



Civic Federation News

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Program on Board of Appeals by Jim Humphrey, Chairman, Planning & Land Use Committee

The program for our June 9 meeting will be on the Board of Appeals. Our guest speaker will be former Appeals Board member Donna Barron, who served on the Board for 11 years, from 1996 through 2007. She was the first Republican to be appointed as Vice Chairman of that body. Ms. Barron will explain the make up and functions of the Board, and the range of issues of the cases heard. This portion of the program will last approximately one half of an hour, followed by a half hour question and answer period. Ms. Barron may be joined in her presentation by a current Board of Appeals member, but this had not been confirmed by the newsletter deadline.

As always, members of the public are invited and encouraged to attend Federation monthly meetings, especially the information sharing programs which are scheduled close to the 7:45 p.m. start time for our meetings.

Four Community Heroes by Jim Humphrey, Chairman, Planning & Land Use Committee

The Executive Committee has voted to honor four individuals as Community Heroes at our June meeting. The efforts of these individuals have resulted in successful outcomes on two issues with countywide impact.

Al Geske, former President of Rock Creek Palisades Citizens Association (RCPCA), **Pat Price** and **Faye**

Nabavian, the current President of that group, mounted a campaign to have the county sign permit fee waived for non-profit neighborhood and homeowner associations wishing to install signs at entrances to their communities. In mid-2006, RCPCA established an ad hoc Sign Committee, chaired by Pat Price, to spearhead the effort. They contacted the MCCF Executive Committee in December of that year asking our endorsement of their plan to secure a legislative change to the sign permit process. RCPCA members did most of the "heavy lifting," convincing Councilmembers Nancy Floreen, Valerie Ervin and then-Council President Marilyn Praisner to introduce a zoning text amendment on October 30, 2007.

The MCCF testified alongside RCPCA in favor of passage of ZTA 07-15 at the December 2007 Council hearing, after which RCPCA representatives continued to educate Council members on the importance of the ZTA in order to guarantee a majority vote for passage. Finally, on February 12, 2008, the Council approved the ZTA, and Faye and



Councilmember Marc Elrich (left) presents the Star Cup to MCCF President Wayne Goldstein

Contents

Program on Board of Appeals	1
Community Heroes	1
County Council Should Stop Meddling in Hillmead Park Expansion	2
President's Parting Message	3
Your Civic Federation Needs You: Committee and Other Vacancies	4
Planning and Land Use matters	5
2008 Traffic Congestion Report	5
Report from the Environment Committee	5
July Potluck Dinner	6
County Needs Election Judges	6
Minutes of the May 12 Regular Meeting	7
Minutes of the May 20 Executive Committee meeting	8
Pictures from the 2008 Awards Banquet	10

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the July 24 Summer Brainstorming and Potluck Dinner

RENEW MEMBERSHIP: now is the time to renew your MCCF membership. Delegates! Please cut out or copy the form on page 11, fill it in and give it to your association's treasurer so it will be sent, with the dues check to our treasurer.

AI were able to announce at our March 2008 monthly meeting that the legislation had been approved. MCCF is pleased to recognize AI Geske, Pat Price and Faye Nabavian as Community Heroes, and in so doing also thank the other members of RCPCA who worked with them to achieve a change that benefits neighborhood groups throughout the county.

The fourth person to be honored as a Community Hero at the June 9 meeting is former MCCF President **Dick Kauffunger**. In June of 2007, Dick testified at the Planning Board hearing on a rezoning of properties for the proposed Glenmont Metro Center development, planned for the intersection of Georgia and Glenallen Avenues. The thrust of his testimony was that the current formula used by transportation planners to evaluate intersection traffic volume and capacity is inadequate. The Planning Board voted in favor of the rezoning, but the County Council is the body that approves rezonings based on recommendations from the Board and Hearing Examiner. So, Dick next participated in the case before the Hearing Examiner and secured testimony from the developer's traffic consultant on cross examination that traffic counts can be low if cars are not moving, due to severe congestion or something like an accident preventing the flow of traffic through an intersection. The consultant also testified that the worst backup of traffic he observed on Georgia Avenue was approaching the Layhill Road intersection, which he estimated to be a distance of about 800 feet.

Mr. Kauffunger was granted the opportunity to present oral arguments to the Council when they heard the rezoning case on January 15 of this year. The Council was persuaded that in this case the traffic analysis in use by the Planning Board failed to adequately assess traffic conditions at Georgia Avenue and Randolph Road, and they found the developer had not met the burden of demonstrating that the proposed project would not have an adverse impact on the local roadway network. The Council did not vote to approve the rezoning, but instead remanded the case back to the Hearing Examiner to allow the developer to present additional evidence regarding traffic impact of the planned development. This was a precedent setting decision that will benefit communities throughout the county, and MCCF is pleased to recognize Dick Kauffunger as a Community Hero in appreciation of the time, effort and financial commitment he made to secure the outcome.

County Council Should Stop Meddling in Hillmead Park Expansion

by Wayne Goldstein, President

In April 2006, I first learned of the efforts of Sue Ghosh Stricklett and Harriet Lurensky Kuhn to enlarge Hillmead Neighborhood Park in Bethesda with an adjacent 1-1/3 acre parcel. On behalf of MCCF, I supported their efforts to get a fair hearing on the issues of a plan to subdivide this land to build four houses. When they claimed that there had been improper behavior related to the proposed subdivision, MCCF was there to question the objectivity of the report that resulted from the internal investigation ordered by the Planning Board. Although the subdivision was approved in November 2006, the change in the housing market, as well as the previous demands that the land should become part of the park, resulted in the owner voluntarily approaching the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (MNCPPC) and offering to sell the land to be added to the park. MNCPPC accepted the offer and the land was purchased. For their persistence in the face of overwhelming odds, MCCF gave Sue and Harriet a Community Hero Award in December 2007.

However, this happy ending for all was largely thwarted when the County Council, as part of its approval process for the purchase, required that the house on the property be retained to see if it could be used for special needs housing. While a succession of County Councils in the last decade have talked about the need for a variety of different kinds of affordable housing and have made a few selected legislative and funding changes to various housing programs, no Council has ever created a policy related to the use of existing houses for special needs or other affordable housing when the house is part of a park land purchase. Instead, this Council decided to create an ad hoc policy on the spot when the Hillmead Park addition came to them for their approval. While they approved the funds for the purchase, they didn't approve the funds to demolish the house, wanting to see what proposals for reuse of the house would come forward.

The Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) has expressed an interest in using the six-bedroom house for a very large, 12-member homeless family. The cost to remove asbestos and

lead paint and to modernize the house is approximately \$163,000. While this would not be considered an excessive amount to renovate an existing large house for anyone to live in, in this instance, the house occupies all of the level area on this parcel, except for level land in a flood plain. If the house were to remain, nothing, not even playground equipment, could be built in the park addition because of the steep slopes on the rest of the parcel. Thus, the true cost to provide this special needs housing for one large homeless family would be \$2,663,000, which includes the renovation cost and the \$2.5 million purchase price. For that amount, four or five single family homes in move-in condition could be purchased in Bethesda for use by homeless families.

There may be certain Councilmembers who see Bethesda as not doing its fair share, whatever that means, as "fair share" has never been defined, quantified or made part of any County policy. However, of all of the neighborhoods in Bethesda, this one happens to have The National Center for Children and Families with its Greentree Shelter, founded in 1983, in the Hillmead neighborhood. It is a facility that serves homeless mothers and their children. I understand that residents of the Hillmead neighborhood volunteer there as they see the institution as part of their community. This positive reality surely neutralizes the zeal of anyone seeking to teach Bethesda a lesson for not doing its fair share by perhaps requiring the equivalent of a second homeless facility in this neighborhood.

This increasingly absurd story has reached the point where there are two competing resolutions that will be voted on by the Council on June 10th. The first, sponsored by Councilmember Roger Berliner, authorizes the demolition of the house by providing the funds to do so. The second, sponsored by Councilmember Leventhal, requires MNCPPC to "make this house" available for special needs housing for an indefinite period of time to DHCA or any other government agency or non-profit. It is clear that the County needs to do much more to provide transitional and permanent housing for the homeless. There is an effort to dedicate part of the Housing Initiative Fund for housing the homeless. However, without a well thought-out policy for how to accomplish this - a "Homeless Housing Master Plan" - unplanned, ad hoc proposals such as these will always fail, even if they succeed, as they will alienate the public and make them less trusting of what else

county government might do with its park land and other publicly-owned land.

MCCF delegates, at the June 9th meeting will be asked to vote on the following resolution:

Whereas MCCF has long supported the use of county park land for park purposes;

Therefore, MCCF supports the passage of the Berliner Resolution allowing the demolition of the house on the recently acquired addition to Hillmead Neighborhood Park.

A majority of the MCCF ExComm have already indicated that they support such a resolution. The ExComm will communicate its position to the County Council prior to the delegates' vote on the resolution, as the Council will be voting on its resolutions the day after the MCCF June general meeting.

President's Parting Message by Wayne Goldstein, President

This is my last newsletter article as your president. As MCCF president, I had two top priorities. The first was to make every effort to ensure that every meeting I chaired was a civil civic meeting. It is so important that newcomers and others always see us on our best behavior so that they focus on the effectiveness and importance of MCCF and return for future meetings. My second, and equally important priority is to help newcomers learn how our government works and how they can succeed in having their issues resolved. I have brought a number of these newcomers to your attention in the last two years, and all of you have responded with the same support that you gave me years ago when I first discovered MCCF. Our opportunities and responsibilities to make a difference have never been greater.

I will, of course, serve on the Executive Committee as your immediate past president, but I also look forward to chairing the Education Committee. This county spends so much on education, but no one outside of MCPS really knows where the money goes, and even MCPS doesn't know if it is effectively spent. Some test scores and other signs of achievement are going up for some students but are also either moving sideways or down for many others. Unfortunately, MCPS never gives out any bad news. It makes sure that all news is good news. To find out if we are getting our money's worth, I will

continue to research and write about what is and isn't happening within MCPS, and I hope that others will join me on the Education Committee to expand our abilities.

I also look forward to working with what will be a growing number of MCCF members and others outraged at the power the unions hold over county government. Marvin Weinman, chairman of the Public Finance Committee, has come up with an outline and a timetable for how MCCF can start to really understand how our county's Operating Budget process works and doesn't work and to learn all about union contracts and collective bargaining. Next May, when it's time for the County Council to vote on the operating budget, there will again be 500 angry union members demanding that they receive every penny of their negotiated contracts. Perhaps there will also be 500 county homeowners demanding that everyone be responsible for paying their fair share to balance the budget, not just those who pay property taxes.

I will continue to be a member of the Planning and Land Use Committee to help MCCF be the county's People's Advocate before our various planning and land use agencies. I will continue to serve on the Environment Committee because MCCF is such a strong voice for improving county environmental laws and regulations. I will continue to attend weekly CountyStat meetings and monitor how it encourages greater efficiency and accountability in county government. I look forward to being chair of the Historic Preservation Committee, especially as a new round of important historic designations move forward to a County Council that has scant experience with this significant policy issue. I also hope to assist the Public Finance Committee and the Public Utilities Committee with ever-more urgent matters and to work with the future chairs of the Transportation Committee and the Public Safety Committee.

Actually, it appears that what will change for me in my relationship with MCCF is that I won't be running any meetings and I won't be ultimately responsible for the next 104 Federation Corner columns in the Montgomery County Sentinel. Those will be the new president's joy and burden. However, I hope the new president will look to me to assist him in this unique and very effective way of getting the word out to county officials, other activists, and to the general public about MCCF and how we tell truth to power.

Your Civic Federation Needs You: Committee and Other Vacancies

by Arnold Gordon, First Vice- President

Like most deliberative bodies some of the most important work we do is in done in committees. They interact with other offices and agencies, analyze and recommend policies and actions on a host of issues, and frequently intercede with, or appear before legislative bodies - all in the cause of representing and working for our constituent communities. Our committee structure is partly filled with veteran members who will stay on in these roles and carry on the fine work already underway. But we have a number of opportunities to chair or serve on both our standing and temporary committees.

The Committee chairmen listed below seek members to assist them. Still other committees need a chairman. If you would like to respond to this challenge and volunteer your time and energy please contact me (nmcaprexy@aol.com , 301-570-0481) or the chairman concerned.

Committees and Chairs

Education: Wayne Goldstein, Chair
 Legislation and Committee for Montgomery: Dan Wilhelm, Chair
 Planning and Land Use: Jim Humphrey, Chair
 Utilities: Chuck Lapinski, Chair
 Public Finance: Marvin Weinman, Chair
 Parks and Recreation: Carol Barth
 Environment and Conservation: Caren Madsen
 Historic Preservation: Wayne Goldstein
 Transportation: Vacant
 Public Safety: Vacant
 Publicity: Vacant

Some non-committee positions are also available. We need a Parliamentarian and a Recording Secretary. Luella Mast has graciously consented to take minutes of Executive Committee meetings, but we still need a Recording Secretary for our regular monthly meetings. . We also have vacancies in some of our District Vice President positions. These are particularly important as they represent the organizations in each state legislative district in the county. This is your chance to get active in some really interesting and important issues and help your communities at the same time.

Planning and Land Use matters by Jim Humphrey, Chairman, Planning & Land Use Committee

Over the coming summer months, the MCCF Planning and Land Use (PLU) Committee will be following and weighing in on a wide range of land planning and zoning related issues. There are several pieces of legislation under consideration by the County Council that PLU members will be assessing, some to establish or alter general land use policy while others are designed to facilitate approval of specific development projects which are not allowed under current zoning standards or area master plans. We will also be following an initiative to move the facilities in the current County Services Park near the Shady Grove Metro to alternative locations, as well as a project to construct a North County Bus Depot and Maintenance Facility in the Clarksburg area. And the Council has mandated that studies for possible further changes to the growth policy be submitted to them by the Planning Board in the coming months. The PLU will analyze these studies, and recommend a Federation response if we believe it is necessary.

There are several issues before the Planning Board that we will also be watching. The Board is discussing a proposal to change the master planning process, which would permit limited amendments affecting a small number of properties to be drafted, agreed to by the Board, and sent to Council for their approval all within six months or so. The current process of comprehensive revision of master plans for entire planning areas takes upwards of two years to complete. The Board is also analyzing studies from their staff which propose increasing the density of development allowed between Metro stations along so-called transit corridors, such as MD 355/Rockville Pike and Georgia Avenue. And, as always, PLU members will be closely monitoring Planning Board decisions on specific development applications, as well as on preservation of our county's precious historic structures.

At our upcoming meeting on June 9, the PLU Committee will present a report to the members entitled, "Recommendations for Action by the County Government Related to Housing Affordability."

2008 Traffic Congestion Report by Jim Humphrey, Chairman, Planning & Land Use Committee

On May 15, the M-NC/PPC Research and Technology Center submitted the 2008 Highway Mobility Report to the Planning Board, a study comparing actual traffic levels versus capacity for county intersections with traffic signals. Data is provided on 562 or 73% of the county's 772 signalized intersections. Results show that 14% of the intersections studied had more traffic in the AM or PM rush hours, or both, than they could handle.

Of the 81 failing intersections identified in the 2008 study, 46% exceeded their capacity in AM rush hours only, while 25% exceeded capacity only in PM rush hours and 29% exceeded capacity in both AM and PM rush hours. This is of concern because the new policy area transportation test adopted as part of the 2007 growth policy looks at road level of service only in the PM peak rush. But, actual vehicle counts contained in this report show that more than one half of the signalized intersections in the county experience more traffic in AM rush than in PM rush hours.

Data on specific intersections is included in the Appendices of the report, which can be viewed online or downloaded by clicking on the item on the Board's May 15 agenda, available at--
<http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/agenda/2008/agenda20080515e.html>

Report from the Environment Committee

by Caren Madsen, Environment Chairman

In 1991, the development community lobbied heavily against the original draft of the Forest Conservation Law (FCL). That resulted in a fairly weak forestry law that has presented us with significant loss of tree cover since its implementation. We cannot allow history to repeat itself.

MCCF delegates and members are asked to show support for strengthening our forest protections by writing and calling councilmembers and lobbying in support of the amendments to strengthen our forest conservation laws. The Council will hold its next Transportation and Environment Committee meeting on Bill 37-07 (FCL amendments) in July, so a vote by

the Council is anticipated on these amendments sometime this summer.

Stormwater Partners urge you to attend the next meeting of the Forest Conservation Advisory Committee (FCAC) on Tuesday, June 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the Department of Environmental Protection offices (large conference room) on the 1st floor of 255 Rockville Pike in Rockville, 20850. It is only by witnessing the action around this table that you will get a sense of how intense the opposition is to strengthening our forestry law. Reports are that the committee's composition is weighted towards the developers' interests and not the environment!

Three other issues we are following: (1) another highway project - the "M-83" - threatens our remaining rural lands in Montgomery County. (2) progress may or may not be made in the "Green Streets" amendments to the County's Road Code and (3) the first week in June should see movement concerning the County's stormwater permit....we have learned that Maryland Department of the Environment plans to issue a formal proposed permit in June. When this happens, we're supposed to have a 30-day public review period. We plan to request a public hearing on this permit.

July Potluck Dinner

All Old, Lapsed Members, Current Members and Prospective New Members

Are Cordially Invited to the

2008 Civic Federation Potluck Dinner

A "Getting to Know You" and "Brain Storming" Event

Thursday, July 24

6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

At the home of Peggy Dennis

11115 Fawsett Road, Potomac

Please RSVP to Peggy at 301-983-9738 or hotyakker@comcast.net. Old 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 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 for Falls Road 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. Park on either side of the road, but be sure to leave enough space for other cars to get through safely. A flashlight is useful for finding your way back to your car in the dark.

County Needs Election Judges by Leslie A. Hatch, Board of Elections Recruiting & Training Coordinator

The Montgomery County Board of Elections needs about 4,000 volunteer election judges to staff almost 250 precincts during the November general election. Judges are essential to the success of every election - they ensure that citizens can vote, that those votes are cast in a free and fair election, and that votes are protected until counted.

To serve, a judge attends training (3 hours for most judges), helps set up the polling place the night before the election, and serves on Election Day. Most judges work at their precincts from early in the morning to the closing of the polls, but some serve only from 6 to about 11 p.m. Most judges receive a stipend of \$180.

Judges work in bipartisan teams, generally with their neighbors in their own neighborhoods. This is a real, sometimes demanding "roll up your sleeves" job, but judges report feeling grateful to have participated so deeply in the democratic process and satisfied knowing they were essential to a successful election.

We expect a heavy turnout in the November elections and need more judges than currently on our roster. We are, therefore, asking for your help. The first step in serving as a judge is to visit the Montgomery County Board of Elections website at www.777vote.org to download a 2008 Election Judge Questionnaire. You may also call us on 240-777-8533 to request an application be mailed to you. Mail your completed and signed questionnaire to: Montgomery County Board of Elections,

Election Judge Program, 751 Twinbrook Parkway, P.O. Box 4333, Rockville, Maryland 20849-4333 or fax it to us at 240-777-8578. If you have questions, please call me, Leslie A. Hatch, at 240-777-8527. And thank you for your interest and help.

Minutes of the May 12 Regular Meeting

By Arnie Gordon, Acting Recording Secretary

The 797th regular meeting was **called to order** at 7:45 PM by President Wayne Goldstein.

Agenda: Mr. Gordon moved to add a presentation about a proposed new development atop 4 Bethesda Metro Center. Motion had the requisite 5 seconds and was duly adopted. Mr. Humphrey moved to add to the agenda consideration of a resolution by County Councilmembers Trachtenberg and Andrews to reduce a portion of the Cost of Living Increase otherwise to be paid to certain county employees under the terms of existing collective bargaining agreements. The motion had five seconds and was duly adopted. Agenda was then duly approved, as amended.

Program: The Honorable DeLawrence Beard, retired Chief Judge of the Montgomery County Circuit Court presented an informative discussion covering the jurisdiction of the various courts, the vetting, nomination and appointment, and removal processes governing judges; and the appeals process. A question and answer session followed.

Resolutions: Mr. I.J. Hudson, representing Garson, Claxton LLC on behalf of Clark enterprises, a landowner adjacent to a proposed development by Meridian Corp. atop the Bethesda Square area above the Bethesda Metro. Hudson alleged that the proposed development will violate the relevant sector and Master Plans and that the developer seeks to utilize parts of the Old Georgetown street bed as

open space necessary for the approval of such a development. After some discussion the matter was referred to the Planning and Land Use Committee for further study by a vote of 17 Yeas, 3 Nays. (Mr. A. Geske wishes the record to show that he took no part in the discussion of this matter and abstained from voting thereon).

Mr. J. Humphrey moved that MCCF "supports the proposal put forward by Councilmembers Duchy Trachtenberg and Phil Andrews to reduce Fiscal Year 2009 raises for county employees by two percentage points below levels in the County Executive's recommended budget." Motion seconded by Mr. Gordon. After discussion the motion was adopted by a vote of 16 yeas, no nays and 4 abstentions.

Nominations Committee presented its slate of officers for the 2009-2010 year as follows: President - Arnold Gordon; 1st Vice President: - Peggy Dennis; 2nd Vice President - Sandy Vogelgesang; Eight District Vice Presidents - District 14-Open; District 15-Open; District 16 - Lee Shipman; District 17 - Virginia Sheard; District 18 - Richard Zierdt; District 19-Open; District 20 - Dan Wallace; District 39-Open

Recording Secretary: Open (Luella Mast to cover minutes of the Executive Committee meetings); Treasurer - Bill Schrader. Motion to close nominations was duly seconded and passed by 17 yeas, no abstentions or nays.

By-law Amendments as specified in the May 2008 edition of the "Civic Federation News" were moved. Discussion followed. Mr. Lapinski moved that the Public Finance and Utilities Committee remain as currently and not be split as in the proposed amendment. Motion was seconded but rejected by a vote of 4 yeas to seven nays. The amendments to the Bylaws were then duly adopted. Further Bylaws amendments were discussed and will be voted on at the June meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Mast distributed a printed Treasurer's report and a verbal report on the Awards Banquet which has come close to breaking even. Final figures on the banquet were not yet available.

Public Finance: Mr. Weinman briefed us on the county budget and actions to date by the County Council's MFP Committee concerning same.

Planning and Land Use: Mr. Humphrey briefed us on a proposed ZTA 08-01 regarding green space requirements and scheduling by Committee Chair

Knapp of next Council PHED worksession for June 26 by Committee Chair, a time when there will likely be less public attention paid to the issue. Mr. Humphrey then led a discussion on the following issues:

1. ZTA 08-07, introduced on behalf of County Executive Leggett, to abolish the Alternative Review Committee (ARC).
2. Council Hearing to be held June 17 on residential infill legislation. Enhanced public notification requirement for building permit issuance not in ZTA 08-11, and the MCCF will endeavor to get it back in the law. (Following the meeting, it was discovered that this aspect is included in separate legislation-- Bill 15-08.)

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 PM.

Minutes of the May 20 Executive Committee meeting

By Peggy Dennis, Acting Recording Secretary

Call to Order: the meeting was convened at 7:50 by President Wayne Goldstein. In attendance were Jim Humphrey, Lee Shipman, Arnie Gordon, Marvin Weinman, Sandy Vogelgesang, Dan Wilhelm, Peggy Dennis, Bill Schrader, Luella Mast, Charles Wolff and Charles Lapinski.

Minutes of the April meeting were passed unanimously.

Environment Committee: Wayne reported that the Forest Conservation Advisory Committee has been formed. Business interests are working to maintain the status quo. Green Infrastructure Meeting scheduled by Park & Planning for Saturday, June 7 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Agricultural History Farm Park (18400 Muncaster Rd., Derwood), to identify important county environmental features and connect them in a comprehensive system. And a charette on the proposed new M-NCPPC headquarters project, called SilverPlace, to run June 3-7.

Education Committee: Wayne reported the investigation of possible ethical violations by the principal of the Richard Montgomery H.S. is still ongoing and he doubts we will see anything come of this. He will attend the MCCPTA Principals and Presidents Dinner on 5/21.

Charter Review Commission (CRC) Report: Charles Wolff reported that the CRC will hold a public hearing in the autumn on possible revisions to the Charter. Charles presented a draft Resolution "Since the Civic Fed voted for smaller County Council districts in 2004, and since the Civic Fed backed ballot question C in 2004 to eliminate at-large seats, and since smaller districts lower the barriers for fresh new candidates to enter politics and reduce the importance of campaign money in getting elected, and since the county's population in the next decade will be twice that which existed when the five current districts were planned: We renew our resolve to change the composition of the County Council and to place testimony before the Charter Review Commission in favor of a County Council made up of nine district seats and no more than two at-large seats." Peggy moved that we should support the Resolution as presented. Discussion followed and a friendly amendment was accepted to change the wording from "nine" to "seven" districts. The amended resolution was approved 6 yeas/3 nays and it was agreed that Charles should talk with Ike Leggett and see how firmly he favors a move to 7 districts and 4 at-large seats.

Planning & Land Use: Jim reported the 2008 Highway Mobility Report has been issued showing 14% of studied intersections failing. We have 772 signalized intersections but many failing intersections were not included in this study. More than 1/2 of intersections studied fail during AM rush hour only, but PAMR only considers PM rush hour level of service on roads.

An updated County Property Use study came out on 4/29 proposing to move the County Services Park facilities to other locations including possibly the GE Tech Park. This concerns Kentlands residents as it would be in violation of the Gaithersburg zoning ordinance.

Planning Board Vacancies: 29 applicants have applied. We have a sizeable screening committee, and Justina Ferber will provide us with the Council's "short list".

Redevelopment of 4 Metro Center in Bethesda proposes replacing low-rise food court building with a 16 story office building. Jim moves that the MCCF oppose this proposal as it violates the Bethesda Sector Plan. Proposal seconded and approved unanimously. Wayne will follow specific details of arguments for & against this proposal.

Jim will testify against the proposed Hampton Lane redevelopment calling for buildings of 71 feet height where Master Plan limits height to 65 feet.

Fenton Village Overlay Zone: Jim reports the community supports a ZTA allowing a hotel to be built to permitted residential height, but not a ZTA allowing added height for work force housing.

Councilmember Berliner has introduced a ZTA and a bill to address issues relate to Residential Infill Development.

Transportation: Peggy reported that she is working with some property owners of Marmary Road in Gaithersburg to resolve their problem of being publicly dedicated but privately owned - a contradiction.

Public Relations: Sandy and Jim have gotten the Washington Post and the Gazette papers to cover the Awards Banquet - a first! And Richard will continue to pursue a new web master.

Public Utilities: Chuck reported that WSSC is continuing their propaganda campaign about failing sewer/water infrastructure focusing on the “first” major pipe burst of ‘08.

Public Finance: Marvin reported on the final budget approval and its implications for our real estate taxes. The tax supported budget is 18 million more than last year’s with labor contracts for county teachers and employees being the driving force behind this inflation because the unions start their negotiations 11 months before the budget is presented. Marvin recommends that we have a program in September on the labor union negotiating process and its impact on the county’s budget and taxes, and a year with milestones marking the progress of the budget’s construction.

Programs: Jim says Donna Barron is willing to do a program in June on the Board of Appeals. He will try to add Allison Fultz, the current chair. Marvin will work on the aforementioned program for September, and we will probably want to focus on ballot issues for the October program.

Membership: the Hillmead Citizens Association is our newest member organization bringing our total to 61.

Community Hero: Wayne suggested the Sandy Spring Ashton Rural Preservation Assn. for success in getting the shopping center approved in accordance with their vision. Jim nominated Al Geske & Faye Nabavian for their work in getting waivers approved

for the fees for community signs and Richard Kauffunger for his success in securing a County Council remand on rezoning for the Glenmont Metro Center project. Arnie offered a motion that we honor Dick in June and Sandy Springs Ashton in September. Jim made a friendly amendment to include Al and Faye in June which was passed. Amended motion passed with 9 yeas and 2 nays.

Treasurer’s Report: Luella reports that we had 108 attending the dinner and more coming just for the pre-dinner reception. We agree that 9 seems to be the maximum number accommodated by the tables and we should be firm on this number and pricing in the future.

New business: The June ExComm meeting will be Wednesday, 6/18 at Sandy’s house. The July Potluck and Brainstorming meeting will be on Thursday, July 24 at Peggy’s house. Arnie will firm up as many of his committee chairs as possible so they can be listed in the June Newsletter and voted/ratified by the membership at the June meeting. That way he will have most committee chairs able to work properly over the summer and fewer in “interim” status. Luella asks all to submit receipts and estimates of “in kind” contributions so she can bring her books up to date for auditing at the end of our fiscal year when she hands the treasurer’s job off the Bill. Chuck mentions a small protest against the budget by union employees who may be protesting during their working hours.

Newsletter assignments were made and the meeting adjourned at 10:19.

Pictures from the 2008 Awards Banquet



Council President Mike Knapp presents the Gazette Award to Barbara Falcigno of Olney



Councilmember Phil Andrews (left) talks with County Police Chief Tom Manger



Former MCCF President Dan Wilhelm with Councilmember Nancy Floreen



Sarah Boltuck receives Special Youth Civic Achievement Award from State Senator Jamie Raskin (center) as MCCF President Wayne Goldstein presides



MCCF President Wayne Goldstein presents Honorary Membership in the Federation to Lynn and Bernard Kapiloff, publishers of *The Sentinel* newspaper



Luella Mast, MCCF Treasurer

Special thanks to photographer Geoff Wolfe. Many more photos are on the Civic Fed web site, www.montgomerycivic.org

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Serving the County since 1925

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009

Mail to: William Schrader (Treasurer)
12824 Middlevale Lane, Silver Spring,
MD 20906
301-946-65458; schraderw@erols.com

Inquiries: Sandy Vogelgesang (2nd VP/Membership)
9009 Charred Oak Dr, Bethesda, MD 20901
301-365-2347;
everest.associates@erols.com

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 Members	Voting Privileges
Local Association (civic, community, homeowner or municipality. Must represent at least 30 households - not paid members. Cannot be a single local issue group.)	10 to 50		\$25*	1	Yes
	51 to 300		\$45*	2	
	301 to 600		\$65*	3	
	601+		\$85*	4	
Umbrella Association (Two or more local associations. Cannot be single local issue group.)	60 to 500		\$45*	2	Yes
	501 to 1000		\$65*	3	
	1001+		\$85*	4	
Regional or County-Wide Organization (environmental, transportation, or other 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 person who elects to receive the newsletter via email – please check email box below.** You can also select less than the allowed number of members and pay according to that number. Please provide all the information below no matter the newsletter delivery method. We are planning to produce a membership directory. Please identify whether you want your email address included.

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

+President of applying organization or permanent substitute designated by the president.

Federation Meeting

Monday, June 9
7:45 1st Floor Auditorium
County Council Office Building.
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD

Agenda:

- 7:45 Call to Order
- 7:46 Introductions and Announcements
- 7:50 Adoption of Meeting Agenda
- 7:52: Community Heroes Presentations
- 8:00 Program: Donna Barron & Board of Appeals
- 9:00 Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report
- 9:10 Vote on Slate of 2008-2009 Elected Officers
- 9:20 Bylaws Amendments
- 9:25 Vote on Resolutions
- 9:35 Committee Reports
- 9:50 Old Business
- 9:55 New Business
- 10:00 Adjournment

The **Montgomery County Civic Federation** is a county-wide nonprofit educational and advocacy organization. It was founded in 1925 to serve the public interest. Its monthly Federation meetings are open to the public and are held on the second Monday of each month September through June at 7:45 p.m. in the First Floor Auditorium, County Office Building, Rockville, MD.

The **Civic Federation News** is published monthly. It is mailed to Delegates; associate members; news media, and local, state, and federal officials. Permission is granted to reprint any article provided proper credit is given to the "**Civic Federation News of the Montgomery County Civic Federation.**"

Submit contributions for the next issue by: **Midnight, Saturday, August 23**. Prepare submission as an MS Word, Word Perfect or text-only document, **attach** it to an e-mail, and send it to:
hotyakker@comcast.net

Please send all **address corrections** to Dan Wilhelm, 904 Cannon Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904, 301-384-2698, or djwilhelm@verizon.net.

NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 18, 7:45 p.m.

At the home of Sandy Vogelgesang

9009 Charred Oak Drive
Bethesda 20817

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



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