



Civic Federation News

September, 2014

Serving the Public Interest since 1925

Official Publication of the
Montgomery County Civic
Federation

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September Program: Strategies for Managing the County's Whitetail Deer by Peggy Dennis, Past President & Newsletter Editor

Our program for Monday, September 8 will be "Strategies for Managing the County's Whitetail Deer." Speakers will be Bill Hamilton, Principal Natural Resources Specialist, and Ryan Butler, Senior Natural Resources Specialist. Both men work for the Montgomery County Department of Parks and serve on the County's Deer Management Work Group. George Timko, Assistant Deer Project Leader, Wildlife and Heritage Service of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, will also participate.

This program will cover a variety of strategies for dealing with deer. Animal lovers and rights advocates ask us to feed the deer and administer birth control. Gardeners try stinky sprays and fences to minimize damage to yards and landscaping. What works and what doesn't work? What is most cost effective? And how can we help to control and shrink the herd size down to sustainable levels? Do we need additional changes in county, state and/or federal laws?

In August, 2012, Bloomberg News wrote: "Looking over the American landscape, it's hard to think of a more insidious threat to forests, farms and wildlife, not to mention human health and safety than deer. Yet when it comes to reducing this costly infestation, too many elected officials sit on their hands or deflect effective control measures. There were about 1.09 million deer vehicle collisions from June 2010 to June 2011, State Farm Insurance reports, with average property damage of more than \$3,000 an accident. Add to that a billion or so dollars for agricultural damage. Deer carry ticks that spread Lyme disease. And their voracious chomping has resulted in "ghost forests" -- particularly in the Northeast." Read the full article at

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Federation Meeting Session 858

Monday, September 8, 2014

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
- 7:54 Approval of Minutes of June 9 meeting
- 7:55 Treasurer's Report
- 7:56 Community Hero: Gordon Brenne of M.C. Taxpayers League
- 8:06 Program: Strategies for Managing Deer
- 9:20 Election of Alan Bowser, 2nd VP
- 9:25 Budget Approval
- 9:30 Committee Reports
- 9:40 New and Old Business
- 9:45 Adjournment

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-08-08/deer-infestation-calls-for-a-radical-free-market-solutio>

[n.html](http://blog.nature.org/science/2013/08/22/too-many-deer). A more scholarly article on the negative impacts of deer overpopulation is available at <http://blog.nature.org/science/2013/08/22/too-many-deer> .

In February, 2012 the Civic Federation passed a resolution “urging County and State officials to expand funding and to work collaboratively towards liberalizing appropriate regulations to extend the hunting season for deer and facilitate controlled and safe hunting on both public and private lands.” This resolution bore fruit, and our elected officials did not sit on their hands. Enabling legislation was passed in Annapolis in 2014 which permitted the Montgomery County Council to pass Bill 35-14. Did we get everything we sought? No. With the backing of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, we had asked that the “safety perimeter” be decreased to 50 yards - a measure already implemented in Frederick and Carroll Counties. We accepted a compromise of a reduction to 100 yards.

Residents should know that bow and arrow hunting for deer, even in our suburbs, has been legal for many years, but under conditions that are so strict that it is rarely done. Hunters had to be licensed and had to have written permission to hunt from both the owner of the property where the hunting would take place and the owners of neighboring homes within 150 feet of the hunting location. Responsible bow and arrow hunters work only during the hunting season and at the permitted times of the day. They shoot from an elevated position such as a tree stand, balcony or deck guaranteeing that an arrow which misses its target lands harmlessly in the ground. Archery hunting is therefore one of the safest of all sports. In Maryland, there has not been a single recorded incident in which a person or pet has been injured by a stray arrow. The only recorded accidents have been to hunters who occasionally (but rarely) fall out of a tree stand. In Fairfax County there is no safety perimeter, and homeowners may permit a bow and arrow hunter to hunt on their property with only verbal permission and no requirement that surrounding homeowners consent. Fairfax has a similar and admirable safety record – no recorded accidents or injuries to non-hunters.

A discussion of the new 100 yard “safety perimeter” and all related laws and regulations will be held. Information will be provided on how residents can contact hunting organizations, link up with qualified hunters, and negotiate an agreement with a hunter to work on their property. As always, the public is welcome and encouraged to join in the dialogue and Q&A session.

September’s Community Hero: Gordon Brenne **by Paula Bienenfeld, President**

We are very pleased to honor Gordon Brenne, Vice President of the Montgomery County Taxpayers League, at our September 8th meeting.

Now retired, Gordie’s professional career spanned nearly 50 years as an accountant and financial systems consultant, leading practices for government and commercial clients at Booz, Allen, Grant Thornton and Price Waterhouse Coopers. He also served as a Controller for Marriott’s food service division. Born and raised in a south Chicago suburb, he became the youngest Eagle Scout in the state at 13, ran and wrestled his way to a degree at the University of Illinois, before heading west for an MBA at the University of Southern California, a better football team and warmer weather. He lives in Silver Spring with his wife Connie, and enjoys visits from his two daughters who live in Atlanta and Boston, and remind him that he isn’t that old - yet.

As Vice President of the Taxpayers League, Gordie has been the engine behind many of our successful events of the last few years. The purpose of the Taxpayers League is “to educate and advocate for county taxpayers.” Gordie certainly does that, and more. The League has partnered with the Civic Federation for the annual MCPS Budgetpalooza! and most especially the Candidates’ Forum, which we held in advance of the June primary. Gordie was instrumental in arranging for the appearance of all the County Executive candidates, as well as the logistics that made the event so well-attended, with a standing-room only crowd and television coverage. We couldn’t have done it without him.

Gordie’s energy and enthusiasm, and especially his persistence and hard work on county issues are well-known and we have all benefited from his expertise. Our Community Hero Award is our way of saying “Thank You” to Gordie for the many, many hours he devoted to these events, as well as the time he takes to analyze and publicize how our tax dollars are being spent by the County government.

Please join us to help us thank and celebrate Gordie for the time and the many ways he gives back to this community.

Alan Bowser Nominated to Be MCCF's Second Vice President by Jim Zepp, Nominations Committee Chair

The MCCF Executive Committee and Nominations Committee have agreed to nominate Alan Bowser to fill the vacant Second Vice President position. Alan is a long-time Silver Spring civic activist who has served on the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board, was former Council Member Duchy Trachtenberg’s chief of staff, has organized the Silver Spring Jazz Festival for many years, and is the president of the Park Hills Civic Association. He was elected and served as our MCCF Second Vice President during the 2013-2014 term, but he had to resign while campaigning for the position of County Court Clerk. Having lost in the June 26th primary election, Alan has kindly agreed to serve again as an MCCF officer, and we look forward to our members electing him at the September 8 meeting.

Mark Your Calendar for the Civic Federation's Coming Year

With the exception of December when our monthly meeting is on the **first** Monday and July and August when we take a vacation, monthly meetings are on the **second** Monday of the month. Please mark these dates on your calendar, and plan to attend.

October 13

November 10

Sunday, November 16 – Forum on “Building Better Civic Associations” (see below)

December 1

January 12, 2015

February 9

March 9

April 13

Friday, May 1 – Annual Awards Banquet

May 11

June 8

Civic Federation Forum on “Building Better Civic Associations” by Peggy Dennis, Past President & Newsletter Editor

Mark your calendars now for a special forum on “Building Better Civic Associations” to be held on Sunday, November 16 from 1:00 to 5:00 at the Western Montgomery County Regional Services Center in Bethesda.

At this forum, we will bring together leaders from many of our member associations to share their expertise on the many different ways in which a strong and vibrant local civic or neighborhood association can improve the quality of life for its residents. What are the steps to build a community association from the ground up? How does a great community get, keep and even improve its reputation? We will focus on not just why it's important to have strong community associations, but more important, how to achieve this in a time when many residents are already stressed out and overwhelmed. Please think about what aspects and functions of your association you like best and want to share with others. Getting plenty of constructive ideas will be key to the success of the forum and also influence how much each participant takes away to put to use.

President’s Message

Paula Bienenfeld

Welcome to the new Civic Federation year! We have a new slate of officers on the Executive Committee and some transitions on our committees. As always we are looking for you to bring your concerns to the MCCF for discussion and action and to move the issues forward. As regular meeting attendees know, we are a lively and well informed bunch. Besides myself as your new president, Jim Zepp is our First Vice President. Danila Shevienko has already begun work as our new Recording Secretary. Unfortunately, long-term Executive Committee member Dan Wilhelm has resigned from the ExComm, so we are backfilling to cover all the tasks he carried out for so many years. He will be sorely missed. Dan was our representative on the Committee for Montgomery. As President, I will be attending those monthly meetings and reporting on them to the membership. Dan was also, for many years, our Transportation Committee chair. Jerry Garson will be filling that position, aided by Harriet Quinn and Peggy Dennis. We have asked Ira Unger of the Kemp Mill C.A. to take over Dan’s Legislative Committee duties and keep us apprised of bills of interest in Annapolis. Another hat that Dan wore was that of Database Manager, keeping all the data on our membership and handling most mass email communications. Harriet Quinn was volunteered to take over as Database Manager, and the ExComm is considering the possibility of using a database management program, such as constantcontact.com or mailchimp. If any of you have suggestions for programs to help us better manage our membership data and email communications, please let us know. I’m also looking for volunteers to lead the Public Finance and Environment Committees, and the positions of Historian and Parliamentarian.

90th Anniversary

In 2015 the Civic Federation will be celebrating its 90th anniversary. The MCCF has played an important role in the county throughout our history, having been instrumental in the development of the County Council form of government in the late 1930s and 1940s and the introduction of a County Executive, in the 1960s. We continue to honor that tradition of activism and the push for

ever more effective and open government. We are looking for ways to celebrate, so please share your ideas and suggestions. What has your civic or neighborhood organization done to celebrate its important anniversaries?

Council Adopts White Oak Science Gateway Plan **by Harriet Quinn, Planning & Land Use Committee Member**

On July 29, the County Council adopted the White Oak Science Gateway Plan. The Plan upzones all of the industrial and most of the commercial property in the White Oak area to the new mixed use Commercial-Residential (CR) family of zones. The boundaries for the Plan area are the Northwest Branch, Route 29, Cherry Hill Road, Prince Georges County line and the Beltway. The Plan recommends doubling existing density and authorizes up to 8,570 additional residential units (for a total of 15,688 units) and 15 million square feet of additional non-residential development for a total of 25 million non-residential square feet. The total amount of new development authorized is approximately 25 million square feet in an area that is 6 miles from the nearest Metro station. The County owns 118 acres in the Plan area which is proposed to be developed by adjacent property owner Percontee under a yet to be created General Development Agreement between the County and Percontee.

Following additional transportation analyses, Council Staff found that even with 3 proposed BRT routes, 5 grade-separated interchanges, numerous other intersection improvements, and relaxed standards for transportation tests for the Plan area, the Plan was still considerably out of balance between the amount of proposed development and the transportation adequacy. Consequently, Council Staff recommended that the proposed density be reduced by 25%, that the residential density be reduced with more of a focus on employment, and that the development be staged based on gradual increases in mode share (the % of trips by other than single occupant vehicle). Allowing development to be implemented in stages helps ensure that adequate public facilities and infrastructure is in place to keep pace with the growth. Staging has been required in recent plans such as White Flint, Chevy Chase Lake and Great Seneca Science Corridor. The Planning Staff had recommended staging, the Planning Board removed the staging, and the Council staff recommended staging. The County Executive and developer Percontee requested that there be no staging requirements and that there be no density reductions. The majority of the Council voted to approve the Plan without staging and without density reductions. This approval sets new precedents for future master plans since, in the past, Council consistently required that a plan be in land use/transportation balance and if it is not, to require staging of development.

County Financial Transparency Website Now Available **by Jim Zepp, 1st Vice President**

On July 28th the County's Financial Transparency Website was made available for public use at <http://budget.data.montgomerycountymd.gov>. The purpose of this effort is to make aggregate and detailed data about the County's operating and capital budgeted expenditures and funding sources more readily available to the public. The data can be viewed as numeric information as well as through a variety of graphs that illustrate the relative size of selected expenditures or funding.

However, it should be noted that the Website only contains budget data for the County agencies and

does not have budget information for the independent agencies such as the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC), and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC). This represents about 47% (\$2.63 billion) of the County's total Approved Fiscal Year 2015 Operating Budget (\$5.56 billion).

The Website allows users to select and drill down through information by various characteristics such as topic areas, e.g., environment or public safety. Mouse clicking on a topic brings up the agencies included in that category. Clicking on an agency will reveal data by program title. Because of the many ways that information can be selected and displayed, it requires a little time to learn the function of the various symbols and how elements on the screen can display additional information when the mouse is moved over them or when they are clicked on. Consequently, new users should expect to initially explore the Website before finding specific answers to questions.

Fortunately the County's latest innovation can build on six years of experience by other governments from the Federal, state, and local levels. Since 2010, the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (USPIRG) has produced reports on the relative progress among the 50 States in making their financial information online. For their latest report, go to: www.uspirg.org/reports/usp/following-money-2014 for a comparison of the extensiveness of the data available and the features for identifying and analyzing this financial information. Maryland receives a "B-" grade.

Generally following the release of these Websites, some of the challenges that they face are discoveries of errors in the data entries, misclassification of some entries due to errors in identifying codes, or missing information resulting from incomplete records or data processing issues. This can be a benefit in that correcting these issues will result in more accurate analyses.

This release of the Website is characterized as a first phase with additional expansions in the data coverage and data access features expected in the future. It is a step forward in providing the public as well as government officials with more flexible ways to understand how public funds are being spent and where funding is coming from. As these Websites mature, other governments have added other types of costs to the public such as tax credits or subsidies and information on quasi-public agencies.

Changes at MNCPPC: Park & Planning from the Conservation Montgomery website

The summer of 2014 will be remembered as one of the most active in terms of new county leadership in positions that have a tremendous impact on local development and environmental issues.

Planning Board Commissioner Casey Anderson has been appointed by the Montgomery County Council as the new Chair of the Planning Commission. We already knew Casey as a bicycle advocate and member of the Planning Board. Mr. Anderson will replace departing Chair Francoise Carrier this month. [Read Conservation Montgomery's interview with our new Planning Chair...](#)

Replacing former/retired Parks Department Director Mary Bradford is 30-year veteran Mike Riley, a respected member of the community who served as Bradford's deputy at the department. [Read about Mike](#)

Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc.		
2015 Budget		
July 1 2014 to June 30 2015		
Revenues		
Membership Dues	3,200.00	
Awards Dinner	2,800.00	
Miscellaneous	0.00	
Total Revenues		6,000.00
Expenses		
Member Communications		
Newsletter printing and Mailing	50.00	
Website	200.00	
Internet Hosting	300.00	
Civic and social betterment		
Federation meetings	1,000.00	
Awards dinner	2,500.00	
Foundation membership	100.00	
Organizational Support		
Officers	300.00	
Committees	700.00	
Insurance	700.00	
Miscellaneous	150.00	
Total Expenses		6,000.00
Net Income for period		0.00

Submit a Federation Corner Column

by Jim Humphrey

MCCF continues to submit a Federation Corner column each week to be printed in the *Montgomery Sentinel* which was named Best Newspaper of 2012 by the Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association. The column is a way of informing our county government officials and other Sentinel readers about the activities of the Civic Federation and the issues of importance to our members.

If you have an issue, a problem or an activity of significance to your community that you want to receive wider exposure, consider writing 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.

Renew Your Membership and Update your Contact Information

By Peggy Dennis, Past President

Our new year began on July 1st. Delegates are asked to verify that their treasurers have sent in the Membership Form with a check for the associations dues.

Many civic, neighborhood and homeowners associations elect new officers or boards during the summer or autumn. Please remember to provide updated contact information to those who need to be able to reach you. For the Civic Federation, email your changes and corrections to Harriet Quinn, hquinn333@yahoo.com.

All associations should send updated information to the Communications Office at Maryland National Capital/ Park & Planning Commission. Your contact is Ms. Arnita Jackson at 301-495-4601 or by email at arnita.jackson@MNCPPC-MC.org or by using the interactive website at www.montgomeryplanning.org/gis/interactive/hoa2/shtm

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

Western County: bethesda.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov

Silver Spring: silver.spring@montgomerycountymd.gov

Mid-County: midcounty.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov

Eastern County: eastco.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov

Up-County: upcounty.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov

Minutes of the June 9 Meeting

By Sue Schumacher, Co-Recording Secretary

Call to Order: Treasurer Jerry Garson called the meeting to order at 7:50pm. Introductions followed.

AGENDA: It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Jerry Garson announced early voting for the Maryland Gubernatorial Election starts June 12. Peggy Dennis announced that the Civic Fed's Summer Pot Luck Dinner will be at her home on Friday, July 11.

MINUTES: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the May 12 meeting as they appeared in the Newsletter. The minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jerry Garson reported that the MCCF finances are in good shape.

PROGRAM: Dan Wilhelm, Chair of the Transportation Committee presented an overview of the Civic Fed's position on transportation projects since 1999. For example in 2002 MCCF voted to oppose the Tech Way, oppose the ICC and favor local buses. The question and answer period addressed the proposed Bus Rapid Transit versus local buses and ride-on buses.

ELECTIONS: Jim Zepp, Chair of the Nominations Committee placed the names on the slate that appeared in the May newsletter. Peggy Dennis noted that one name on the slate was ineligible to hold elective office, because the association that this individual belonged to was not a member of the Civic Fed at the time the slate was being put together. Peggy moved that that MCCF vote on the four

individuals who were eligible to serve and vote for a candidate for the 2nd VP position at the September meeting. This motion was seconded and the vote was 14 yes, 2 no, 4 abstentions. It was then moved and seconded to elect the four remaining names on the slate. This was seconded and the vote was unanimous. The new officers are, Paula Bienenfeld, President; Jim Zepp, First Vice President; Danila Sheveiko, Recording Secretary; and Jerry Garson, Treasurer.

RESOLUTIONS: Peggy Dennis read the resolution on Shared-use Path in PEPCO'S Transmission Corridors that appeared on pages 3 and 4 of the June newsletter. The vote to support the resolution carried with 15 yes, 1 no, 2 abstentions.

NEW BUSINESS: The Civic Fed was asked to support an amendment to oppose "spot zoning" in Aspen Hill. This will be referred to the Planning and Land Use Committee. Questions concerning the Accessory Apartment Legislation will be referred to the Land Use Committee. Questions concerning the Bethesda/Chevy Chase Rescue Squad building and its development will be referred to the Land Use Committee.

It was announced that all comments on the Countywide District Map Amendment (DMA G-956) which rezones all commercial property in the County, must be sent in writing to the County Council by July 3, the next PHED Committee work session on the DMA.

The dates for the 5 MCCF Planning Board Chairperson interviews are June 25 and 26. Harriet Quinn requested that anyone who has suggested questions for the 5 candidates, please send the questions in an email to her.

Peggy Dennis reminded everyone to forward the electronic version of the MCCF's *News* to their organization's list serve or membership.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:55pm.

Minutes of the June 19th Executive Committee Meeting **By Recording Secretary, Danila Sheveiko**

The Executive Committee (ExComm) met at the Bethesda Chevy Chase Regional Services Center.

Call to Order: Paula Bienenfeld, President, called the meeting to order at 7:52 PM. Present: Paula Bienenfeld, Jerry Garson, Jim Zepp, Carole Ann Barth, Danila Sheveiko, Jim Humphrey and Virginia Sheard.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda: Paula called for and received approval of the proposed agenda.

Approval of Minutes for May 22nd ExComm Meeting: Paula called for and received approval of the minutes as published in the June 2014 newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Jerry Garson, Treasurer, circulated report from June 9th.

Announcements: Paula Bienenfeld called for announcements.

Jerry Garson reported 14,745 votes cast in early voting to date.

Paula reported that Planning Department Director Gwen Wright was invited and agreed to attend the July 11th MCCF potluck.

Interview Committee (Co-Chairs Sheard and Quinn) for Planning Board Chair finalizing interview questions. Panel will be MCCF committee members only, no outside observers, with interviews on Wed, June 25th and Thurs, June 26th.

Programs: Paula introduced discussion of future programs.

September: Deer management. Peggy and Carole Ann to arrange.

October: How to get your Community's Request in the CIP? Paula to arrange.

Other Possibilities:

PEPCO-Exelon merger would include \$50 million to community programs. Jerry Garson will work with Louis Wilen, Chair of Utilities Committee, on next steps.

Issues Discussed

Insurance

Policy would protect MCCF. ExComm approved a resolution to purchase the insurance policy with approximate annual cost of \$600, which would require a budget modification to be voted on in September.

Update on Wheaton (Sheard)

Lot 13 CIP going forward, to include new Park & Planning HQ, DEP, DPS. Old MNCPPC location in Silver Spring slated for re-development without so much as a sketch plan. Planning Board issued waiver from the Forest Conservation law to allow the developer to remove a number of significant trees from the site.

Costco (Sheveiko)

Special Exception for Costco gas station in Wheaton broke the County record for longest-running land use hearing, beating the old record set by Suburban Hospital expansion. Westfield broke promises made to Kensington Heights Civic Association as part of the \$4 million County subsidy for the Wheaton Mall Costco expansion project, so the promised path, green wall, and buffer enhancements will now only be built if the gas station is approved.

Committee Reports

Public Safety: Jim Zepp, Chair, reported that the new District 3 Police Station Open House is June 20th, 9:30am-11:00am.

Education: Paula reported:

Superintendent Starr dropped the Start School Later initiative, stating lack of funds, however the Board of Education is pursuing the possibility

Investigation into the BoE credit card scandal continues and the Office of the State Prosecutor is now investigating use of the credit cards.

Planning & Land Use (PLU): Jim Humphrey, Chair, reported on a pending amendment to the Forest Conservation Law – Expedited Bill 25-14. Jim also reported that the Battery Park Citizens Association applied for MCCF membership and requested MCCF support them in

opposing the rezoning application for the B-CC Rescue Squad site on corner of Battery Lane and Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda which would include residential apartments above the new station. ExComm motion of support passed unanimously.

Old Business

Twitter Feed updates – Paula reported that the MCCF now has over 180 followers.
MCCF Potluck on Friday, July 11th – to be hosted by Peggy Dennis.

New Business

Garson and Sheveiko reported on International Green Construction Code that is being adopted by the County. DPS is taking public input now – deadline is July 18th. Council votes to adopt the Code on October 1st. ExComm moved to contribute \$60.00 towards the cost of purchasing a copy of the Code.

Paula would like to plan an MCCF retreat; August appears to be the best time, based on discussion.

Newsletter deadline and articles – Deadline: **Sunday, August 24th** 6pm to Peggy Dennis
hotyakker@gmail.com

Discussion of a by-laws committee. The committee needs to be formally discussed and formed at the ExComm before work can begin. We will take this up and it will be on the agenda for discussion at the July meeting. Carole Ann volunteered to be on a by-laws committee.

Date and location of next two ExComm meeting – July 17th by conference call, August 21st – possible location: Mid-County Regional Services Center in Wheaton – Danila to discuss with RSC Director Van Balen.

Adjournment: Paula called for and received unanimous approval for adjournment at 9:59PM.

Minutes of the July 17th Executive Committee Meeting **By Recording Secretary, Danila Sheveiko**

The Executive Committee (ExComm) convened via conference call.

Call to Order: Paula Bienenfeld, President, called the meeting to order at 7:48 PM. Present: Paula Bienenfeld, Jerry Garson, Peggy Dennis, Jim Zepp, Carole Ann Barth, Danila Sheveiko, Jim Humphrey, Harriet Quinn.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda: Paula called for and received unanimous approval of the proposed agenda.

Approval of Minutes for June 19th ExComm Meeting: Paula called for approval of the June 19th 2014 minutes. Due to a clerical error, Jim Humphrey was not able to review, so minutes will be approved at the August meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Jerry Garson gave an update on last month's financial activity.

Announcements: Paula Bienenfeld called for announcements.

Jim Humphrey and Harriet Quinn reported the District Map Amendment for the Zoning Code Rewrite passed with no additional amendments with an effective date of Oct. 31st – seven in favor, Councilmember Elrich against, Councilmember Branson abstained.

Jim Humphrey received copy of letter from Dr. Green, a small developer, to Planning Board regarding new e-plans system where development submittals are made electronically and will eventually provide for online public access and review. Web portal only supports Internet Explorer and functions with errors.

Jim Zepp spoke with Dan Hoffman, County's Chief Innovation Officer – new financial data transparency portal will be ready last week of July. The portal will not include data for MNCPPC and BoE.

Harriet Quinn reported that Casey Anderson was selected as the next Planning Board Chair. Council started search for a new Commissioner to replace Anderson.

Paula distributed letter on PEPCO power line shared use path.

Jim Zepp sent out invite to going-away party for Arnie Gordon, Past MCCF President.

Programs: Paula introduced discussion of future programs.

September: Deer management. Peggy and Carole Ann are working to line up speakers, including from Parks Department, Maryland DNR, and other stakeholders.

October: How to get your Community's Request in the CIP? Paula to arrange.

Community Hero: Paula suggested Gordie Brenne for Sept. Harriet suggested the Parents Coalition for their credit card investigation. Danila suggested Coalition to Save Kensington.

Issues Discussed

Office of Legislative Oversight

List of reports and studies by OLO is available. Jim Humphrey reported that the resolution for OLO's annual work plan has been introduced into the consent calendar for a pro forma vote next Tuesday. Amendments to the work plan can be made as necessary with Councilmember support throughout the year.

Grant Possibilities

Paula asked to keep an eye out for grants, including [Exelon](#), which is buying PEPCO. ExComm members were asked to submit ideas for potential projects.

Committee Reports

Public Safety: Jim Zepp, Chair, reported on MC Innovation Lab's project on Internet-connected devices, like fire alarms. Rather than relying on a smoke detector, the device could automatically notify the fire department. For infirm people, elderly, accelerometers can detect a fall and call emergency services. The project envisions a network of narrow band radio antennae across the County that would pick up the signals like gas leaks, carbon monoxide, etc. ExComm members expressed misgivings about tax-payer funded competition with existing private systems like ADT.

Utilities: Paula reported on behalf of Chair Louis Wilen that the County does not check or maintain street lights. Once an outage is reported, PEPCO does the repairs.

Education: Paula reported:

MC Innovation Lab pilot program buying iPads for autistic kids – very few have been purchased. Jim Humphrey proposed sending a letter to OCE asking why the program is touted a “huge success” if Web site still says it is in progress?

Superintendent Starr is purchasing 41,000 iPads for different grade levels.

Credit card scandal still making news, Inspector General looking into usage for all agencies, including MNCPPC and County Council.

Planning & Land Use (PLU): Jim Humphrey, Chair:

Proposed amendment to the ExComm position adopted at June meeting opposing TS-R rezoning of the currently R-60 zoned B-CC Rescue Squad site in Bethesda. Not only is TS-R inappropriate, it would be inappropriate to develop under CR zone as well, with retail in the middle of a residential area. Motion passed unanimously.

PLU Committee recommendation not to join an Aspen Hill area residents' group in opposing the Aspen Hill Minor Master Plan Amendment as equivalent of “spot zoning.” Committee discussed other potential ways to support the residents.

Consider sending a final MCCF email communique to Council on the White Oak Master Plan revision, prior to their vote by end of this month. Traffic models showed from 40 to 79 minutes to drive 2.5 miles. Harriet reported that the Planning Staff recommended staging, the Planning Board removed the staging, and Council Staff recommended staging based on gradual increases in mode share (% of trips by other than single occupant auto). Council Staff also recommended reducing density by 25% as well as placing emphasis on employment development rather than residential. The County Executive and developer Percontee requested that there be no staging and no density reductions. The Executive Committee unanimously approved a motion to support the staging and density reductions.

Transportation – Peggy Dennis reported on Kirk Lane and “orphan road” access via Brooks Road.

Old Business

Motion to reconstitute the Bylaws Committee (Dennis)

ExComm directed to develop a work plan for the proposed bylaws changes.

Date in November for weekend Forum on Building Stronger Civic Associations (Dennis)
Sunday, Nov. 16th. Will consider applying for an Exelon grant to finance the event.

Twitter Feed updates (Quinn and Bienenfeld)

200 Twitter followers. MCCF Web site gets roughly 40 visits a day.

Retreat (Bienenfeld)

Still in the works. Possibly for Sept. 14th?

- Costco Update (Sheveiko)
Closing arguments in the longest-running land use hearing in County history are scheduled for Aug. 14th in the Council building. Attendance is encouraged.
- International Green Construction Code update (Sheveiko)
Deadline for public comment is July 18th. Council scheduled to adopt on Oct. 1st. Motion passed unanimously to support ANS/Stormwater Partners letter asking to extend comment deadline and to share County policy statements and the IgCC publicly.
- Potluck recap (Bienenfeld)
Attendance was good. Paula thanked Peggy & Bob Dennis for hosting.

New Business

- Media relations (Sheveiko)
Deferred until Sandy Vogelgesang, MCCF PR Officer, is present.
- Date & venue for 2015 Awards Banquet (Dennis)
May 1st, 2015, venue still under discussion.
- Newsletter deadline and articles – Aug. 24th 6pm Peggy Dennis hotyakker@gmail.com
- Date and location of next 2 ExComm meetings: August 14th at Mid-County Regional Service Center 7-9 PM, note early time! September 18th 2014, venue TBD.

Adjournment: Paula called for and received unanimous approval for adjournment at 10:06PM.

Minutes of the August 21st Executive Committee Meeting **By Recording Secretary, Danila Sheveiko**

The Executive Committee (ExComm) convened at the Mid-County Regional Services Center.

Call to Order: Paula Bienenfeld, President, called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM. Present: Paula Bienenfeld, Jerry Garson, Peggy Dennis, Jim Zepp, Carole Ann Barth, Danila Sheveiko, Jim Humphrey, Harriet Quinn, Virginia Sheard, Louis Wilen.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda: Paula called for and received unanimous approval of the proposed agenda.

Approval of Minutes for June 19th and July 17th ExComm Meetings: Paula called for approval of the June 19th & July 17th 2014 minutes as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Jerry Garson circulated draft FY15 budget to be approved in September. Net income for July 1st through August 20th 2014 period was \$515.05.

Announcements: Paula Bienenfeld called for announcements.

Jim Zepp reported that the County's [openMontgomery](#) Web site launched the dataMontgomery portal with direct access to County datasets offering the public an opportunity to review and analyze raw data, including employee salaries and budgets.

Peggy Dennis shared a press release for "The Charlatan" – a comic operetta by John Philip Sousa playing Sept. 5-7 at the [F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre](#) in Rockville.

Jim Humphrey presented the latest Sentinel Federation Corner article written by Paula.

Jerry Garson reported that the decision to construct an artificial turf field at Churchill High School has been tabled both by Board of Education and County Council.

Paula reported that Dan Wilhelm has stepped down from the MCCF ExComm.

Programs: Paula introduced discussion of future programs.

September: Strategies for Managing the County's Whitetail Deer
Peggy reported that everything is covered.

October: How to get your Community's Request in the CIP?
Paula reported that she is following up with Joe Beech to confirm speakers.

November: Peggy & Jim suggested a presentation on County's waste management and recycling efforts. Carole Ann reported that while the PG County recycling program generates a profit, our County's efforts are funded by taxpayer.

December: Harriet suggested a discussion on street resurfacing.

Community Hero: Paula suggested and the ExComm approved Gordie Brenne for September for organizing the Executive and Budget Forums. Danila suggested Coalition to Save Kensington for October. Harriet suggested Save Our Seminary at Forest Glen organization for later in the year.

Issues Discussed

Grants possibilities

Paula encouraged ExComm members to explore grant opportunities for MCCF.

New assignments

Paula will serve on Committee for Montgomery, Harriet will manage the MCCF database, Jerry agreed to chair the Transportation Committee. Paula to follow up with potential candidate for Chair of Legislation Committee.

Membership

Deferred due to time constraints.

Civic Fed Mailing address -- Possible mailbox?

Jim Humphrey will inquire about a mailing address at the County Council building.

Email addresses for the committee members; positions rather than personal emails

Jim Humphrey will check with provider on number of boxes available.

DPS use of blanket “confidentiality” notices on their emails

Deferred due to time constraints.

Committee Reports

Public Safety: Jim Zepp, Chair, reported that Baltimore City adopted a curfew law, but there are no similar efforts in Montgomery County.

Education: Paula reported that school starts next week.

Planning & Land Use (PLU): Jim Humphrey, Chair, reported:

Aspen Hill minor master plan amendment is not spot zoning, but MCCF can still support the community by reiterating opposition to County’s general policy of minor amendments. The Council hearing is set for Sept. 11th.

BCC Rescue Squad development requesting TSR zone designation and a Zoning Text Amendment for TSR zone description to accommodate first-floor retail in a residential zone. Since this is the only extant TSR application, the ZTA may be considered “single case” and constitute spot zoning.

Forest Conservation Law was amended on July 29th via Expedited Bill 25-14.

The Council’s Planning, Housing & Economic Development Committee will take up adoption of the International Green Construction Code this fall.

Transportation:

DoT will be sending out notifications for Bus Rapid Transit advisory group.

Council passed deer hunting legislation – Bill 35-14.

Old Business

Twitter Feed updates: Paula reported over 200 followers of MCCF account.

MCCF Retreat: Scheduled for Sept. 28th, details TBD.

Costco Update: Danila reported that oral closing arguments in Special Exception will occur despite Costco’s objections, but

due to illness on Costco legal team until Sept. 19th, 9:30am, 7th floor conference room, County Council Building, Rockville.

IgCC update: Danila reported that Department of Permitting Services organized IgCC Public Work Session Follow-Up Briefing on Sept. 3rd, 2014, 6:30pm-8:30pm, large conference room, Wheaton Regional Library

Building Better Civic Associations workshop, Sun Nov 16, 1-5 pm: Peggy is organizing.

New Business

Media relations: possible topic of discussion for MCCF retreat.

- Newsletter deadline and articles – Deadline: Sunday, August 24th 6pm to Peggy Dennis hotyakker@gmail.com
- Date and location of next two ExComm meetings:
 - o September 18th, 7:30pm, BCC RSC
 - o October 23rd, 7:00pm, location TBD

Adjournment: Paula called for and received unanimous approval for adjournment at 8:54PM.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Serving the County since 1925

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Mail to MCCF Treasurer: Jerry Garson
8308 Raymond Lane, Potomac MD 20854
301-765-9470; email: garson AT comcast.net

Form updated August 2014

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		\$20	1	Yes
	51 to 300		\$35	2	
	301 to 600		\$50	3	
	601+		\$65	4	
Umbrella Association (Two or more local associations. Cannot be single local issue group.)	60 to 500		\$35	2	Yes
	501 to 1000		\$50	3	
	1001+		\$65	4	
Regional or County-Wide Organization (environmental, transportation, or other civic/community).	50+ memberships, not households		\$35	2	Yes
Individual Associate	(not applicable)		\$15	1	No
Associate Group (Gov't agency, business, or other organization)	(not applicable)		\$75	2	No

The newsletter is no longer mailed. Email is the only way to receive it. Organizations can also select less than the allowed number of delegates and pay according to that number.

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