



Civic Federation News

June 2013

Serving the Public Interest since 1925

Official Publication of the
Montgomery County Civic
Federation

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montgomerycivic@yahoo.com

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Recipients of the e-newsletter are encouraged to forward it widely

June Program: Implementing the New Zoning Code When Approved

by Jim Humphrey, Planning & Land Use Chairman

The program for our meeting on Monday, June 10 will be on implementing the new zoning code, when it is approved by the County Council. The speaker will be Jeff Zyontz, the County Council Legislative Attorney.

After years of work by the Zoning Advisory Panel, the Planning Department staff and Planning Board, the Board transmitted their recommended new zoning ordinance to the County Council in early May. The recommended new code was introduced in Council on May 7 as a zoning text amendment, ZTA 13-04, and was accompanied by proposed District Map Amendment G-956, which will apply the new zones, when approved, to properties throughout the county.

In preparation for the program, MCCF delegates and members of the public who plan to attend our June 10 meeting should look over the county maps prepared by the Planning Department that show the current zoning and proposed new zoning for all properties, paying particular attention to their communities. They should then peruse the language of the new zones, checking the standards for the ones to be applied in their area.

The map tool and the proposed text of the new zones can be accessed via links on the Department's webpage for the project--www.zoningmontgomery.org--or you can access this webpage through a link in an entry on the MCCF website homepage. Just look for the heading "Zoning Code Revision project".

There are some significant changes being proposed in the new zoning code. It would also be helpful if those planning to attend the MCCF program read the memo prepared by Mr. Zyontz that accompanied introduction of ZTA 13-04, which provides an overview of the proposed new code. His memo can also be accessed via a link in the Civic Fed website homepage entry noted in the paragraph above.

Presidents Message: Bulldozers Poised to Destroy Rachel Carson Meadow in North Four Corners Park

Will this be the last spring in Rachel Carson Meadow? The last time to see the delicate fringe of the daisy fleabane flowers or to smell the heavenly scent of the black locust blossoms? The last leaf-out for the 190-year old walnut tree?

As I said at the April Civic Federation meeting, Montgomery Parks Department is proceeding with its plan to chop down most of the trees, level the rolling hills, fill in the valleys, and convert this six acre green oasis into a soccer field and 50 car parking lot. At the same time, the park's existing youth soccer field would be converted to a "natural area" (translation: a lawn).

If Parks succeeds in their goal, the end result after spending roughly \$6 million will be lost green space and no additional soccer fields gained. This is the opposite of a win-win outcome. It is lose-lose. Silver Spring and Takoma Park residents will lose a very well-loved and well-used green space. Soccer players will lose as well, because the money budgeted to build this single field could have renovated 11 fields instead.

This is why the project has been opposed by the Civic Federation, the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board, all of the Four Corners civic associations, residents of the Oaks Independent Living Facility, over 600 neighborhood residents who signed a petition, the Takoma Soccer League Commissioner, and many individual citizens.

Unswayed by this opposition, Parks requested \$4.2

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million dollars in state Program Open Space (POS) funding for this project. The District 19 State Delegation was successful in blocking this use of POS money, however Parks has simply re-allocated the POS funding to other projects and taken the money from those projects to fund the soccer field.

Nonetheless, despite having been ignored, patronized, and disrespected for 12 years, the Northwood Four Corners community has not given up. We're still pursuing our vision of a win-win solution. Our vision includes a flexible, multi-use park with active and passive amenities for all ages, designed in a way which showcases and enhances the site's natural resources. Our vision also includes a five point plan for increasing the number of optimally playable adult soccer fields in Silver Spring and Takoma Park.

On Sunday, June 2nd, we will again gather for Rachel Carson Meadowfest: Celebrating a Sense of Wonder in North Four Corners Park. This year's event will include a performance by Ocean Orchestra, as well as a special visit from the Green Man and Green Woman. Come join us for the festival and join us in our effort to save the meadow.

July Potluck Dinner

All Current, Former and Prospective New Members
Are Cordially Invited to the

2013 Montgomery County Civic Federation Potluck
Dinner

Friday, July 12, 2013
6:00 p.m. to whenever.....
At the home of Peggy Dennis
11115 Fawsett Road, Potomac

Since our meetings provide little time to get to relax and get to know one another, our Summer Potluck is mainly a social event to allow us time to relax with great food and wonderful friends. We will have the opportunity to discuss issues of concern to our local associations, and time to strategize with our committee chairs about these issues.

Please RSVP to Peggy at 301-983-9738 or hotyakker@gmail.com. Former and Current Members are asked to bring a dish to share (appetizer, salad, side dish, casserole or main dish, bread/rolls, or dessert) and the serving utensils needed for that dish. Prospective and New Members will be our guests.

Directions:

FROM DOWN-COUNTY / Beltway take Exit 39 onto River Road (Rt. 190) going west to Potomac Village. Turn LEFT at second light in the village onto Falls Road (Rt. 189). Drive 2 miles to the T-intersection where Falls Rd. meets MacArthur Blvd. Turn LEFT on MacArthur and LEFT immediately onto Fawsett Road.

SCENIC ROUTE ALTERNATIVE: take Beltway Exit 41 onto the Clara Barton Parkway heading west towards Carderock and Great Falls. When Parkway ends, turn LEFT onto MacArthur Blvd. Follow MacArthur past Old Angler's Inn, up the long, curvy hill, past the Woodrock development, the Rockwood Manor Conference Center and Picasso Lane (all on the right) then turn RIGHT onto Fawsett Road.

FROM UP-COUNTY / I-270: Take Exit 5 for Falls Road (Route 189) west to Potomac. Pass through the village and drive 2 miles to the T-intersection where Falls Rd. meets MacArthur Blvd. Turn LEFT on MacArthur and immediately LEFT onto Fawsett Road.

House is the second on the left with the green mailbox. Our driveway has limited space for parking and turning around, so please save space in the driveway for our less able walkers. Also, please park only on the right side of the road so enough space is left for other cars to get through safely. A flashlight is useful for finding your way back to your car in the dark.

Fifth Annual Rachael Carson Meadow Festival

Celebrating a Sense of Wonder* in North Four Corners Park

Sunday, June 2, 2013, 1-5 p.m.

211 Southwood Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20901

Come and participate in this uniquely delightful and educational event. Experience for yourself the rolling hills and mature trees that have inspired so many to fight for the Meadow's preservation as a civic green for more than a decade. We expect attendance to be high, since the bulldozers are scheduled to destroy the meadow this summer.

An exciting new addition to this year's festival will be an appearance by the Green Man and the Green Woman. These spirits of the forest will join us in a ceremony to honor all that this place has meant to County residents and to celebrate the wishing tree, the spot where the fairies dance, and firefly alley.

Festival attendees can:

- Enjoy a performance by Jennifer Cutting's fabulous Ocean Orchestra
<http://www.oceanorchestra.com/home.cfm>
- Hug the 190 year-old champion walnut tree before the soccer field is relocated to its critical root zone.
- Participate in the Chinese Lion Dance
- Compete in the Pitting of the Pooches (fun family dog show)
- Make wreaths or crowns from invasive vines
- Peruse displays and demonstrations provided by environmental organizations
- Get up close to nature in the meadow and meet other champion, near champion, and specimen trees before they're damaged or lost to the planned soccer field relocation

If you have any questions, please contact Carole Barth (cbarth@mindspring.com). You can also check the Northwood Four Corners Civic Association website (<http://www.nfcca.org/>) for updates on the festival.

*"If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over the christening of all children, I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life." "If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder without any such gift from the fairies, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement and mystery of the world we live in" Rachel Carson

Bylaws Amendment to be Voted on at June Meeting

by Jim Humphrey, Executive Committee member

At the May 13 MCCF meeting, I made a motion to introduce a minor amendment to the language in Article XII, section (3) of the group's Bylaws to fix a problem regarding definition of a quorum for Executive Committee meetings. The problem stems from the fact that a 2011 Bylaws amendment reduced the number of MCCF elective officers to five, but no corresponding change was made to the requirement that a quorum for Executive Committee meetings be "either seven (7) officers or a majority of the Executive Committee." The amendment I am proposing will simply state that a quorum of the Executive Committee shall be met if a majority of the members are present.

At our April meeting, the Executive Committee agreed to transmit the amendment to the full delegate assembly for

consideration. Since the motion to entertain a Bylaws amendment was approved by the delegates on May 13, we will consider and vote on the proposed change at the June 10 meeting. The following is the proposed change, with the text to be deleted appearing in brackets:

Article XII. Meetings of the Executive Committee

* * *

(3) Quorum and Majority. A quorum shall be met if [either seven (7) officers or] a majority of the Executive Committee are present. Executive Committee action shall require a majority vote.

County's Ethics Law has Failed Us (And a Proposed Resolution to Fix It)

by Peggy Dennis, Immediate Past President

Two years ago when the Brickyard Road school site issue had come to a head, I pointed out the inaccurate and misleading information contained in Mr. Leggett's letter of November 10, 2009 to the Board of Education (BOE) in which he stated that "the twenty-acre Brickyard School site is largely vacant and underutilized." The truth was that for almost 30 years this land had been organically certified and farmed to raise heritage organic seed stock. This use is unique and irreplaceable, not just to Montgomery County but in the region. These facts should have been evident to Mr. Leggett had he or his staff bothered to do the research and "due diligence" required.

The same letter misrepresented the Executive's intent saying: "I have been encouraged by the partnership formed between the county and MCPS staff in expanding and coordinating after-school programs, especially for those students most at risk." In fact, Mr. Leggett planned to sub-lease the land to Montgomery Soccer, Inc., a private soccer league, for MSI to develop and run for their own profit.

In March, 2012, we received definitive proof of executive overreach and misbehavior. A letter from Park & Planning staff to the director of the County's Department of General Services, David Dise, took him to task for having misrepresented their position on the Brickyard school site in his testimony before the Board of Education (BOE) a year earlier. I discussed this matter with Jeff Brindle, a CPA, with expertise in applying Government Auditing Standards. In general terms, he said a government official's actions should be compared with behavior that a prudent person would consider reasonable and necessary given the facts and circumstances. He added that Dise's misinformation in

this matter came very close to abuse of power, but could not be considered fraud because Dise was not giving “sworn testimony”.

The simple layman’s definition of abuse is “the improper use of power”. The County’s Inspector General (IG) has a more nuanced definition: “the intentionally wrongful or improper use of county resources that can include the excessive or improper use of one’s position, in a manner contrary to its rightful or legally intended use.” So, I took the matter up with Edward Blansitt, our own Inspector General. His response was this question: could I show him that a specific rule, regulation or law had been violated? I thought that he would have been in a better position to answer that question than I, but he was not.

Several weeks later I attended a Training Program on the Montgomery County Ethics Law and The Maryland Open Meetings Act – a morning seminar required for those of us lucky enough to serve on a County board, committee or commission including the hundreds who serve as volunteers. I was already aware that our county Board of Education had been found in court to have repeatedly violated the Open Meetings Act in their deliberations on the Brickyard Road school site, and that there had been no sanctions or penalties exacted for these violations. But that is another issue!

The Ethics Law was new to me. Our seminar was conducted by Marc Hansen and Edward Lattner of the Office of the County Attorney. The course outline informed us that the purpose of the Public Ethics Law was to (1) maintain a high degree of trust that public officials will use impartial and independent judgment when conducting public business and (2) guard against improper influence affecting the decision making process of public officials. “Wow,” I thought, “public trust is definitely way down and the Executive has certainly been anything but impartial in working to turn the Brickyard Road site over to MSI soccer.” It seemed clear to me that the purpose and intent of the Ethics Law was not being upheld. But how about the letter of the law?

Our seminar consisted mainly of hypothetical case studies, almost all having to do with financial improprieties. Only one section of the law seemed applicable to the Brickyard Road case – “IX. Other Regulated Conduct: 19A-14(a) An employee must not use the prestige of the employee’s office for private gain or the gain of another.” It is certainly the case that the Executive used the prestige of his office to obtain a public asset for the use and benefit of a private entity. It is also true that the Executive gave erroneous information and misrepresented his purpose when requesting the lease of

the land from the BOE. It is also undeniably true that the Director of General Services misrepresented the position of the Planning Department before the BOE. But these last two points are irrelevant. Mr. Lattner affirmed to me that “honesty and truthfulness in the conduct of public business are not required by our Ethics Code.”

Honesty and truthfulness are values that we, as citizens, hold dear. And we expect our elected and appointed public officials to adhere to them in carrying out our (the public’s) business. We are therefore shocked and angered when we learn that one of more of our public servants has played fast and loose with the truth. . It seems that we need a provision in the Ethics Law that requires public employees to be factually accurate and truthful in both their written and oral presentations. To quote Michelle Obama: “The truth matters and you don’t take short cuts and play by your own rules.”

Be it Resolved: that the Civic Federation calls on the County Council to work with the Inspector General and the Chairman of the Ethics Commission to write and pass an amendment to the current Ethics Law adding a new provision under the “Other Regulated Conduct” section requiring all elective and appointed officials to be honest and truthful in carrying out their official duties.

County Executive Appoints Night-Time Economy Task Force

By Jim Zepp, Public Safety Chairman

Encouraging late night businesses such as theaters, bars, and restaurants can enliven and generate an economic boost for commercial areas that are otherwise empty after stores and offices close. Unfortunately, efforts to promote these districts by local governments can also result in parking and other transportation issues; additional drunken and disorderly complaints; trash, vandalism, and other nuisance and crime problems for surrounding communities. These are issues that must be dealt with for any night-time entertainment area to succeed. Visiting the Adams-Morgan and Georgetown neighborhoods in DC or Old Town in Alexandria can illustrate the positive and negative impacts of late night businesses.

As Montgomery County attempts to revitalize its central commercial areas with various night-time businesses, it has discovered the problems associated with night-time entertainment districts that other local governments in the US and many other countries have already been recognizing and attempting to

manage for years. Montgomery County should learn from the experiences of these other jurisdictions. England has even developed a “best practices” manual for local governments. Many other jurisdictions including DC have developed and published online their Night-Time Economy Plans. A plan developed for Victoria, British Columbia (www.victoria.ca/assets/City~Hall/Documents/taskforce-downtown-late-night-report.pdf) is a good model because it uses data provided by city agencies to determine the nature and scope of the problems and research on effective strategies to identify specific measures that both public agencies and private businesses will take to either prevent or mitigate problems.

Information on the county’s newly established “Nighttime Economy Task Force,” its members, its seven subcommittees, scope of work, and work plan are available at its Web site at: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/nighttimeeconomy Because the task force will focus specifically on Bethesda, Germantown, Rockville, Silver Spring, and Wheaton, meetings are planned for each of these communities.

While I will be monitoring the task force’s activities, with 7 subcommittees and 5 communities involved, there will be plenty of opportunities for participation by MCCF members in this study effort. The challenge will be developing processes to identify potential problems and effective strategies for prevention and mitigation of the negative impacts of attracting large crowds of patrons for night-time businesses.

New State Transportation Projects

By Dan Wilhelm, Transportation Chairman

Governor Martin O’Malley, Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr., and House Speaker Michael E. Busch, signed the Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act of 2013 on May 16. This legislation will support thousands of jobs and invest an average of \$800 million a year at full implementation.

As a result of the passage of the legislation, Governor O’Malley was able to announce the first round of highway and transit projects totaling \$1.2B. For Montgomery County the following projects will be funded with money generated by the Transportation Act.

- Construction: \$125M to build the I-270/Watkins Mill Road interchange;

- Transit Funding for final design work: Purple Line \$280M, Corridor Cities Transitway \$100M

Slate of Nominees for 2013-2014 Elected Officers

By Jim Zepp, Nominating Committee Chairman

President	Carole Ann Barth
1st V.P.	Paula Bienenfeld
2nd V.P.	Alan Bowser
Co-Secretaries	Sue Schumacher & Sandy Vogelgesang
Treasurer	Jerry Garson

Membership Renewal Time

The Federation’s Membership Year begins on July 1. We ask that our delegates print or cut out the Membership Form on page 11, fill it in and pass it on to your association treasurer. Your treasurer must mail the form with the dues check to us as soon as possible. Failure to do this will result in the hideously embarrassing inclusion in the autumn on our list of associations whose dues are “in arrears”. Do not let this happen to your association! Please take steps to pay your dues for the coming year now.

July 2013 - June 2014 Delegates

Meeting Dates

by Bill Schrader, Treasurer

With the exception of December, all Delegates Meeting dates are on the second Monday of the month in the First Floor Auditorium of the Council Office Building. Our December meeting is on the first Monday. We do not have a formal meeting during July and August, but we will have our informal Potluck Dinner on Friday, July 12.

Please mark Your Calendars now with the dates for our future meetings:

September 9	October 14
November 11	December 2
January 13	February 10
March 10	April 14
May 12	June 9

You’ve Got Issues? We’ll Get You Coverage!

By Jim Humphrey, Liaison to The Montgomery Sentinel

The Montgomery County Sentinel newspaper was founded in 1855. For over 156 years it has been a “newspaper of record” providing official and legal notices in addition to providing weekly in-depth reporting on countywide issues. It was just named Best Newspaper of

2012 by the Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association. To learn more about the Sentinel and to subscribe, visit their website at www.thesentinel.com.

The Sentinel generously provides space each week for the MCCF's "Federation Corner". This column provides an excellent opportunity to inform our county government officials and other Sentinel readers about the activities of the Civic Federation and issues of importance to our members and all residents. Recent columns have covered the future of the Brickyard Road middle school site, the threat to the Rachel Carson Meadow and the North Four Corners neighborhood park, open government and the

Maryland Open Meetings Act, rights and wrongs in the roadside right-of-way, and deficiencies in the county's Ethics Law. All Federation Corner columns can be read on our own website: www.montgomerycivic.org.

During our summer break MCCF continues to send in a Federation Corner column each week. If you have an issue, a problem or an activity of significance to your community that you wish to receive wider exposure, consider submitting a Federation Corner column on the topic. Columns must be between 800 and 1000 words in length, in Word document format, and sent as an attachment to an email to: montgomerycivic@yahoo.com



Virginia Sheard receives the Star Cup from Councilmember Marc Elrich



Virginia Sheard, winner of the 2013 Star Cup, receives a commendation from Delegates James Gilchrist (District 17) on the left and Ben Kramer (District 19) on the right on behalf of the Montgomery County Delegation.



Delegates Kramer and Gilchrist present commendations to the three award recipients

Photos of the 2013 Annual Awards Ceremony.

Special thanks to Alan Bowser and Dan Wilhelm for supplying these photos and to Jesse Cantrill for managing the registrations, collecting the payments and creating the name badges for our guests.



Steve Kanstoroom, Wayne Goldstein Award recipient, discusses the Farm Road issue



County Executive Leggett addresses remarks on the Wayne Goldstein Award surrounded by members of the Farm Road community, Steve Kanstoroom and MCCF President Carole Ann Barth



County Executive Leggett Presents the Wayne Goldstein Award to Steve Kanstoroom



Steve Kanstoroom enjoys receiving the commendation from the Annapolis delegation from Delegates Gilchrist and Kramer



Joan Fidler, President of the Montgomery County Taxpayers League, receives the commendation from the Annapolis delegation from Delegates Gilchrist and Kramer



Council President Nancy Navarro presents Joan Fidler, President of the Montgomery County Taxpayers League with the Sentinel Award for contributions to good government.

Minutes of the May 13 Meeting

By Sue Schumacher, Secretary

Call to Order: President Carole Ann Barth called the meeting to order at 7:50. Introductions followed.

Agenda: The agenda was amended to include an emergency resolution on the BRT and Proposed Functional Master Plan.

Announcements: President Barth thanked Peggy Dennis and Jesse Cantrell for the excellent job they did on organizing the awards dinner. She read a thank you from one of the family members of the “Farm Road” families of Sandy Spring. She also announced the Chesapeake Landscaping Council Conference and the Real Foods for Montgomery County Schools from 12 noon to 2pm, May 18 at Piney Branch Elementary School.

Minutes: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 8 meeting as they appeared in the Newsletter. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Bill Schrader reported that not much had changed since the last meeting.

Program: President Carole Ann Barth introduced Brooke Farquhar, Master Planner Supervisor of the county Parks Department. Ms. Farquhar presentation was on Right Parks, Right Places: Planning the Parks and Open Space Systems for an Urbanizing County. She introduced John Hench from the Parks Dept., who was in the audience. Brooke went on to discuss the role of Vision 2030. This was a program where every park in the county was rated for condition by the park manager. The message that Parks has received from the citizens and elected officials to fix what you have before you build new things. Therefore Parks Dept. is renovating exiting parks and using them for new purposes. She said that there is need for dog parks, cricket fields, community gardens, and skate parks. In addition, because of the aging population of the county, there is need for walking areas, and natural areas. Members of MCCF stressed the need for benches everywhere in the parks to accommodate the aging population. Also it was suggested that we need trash cans. Brooke next addressed the Athletic Field Study. She said that the greatest need is for rectangular fields for soccer and other sports. She noted that baseball is not as popular as it used to be, but both adults and children want rectangular fields. There was some discussion on the use of artificial turf versus natural turf. A question and answer period followed.

Nominating Committee: Jim Zepp reviewed the slate of officers that appeared in the newsletter. There were no additional nominations from the floor. There was some

discussion on one of the names on the slate who does not regularly attend meetings. It was decided that this should best be decided during the elections at the June meeting.

Emergency Resolution: Jim Humphrey, Chair Planning, Land Use and Housing introduced the following:

MCCF Bus Rapid Transit Resolution:

Whereas the Montgomery County Civic Federation believes the creation of a bus rapid transit (BRT) system might help prevent traffic congestion on county roads from worsening and in some cases could actually decrease it;

Whereas we believe the impact of BRT service on land use and other public infrastructure and services should be studied for every planning area in which a BRT route is proposed,

Whereas we share the serious concern of property owners, especially homeowners, over the taking of any privately owned land for BRT service lanes, stations, or other operational facilities;

Whereas we urge county government to educate all stakeholders on the projected fiscal impact of not only initial construction but also long-term operational costs of a BRT system;

Therefore, the MCCF generally supports the process of indentifying proposed routes for a BRT system by means of approval of a Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan, while strongly urging the Plan recommend a pilot project of BRT service first be created from among the 4 proposed routes that are already included in area master plans (the Corridor Cities Transitway from Shady Grove Metro station to Clarksburg, Georgia Avenue between Glenmont and Olney, Veirs Mill Road between Wheaton and Rockville, and the North Bethesda Transitway), with creation of the Corridor Cities Transitway being given the highest priority, after which a reassessment should be conducted of the appropriateness of all other BRT routes identified in the functional Master Plan.

The motion was seconded and discussion ensued. The vote was 3 in support, 9 opposed and 4 abstentions.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Minutes of the May 22 Executive Committee Meeting

By Acting Recording Secretary, Sandy Vogelgesang

The Executive Committee (ExComm) met at the home of Sandy Vogelgesang. Discussion was conducted in person and via teleconference.

Call to Order. President Carole Ann Barth called the meeting to order at 7:55 PM. Attending the meeting: Carole Ann Barth, Peggy Dennis, Dan Wilhelm, Bill Schrader, Jim Zepp, Jesse Cantrill, Chuck Lapinski, and Sandy Vogelgesang. Present by teleconference: Jim Humphrey and Virginia Sheard.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda. Carole Ann called for and received unanimous approval of the proposed ExComm agenda.

Minutes of April 16 Excomm Meeting. Carole Ann called for and received unanimous approval of the minutes as published in the May 2013 *Newsletter*.

Treasurer's Report. Bill Schrader distributed a written report of the Federation's finances. The bank account balance is \$13,497.12.

Programs. Carole Ann introduced discussion of future programs.

- **June:** Jim Humphrey, Planning and Land Use Chair, has arranged for Jeff Zyontz, County Council Legislative Attorney, to speak on "implementation of the new zoning ordinance when it is approved."
- **Future Programs discussed:** Carole Ann read a list of previously proposed suggestions for meetings for September and beyond. ExComm members added some other possibilities such as a program on implementation of national health reform by the State of Maryland. While discussing program options, Jim Zepp noted grade.dc.gov, a program in the District of Columbia whereby citizens can submit comments about certain District agencies and view how those agencies have been graded by District residents. ExComm agreed that Jim should bring this program, whose purpose is to improve delivery of services, to the attention of officials working on Montgomery County's CountiStat program. In addition, we agreed that he should explore how organizations such as the Taxpayers' League or the Civic Federation might pilot a comparable program for Montgomery County.

Community Hero. ExComm agreed to explore some options for future awards, but deferred any formal nomination at this time.

Discussion of the Annual Awards Banquet. Carole Ann reported considerable positive feedback about the program and venue. Peggy and others noted the need to get the Awards Committee up and running earlier and to make an earlier start on nominating the awardees and designating presenters of the awards.

Committee Reports.

- **Planning and Land Use:** Jim Humphrey, Chair, addressed questions about proposed new regulations for accessory apartments and agreed to send comments regarding re-inspection process to the Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA), with a copy to the County Council PHED Committee. Jim also noted the proposed zoning text amendment (ZTA 13-03) regarding the calculation of impervious surface. Carole Ann will be following up with Stormwater Partners Network on this issue of mutual concern to the Network and the Federation. Virginia Sheard mentioned work underway about streamlining the county's development process. She has been representing civic associations, including MCCF, in the new ad hoc group. Virginia will summarize the results of the meeting scheduled for this June.
- **Finance and Public Utilities:** Chuck Lapinski, Chair, noted the gist of his recent testimony on the county's budget and agreed to provide a written précis of his testimony to ExComm. Jim Humphrey noted that there was to be a Council hearing and vote the following day on exceeding the Constant Yield Tax Rate for the County property tax. Jim offered a motion for MCCF to urge Council disapproval of the increase which ExComm agreed to unanimously and which was to be transmitted via email before the scheduled Council session. On another matter, Virginia Sheard noted that she had attended the meeting of the ad hoc advisory group for Prince Georges and Montgomery Counties regarding the WSSC setback that will be addressed at meetings in June and August. There was unanimous ExComm approval for Virginia to attend those sessions as representative for the Civic Federation.
- **Public Safety:** Jim Zepp, Chair, recalled previous discussion of a proposed curfew for Montgomery County and noted the need for more appropriate action in the form of a more comprehensive

district plan for entertainment areas (perhaps along the lines of one implemented in Victoria, British Columbia). He reported that the County Executive had proposed a “Night-time Entertainment Task Force” which is to meet monthly. Jim has been invited to attend. Carole Ann suggested that the Federation might consider, depending on how the task force proceeds, suggesting that Jim serve as an official MCCF representative.

- **Transportation and Legislation.** Dan Wilhelm, Chair, said that there is nothing new to report. Peggy Dennis reported that Bethesda and Rockville have been named “Bronze Level “Bicycle Friendly Communities” by the League of American Bicyclists. She noted that the “Bike Share” program will soon link our suburbs to those of D.C. and northern Virginia.
- **Parks and Recreation.** Carole Ann Barth, Chair, reported on the latest developments at North Four Corners Park. She is also planning to follow up with an email letter on questions raised by the presentation of Brooke Farquhar, Maryland National Capital/Park and Planning, at the May 13 meeting, and to seek reports from users of County parks.

Old Business

- **July 12, 2013 Potluck Dinner Meeting.** ExComm discussed the format or focus for the meeting to be held at the home of Peggy Dennis.
- **ExComm.** Carole Ann will be working on transition.

New Business: ExComm agreed on assignments for the next issue of the *Newsletter*. Articles will include a draft resolution on a proposed amendment to the Ethics Law. Carole Ann proposed the date of June 18 for the next ExComm meeting but asked members to advise her of availability, June 18-20, and suggest venue.

Adjournment: Carole Ann called for and received unanimous approval for adjournment at 9:45 PM.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Serving the County since 1925

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014

Mail To: Dan Wilhelm (Database)
904 Cannon Road, Colesville, MD 20904
301-384-2698 djwilhelm@verizon.net

Inquiries to Treasurer: Jerry Garson
8308 Raymond Lane, Potomac, MD 20854
301-704-0757; garson@comcast.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. Can not be a single local issue group.)	10 to 50		\$25*	1	Yes
	51 to 300		\$45*	2	
	301 to 600		\$65*	3	
	601+		\$85*	4	
Umbrella Association (Two or more local associations. Cannot be single local issue group.)	60 to 500		\$45*	2	Yes
	501 to 1000		\$65*	3	
	1001+		\$85*	4	
Regional or County-Wide Organization (environmental, transportation, or other civic/community).	50+ memberships, not households		\$45*	2	Yes
Individual Associate	(not applicable)		\$20*	1	No
Associate Group (Gov't agency, business, or other organization)	(not applicable)		\$85*	2	No

***A \$5 discount may be taken for each delegate who elects to receive the newsletter via email.** Organizations can also select less than the allowed number of delegates and pay according to that number. Please provide all the information below no matter the newsletter delivery method.

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

Federation Meeting

Session 847

Monday, June 10, 2013
7:45 1st Floor Auditorium
County Council Office Building,
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD

Agenda:

- 7:45 Call to Order & Introductions
- 7:50 Approval of Agenda
- 7:51 Announcements
- 7:53 Approval of Minutes of May 13 meeting
- 7:54 Treasurer's Report
- 8:00 Program: Implementing the New Zoning Code
- 9:10 Bylaws Amendment, discussion & vote
- 9:15 Vote on Resolution on Ethics Law
- 9:20 Vote on slate of Elective Officers for 2013 – 2014
- 9:25 Committee Reports
- 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. 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 Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD. Free parking in garage accessed from Monroe St. or from Jefferson St. heading east from I-270.

The **Civic Federation News** is published monthly, except in July and August. It is mailed or emailed 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: **Sunday, August 25** . Prepare submission as an MS Word, Word Perfect or text document, **attach** it to an e-mail, and send to **mccfnewsletter@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

**DATE & VENUE
TO BE DETERMINED**



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

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Silver Spring, MD 20904

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