



Civic Federation News

June 2014
Serving the Public Interest since 1925

Official Publication of the
Montgomery County Civic
Federation

www.montgomerycivic.org
montgomerycivic@yahoo.com

twitter feed: @mcciviced

Peggy Dennis, Editor - Phone: 301-983-9738 - Email: hotyakker@gmail.com
New Screen-friendly format

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June Program on Transportation

by Dan Wilhelm, Transportation Chair

Have you ever complained about road congestion? Have you ever opposed a development because it would increase congestion? I expect most, if not all people involved in citizens' groups answer affirmative to both questions. Did you know that MCCF has taken positions on a long list of transportation projects and policies that directly strive to reduce the

level of congestion? At our program on Monday, June 9, I will review our positions related to transportation and provide updates as to what has happened since our last update - 10 years ago.

MCCF spent four years of intense effort dealing with transportation projects and policy issues in the 1999 to 2003 time frame. This started with active participation in the Planning Board's Transportation Policy Report (TPR) task force by two MCCF members- Stan Schiff and myself - and the development of its report to the Planning Board, which evolved into a report to the County Council. MCCF considered the TPR recommendations and took positions at nearly every monthly meeting in 2002 and in an all-day Saturday session. This effort +continued into 2003 when MCCF put on a program that was aired on County TV. MCCF also had a program in 2004 that reviewed all positions taken in 2002

Federation Meeting

Session 857

Monday, June 9, 2014
7:45 1st Floor Auditorium
County Council Office Building.
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD

Agenda:

- 7:45 Call to Order & Introductions
- 7:50 Approval of Agenda
- 7:51 Announcements
- 7:54 Approval of Minutes of May 12 meeting
- 7:55 Treasurer's Report & Approval of Proposed Budget (see page 9)
- 8:00 Program: Review of MCCF Transportation Positions
- 9:15 Vote on Slate of MCCF Nominees
- 9:20 Vote on Resolution on PEPCO shared use path
- 9:20 Committee Reports
- 9:35 Old Business
- 9:40 New Business
- 9:45 Adjournment

and 2003.

Since it has been 10 years since our transportation positions were taken, and many people within MCCF were not active in 2004, a review of prior positions is over-due. Nearly all the

projects are in various master plans. Thus, the positions taken in 2002-2003 are still relevant. The old saying that “there are no new ideas under the sun” applies to ways to address road congestion. Also, a very fast implementation schedule which includes a project in a master plan is likely to take 10 years to reach completion.

The June program will identify the 100+ positions taken during the 2002-2003 time frame and provide an update on what has happened since then. The membership can always decide to change our previously taken positions, but the starting point for that process is to understand what positions were already taken and why they were taken.

The positions taken in 2002-2003 fall into three major categories: road, transit and land use policies. The majority of the policies relate to land-use: Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and balancing jobs and housing on a regional basis. Please plan on attending for an informative review and robust discussion.

Members of the public are invited to join the
Walt Whitman cluster of schools for a

Board of Education At-Large Candidates’ Forum.

Meet the 4 At-Large Candidates and hear their positions in a moderated forum
before the June 24th Primary Election!

Edward Amatetti, Merry Eisner-Heidorn, Shebra Evans and
Jill Ortman-Fouse

will each have a chance to respond to *your* questions.

When: **Thursday, May 29, 2014 7:30-9 pm**

Where: **River Falls Clubhouse, 7915 Horseshoe Lane, Potomac**

Why: To Prepare for the June 24, 2014 Primary Elections

For More Information: Ann M. Gallagher agm@saltywaters.org

July Potluck Dinner

All Current, Former and Prospective New Members

Are Cordially Invited to the
2014 Montgomery County Civic Federation Potluck Dinner
Friday, July 11, 2014
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

At the home of Peggy & Bob Dennis
11115 Fawsett Road, Potomac, 20854

Since our meetings provide little time to get to know one another, our Summer Potluck is mainly a social event to allow us time to relax with great food and wonderful friends. This summer we will do some gentle sharing and brainstorming in preparation for an autumn forum on local and neighborhood associations: how to build new ones and reinvigorate old ones.

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

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, the Rockwood Manor Conference Center and Picasso Lane (all on the right) then turn RIGHT onto Fawsett Road.

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

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

Resolution on a Shared-use Path in PEPCO's Transmission Corridors By Peggy Dennis, Transportation Committee member

Last year, I initiated a dialogue with PEPCO in which I asked that the company consider allowing a shared use path for bicycles and pedestrians along their property and transmission lines between Westlake Road near Montgomery Mall and Piney Meetinghouse Road in western Potomac. Their response was a firm "no". So, I took the issue to the Pedestrian/Bicycle Traffic Safety Advisory Committee which was supportive. The PBTSAC established a working group, and a resolution in support of this objective was passed at their meeting on May 1. A similar resolution was passed unanimously by the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board on May 19.

This is timely because we have a chance to promote a positive outcome by exerting pressure on the Maryland Public Service Commission while it is deliberating whether to approve the corporate merger. We did not have this leverage earlier while dealing solely with PEPCO. The Executive Committee approved the following resolution, and I am asking that the MCCF vote in support of the resolution at our meeting on June 9:

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

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

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

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

Board of Education Member Used MCPS Credit Card for Personal Expenses

by Louis Willen, Public Finance Chair

As a result of a Public Information Act (PIA) request, the Parents' Coalition of Montgomery County discovered that MCPS Board of Education member and County Council Candidate Chris Barclay used a credit card issued by the Board of Education for thousands of dollars of unauthorized personal expenses. In addition, he used the card to pay for hotel stays and room service in Washington, D.C., less than 10 miles from his home.

After the Parents' Coalition posted the credit card bills on its web site, news media, including WJLA TV (ABC 7) and the Washington Post ran stories about the credit card misuse.

WJLA TV has now requested the MCPS credit card records for all the Board of Education members and is expected to do a follow up story when they receive the records.

For more information about this credit card misuse, go to the following URL:

<http://parentscoalitionmc.blogspot.com/search/label/Christopher%20Barclay>

[Editor's note. Since this writing, it has been reported that Mr. Barkley has repaid the BOE the money charged for personal purchases.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/maryland-news/montgomery-co-school-board-member-pays-back-almost-1500-in-unauthorized-expenses/2014/05/22/87627a4e-e1b3-11e3-8dcc-d6b7fede081a_story.html The issue remains relevant because no government official – elected or appointed – should use government credit cards for personal purchases.

Election of Civic Federation Officers for 2014-2015

Election of the Federation officers will take place at the June 9 meeting. The following have been nominated:

President – Paula Bienenfeld

First Vice President – Jim Zepp

Second Vice President – Ira Ungar

Treasurer – Jerry Garson

Secretary – Danila Sheveiko

The MCCF Executive Committee approved the slate at its April 17th meeting. The List of Nominees was presented at the May 9 meeting. No nominations were made from the floor. The officers will be voted on at our meeting on June 9th.

Four "At-Large" members of the Executive Committee are named by the President early in his/her term of office. This is a great way for new blood (new delegates or those who have been with us for some time) to become more actively involved. Anyone wishing to serve in this capacity or nominate another delegate should contact our upcoming president, Paula Bienenfeld, at paula_bienenfeld@yahoo.com.

Time to Renew Membership

We remind delegates and associate members that our membership year begins on July 1. It is timely to renew your Civic Federation memberships now. Delegates are reminded that although we ask you to forward every copy of the Civic Federation's *News* to all your association members, your treasurers may not see the renewal form and act on it. We therefore ask delegates to download and print out the Membership Application or Renewal Form on page 11 and give it to your treasurer. Please also remember that in the future our newsletter will be sent via email to everyone. There will therefore no longer be a discount for taking the newsletter electronically.

Minutes of the May 12 Meeting By Sue Schumacher, Co-Recording Secretary

Call to Order: Vice-President Paula Bienenfeld called the meeting to order at 7:45pm. Introductions followed.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Paula Bienenfeld announced that the Sunlight Foundation was meeting May 30 and May 31 at George Mason University to discuss Government Transparency.

MINUTES: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 14 meeting as they appeared in the Newsletter. The minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jerry Garson reported that the proposed 2014-2015 MCCF Budget will appear in the June newsletter and be voted on at the June meeting.

COMMUNITY HEROES: Peggy Davis introduced Erwin Mack of the Pedestrian/Bicycle Traffic Safety Advisory Committee. Peggy has been liaison to the PBTSAC from the West Montgomery County Citizens' Advisory where she also serves. Mr. Mack explained that he had spurred into pedestrian safety advocacy after a tragic accident in 1984 when 2 women with their 2 babies stepped off the curb in Langley Park without looking at the traffic because they were originally from a rural area in a Central American country and were not used to crossing streets with traffic. Both children were killed and both mothers critically injured. Now he and the advisory committee have taken on bicycle safety issues as well.

PROGRAM: Paula Bienenfeld, Chair of the Education Committee introduced Elaine Bonner-Tompkins of the County Council's Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) and Ruby Rubens, an expert and consultant on Fair Housing. Ms Bonner-Tompkins reported on the statistical report by the OLO on the achievement gap between whites and Asians and African-Americans and Hispanics in MCPS high schools. This report was an update of an earlier report in 2009. She reported that high schools today are more polarized than

previously by income, race and ethnicity. The achievement gap is more pronounced in high poverty high school – schools where the majority of students are eligible for the Free & Reduced Meal Program (FARM). Elaine stressed that the OLO looked only at the data and had no recommendations on how to correct the problems. Next Richard Kahlenberg spoke. He indicated that the schools in many cases were still separate racially and economically but they are equal. Ms. Ruby Rubens was next to speak. She said that there is a societal segregation problem in Montgomery County. She also said that this gap would continue because of current housing patterns. There was Q and A throughout the presentation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Election: Jim Zepp read the slate of candidates that appeared in the May Newsletter. The slate will be voted on at the June 9 meeting with terms of office to begin July 1.

Planning, Land Use and Housing: Virginia Sheard reported that the Map Amendment will be “fast tracked”.

Legislation: Peggy Dennis reported that the archery rules for deer hunting have been changed.

Public Safety: Jim Zepp, Chair reported that there is a proposal to increase the number of school resource officers

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:50pm.

Minutes of the May 22 Executive Committee Meeting By Co-Recording Secretary, Sandy Vogelgesang

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

Call to Order: Peggy Dennis, past President, called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM. Paula Bienenfeld, First Vice President, arrived at 8:05 and conducted the meeting to its conclusion. Present: Paula Bienenfeld, Peggy Dennis, Jerry Garson, Jim Humphrey, Virginia Sheard, Sandy Vogelgesang, Louis Wilen, Dan Wilhelm and Jim Zepp.

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

Approval of Minutes for April 17 ExComm Meeting: Peggy called for and received approval of the minutes as published in the May 2014 newsletter.

Treasurer’s Report: Jerry Garson, Treasurer, circulated updated report. The current bank balance for the Federation is \$13,082.29. He said that he has updated membership forms for the new fiscal year.

Announcements: Paula Bienenfeld called for announcements.

- Jerry Garson reported that he will attend a County’s Department of Permitting Services meeting, May 28. Virginia Sheard will also attend this meeting on the permitting process in her capacity as MCCF representative on the committee for stream-lining the development process.

- Paula reported that there will be a Transparency Camp focusing on concern about government transparency at George Mason University, May 30-31. She also reported that there had been a webinar on open government process, May 14, arranged by the Montgomery County Department of Technology Services.

Programs: Paula introduced discussion of future programs.

- **June:** Update on transportation issues. Dan Wilhelm, Transportation Chair, will make a presentation on positions taken by the MCCF, 1999-2003, in three areas: road, transit and land use. He will then provide an update on what has happened since that time so that MCCF members can use subsequent meetings to address new and emerging issues in transportation.
- **September:** Deer management. Peggy and Carole Ann to arrange.
- **October:** Disaster preparedness. Jerry Garson to arrange.
- **Other Possibilities:** ExComm discussed the following topics for consideration as either possible program topics or items for Federation action:
 - How civic associations can get their project priorities included in the County's CIP budget
 - How the County is dealing with computer security issues
 - How to get input into the Public Service Commission's consideration of the proposed Pepco-Exelon merger

Community Hero: No nomination made.

Issues to Discuss

- **Student Service Learning (SSL):** ExComm deferred discussion, pending decision on insurance which is required for organizations signing off on SSL hours.
- **Insurance:** ExComm agreed to do more research before making decision.
- **Civic Federation's proposed online calendar:** ExComm agreed that Jim Humphrey will add "calendar" feature to website.

Committee Reports

- **Public Safety:** Jim Zepp, Chair, said that there had been no public follow-up on the County's night-time economy task force. Arlington's problems associated with "pub crawls" were mentioned.
- **Education:** Louis Wilen reported on press and media reports regarding alleged misuse of MCPS credit cards by some School Board members and MCPS officials.
- **Transportation:** Peggy Dennis introduced a resolution urging the County Council and County Executive to communicate to the Maryland Public Service Commission that the establishment of a shared-use path for bikers and pedestrians along PEPCO's transmission lines should be considered as a public benefit during discussion of the

proposed PEPCO-Exelon merger. ExComm agreed unanimously that the resolution should be published in the next newsletter with a recommendation for approval at the June meeting.

- **Planning and Land Use (PLU):** Jim Humphrey, Chair, provided an update on the land use schedule. He also noted that an MCCF committee will interview the five finalists for the position of Planning Board Chair. MCCF members are encouraged to provide questions to Virginia Sheard and Harriet Quinn.

Old Business

- **WSSC Report:** Virginia Sheard, who served as the only representative of the civic community on the bi-county ad hoc group assessing large diameter pipelines, reported that the final report has been delivered. She will circulate a copy.
- **Twitter feed update:** Paula reported that the Federation has 165 followers.

New Business

- **Partnering with Safe Grow Montgomery:** ExComm concurred with Peggy's recommendation that action be deferred until there is further action by the Bylaws Committee.
- **Newsletter deadline and articles:** Peggy requested articles by Sunday midnight.
- **July Potluck:** To be held at Peggy's home Friday, July 11. Peggy suggested a brainstorming session on Local Civic and Neighborhood Associations in preparation for a full afternoon forum in the autumn: how to start a new local civic and/or revitalize a withering or moribund CA.

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

Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc.
Treasurer's Report and Proposed Budget
05/22/14

	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015
	Last year July 1, 2012 June 30, 2013	Actual July 1, 2013 May 22, 2014	Budget July 1, 2014 June 30, 2015
Revenues			
Membership Dues	4,035.00	3,225.00	3,200.00
Foundation Contributions	0.00	250.00	0.00
Awards Dinner	2,155.00	2,150.00	2,500.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Revenues	6,190.00	5,625.00	5,700.00
Expenses			
Member Communications			
Newsletter printing and Mailing	747.91	694.13	50.00
Website	119.40	0.00	200.00
Insurance			800.00
Projector & Sound System	0.00	613.89	0.00
Civic and social betterment			
Federation meetings	1,049.68	1,020.00	1,000.00
Awards dinner	2,795.90	2,495.55	2,500.00
Foundation membership	100.00	100.00	100.00
Food sponsorship	0.00	150.00	0.00
Organizational Support			
Officers	0.00	0.00	0.00
Committees	0.00	830.37	1,000.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	17.39	100.00
Total Expenses	4,812.89	5,921.33	5,750.00
Net Income for period	1,377.11	(296.33)	(50.00)
Bank Balance	May 22, 2014	13,082.29	

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

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

Inquiries to Treasurer: Jerry Garson
8308 Raymond Lane, Potomac, MD 20854
301-765-9470; garson@comcast.net

Name of Organization/Individual _____ Date _____

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

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

Membership Type	Number of Households	PLEASE CHECK	DUES	Max Number of Delegates	Voting Privileges
Local Association (civic, community, homeowner or municipality. Can not be a single local issue group.)	10 to 50		\$20	1	Yes
	51 to 300		\$35	2	
	301 to 600		\$50	3	
	601+		\$65	4	
Umbrella Association (Two or more local associations. Cannot be single local issue group.)	60 to 500		\$35	2	Yes
	501 to 1000		\$50	3	
	1001+		\$65	4	
Regional or County-Wide Organization (environmental, transportation, or other civic/community).	50+ memberships, not households		\$35	2	Yes
Individual Associate	(not applicable)		\$15	1	No
Associate Group (Gov't agency, business, or other organization)	(not applicable)		\$75	2	No

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

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

The **Montgomery County Civic Federation** is a county-wide nonprofit educational and advocacy organization. It was founded in 1925 to serve the public interest. Monthly Federation meetings are open to the public and are held on the second Monday of each month September through June at 7:45 p.m. in the First Floor Auditorium, County Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD. Free parking in garage accessed from Monroe St. or from Jefferson St. heading east from I-270.

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

Submit contributions for the next issue by: **Sunday, August 24** . Prepare submission as an MS Word, Word Perfect or text document, **attach** it to an e-mail, and send 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

Time and venue TBA
see website for details

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

Dan Wilhelm, Database Manager
904 Cannon Road
Silver Spring, MD 20904
DJWILHELM@VERIZON.NET
Address service requested

First Class Mail