



Civic Federation News

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Serving the Public Interest since 1925

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Montgomery County Civic
Federation

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Program: Sustainability— Definitions and Implementation by Paula Bienenfeld, Education Chairman

Please join us at our first regular meeting of the new season on Monday, September 12 as we discuss “Sustainability.” What is it? How is it being implemented at the federal level, and in Montgomery County? How do we know whether we are meeting our metric goals? Here is the definition of Sustainability adopted by the United Nations on March 20, 1987:

“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

We are pleased to have four distinguished guests on our panel for this discussion:

Jennifer Bitting, Environmental Engineer, Conservation and Energy Branch, Environmental and Energy Division, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security

Doug Weisburger, Senior Planner, Sustainability Programs, Montgomery County Department of the Environment

Eric Cauffman, Senior Planner, Montgomery County Department of the Environment

Councilmember Roger Berliner, Chair, County Council Committee on Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment.

September Community Hero: Washington Revels By Jim Zepp, Public Safety Chair

Washington Revels, a nonprofit performing arts community headquartered in Silver Spring, will be recognized by the Montgomery County Civic Federation as a Community Hero at our September 12th meeting.

The Washington Revels community includes hundreds of performers, production crew and volunteers—adults, teens, and children, some professional, most not—in four performing ensembles as well as full company productions. Using a colorful blend of music, dance, drama, and rituals from around the world, Revels creates and stages community celebrations, almost all free to the public, revolving around the cycle of the seasons, local heritage and history, and the joys of community connections. Audience participation is a hallmark of its community performances.

After 25 years headquartered in D.C., Washington Revels relocated to Montgomery County in 2008. Reflecting its roots as a community based organization, Revels’ contributions to the County expanded dramatically beyond its annual winter holiday performances at Lisner Auditorium and the Spring Revels at the Audubon Society’s Woodend headquarters in Chevy Chase. Within weeks, it mounted a special Community Sing at Brookside Gardens to help celebrate the Gardens’ 40th Anniversary. Since then it has performed and exhibited each year at Magical Montgomery, marched and sung in the Takoma Park and Kensington holiday parades, moved its yearly Pub Sings and Harvest Dances to the County, performed annually at Bethesda Big Train baseball games, and initiated after school workshops for kids in grades K 5. In 2010 Revels entertained at the dedication of the Silver Spring Civic Building, and collaborated with the Northwood Four Corners Civic Association to perform its annual Revels Festival Day as part of the Rachel Carson Meadow Festival, to help promote and preserve the Meadow. Revels also performs at the Takoma Park and Washington (Glen Echo) Folk Festivals.

Key elements of Revels’ contributions to the County are its activities designed to entertain, educate and involve County residents in the rich culture and history of its many communities. Revels has assisted the Montgomery County Historical Society (MCHS) by providing actors to record the voices of historic personages from different parts of the County, and presenting at MCHS’ annual conference. In 2010 Revels inaugurated its annual Washington Revels SunFest, a street festival of traditional music and dance from the

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many ethnic communities within Montgomery County, representing cultures from a dozen countries over five continents.

Revels' most intensive programs of local heritage and history relate to the sesquicentennial commemoration of Montgomery County's involvement in the Civil War. With support from Heritage Montgomery, Revels created two ensembles plus professional portrayals of historic personages, to perform Civil War era music, dance and drama at Montgomery County's state designated heritage sites and other venues. Over the past year those performers have appeared over 30 times, up county and down, including eight performances on a single weekend during Montgomery County Heritage Days. Revels also collaborated with Heritage Montgomery in making a new documentary film, "Life in a War Zone: Montgomery County During the Civil War". Revels provided all on and off camera narration and the entire soundtrack, as well as a CD containing full versions of the clips heard on the film. The documentary has aired on Maryland Public Television and WETA 26, and will be shown in November at the National Geographic Society as part of its "Tuesday at Noon" series.

For its extraordinary services to Montgomery County, we are pleased to honor Washington Revels as a Community Hero.

Stormwater Management in Our Parklands

By Carole Ann Barth, Parks & Recreation Chair

Many recently-designed Montgomery County parks contain underground stormwater management facilities. Such facilities often seem attractive to park planners because they don't compete with park uses for surface space, and they are not visible to park patrons. These technologies were created for highly-developed urban situations, where land is both scarce and expensive.

Unfortunately, these facilities come with a hidden catch—a lifetime of difficult and costly maintenance. The only way to maintain these facilities is for people to climb down into them and manually change the filters.

These are tight spaces, and collected within them are oil and toxic substances including lead, chromium, and other heavy metals deposited by cars. Thus, OSHA (the Occupational Safety and Health Act) regulations require that workers be certified in confined space and hazardous materials protocols. These protocols also specify that rescue personnel and equipment must be on hand, so workers can be quickly and safely retrieved if necessary. Strictly followed, this requires at least a three person crew. All of this costs money—a lot of it.

How much money? A single confined entry visit for the simplest and smallest underground system runs between \$1,000 - \$1,500. This price is based on only a two-person crew, where the person going in is hooked to

a rescue harness. If there is a long run of pipe or many filters, you need more people and the price goes up. To get a sense of the scale of some of these systems, consider this. A small strip shopping center I know has an underground system with multiple banks of filters and miles of pipeline.

This kind of maintenance burden may simply be unsustainable in a park system that is already struggling to maintain current infrastructure. Moreover, it's unnecessary. Environmental Site Design (ESD) techniques like rain gardens, compost-amended soils, and porous pavers cleanse stormwater and require only simple above ground maintenance.

Even small sites can accommodate a "treatment train" of ESD techniques since ESD facilities can be integrated into landscaping, water features, ballfields, parking lots, and buildings. Properly designed and maintained, these facilities can provide additional park benefits such as wildlife habitat, water conservation and infiltration, and shade.

Underground stormwater management in parks was never a good idea. In these days of widespread structural budget deficits and increasingly stringent water quality standards, it's a mistake we simply can't afford to hold onto.

Education Committee Update

By Paula Bienenfeld, Chair

The Artificial Turf report is not yet out, but the Council's Transportation, Infrastructure, energy & Environment (T&E) Committee has scheduled a discussion on the report for Sept 26th.

The Open Meetings Compliance Board ruled that the Montgomery County Board of Education violated the Open Meetings Act again -- or some of it (3rd time in a row) when they secretly discussed formation of the 'community committee' regarding the hiring of the new superintendent. I was on that filing, along with Rosanne Hurwitz and Louis Wilen. Here is a link to an article Lisa Gartner wrote: <http://tinyurl.com/gartnerturf>

Environment Committee Report

Ginny Barnes, Chair

Forest Conservation/Urban Tree Bill. I continue to work with Caren Madsen, Diane Cameron, other environmentalists and the building and development community to try and come up with a better alternative to the bill being developed by DEP which has no support from anyone. We continue to hope that we can forge a compromise that will leave everyone more satisfied and garner support from the council, too.

Brickyard School Site: I've been very active with the Brickyard Road communities over this summer (no rest for the weary), forging strategy on the RFP, the required Mandatory Referral at Park & Planning as well as an array of legal options. We've met frequently, now have a

solid steering committee and are setting up committees to cover media, fundraising, legal, traffic, etc. I've agreed to take a lead in the Mandatory Referral process as this is where we must defend our Master Plan vigorously for the sake of all Master Plans, because this soccer proposal is a dangerous precedent.

Montgomery County State Delegation Fall Schedule.

By Dan Wilhelm, Legislation Co-Chair

The 2012 State Legislature session will begin after the new year. In preparation for the up-coming session, the Montgomery County Delegation has the following fall meetings that are generally of widespread interest to citizens:

Consolidated Transportation Program Presentation ("Road Show") by State Highway Administration; Thursday, September 15, 2011, 7:00 p.m. - 3rd Floor Hearing Room, Stella Werner Council Office Bldg., 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850. The Road Show will be carried live over County Cable Montgomery (Channel 6 on Comcast and Channel 30 on Verizon).

Joint House and Senate Priorities Hearing - Wednesday, November 16, 7:00 p.m. - 3rd Floor Hearing Room, Stella Werner Council Office Bldg., 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850 - This hearing is an opportunity for the public to respond to the Road Show and to bring other issues of importance for the 2012 Session to the attention of the legislators.

House Hearing for local bills - Monday, December 5, 7:00 p.m. - 3rd Floor Hearing Room, Stella Werner Council Office Bldg., 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850 - Local bills refer to legislation affecting issues specific to Montgomery County.

House Hearing for bi-county bills - Wednesday, December 7, 7:00 p.m. - 3rd Floor Hearing Room, Stella Werner Council Office Bldg., 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850 - Bi-County bills refer to legislation that requires the approval of the Montgomery County and the Prince George's County Delegations.

Transit Task Force Update

by Dan Wilhelm, Transportation Chair

The Transit Task Force created by County Executive Leggett has been holding meetings since March 23. The Task Force formed five working groups most of which have been active over the summer. A summary of meetings and copies of presentations given at the meetings can be found at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/cex/transit.

On August 17, the Working Group on Design Attributes presented its recommendation, which was accepted by the entire Task Force. The proposed Rapid Transit system would consist of sleek and stylish Rapid Transit Vehicles (RTVs) that are in the same class as Metrorail, and not like our local buses. The system of routes and stations would be designed to a gold standard, which

exceeds those of any current transit system in the US. The Task Force, realizing that compromises will be required as the system is being designed and built, identified and categorized attributes that would guide the design into five priorities, from absolutely essential to desirable. One absolutely essential attribute is to have physically separated, dedicated RTV lanes throughout the entire network, to the extent possible, so that travel times are nearly the same as auto travel. The Task Force realizes that right-of-way restrictions will not always allow dedicated lanes. However, it is surprising what appears to be possible, since many large business and commercial property owners appear to be willing to provide the land to support this goal. We had a briefing from the White Flint Partnership and VIKA Consulting about the 1.5 mile segment on MD 355 that is covered by the White Flint Master Plan. They showed that dedicated lanes should be possible in this area. The City of Rockville is also considering dedicated RTV lanes from the point where the White Flint Partnership stops to downtown Rockville as part of Rockville's master plan update.

On August 17, the Working Group on Routes and Development presented a recommendation, also accepted by the entire Task Force, concerning the routes that should be included in a mature RTV system. The Working Group built upon the County DOT study called Countywide Bus Rapid Transit, and the final report is dated July 2011. The report can be found at: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dotmpl.asp?url=/content/dot/index.asp. The study identifies 16 routes that satisfy the study criteria. (The designs contained in that report only considered what is possible within the existing right-of-way.) The Task Force agreed that the 16 routes should be part of the system but added seven additional routes or segments that it felt were needed to provide good connectivity throughout the urban and suburban areas within the county. Not all of the routes will be in the RTV system initially, but those that are not would initially have more frequent enhanced local bus service. All of these routes will be considered by the Planning Board in their recently initiated update to the master plan of highways. It is also recognized that the existing RideOn and Metro Bus routes would need to be changed and integrated with the RTV system. Part of that redesign would involve increasing the number of feeder buses. Note that the RTV system assumed the Metrorail, Purple Line and Corridor Cities Transit systems will be built.

Work is underway to better define the RTV system costs than were estimated in the Countywide Bus Rapid Transit report. Work is also planned to address a public-private partnership for financing and paying for the RTV system. The County Executive staff is actively looking for new maintenance depot locations and organizing these depots to maintain both RTVs and RideOn buses. The Task Force thinking is that federal funding will not be used for the RTV system since there is so little money available from the Feds, and because we want

the system implemented much faster than federal funding could support.

I am very pleased by the active membership and shared vision of those on the Task Force. Note that the membership of County Executive's Task Force on the web site includes State Transit Administration, County Planning Commission, County DOT, County Council, WMATA, City of Rockville, along with a number of citizen and business groups.

Another Transportation Option: Bicycling Approaches Critical Mass in Montgomery County

**By Ethan Goffman, published with
permission from ProQuest**

Long regarded as primary transportation in China and a hobby in the West, bicycling has seen its status take some strange spins lately. In China, the practice is shrinking in favor of the internal combustion engine; in Western Europe, meanwhile, bicycles have become a common means of getting to work and running errands. In the United States, heartland of autocratic thinking, bicycle use may be poised for a huge increase. The question is whether, in a landscape chopped up by highways and parking lots, a growing network of bike paths can get large numbers of people out of their cars and onto their bicycles.

The first ever Montgomery Bicycling Conference, organized by the Montgomery County Civic Federation and held on Saturday, May 14 in Rockville, my home territory, discussed the possibility of just that occurring. The problem is that biking is widely seen as dangerous, and not without reason—sharing the road with metal armadas of vehicles weighing several tons and hurtling at four times your speed can be intimidating. Safety, then, is of primary concern, which in the case of major roads means separated bike lanes. At the conference, several speakers broke down area bicycling: about 7% of people already bike at least occasionally and 33% would never bike under any circumstances; this leaves 60% who could be persuaded to take up bicycling. The idea is to change biking from a lone wolf, maverick activity to an everyday part of normal life. The potential to lessen carbon emissions, reduce congestion, and fight obesity is huge.

To exponentially increase bicycling, the first component is infrastructure, notably ways for cyclists to reach key destinations without feeling threatened. While fully separated, bicycle-only lanes are best, these are often not viable because of logistical problems such as right of way (not to mention cost). Other kinds of paths, according to Montgomery County planner David Anspacher, are shared use (hiker/biker—excellent for recreational biking, but annoying for fast bikers trying to get places), bike lanes (i.e., stripes, which give some acknowledgement of bikes' existence, but no physical protection), and shared streets for bikes and motorists (which can be wider or little used by autos). It's crucial to

establish a network where it's easy to maneuver between destinations while feeling safe, even for novice cyclists.

In the past decade or two, Montgomery County—like much of America—has worked on building major pieces of bicycle infrastructure: a rails-to-trails path here, a bicycle bridge over Interstate 270 there, with several well-conceived trails now fully in place. A notable success is the Capital Crescent Trail from downtown Bethesda into Washington, DC, which is packed with commuter and recreational cyclists, joggers, and hikers.

Unfortunately, the overall system is still a patchwork, with major gaps, and many of the bicycle paths are underutilized. Some of them, such as the North Bethesda Trolley Trail, seem to start in the middle of nowhere and end nowhere (the trail actually comes close to joining two Metro stations and town centers, but needs to be more accessible to both). One needs to fully utilize maps and web tools to take advantage of the nascent network. In other words, study and preparation is needed before setting out, which I believe greatly decreases bicycle use. What's needed is greater connectivity, as well as better signage.

Fortunately, local, county, and state authorities are well aware of the shortcomings, and they are working to overcome them. As long-time bike activist Bob Patton put it, "in the early '90s we didn't talk about gaps" in connectivity, as there was very little infrastructure to connect. That we're having this discussion shows how far we've come; it's now a matter of assembling the various pieces, as well as better signage and education.

Education, indeed, is the last component necessary for reaching critical mass when it comes to bicycling ("Critical Mass" is also the name of a long-running, and controversial, monthly bicycle protest that takes place in cities around the globe). Montgomery County is working aggressively to educate potential cyclists, with regular classes in riding, safety, sharing the road with cars, and basic maintenance. Volunteers lead local bike rides along the various paths to show newcomers the routes available. However, it's also crucial to educate drivers, whose bad behavior can scare people away from biking. Conference participants suggested automobile registration as an opportunity to increase driver awareness of bicycle safety by including information with the renewal notice. Driver training should also include a strong component of bicycle safety, as it does in much of Europe.

The DC region's transit authority has set a target to increase the number of commuters who bicycle to Metrorail from under 1% to 3.5% by 2030, according to planner Matthew Zych. Currently, some 39% of the region's commuters drive to Metrorail stations (symptomatic of our country's car dependence) and the parking lots are maxed out, so new ways of getting to the trains are needed. Yet even setting targets is a real advance—in the early days, Patton explained, they didn't dare do so for fear that they couldn't possibly be reached.

Personally, I think the targets will be greatly exceeded. Given that 60% of the region's residents define themselves as possible bike riders, a huge potential remains untapped. Washington, DC, for instance, used a concerted push for bike lanes to increase rush hour bicycle trips 82% between 2007 and 2010, and its new bike sharing system has far exceeded expectations. Such cities as Copenhagen and Amsterdam do even better, having reached a 40-50% bicycle commute rate. I don't expect numbers like those in sprawling Montgomery County, but, given the expanding network and the escalating awareness, I believe bicycles will be a routine part of our transportation sooner than expected.

Update your Contact Information By Peggy Dennis, President

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

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

Depending on where you live, you should also update your contact information with your 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

Montgomery County Civic Federation Monthly Meetings September 2011 - June 2012

Please mark your calendars now. Our Monthly Meetings take place the second Monday of the month with the exception this year of December. The dates for the coming year are:

September 12

October 10

November 14

December 5 (Because the County Office Building auditorium is not available on December 12, the December Meeting will be a week earlier on December 5)

January 9, 2012

February 13

March 12

April 9

May 14

June 11

Executive Committee meetings will rotate between Tuesdays 9 days after the monthly meeting and Thursdays 11 days after the monthly meeting. Dates and venues of the upcoming meetings will always be announced on the last page of the MCCF News

The Annual Awards Banquet is scheduled for Friday, May 11, 2012 at, once again, New Fortune Restaurant.

Dues-Paid Members By Peggy Dennis, President

I wish to thank the following associations and individuals for getting in their dues for the 2011-2012 year so promptly. This is probably a record! If your name or association is not listed below, please use or print out the Membership Form on Page ___, complete the information on delegates names and contact information, and send it with the check (you may have to shake the check out of your Treasurer) to Bill Schrader. We appreciate you taking the time to do this administrative but oh, so necessary, task.

Allanwood-Gayfields-Willson Hills-
Gaywood Estates Civic Association
Chevy Chase West Neighborhood Assn
Citizens Coordinating Committee on
Friendship Heights
Clarksburg Civic Association
Congressional Forest Community Assn.
Darnestown Civic Association
East Silver Spring Citizens Association
Fleming Park Community Association
Garrett Park Estates/White Flint Park Citizens Assn.
Glenmont Forest Neighbors Civic Assn.
Greater Colesville Citizens Association
Grosvenor Park Condominium Citizens Assn.
Hillandale Citizens Association
Huntington Terrace Citizens Association
Kenwood Condominium
Layhill South Citizens Association
Maplewood Citizens Association
Mid-Atlantic Hispanic Chamber of
Commerce
Montgomery County Taxpayers League
Norbeck Meadows Civic Association
North White Oak Civic Association
Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association
Regency Estate Citizens Association
Rock Creek Hills Citizens Association
Seven Oaks Evanswood Citizens Assn.
South Four Corners Citizens Association.
Stonegate Citizens Association
Strathmore Bel Pre Civic Association
Town of Somerset

Villages of Bethesda
West Bradley Citizens Association
Wildwood Manor Citizens Association
Woodside Park Civic Association

Individual Associate Members

Paula Bienenfeld
Marie De Maria
Wilbur H. Friedman
Fifa Northrop
Robert E. Redding
Stanley D. Schiff
Joan Snow
Richard Strombotne
Richard Zierdt

Volunteers Needed to Help Gaithersburg/Germantown Seniors

The Senior Connection has expanded its transportation services for seniors into upper Montgomery County with the goal of helping older adults “age in community”. The nonprofit group matches volunteers with their neighbors 62 and older for free, escorted transportation to medical appointments, help with grocery shopping and other errands, and paying a friendly visit to share companionship.

Seniors living in Gaithersburg and Germantown experience transportation challenges, making the need for The Senior Connection’s services in great demand. With more volunteers to support upcounty seniors, the organization could better insure that much needed transportation and socialization will be there.

Volunteers can be a huge help to the community by giving just a few hours a month. Volunteers have liability insurance coverage and many other benefits. Statistics show that people who are involved in helping others live longer and healthier lives. For more information or to volunteer, contact The Senior Connection today at 301-962-0820, or marcia.custer@seniorconnectionmc.org Visit us at www.seniorconnectionmc.org

Minutes of the June 13, 2011 Meeting

By Sue Schumacher, Secretary

Call to Order: President Peggy Dennis called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm with introductions all around. The agenda was approved with the addition of the election of the Slate of Officers to take place after Old/New Business and two (2) emergency resolutions. The minutes of the May meeting were approved as published in the newsletter. Bill Schrader, Treasurer, gave a report on the finances of the organization.

Announcements: President Peggy Dennis announced a Town Meeting on Wednesday, June 15th organized by the Up-County Regional Services Center with council members at Redlands Middle School and on June 16th a meeting of the Tax Payers’ League with the County’s new Inspector General. Jim Humphrey announced there is a challenge to the Special Exception for Suburban Hospital to close Lincoln Road.

Community Heroes: Caren Madsen, Co-Chair of the Environment Committee introduced members of the Save Our Park/Preserve Our Community Coalition. She explained how the group came together to save the Rosemary Hills/Lyttonsville Park when they learned it had been selected as the site of the new middle school for the BCC High School cluster. No local civic groups had been part of the school site selection process nor had anyone been contacted about the park being under consideration. Due to the groups passion and Herculean efforts, the Board of Education has selected another site for the middle school. In addition, Mary Bradford, Montgomery County Director of Parks, was present to acknowledge the group’s accomplishment.

Program: Paula Bienenfeld, Education Committee Chair, introduced a panel to discuss charter schools in both DC and Maryland: David Borinsky, Chair of the Board of Maryland Charter School Network; Joseph Hawkins of the Global Garden Public Charter School; Dr. Darren Woodruff of the DC Public Charter School Board; and Jackie English a staff member of the DC Charter School Board of Education. Joseph Hawkins moderated the discussion by posing questions to the other members of the panel. It was pointed out that Montgomery County was the first county in Maryland to pass legislation allowing charter schools, but there are still no charter schools in the county. The main reasons given for this was that it is the Montgomery County Board of Education that must approve a charter school, whereas in DC there is a separate charter school board which vets the applications. Discussion centered on the differences between regular public schools and charter public schools as well as the difference between Maryland charter schools and DC charter schools. In DC as well as Maryland the schools are autonomous and small in size - 250-350 students per school. DC may fire a non-performing teacher quickly, but in Maryland, teachers are protected by their unions. In both jurisdictions management for the school is at the principal’s level.

The Question and Answer session touched on size of the schools, teacher recruitment, and special education students. Maryland law does not allow for a charter school solely for special needs students.

Resolutions: Moved and seconded, a Resolution opposing Montgomery County Public Schools taking parkland for Schools. (See page 4 in the June Newsletter). It passed with 1 abstention.

Emergency Resolutions: Jim Humphrey, Planning/Land Use Chair, introduced an emergency resolution to allow the Federation to give testimony on

ZTA 11-04 addressing the Public Use Space and Amenities in the Central Business Districts in the County where there are four (4) Friendship Heights, Silver Spring, Bethesda and Rockville. The Federation will be speaking against ZTA 11-04 because the proposed ruling will benefit developers and not the county or residents, and it is in essence a Master Plan buster. It was moved that the Federation submit comments detailing opposition to ZTA 11-04, CBD zones-Public Space amendment at the Council hearing on June 14, 2011 and seconded (by more than three different member groups). The Emergency Resolution passed.

The second Emergency Resolution also introduced by Jim Humphrey, dealt with Bill 16-11 on Noise Control in Urban Areas for Arts and Entertainment Events. The bill proposes to raise the DBA from 55 to 75 and change the hours for this noise to 11am through 11pm. It was moved that the Federation submit a list of concerns on Bill 16-11 at the Council hearing on June 14, 2011. The motion was seconded by more than the required three separate member groups. The resolution passed.

Election of Slate: It was moved and seconded to approve the slate by acclamation. The motion passed.

Committee Reports

Caren Madsen, Environment Co-Chair, reported on the hopes for a Street Tree Protection Bill during the summer.

Carole Barth, Parks and Recreation, reported on taking park land for soccer fields. She is awaiting a report that will be the successor of the 2005 report on this subject.

Dan Wilhelm Reported on the County bill on Roadside Solicitation

Jim Humphrey, Land Use Committee, announced that there is a new draft plan for Maryland.

Paula Bienenfeld, Education Chair, provided the following information:

- The proposal for a cell tower at Sligo Middle School has been withdrawn, but there are 6 additional schools with applications still pending..
- Rock Creek Hills is having a feasibility study done on the new site selected for the middle school for the BCC High School Cluster
- Plans to invite Josh Starr, the new Superintendent of County Schools for the September meeting
- Hearings on the Artificial Turf Report will be over the summer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Minutes of the June 23 Executive Committee Meeting By Virginia Sheard, Acting Secretary

Call to Order: President Dennis called the meeting to order at 7:50 pm at the home of Paula Bienenfeld.

Present: Peggy Dennis, Paula Bienenfeld, David Shaw, Ann McDonald, Max Bronstein, Carole Ann Barth, Jim Humphrey, Michelle Yu, Bill Schrader, Virginia Sheard, Jim Zapp, and Dan Wilhelm.

Adoption of Agenda. Approval of Minutes of the May 18 ExComm meeting postponed.

Discussion topics:

- Reminder about July Potluck dinner
- Date for future ExComm meetings discussed. No weekday is perfect for all. Next month's meeting will be on Monday, July 18
- Brief handout and discussion of responsibilities of committee chairs and how they can do a more effective job
- Possible bylaws amendments discussed: Peggy recommended removing the term limit on the president, but no agreement was reached to do this. She also recommended changing the descriptions of responsibilities of 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents. Responsibility for each program is taken by the person suggesting the program, often a committee chair depending on subject area. Membership building and recruitment seems best carried out by the newsletter editor. Peggy has been working with the directors of the five regional services centers who are willing to share their contact information - a better source than Park & Planning's roster of community organizations. Peggy finds sending the occasional newsletter is an effective way of reminding prospective member organizations that we exist and are worth joining. Also important are:
 - MCCF Outreach: attracting new members, personnel outreach by each ExCom member and use of brochure at libraries, etc. Paula and Virginia to coordinate with Jim to review existing brochure and recommend changes and strategies for distribution.
 - MCCF Website: discussion of status and potential enhancements, including ExCom member password protected access for posting information, content options including ExCom photos, bios, separation of public access site from limited access site for members only, etc.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Schrader reviewed financial status, membership totals, new members, and summary of Banquet costs, etc. Balance (checking account) as of June 23: \$9,919.30

Upcoming Programs- Suggested topics, all tentative at this time:

- September: New Superintendent of Schools, Josh Starr (tentative) or new Inspector General
- October: Regional Services Centers, staff and roles in communities, areas served, etc. or
- MoCo elected representatives in Annapolis, or Forest conservation and related legislation, or Bus

Rapid Transit (BRT) implementation, legislation, status

- November: Building Better Civic Associations – recommended guests include directors of five regional services centers

Community Hero: discussion of nominees for September (Washington Revels) and October (Marvin Weinberg)

Committee Reports

Education (Paula Bienenfeld): Paula summarized education/MCPS/BOE activity – outgoing Superintendent Weast changed former position and recommended approval of Crossway Montessori Charter School application, Board of Education will have open discussion and vote in late June and July; requested analytical report on artificial turf not yet received; new MCPS superintendent will be Josh Starr, begins July 1; FOIR request on Pearson contract not yet received.

Legislative and Committee for Montgomery (Dan Wilhelm) – current MoCo Council working on bill to ban solicitation of donations in roadways by county employees on county time (issue is fire department MDA Fill the Boot Campaign in September for Muscular Dystrophy). Council deferred action; on state level there will be a Special Legislative Session in October to act on redistricting of congressional districts (based on most recent census data), session may include other topics.

Transportation (Dan Wilhelm) – Transit Implementation Task Force focusing on planning for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and other transit topics; Master Plan on Transportation focusing on multi-model options and strategies

President Dennis summarized recent Montgomery Bike Conference – good participation by state and local officials, additional conference planned, will look at specific geographic areas such as Silver Spring/Takoma Park and Rt. 355 corridor from Friendship Heights to White Flint

Parks and Recreation (Carol Ann Barth) – summer programs are underway; cost of soccer fields (maintenance and installing artificial turf), construction plans. Should MCCF request an Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) or Inspector General (IG) investigation of whole process of soccer field location, re-use of public property (particularly existing parks and other heavily used public sites)

Planning and Land Use (Jim Humphrey)

- Butler Road Rezoning of townhouse (master plan recommended RT-10 which limits lot coverage to 30% to requested RT-15 which allows more lot coverage), parcel is adjacent to Little Falls Parkway and issues include easement across public parkland and construction access.
- CBD ZTA introduced to allow square footage of public facilities not to be included in density calculations

- Noise ZTA – allowing noise levels for scheduled events like concerts and street fairs to exceed existing dba limits from 11am to 11pm. Current standards restrict noise levels and time frame
- PHED committee worksessions on ZTA 11-01 are underway. Legislation modifies existing CR zone created primarily to enable White Flint projects to get underway with higher densities, mixed use, and higher height standards. This ZTA would add two new zones with lesser densities and certain standards to existing CR zone – a CRT or Town zone and a CRN or Neighborhood zone. Extensive comments on the list of permitted uses in the two new zones and what their impact would be next to existing residential uses, etc.; and table of amenities developers select from to gain higher than base density (categories in table include proximity to transit, major public facilities, connectivity, diversity of uses, quality of buildings, and environment)

Next ExComm Meeting: Monday, July 18, will be hosted by Bill Schrader¹.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm

Minutes of August 16 Executive Committee Meeting

By Sue Schumacher, Secretary

Call to order at 7:51 by President Dennis at the home of Bill Schrader. Attendees: President Peggy Dennis, Bill Schrader, Sue Schumacher, Ann McDonald, Virginia Sheard, Max Bronstein, Dan Wilhelm, Jay Harding, Jim Humphrey, Jim Zepp, David Shaw. The agenda for the August ExComm meeting was approved.

Announcements: President Dennis announced that Caren Madsen has resigned as Committee Co-Chair of Environment. Jim Humphrey announced that the Bus Rapid Transit Study, funded by Leggett's office is now available on the MC DOT website. However, the link does not seem to work. He also announced that there will be a redistricting of the councilmanic districts to reflect the 2010 Census. At the moment there is both a Republican and a Democratic Plan. He also announced that the rules for the firefighters "fill the boot" campaign should be out by the 17th of August but have not yet been published.

Minutes: The May ExComm minutes were approved and the June ExComm minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Schrader presented the End of Fiscal Year Report and the proposed budget for 2011-

¹ July meeting was later canceled.

2012. The reports were approved. Treasurer Schrader also passed out the year's schedule for both regular and ExComm meetings. The ExComm will meet monthly alternating Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Programs: Paula Bienenfeld is in charge of the September program on Sustainability. After much discussion it was decided that Jim Zepp will put together the October meeting on current Public Safety Issues, and have Chief of Police Manger on the panel. President Dennis said that she testified at the Teen Curfew hearings and that the law that will ultimately be voted on will be different from the one originally proposed. Peggy Dennis will organize the November program which will focus on the services provided by the 5 Regional Services Centers. The December program will be on the Transit Task Force with Dan Wilhelm organizing.

Community Hero: September's hero will be the Washington Revels, with Jim Zepp organizing. Discussion next went to October's Hero and the possibility of it being Marvin Weiman, the former Public Finance Chair. It was suggested that for November the three women who did all the outreach and put together the information on the proposed zoning ordinance rewrite be honored.

Discussion Topics: The Awards Dinner will be May 11, 2012, subject to the restaurant being available. It was moved that the venue be changed back to New Fortune Restaurant. The motion carried with one opposed. It was decided that unless there is someone to staff it, MCCF will not have a table at the August 27 Conservation Montgomery anniversary event. Discussion ensued on Executive Branch Public Hearing Officers; since they serve at the pleasure of the County Executive, how can they be impartial? It was decided that a letter will go to the County Attorney to ask if there is the authority for the County Executive to appoint these people.

Committee Reports

Legislation: Dan Wilhelm announced there will be an October State Legislative special session dealing, at a minimum, with congressional redistricting. Other topics could also be addressed during the special session.

Transportation: Dan Wilhelm reported that the Transit Task Force is meeting weekly. He noted that the County-wide Bus Rapid Transit Study recommended 16 routes and a working group within the task force is recommending an additional seven routes.

Planning/Land Use: Jim Humphrey reported that CR Zone developed for White Flint does not work in other areas. Therefore, the PHED Committee is reviewing ZTA 11-01 to create lower density CR-Town and a CR-Neighborhood zones. The proposed rezoning legislation change should be out of committee by mid-September. The draft of the new county zoning ordinance is scheduled to be presented to the Planning Board in late September or early October.

Environment: Peggy Dennis read a report from Ginny Barnes on the status of two different Forest Conservation Urban Tree bills.

Education: Peggy Dennis presented Paula Bienenfeld's report. The Artificial Turf Report is not as yet out. There are hearings scheduled for September 26. In addition, it was reported that the Board of Education violated the open meetings rules again. Max Bronstein deplored the closing of Carderock Elementary School two days earlier than the rest of the county schools so that the school's parking lots could be used to accommodate attendees at the US Open golf event.

Public Safety: Jim Zepp reported that burglaries were in a steep decline in 2009 with an uptick in 2010. This is still not as bad as it has been prior to 2009. Jim mentioned Howard County's States Attorney has set up a Burglary task force.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Next ExComm Meeting: Thursday, September 22 at Dan Wilhelm's.

Adjournment: 9:44pm

Proposed FY 2012 Budget Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc.

Income

Membership dues	3,500.00	3,810.00	3,640.00
Local Associations	2,800.00	3,215.00	3,000.00
Umbrella Associations	65.00	65.00	65.00
Regional/County-wide Assn	150.00	45.00	90.00
Associate Groups	85.00	85.00	85.00
Individual Associates	400.00	400.00	400.00
Donations	50.00	145.00	50.00
Awards Dinner	2,500.00	1,840.00	2,250.00
Miscellaneous	25.00	164.25	50.00
Total income	6,075.00	5,959.25	5,990.00

Expenses

Member Communications	2,290.00	1,546.06	2,300.00
Newsletter Printing	1,450.00	1,118.66	1,450.00
Newsletter Mailing	500.00	308.00	500.00
Website	340.00	119.40	350.00
Civic and Social Betterment	3,580.00	3,648.69	3,510.00
Federation Meetings	900.00	900.00	900.00
Foundation Meetings	120.00	120.00	150.00
Awards Dinner	2,500.00	2,568.69	2,400.00
Federation Membership	60.00	60.00	60.00
Organizational Support	180.00	108.48	180.00
Officers	130.00	108.48	130.00
Committees	50.00	-0-	50.00
Miscellaneous	25.00	69.66	0.00
Total expenses	6,075.00	5,372.89	5,990.00

Respectfully submitted,
William H. Schrader
Treasurer

MCCF By-Laws, Article XVII. Financial Management, Section 1. Annual Budget. An operating budget for the Membership Year shall be adopted to plan and manage the Federation's fiscal affairs. A proposed budget shall be prepared by the Treasurer and submitted to the Executive Committee for approval in August. The budget as approved shall be printed in the September Newsletter and included in the September Agenda for action by the Membership. The budget shall include all planned and expected expenditures and revenues. Federation officials shall assist the Treasurer as requested in developing the budget.

Montgomery County Civic Federation
Serving the County since 1925
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Mail to: William H. Schrader (Treasurer)
 12824 Middlevale Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20906
 301-946-6545; schraderw@erols.com

Inquiries: Dan Wilhelm (1st VP, Database)
 904 Cannon Road, Colesville, MD 20904
 301-384-2968; djwilhelm@verizon.net

Name of Organization/Individual _____ Date _____

Number of Households (Approx) _____ Annual Dues (see below) \$ _____

Make checks payable to **Montgomery County Civic Federation**)

Membership Type	Number of Households	PLEASE CHECK	DUES	Max Number of Delegates	Voting Privileges
Local Association (civic, community, homeowner or municipality. Must represent at least 10 households - not paid members. Cannot be a single local issue group.)	10 to 50		\$25*	1	Yes
	51 to 300		\$45*	2	
	301 to 600		\$65*	3	
	601+		\$85*	4	
Umbrella Association (Two or more local associations. Cannot be single local issue group.)	60 to 500		\$45*	2	Yes
	501 to 1000		\$65*	3	
	1001+		\$85*	4	
Regional or County-Wide Organization (environmental, transportation, or other advocacy organizations).	50+ memberships, not households		\$45*	2	Yes
Individual Associate	(not applicable)		\$20*	1	No
Associate Group (Gov't agency, business, or other organization)	(not applicable)		\$85*	2	No

***A \$5 discount may be taken for each person who elects to receive the newsletter via email – please check e-mail box below.** You can also select less than the allowed number of delegates and pay for the lesser number. Please provide all the information below regardless of newsletter delivery method. Please indicate whether you want your email address included in a membership directory.

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

* Organization president or a permanent substitute designated by the president

Federation Meeting

Session 829

Monday, September 12, 2011
7:45 1st Floor Auditorium
County Council Office Building.
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD

Agenda:

7:45 Call to Order & Introductions
7:50 Announcements
7:52 Approval of Agenda
7:53 Approval of Minutes of the June 13 Meeting
7:54 Treasurer's Report & Approval of Budget (see Page 10)
7:55 Community Hero: Washington Revels
8:05 Program: "Sustainability" – What & How?
9:20 Committee Reports
9:40 Old Business / New Business
9:45 Adjournment

The **Montgomery County Civic Federation** is a county-wide nonprofit educational and advocacy organization. It was founded in 1925 to serve the public interest. Its monthly Federation meetings are open to the public and are held on the second Monday of each month September through June at 7:45 p.m. in the First Floor Auditorium, County Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD.

The **Civic Federation News** is published monthly, except in July and August. 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, September 24, 2011.** Prepare submission as an MS Word, Word Perfect or text-only document, **attach** it to an e-mail, and send it to: **hotyakker@gmail.com**

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

NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

At the home of Dan Wilhelm

904 Cannon Road

Silver Spring, MD 20904



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

Dan Wilhelm, Database Manager

904 Cannon Road

Silver Spring, MD 20904

DJWILHELM@VERIZON.NET

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