

This 630-acre park is rich in cultural and natural history of the Potomac Valley. Blockhouse Point Conservation Park features mature upland forest, floodplain forest, wetlands, streams, river-rock outcrops, at least nine species of threatened, endangered, or watch-list plants, a diversity of wildlife and grand views of the Potomac River and C&O Canal. The park also encompasses historic Civil War ruins of national significance. Our interpreters from the Montgomery County Parks Department will be Rob Gibbs, Natural Resource Manager, who will talk about the conservation/natural resources value of the Park. Don Housley from the Parks Cultural Resources Stewardship Section will provide information on the Civil War encampment and blockhouse. Ginny Barnes, Vice-Chair of Conservation Montgomery and MCCF Environmental Committee Co-chair, will provide insight on what makes our county park system vital to our overall quality of life in Montgomery County.

Please bring water to drink on the Stroll and wear comfortable shoes. Children under the age of 13 are welcome but must be supervised and accompanied by an adult at all times. Please, no strollers with wheels - just strollers wearing comfortable shoes! Gather where you see a large "Conservation Montgomery" banner at the start point.

Date and time: Nov. 20th. 1:00 p.m. until 3 p.m.

Meeting Place: The main entrance and large parking lot for Blockhouse Point Park are on the south side of River Road about 1 mile west of Pennyfield Lock Road. (See the map online at the link below or locate the park on a county map.) We will shuttle to the smaller lot which is closer to the overlooks and blockhouse sites.

Registration is required. Contact us at 240-793-4603 or at ConservationMontgomery@live.com with the number of children and adults attending.

Donations: About \$5.00 per person, are appreciated but not required.

If lost on the day of the event, call 240-793-4603 and we'll try to direct you to the starting point.

Find a map of the park at <http://bit.ly/blockhousemap> and check for event updates on Conservation Montgomery's Facebook page from www.ConservationMontgomery.org if you are signed on to Facebook.

The State Kicks the Underfunded Pension and Health Can Down the Road Again! By Chuck Lapinski, Public Finance and Utilities Chair

How much underfunded did you say? \$33 billion! You've got to be kidding. No, not one bit! How could they begin to "kick that can" with that much liability? The solution to this problem could really hurt your wallet and mine. After the Governor and legislators completed their actions this past April, they increased various taxes and fees yet again as they have done every year since they were elected just four years ago. The first year's income and sales tax increases were by far the worst! And now for the understatement of the decade: "We really can't expect to invest our way out of this. The problem is getting worse, and it is too late to address the funding gap of fiscal 2012," according to Mike Rubinstein, Maryland State Policy Analyst, as he spoke before the newly appointed state commission studying pension reform for Maryland this past Tuesday. The commission's interim report is due in December, and final report in June 2011.

The \$33 billion unfunded liability consists of two parts: \$18 billion that the state owes to current and future retirees for retirement benefits, and \$15 billion for retiree health benefits. The amount the state has actually paid in by budget allocation and return on investments represents a 64% funding rate, the commonly accepted index. This rate is very low by most actuarial and government accounting standards. Rubinstein also stated that this paid up 64% is the lowest percentage since 1980. "And, it took us (the state) 20 years of really impressive market performance to get back to full funding." It received an occasional budget addition as well from the General Assembly.

And to add the proverbial insult to injury, Jeff Hooke of the nonpartisan Maryland Tax Education Foundation, a Maryland based think tank, estimated that Maryland's return on pension investments since 2000 has trailed its peers by over \$3.2 billion. Calling this a substandard result is an understatement, particularly since it is compared to peer states such as Delaware, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. What this means is that if the \$3.2 billion is taken from general tax receipts to help balance the pension accounts, there will be \$3.2 billion less for schools, the counties etc.. Further, the Maryland Public Policy Institute gave the legislators a letter grade of D for their performance on pension and retirement liability legislation. In its just completed report on the General Assembly's performance, the legislature doesn't fare much better in seven more areas, and "the overall score comes to a high D." I wonder what they would have given the Governor, since he submitted the last four budgets. To help balance the last two fiscal years of the Maryland state budgets, the legislature used more than \$350 million in stimulus funds from Washington to help plug the pension gap. So, as I see it, not much "stimulus" from the stimulus funds. There is no more "manna" from Washington, and it's not like it was free money, as we and our children will have to pay for it in our federal taxes. That funding well has run dry, and the state is facing a shortfall of approximately \$1 billion including additional pension liability for fiscal year 2012.

To help solve its budget shortfall, will the State now "kick the can" again down to the counties or will it solve its problems more aggressively as it should have been doing beginning four years ago?

The counties continue to have their own problems. In Montgomery, the portion of pension and health funded liabilities represents a much larger percentage of total liability, approximately 80% vs. the State's estimated 64%. Montgomery has worked at solving or at least minimizing the unfunded pension liability, and currently the funding gap is approximately \$753 million according to our independent actuary, Mercer and Co. For the most part, health is self-funded by the County and paid as we go.

Looking forward, given projected tax receipts (and yes, these include the new outsized energy fee and other increases discussed in last month's MCCF newsletter), I don't see how the County will be able to fund even the additional pension liability accruing this fiscal year. Again, the wage, salary and pension terms of the contracts with the unions are likely to continue to be economically unaffordable and unsustainable. In fairness, those contracts should never have been ratified. In the past, I quoted statements from various elected officials such as former Virginia Governor Wilder who said that raising taxes and fees should be avoided as it slows and negates

economic recovery. And Governor Wilder practiced what he preached while in office. At that time, Virginia's economy began to recover more quickly and robustly than Maryland's where we opted predominantly for more taxes and fees in the same timeframe and under the same circumstances. This past week, to give another example, both Arlington and Alexandria counties reported that they are now projecting small surpluses for the current fiscal year, but they are not yet saying that they are home free. They did initially cut their budgets faster and deeper than Montgomery County in the same timeframe. Fairfax may not be far behind. To be fair, the Commonwealth of Virginia was far more aggressive in controlling its budget than Maryland at the state level. And the economic effects of counties and states do work in tandem.

Let's hope this "can" doesn't get kicked down the road again!

Please Renew Your Membership

As of October 20, the following groups are in arrears and need to renew their memberships for the 2010-2011 year which began on July 1. Delegates are reminded to print or cut out the Membership Form from page 11, fill in the information needed and mail it to MCCF Treasurer William Schrader with a check for the dues.

Local Associations

Allanwood-Gayfields-Willson Hills-Gaywood Estates
Citizens Association
Bannockburn Civic Association
Bradley Boulevard Citizens Association
Clarksburg Civic Association
Deerfield-Weathered Oak Citizens Association
Edgemoor Citizens Association
Flower Valley Citizens' Association
Garrett Park Estates-White Flint Park Citizens Assn.
Greater Olney Civic Association
Hillmead Association
Kensington Heights Citizens Association
Kensington View Civic Association
Kentlands Citizens Assembly
Layhill View Section Two Homeowners Association
Parkland Residents Association
Potomac Towne Homeowners Association
Randolph Civic Association
Regency Estates Citizens Association
Riverhill Homeowners Association
South Tuckerman Inverness Citizens Association
Snowdens Mill Homeowners Association
The Greater Glenmont Civic Association
Town of Somerset
Tulip Hill Citizens Association
West Montgomery County Citizens Association

Wheaton Citizens Coalition
 Wheaton Regional Park Neighborhood Association
 Wildwood Manor Citizens Association
 Woodmoor Pinecrest Citizens Association

County-wide Organizations

Action Committee for Transit, Inc.
 Audubon Naturalist Society
 Montgomery County Taxpayers League
 Montgomery Preservation, Inc.

Individual Associates

Julie Davis	Robert Monsheimen
Donna Barron	Drew Powell
Derick P. Berlage	Stanley E. Schiff
Jenny Sue Dunner	R. L. (Dick) Strombotne
Cynthia Fain	Dale A. Tibbetts
Julie Greenberg	S. J. Weiss
Caren Madsen	

Update Your Contact Information By Peggy Dennis, President

Many civic, homeowners and neighborhood associations have new elected officers or boards take over during the summer or autumn. Please remember to provide updated contact information to those who need to be able to reach you.

All associations should send updates to the Communications Office at Maryland National Capital/Park & Planning Commission. Your contact is Ms. Arnita Jackson at 301-495-4600 or by email at MCP-HOA@mncppc-mc.org.

Depending on where you live, you should also update your contact information with your Regional Services Center:

Western County
kennethhartman@montgomerycountymd.gov

Silver Spring
silver.spring@montgomerycountymd.gov

Mid-County
midcounty.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov

Eastern County
eastco.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov

Upcounty
upcounty.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov

Minutes of the October 11 Meeting by Sandy Vogelgesang, Acting Recording Secretary

Call to Order, Approval of Agenda and Minutes
 President Peggy Dennis called the meeting to order at 7:50 P.M. After introductions of all attendees, she called for and received unanimous approval of the proposed meeting agenda and the minutes from the Delegates' Monthly Meeting on September 13.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Schrader, Treasurer, circulated a written Treasurer's Report indicating checking account balance of \$11842.70. To date, 33 associations and 14 individuals have paid dues for the current year.

Announcements

Environment Committee Co-Chair Caren Madsen said that **Conservation Montgomery**, a non-profit coalition of civic and environmental organizations and individuals addressing environmental and quality of life challenges facing Montgomery County, is **seeking a Partnership Agreement** with others. She circulated a fact sheet about Conservation Montgomery and a copy of the Partnership Agreement for later consideration by the Civic Federation. She also called attention to material she circulated about "Community Strolls" sponsored by Conservation Montgomery. These walks are intended to help County residents learn more about County neighborhoods and natural resources. The next Community Stroll: Northwest Branch Trail Family Nature Walk on October 23, 9:30 AM.

Jerry Garson, MCCF Delegate, noted the recent **death of George Sauer**, long-time civic activist and former Federation president. He said that a memorial service will be held at the Seven Locks Baptist Church in Rockville on November 12 at 11 AM. A moment of silence was observed in his honor.

Peggy called attention to two events: (1) an **Ageing in Place Symposium**, to be held at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center on October 20, 10 AM-12 Noon and (2) the **Public Forum for the Montgomery County Organizational Reform Commission**, to be held at the County Council Office Building on October 20. Material on both events is available on the Civic Federation website.

Dan Wilhelm reported that there will be a **Candidates' Forum for Maryland's Governor** at the Montgomery College Takoma Park-Silver Spring Campus (Performing Arts Building) on October 19, 7:30-9:00 PM. Organizers are awaiting confirmation of attendance by the two

major party candidates. The program will be televised on Channel 10.

Dale Tibbitts, Chief of Staff for County Councilmember Marc Elrich, reported that **County Inspector General Dagley** is leaving and that the County is seeking candidates to serve on the nominating committee to identify a replacement. Applications are due by October 13 and interviews will be held on October 19. More information available on County Council website.

Program

Bicycling in Montgomery County: The Next Big Thing in Personal Transportation. Richard Layman, urban revitalization and transportation planner and advocate, made the opening presentation. He stressed the need to include bicycling as part of an integrated approach to transportation and overall land use planning, not only in cities but also in the suburbs. He noted that, while almost 70 percent of Americans say that they want to bike, less than 10 percent do even though 50 percent of household car trips are less than three miles. He argued that “design is destiny” and that there is thus a need for a planning “vision” that includes biking combined with clear commitment of resources to change the culture and infrastructure. Citing success stories abroad (Copenhagen, Montreal) and in our region (“Bike Arlington” in Arlington, Virginia), he emphasized the need to make “active transportation” a “social movement,” building on community plans to achieve concrete changes in facilities, from wide shoulders on roads to bike boulevards.

Casey Anderson, chair of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association, focused on short bicycle trips in Montgomery County suburbs. He noted the policy problems blocking more bike use (such as auto-centric land use policy and transportation infrastructure) and stressed that policy which leads to a good place to bike usually also leads to a good place to live. He said that U.S. reliance on cars has changed little since 1994. To help reverse this pattern, he identified some areas where using bikes makes sense, such as short trips in the suburbs including trips to school. On the latter, he noted that thirty years ago 66 % of area children walked or biked to school, whereas only 13 percent do so now. About one fourth of morning rush hour traffic is due to parents’ driving their children to school. Anderson emphasized the need to make the Washington area’s Metro work more efficiently by using incentives to help make Metro stations more accessible to bikers and walkers and thus reduce car traffic. He urged using an area such as Silver Spring as a model test case for encouraging biking. By learning from that experience, Anderson expressed the hope that Montgomery County

would move from the current ad hoc approach to biking to a “network” approach in which bicycling constitutes a planned, integrated component of County transportation. A lively Q and A session followed, with the indication from Peggy that a follow-up program is planned.

Committee Reports

Environment: Co-Chair Caren Madsen reported that amendments to the County’s Forest Conservation Law are expected this fall. Although she said that the County Council is not likely to vote on the amendments, she suggested that interested individuals urge fast action on needed improvements to the Law.

Planning and Land Use: Chairman Jim Humphrey reported that October 31 is the deadline for County Council action on land use matters in an election year, by State law. He reported that Councilmember Michael Knapp will introduce Historic Preservation Amendment (HPA) 10-1 on October 12 and that a hearing will be held on Nov. 23. He also noted the upcoming votes on consideration of historical designation for the properties discussed in an earlier Federation Newsletter.

Old and New Business and Adjournment: Peggy asked for any old or new business. Hearing none, she called for a motion for adjournment which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Minutes of the October 20 Executive Committee Meeting Carole Barth, Acting Recording Secretary

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:48 in Sandy Vogelgesang’s home. Present: Sandy Vogelgesang, Peggy Dennis, Bill Schrader, Jim Zepp, Carole Barth, Jim Humphrey, Dan Wilhelm, Jorge Ribas, Caren Madsen, and Chuck Lapinski.

Minutes from the September 22 ExComm meeting were approved

Treasurer’s Report: Bill Schrader reported that the FY 2011 income to date is \$2,440.00. Expenses to date total \$629.38, and the checking account balance is \$11,738.38. Bill also reported that 35 associations and 15 individuals have joined MCCF so far this year. Peggy commented that her outreach to groups on the Regional Services Center lists is bearing fruit.

Discussion Topics

Programs: Jim Humphrey is organizing the November program. Edgar Gonzalez will explain the Transportation Policy Area Review proposal. Paula Bienenfeld is organizing a program on the search process for a new

MCPS Superintendent for December. The January program will be on the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite for the Residential District.

Symposium: Peggy Dennis is looking into organizing a Saturday Symposium on “Liberating Us from our Cars”. The concept is to look at factors that encourage both bicycling and walking: best practices in other locales; what the County is doing; where it should ; what infrastructure changes and programs will be most cost effective, etc.. Peggy will approach a variety of groups about co-sponsoring the symposium to take place in late March or early April.

Conservation Montgomery: Caren Madsen described the new organization, and suggested that MCCF partner with Conservation Montgomery or perhaps exchange memberships. There was considerable discussion about precedents for how the Federation has interacted with other organizations. Dan Wilhelm volunteered to meet with Conservation Montgomery to draft some language to bring back to the ExComm.

Awards Banquet: The 2011 awards banquet will be held on May 13 (first choice) or May 20. Peggy Dennis and Jorge Ribas each scouted a potential venue for the 2011 banquet. Peggy scouted out the new Silver Spring Civic Building, and Jorge suggested a hotel in Gaithersburg. There was a good deal of discussion about the relative merits of rotating venues in different parts of the county; versus sticking with a location. In the end, it was decided to hold the 2011 banquet at the Universities at Shady Grove Conference Center – same as last spring.

Website: Jim Humphrey reported that he has gotten the code to release the website from our former host and move it to our new server. Jim asked each committee chair to provide current issues for the website. Peggy asked each member of the ExComm to provide a picture and a description of what we do.

Community Hero: The Community hero for the November meeting will be the Piney Branch Elementary School Young Activists Club, for their work on recycling styrofoam lunch trays.

Public Safety: Because of recent concerns expressed about police resources and responses to calls for service, Jim Zepp distributed a presentation that he delivered at the Safe Silver Spring 2009 Crime Summit which included information and statistics on crime, policing and budgets in Montgomery and some nearby jurisdictions. This included findings from a 2007 National Academy of Sciences report that the number of police officers had a weak influence on crime levels compared to other

factors and that crime is highly concentrated in certain locations, even in “high crime” neighborhoods. This means that law enforcement agencies must target their limited resources through crime analysis methods to be effective. In comparing Montgomery County to other local jurisdictions, it is far exceeded by DC and Prince George’s County in both the incidence of crime, police staff, and relative spending. It was noted that compared to Fairfax and Prince William Counties, Montgomery County has fewer police officers per 100,000 population but spends more for policing than the other two counties.

Committee Reports

Environment: The Travilah Oak project was voted down by the Council. This was not just a local issue, but could have set a dangerous precedent. Ginny and Peggy will write a letter to the editor praising those who voted it down. Ginny will be attending two forest conservation easement violation cases; it is hoped that violations will be penalized as a deterrent. Forest Conservation Law amendments are coming, but very slowly. Most likely, they will not come out until the new council is seated.

Planning and Land Use: Jim Humphrey reported that the re-design for the Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church site in Bethesda went back to Council for rezoning approval. Unfortunately, the re-design merely shifted the incompatible elements from one side to the other. However, the Council approved it.

The Greenwich Forest neighborhood’s historic district designation will not be voted on by this Council.

Zoning Text Amendment 09 -03, on home occupations and residential off-street parking, will come up for Council vote on October 26.

Under the draft zoning ordinance rewrite, the proposed residential zone would create some new housing types with increased density such as tandem houses (two detached houses, one behind the other) and cottage court (multiple dwellings around a central green space). The public comment period will not begin until the consultant has finished drafting the entire proposed new zoning ordinance.

Finance: Chuck Lapinski testified before the Organizational Reform Committee, reminding them that park resources are finite, and therefore must be protected in perpetuity. Chuck reported that the issue of the duplicative reservations systems was not discussed. Carole Barth and Jim Humphrey will send the committee a letter urging consolidation into a single system.

Parks & Recreation: Carole Barth distributed a draft of a letter to MCCF member organizations requesting a designated contact for a park alert system. This would

enable quick notification when parks issues come up on a short timeline.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05



Fall: Woolly aphids congregate on a beech twig (why?)

MCCF Officers & Committees

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	Call home	djwilhelm@verizon.net
2nd Vice President	Carole Ann Barth	301-593-7863		cbarth@mindspring.com
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				
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	Call home	djwilhelm@verizon.net
Immediate Past President	Arnold Gordon	301-570-0481	Same	nmcaprexy@aol.com
Standing Committees				
Education	Paula Bienenfeld	301-984-2944		paula_bienenfeld@yahoo.com
Environment co-chairs	Ginny Barnes Caren Madsen	301-762-6423 301-713-9042		ginnybarnes@juno.com carenmadsen@msn.com
Legislation/Committee for Montgomery	Dan Wilhelm	301-384-2698	Call home	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	<i>vacant</i>			
Parks and Recreation	Carole Ann Barth	301-593-7863		cbarth@mindspring.com

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 821

Monday, November 8, 2010
7:45 1st Floor Auditorium
County Council Office Building.
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD

Agenda:

7:45 Call to Order & Introductions
7:54 Approval of Meeting Agenda
7:55 Community Heroes - YAC
8:00 Approval of Minutes from October meeting
8:01 Treasurer's Report
8:02: Announcements
8:05 Program : New Transportation Tests
9:20 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, November 20.** 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, November 17, 7:45 p.m.

At the home of Bill Schrader

12824 Middlevale Lane, Silver Spring, 20906



Official Publication of the
Montgomery County Civic Federation

Dan Wilhelm, Database Manager
904 Cannon Road
Silver Spring, MD 20904
DJWILHELM@VERIZON.NET

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