



Civic Federation News

January 2015

Serving the Public Interest since 1925

Official Publication of the
Montgomery County Civic
Federation

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Please forward this e-newsletter to all association members, friends and neighbors. Share! Please.

January Program: Development Review Process

by Virginia Sheard, Planning & Land Use Committee

Our program on Monday, January 12 will feature a panel discussion on the Development Review Process. Guests will include Ms. Sue Richards and Mr. Craig Howard of the Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO), Mrs. Diane Schwartz Jones, Director of the Department of Permitting Services (DPS) and representatives of the Planning Department.

There are several workgroups, departmental staff teams, and legislative initiatives within DPS, OLO, and the Planning Department that have been reviewing many aspects of this process, and this discussion will help to put these various efforts into the context of how the products and recommendations will relate to each other. The objective is to ensure that the development process is more efficient, less burdensome, and more predictable for applicants and impacted communities alike.

Some process changes have already been implemented such as online tracking of the status of applications using e-docs, reducing paper copy requirements, online scheduling and accountability tracking. These changes should reduce processing time and costs in certain areas. A list of the Streamlining Initiatives already implemented can be found at <http://permittingervices.montgomerycountymd.gov/DPS/pdf/StreamliningInitiativesImplemented6-14-13.pdf>

Rather than a presentation followed by Q&A time, the format for this panel discussion will feature moderator statements and questions from the audience for panelists to respond to. Content will be based on the DPS Streamlining Development activities, the recent OLO Review and Approval Times Report (http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/2014_reports/OLOReport2014-10ReviewandApprovalTimesforPreliminaryPlansSitePlansandRecordPlats.pdf), and other resources. Questions may also be sent in advance to our MCCF President for consideration.

At the end of the evening we should all have a better understanding of why Montgomery County is perceived as being unfriendly to developers and what is being done to correct this misperception.

Federation Meeting

Session 862

Monday, January 12, 2015
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
7:55 Approval of Minutes of Dec. 1 meeting
7:56 Treasurer's Report
8:00 Program: Development Review Process
9:15 Resolutions: discussion and voting
9:30 Committee Reports
9:40 New and Old Business
9:45 Adjournment

The January 12th Meeting begins at 7:45pm in the First Floor Auditorium of the County Council Building. As always, the public is welcome.

From the President

Paula Bienenfeld

Welcome to the New Year – 2015. The start of the new year is also the start of planning for many of our annual Civic Federation events, beginning, of course, with the January general meeting. In February we will be co-hosting the Third Annual MCPS Budgetpalooza! along with the Parents’ Coalition of Montgomery County and the Montgomery County Taxpayers League. Each year we analyze the proposed Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Operating Budget, chapter by chapter. The MCPS Superintendent presented his FY16

budget on December 9, 2014. There are 11 chapters plus appendices. The proposed budget can be viewed at montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/fy2016/superintendent/index.aspx. Superintendent Starr recommended that county taxpayers spend \$2.4 Billion of our money on the public school system. That is half of our entire county budget. The other half must go to cover all our other services and facilities – libraries, parks, planning, police, firefighters, health and human services, support to the homeless and poor residents of the county, transportation needs, road maintenance, first responders...everything. So, even if you don’t have children in the public schools, the size of this budget and how it is spent and monitored is important to you. The FY16 budget will be tight and we cannot afford to waste money. We are looking for volunteers to take a chapter to analyze and present at the Budgetpalooza! If you are interested please sign up at sign up genius at SignUpGenius.com/go/10C094CADAC28A3FB6-mcps. Stay tuned for more information on this event.

On May 1st we will be holding our Annual Awards Banquet. More about the venue will be coming over the next few months. Now we are looking for people who would like to be part of the Awards Committee. Please let me know if you are willing to serve. The MCCF gives out

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.

The **Civic Federation News** is published monthly except in July and August. It is emailed to delegates, associate members, news media and local, state, and federal officials.

Recipients are encouraged to forward the **Civic Federation News** to all association members, friends and neighbors.

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Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| January Program: Development Review Process..... | 1 |
| From the President..... | 2 |
| Resolution Opposing Expedited Bill 58-14 to create a new Development Ombudsman Position..... | 3 |
| Proposed Resolution Opposing Proposed Subdivision Regulation Amendment (SRA) No. 13-03..... | 4 |
| Resolution to Support Bill 52-14 Restricting Pesticide Use..... | 5 |
| Public Testimony on Shared-use Paths in Pepco’s Transmission Corridors..... | 6 |
| County Executive Leggett to Hold Public Forums on the FY16 Budget..... | 7 |
| “OneMontgomery” Sponsors Community Workshop on MCPS Leadership and the Achievement Gap..... | 8 |
| Common Cause Maryland offers Online Course on the State Legislative Process..... | 8 |
| Office of Consumer Protection Advises Consumers to Choose Charities & Donate Carefully..... | 9 |
| Minutes of the December 1st Meeting..... | 10 |
| Minutes of the December 18 Executive Committee Meeting..... | 12 |
| MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL..... | 15 |

three awards each year. The Wayne Goldstein Award recognizes outstanding public service contributions by an individual or group in the County; the Sentinel Award is presented to an individual or group, typically outside of government, for a significant contribution to “good government” at the local level; and the Star Cup is awarded to the Federation delegate or committee performing the most outstanding public service on behalf of Montgomery County. If you have nomination suggestions for the three awards please let us know. This is the time our community recognizes the dedicated, hard-working civic activists in the county who work throughout the year donating thousands of hours to push for better government and quality of life in the county.

Planning the monthly programs is also something that the Executive Committee undertakes throughout the year. At a recent general meeting I asked what people were interested in for future programs. Many people responded, “the environment.” We recently held a fascinating program on recycling programs. If you are interested in organizing a program on other aspects of the environment, such as climate change, sustainability, or how the county is reducing our greenhouse gas footprint, please let me know. The Civic Federation is your organization.

Finally, over the next few months we monitor and weigh in on the bills coming before the General Assembly in Annapolis. The 435th session of the General Assembly begins on January 14th and runs through April 13th. Please let us know of bills we need to discuss and take positions on at the general meeting. Our Montgomery Delegate’s website is here <http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/index.html>.

And, to all our members and supporters, have a wonderful, healthy – and active 2015!

Proposed Resolutions

Resolution Opposing Expedited Bill 58-14 to create a new Development Ombudsman Position

By Harriet Quinn, Planning & Land Use Committee

On November 25 the County Council introduced Expedited Bill 58-14 at the request of the County Executive. The Bill would create a new position for a Development Ombudsman in the Office of the County Executive “to facilitate the approval process of commercial and residential development projects.” The compensation for this position would be \$198,000. As previously noted, over 80 high density projects have been completed in the County in the last 10 years (most within the last 2 years), 25 are currently under construction and over 55 are at Site Plan/ Planning Board review stage. At the December 18th MCCF Executive Committee meeting, the Committee voted to oppose Expedited Bill 58-14 because it is unnecessary. Many improvements to the development process have already been implemented. There is currently a hiring and spending freeze, and there are already 42 employees in the Executive Branch’s Department of Economic Development. A public hearing on this expedited bill will be

held by the County Council on January 13 at 1:30 P.M.

The following resolution will be presented to the membership for approval at the January 12 meeting:

Be it resolved that the Montgomery County Civic Federation opposes Expedited Bill 58-14 because the case has not been made that a Developer Ombudsman position is necessary and there is currently a hiring and spending freeze in effect.

Proposed Resolution Opposing Proposed Subdivision Regulation Amendment (SRA) No. 13-03

by Harriet Quinn, Planning & Land Use Committee

Councilmember Riemer has introduced Subdivision Regulation Amendment (SRA) No. 13-03 to eliminate the Department of Permitting Services (DPS) role from Record Plat approval. Currently both the Planning Board and DPS must sign final Record Plats. The Council's Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) Committee will hold a worksession on the proposed Amendment on February 23.

In their testimony opposing this SRA, the Executive Branch stated:

“Subdivision plats establish the boundaries of recorded lots, dedicate the necessary rights-of-way for public use, outline applicable conservation areas and public improvements easements, and ensure that completion of required public improvements has been properly guaranteed. Record plats let purchasers and lenders know that they are purchasing or building on a legally created lot that is served by a properly created infrastructure -- including a roadway and sidewalks that is or will be completed for unimpeded access in perpetuity and proper water and waste water capacity.”

They stated further that the Department of Permitting Services reviews and approves plats for important public protections that are ultimately the County's responsibility including ensuring that the right-of-way proposed to be dedicated and owned by the County aligns with other existing rights-of-way; ensuring that the grading and paving permits and related bonds that guarantee completion of the roads to serve the community are in place before the plat is recorded and lots can be sold; ensuring that the rights of the public and the County in the road are not subject to prior rights of another person or entity who could exercise those rights and damage the roadway or sidewalk, disrupt the public's use of the right-of-way and add costs and liability to the County; ensuring that there are suitable areas for onsite sewage disposal and water wells and that groundwater contamination will not result from the proposed development; and ensuring that the proposed use of the community water supply or community sewerage system is in conformance with the county plan. “These are critical public assurances and protections that require the review and approval by the County – the party ultimately responsible for these rights of way and these approvals should be indicated by signature and acceptance on the plat so that the public knows that these approvals and

protections are in place. The County's signature lets the public know that orderly development will occur with roads and water and sewer capacity in place."

The Executive Branch is opposed to this SRA 13-03 because it would eliminate the protections described above.

The Office of Legislative Oversight reported on their findings of review times for the planning process and did not recommend eliminating DPS from signing record plats. Instead they recommended improving communications between DPS and the Planning Department. Both of those offices have stated that the process has improved greatly with the implementation of e-Plans for Record Plats. E-Plans is a web-based application for electronic plan submission and review using ProjectDox software. Since the implementation, DPS has eliminated previous backlogs.

At the December 18th meeting of the MCCF Executive Committee, the Committee voted to oppose SRA 13-03. The following resolution will be presented to the membership for approval at the January 12 meeting:

Be it resolved that the Montgomery County Civic Federation opposes Subdivision Regulation Amendment No. 13-03 because eliminating the County's signature and acceptance on the plat would eliminate important protections and assurances that orderly development will occur with roads, water and sewer capacity in place.

Resolution to Support Bill 52-14 Restricting Pesticide Use

by Jean Cavanaugh, Environment Committee Co-Chair

The Environment Committee recommends that the Civic Federation support Council Bill 52-14 which restricts the use of non-essential pesticides on lawns and some County-owned property. Specifically, Bill 52-14 would:

- require posting of notice for certain lawn applications of pesticide;
- prohibit the use of certain pesticides on lawns;
- prohibit the use of certain pesticides on certain County-owned property;
- require the County to adopt an integrated pest management program for certain County-owned property; and
- generally amend County law regarding pesticides.

Background: The State Department of Agriculture regulates pesticides, but counties can also regulate use within their own jurisdictions. The County Executive will develop a list of pesticides that have been identified as carcinogenic or endocrine disruptors and require more strict public noticing on their use on private lawns, playing fields and public property. The County will encourage increased use of integrated pest management (IPM) which favors environmentally friendly pest control, with use of pesticides applied in a limited and targeted way by licensed professionals. IPM can reduce pesticide use by 60% without sacrificing aesthetic appeal. Pesticide use in agriculture, in gardens and on golf courses will all be allowed under Bill 52-14. The lawn care industry opposes this bill because they claim it limits the tools used to manage lawns, and the products used have been approved by the EPA. However, federal pesticide law doesn't require that pesticides cause no harm to humans or the environment. Instead, it weighs the

expected health and environmental damage caused by using a pesticide against the economic benefit of using said pesticide. For example, herbicides containing the same active ingredients as Agent Orange were permitted for use by homeowners for many years. One problem with this is that the damage is usually not suffered by the same people who derive the economic gain. It's also very hard to quantify the cost of environmental impacts such as harm to the insect life necessary for a healthy ecosystem, or harm to aquatic life in Chesapeake Bay. Lawn companies servicing private yards may unnecessarily apply pesticides when they are not needed, increasing human and animal exposure. Indiscriminate use of pesticides also has the unintended consequence of creating resistant pests, which then leads to greater application of even more toxic pesticides. For more information see the County Council staff packet at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/bill/2014/Packets/20141028_4C.pdf

The Environment Committee will introduce a resolution in support of Bill 52-14 at our regular meeting on January 12 for discussion and a vote. The County Council will hold a public hearing on the bill January 15 at 7:30 pm.

Public Testimony on Shared-use Paths in Pepco's Transmission Corridors

by Peggy Dennis, Editor and Transportation Committee Member

Here's a rehash of recent history on this issue. On April 10, 2013, I wrote to Jerry Pasternak, one of Pepco's many Vice Presidents, asking that Pepco enter into a dialogue with the MCCF on allowing a trial bike/pedestrian shared use path in their transmission corridor between Westlake Drive in Bethesda and Piney Meetinghouse Road in Potomac. We received a clear "no way, never gonna happen" in response.

Last spring, the proposed merger of Pepco and the Exelon Corporation was announced. This seemed like a golden opportunity to take the issue up once again, especially as Exelon has several other electrical transmission companies in their portfolio which have already successfully instituted shared use paths along their transmission corridors. With this in mind, the MCCF passed the following resolution on June 9, 2014.

"Whereas the connectivity of safe routes for bicyclists and pedestrians is increasingly important as non-vehicular means of transportation are adopted; and,

Whereas gas and electric distribution lines cross the county in relatively straight lines with no traffic intruding;

Whereas PEPCO and the Exelon Corporation are seeking approval for their merger;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Montgomery County Civic Federation urges the County Council and the County Executive to communicate to the Maryland Public Service Commission that the establishment of a shared use path solely for non-vehicular use along PEPCO's transmission lines in Montgomery County is a desirable objective and one which should be considered as a public benefit when debating approval of the proposed merger."

Our Civic Federation President, Paula Bienenfeld, communicated this to all parties including the President of Exelon Corporation. Not to be outdone, the County's Pedestrian & Bicycle Traffic Safety Advisory Committee and the Western Montgomery County Citizens' Advisory

Board both weighed in with the same request. This strategy has borne fruit, and Pepco is now willing to consider allowing shared use paths for non-vehicular use by the public. This would allow access and use by walkers, runners and hikers, bicyclists, cross-country skiers and snowshoers. All forms of motorized traffic would be strictly prohibited: absolutely no motorcycles or motorscooters, all terrain vehicles (ATVs) or snowmobiles!

The public has ample opportunity to comment on this issue and others related to the proposed merger between Exelon and Pepco Holdings, Inc.. There will be a hearing before Maryland's Public Service Commission at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13 at the Council Office Building. A second hearing will be held on Wednesday, January 14 in Room 227 (Community Room B) at Prince George's County Community College, 301 Large Road, Largo, MD 20774. You do not need to sign up in advance to speak at these hearings.

If you cannot attend personally or do not wish to speak, you may send written comments. Written comments must be submitted by February 17, 2015. Original signed paper comments should be submitted to David J. Collins, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, and reference "Case No. 9361 – Public Comment." Written comments must be mailed or hand-delivered to be put on the PSC's official docket.

County Executive Leggett to Hold Public Forums on the FY16 Budget

Here are a series of great opportunities for the community to provide input for the County's budget for fiscal year 2016 which begins on July 1, 2015 and ends on June 30, 2016. Come out with your questions and suggestions!

- Monday, January 5, BlackRock Center for the Arts, 12901 Town Commons Drive, Germantown
- Wednesday, January 14, Silver Spring Regional Services Center, One Veterans Place, Silver Spring.
- Tuesday, January 20, Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring.
- Thursday, January 22, Mid-County Community Recreation Center, 2004 Queensguard Road, Silver Spring
- Monday, January 26, Bethesda Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda.

All of the forums will begin at 7:00pm.

Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible, but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. If these or other services or aids are needed to participate in this activity, call 240-777-6507, TTY 240-773-3556 or email a request to Karen.falcon@montgomerycountymd.gov

“OneMontgomery” Sponsors Community Workshop on MCPS Leadership and the Achievement Gap

From OneMontgomery

SAVE THE DATE! While Montgomery County Public Schools remains one of the nation's top-ranked school systems, it faces new challenges, such as a growing population, an increasingly diverse student body with varied needs, and a persistent achievement gap across race and socioeconomic levels. These issues are especially significant in our local East County schools, affecting not only student performance but neighborhood stability and economic development. To stay strong, our schools need strong leaders. But where will that leadership come from?

Join One Montgomery on January 22 at the Silver Spring Civic Building for a community workshop on "Leadership and the Achievement Gap." We'll look at the issues facing the school system and have a panel discussion with Craig Rice, County Councilmember and chair of the Council's Education Committee, and invited guests including school system officials and education researchers.

The meeting will be held Thursday, January 22 at the Silver Spring Civic Building, located at One Veterans Place (intersection of Ellsworth Drive and Fenton Street). Doors will open at 6:30pm and the meeting will run from 7 to 8:30pm. Parking is free if you stay after 8pm. For more information, visit our website at onemontgomery.wordpress.com.

Common Cause Maryland offers Online Course on the State Legislative Process

Do you feel that the legislative session is a mysterious process in which you have little meaningful access? Have you come to town for a rally or a lobby day, but left feeling you would like to do more but you just don't know how? Then "Lobby Like a Pro" is for you!

This course will give you a deeper understanding of how the session works, and how to influence legislation through the process. The training will cover every aspect of how a bill becomes a law, demystifying the process and giving you the tools and confidence to really make a difference.

The course is free and open to anyone whether you have never been to Annapolis before or have done some lobbying work but want to know more. Participants who are not a member of Common Cause Maryland are encouraged to make a donation. The online course by phone and webinar will be held Tuesday evenings from January 20, 2015 through April 14. For more information and registration, visit

www.commoncause.org/states/maryland/events/lobby-like-a-pro-2015.html

Office of Consumer Protection Advises Consumers to Choose Charities & Donate Carefully

This information is timely at any time of the “giving” year. The Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection (OCP) warns County residents to be cautious when donating to charities and other causes. Our community has stepped up to raise money and needed items for the families affected by the recent tragedy in our county. It is imperative to remember that scammers often use tragedies to take advantage of people.

It is important to know the difference between a charitable contribution and a donation. Charities are considered non-profit organizations and must be registered with the Office of the Secretary of State (SOS) if they solicit contributions from Maryland residents or are located in Maryland. Most consumers are very familiar with these types of charities which include commonly known ones such as the American Red Cross, Disabled American Veterans, and UNICEF.

Consumers are encouraged to be smart givers by doing the following:

- Verify a charity’s non-profit status
- Review how money is spent by the charity. How much money is used for administrative costs?
- Know the difference between “tax exempt” and “tax deductible.”
- Be careful of similar sounding names. A scammer may use a familiar name or generic name such as Police Fund to trick you into donating.

New fundraising vehicles are also available to individuals and groups seeking donations. One such vehicle being used to raise money is crowd-funding, the practice of funding a project or cause by raising small amounts of money from a large number of people. In recent years, crowd-funding has grown in popularity and is estimated to have raised over \$5 billion in 2013. Crowd-funding is typically done on the internet through websites including Kickstarter, Indiegogo, and gofundme. In today’s world of social media and electronic payment, it is extremely easy to click and pay. Online fundraising makes it very easy for consumers to click a link, enter payment information, and a donation can be made in less than five minutes.

OCP offers the following advice to consumers:

- Donate only to users that you know and trust. It is easy to verify a relative’s fundraising request; however, responding to a local tragedy or catastrophe may take some research on your part. Verify that the donation is going to a legitimate source.
- Be careful about bogus websites claiming to be donation centers
- Be aware of any fees associated with a platform. Always read the fine print and be aware that the method of payment may involve additional fees.
- Verify requests from people that you know. Scammers often hack personal email accounts and use the information to steal money.

OCP, the County's consumer protection agency, investigates thousands of complaints each year involving automotive sales and repairs, new home purchases, home improvements, credit issues, retail sales, internet services and most other consumer transactions. OCP provides pre-purchase information to consumers, as well as speakers to the community on consumer issues.

For more information, call 240-777-3636 or visit OCP's website at <http://montgomerycountymd.gov/consumer> .

Minutes of the December 1st Meeting

By Jean Cavanaugh, At Large Member & Environment Committee Co-Chair

CALL TO ORDER: President Paula Bienenfeld called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM. Introductions of attendees followed.

AGENDA: Paula called for and received approval of the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Peggy Dennis announced a meeting on election reform, to take place Wednesday December 3 from noon to 1 pm at the Sandy Spring Museum.
- Paula Bienenfeld announced that governor elect Larry Hogan would be a guest speaker at the Committee for Montgomery breakfast on December 12. CfM is advocating for the formation of a "blue ribbon commission" to study voter participation in the county. Paula coordinates contributions to MCCF's weekly column in The Sentinel, and welcomes contributions.
- Paula applauded the Building Better Civics Forum organized by Peggy Dennis.
- Paula noted that treasurer Jerry Garson was working to change MCCF from a 501(c)(4) to a 501(c)(3).
- Paula also reminded the group that the MCPS BudgetPalooza would take place in February, and called for volunteers to analyze a section of the \$2.2 MCPS budget.

MINUTES: Paula called for and received approval of November 10 minutes as published in the December newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jerry Garson, Treasurer, provided update of revenue and expenses. Accounts are in good shape..

PROGRAM: Jerry Garson, introduced Mr. Chris Voss, Director of the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS), <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/oemhs/>.

- Mr. Voss noted that Montgomery County has no one hazard, but instead can suffer from a mixed bag of weather related, major traffic accidents, and utility (Pepco and WSSC) crises.
- Extreme heat is one of the most serious natural hazards in Maryland.
- Gas leaks are the most common alert. Call 911 if you smell gas.
- WSSC water main breaks are increasing in frequency and can be very dangerous.
- OEMHS publishes an Emergency Operations Plan, <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/REPORTS/EOP-Nov2013.pdf> about every four to five years, with the most recent dated November 2013.
- Mr. Voss reviewed power restoration priorities, critical intersection management, and use of libraries and other public facilities during prolonged power outages. The county government has a backup operations plan in case government buildings lose power and the agency must continue to operate.
- Mr. Voss described the Alert Montgomery system, <http://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov> (which goes to an Everbrite website), and how it has evolved and improved over the last few years.
- The Stafford Act governs when a governor can proclaim a state of emergency, and is linked to a per capita/damage cost plus aggregates costs throughout the state.
- The county is addressing events like the sniper attack in 2002, with improved technology, specifically smart use of license plate readers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation: Friday, December 5th is the deadline for civic associations adjacent to Route 355, Route 29, Veirs Mill and Upper Georgia Avenue to nominate representatives to the MCDOT Rapid Transit System Corridor Advisory Committees (BRT/CAC). More information and nomination forms can be found at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rts/cacs.html>

Planning and Land Use: Harriet reported that the Council removed Marc Elrich from the PHED Committee. MCCF Executive Committee sent a letter to the Council opposing the removal. Executive Leggett has proposed a new "Developer Ombudsman" senior staff position in the Executive Branch "dedicated to facilitating the approval process of commercial and residential development projects." There will be a public hearing on January 13th at 1:30 P.M. regarding the proposed position. Executive Leggett also proposed creating a new County transportation authority to fund transportation projects. Pending master plans include Aspen Hill Minor Master Plan Amendment, Sandy Spring Rural Village, Bethesda Downtown, Greater Lyttonsville, Montgomery Village and the Westbard Sector Plan. Planning Department is coordinating a Local Area Transportation Review (LATR) working group that will look at different methodologies and relaxing standards to make it easier for development projects to pass APFO transportation tests. They hired consultant Renaissance Planning to manage the

monthly public discussions with agencies, developers and community representatives including Eileen Finnegan for MCCF. The analysis is in preparation of Subdivision Staging (Growth) Policy review by Planning Board and Council next year. There is no decision as of yet on the Wheaton Costco gas station case. The record is 7-8,000 pages and has 750 exhibits. The Hearing Examiner's report is expected by December 23.

Membership Database: Harriet reported the MCCF membership represents over 150,000 households.

Environment: There is a new civic group called Montgomery County Green Future Coalition. They are reviewing the International Green Construction Code (IGCC) as Montgomery County adopts it. The Sierra Club is sponsoring a Clean Water Summit on December 9 at the Silver Spring Civic Building. The Council will hold a public hearing on proposed legislation 52-14, "Protection from Pesticides," on January 15.

Education: Some MCPS students have been given Chrome tablets, purchased by MCPS, using a Google education app, and allowing data mining by Google. Gaithersburg High School is conducting an independent audit of the "independent activity fund" paid by parents to the school. The fund is administered by the principal but is the property of the students. Audits show the fund was misused.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Minutes of the December 18 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 7:05 PM. Present: Paula Bienenfeld, Jerry Garson, Peggy Dennis, Jim Zepp, Carole Ann Barth, Danila Sheveiko, Virginia Sheard, Alan Bowser, Sandy Vogelgesang, Jean Cavanaugh, Louis Wilen and Harriet Quinn.

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

Approval of Minutes for Nov. 20th ExComm Meeting: Paula called for and received unanimous approval of the minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Jerry Garson, Treasurer, circulated for period July 1st – Dec. 18th, 2014. Net income for period is \$971.21.

Programs: Paula introduced discussion of future programs.

- January: Potholes & Paving
- February: DPS
- March: County budget

- April: Transit/transportation alternatives

Issues Discussed

- Suggestions for new Web site by January 10th.
- ExComm voted to oppose Councilmember Riemer's bill that proposes to remove DPS from plat signature authority.
- ExComm voted to oppose County Executive's proposal to create a new position for a Developer Ombudsman.
- Top Ten positive changes/events from 2014 for Sentinel article.
- 90th Anniversary celebration ideas for events.
- Planning Board appointment bill.
- Alternating day schedule for ExComm meetings.

Committee Reports

- **Transportation:**
 - o Jerry Garson will serve on the 355 South BRT advisory group as an At Large Member.
- **Utilities:**
 - o Hearings on PEPCO Exelon merger scheduled for Jan. 13th and 21st, to include PEPCO CEO Jerry Pasternak.
- **Land Use:**
 - o Harriet Quinn reported on the status of the White Oak Development Agreement between the County and Percontee. There will be no public process or input.
- **Environment:**
 - o General note for [Pesticide Bill 52-14](#) is now available.
- **Public Safety:**
 - o Latest crime statistics and analysis available on CountyStat [Web site](#).

Old Business

- Twitter feed updates: MCCF account has 300 followers.
- Paula sent out holiday cards to partner organizations and dignitaries.
- MCCF will get a P.O. Box for official postal mail delivery.
- Committee for Montgomery annual breakfast report.
- Costco gas update: County Hearing Examiner issued 492-page report recommending the Board of Appeals deny Costco's special zoning exception application.

- IgCC update: Draft legislation release for public comment on the [International Green Construction Code](#) is delayed until Feb. 1st.
- Awards Dinner and Nominations Committee logistics.
- DPS use of blanket “confidentiality” notices: no response to MCCF letter, refer to Sunlight Foundation.

New Business

- Public hearing on Expedited Bill creating Developer Ombudsman position will be on Jan. 13th. ExComm voted to oppose, with one abstention.
- Harriet reported on General Assembly legislative priorities.
- County's Planning Department is reviewing Local Area Transportation Review (LATR) Test as part of Subdivision Staging Policy.
- BudgetPalooza!: Date and volunteers needed for Feb. 26th – date to be confirmed.
- Newsletter deadline and articles – Deadline: Saturday, Dec. 27th 6pm to Peggy Dennis hotyakker@gmail.com
- Date and location of next two ExComm meetings:
 - o Wednesday, January 21st – 7:45pm, BCC Regional Services Center.
 - o Wednesday, February 18th, 7:00pm, Mid-County Regional Services Center.
 - o March 19th, April 16th locations TBD.

Adjournment: Paula called for and received unanimous approval for adjournment at 9:12 PM.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION 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"/> | |