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TO PRINT, USE "PRINT VERSION"

of note

Next MCFE Meeting

Monday, October 10, 2016, 7:45 p.m.
@ the Executive Office Building in Rockville. Program: "The Upcoming General Assembly Session and Local Ballot Questions (A, B, and C)." Guest Speaker: Jennifer Bevan-Dangel, Executive Director of Common Cause Maryland.

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Meeting Minutes

September 12 Meeting #878 **P. 14**
September 22 Executive Committee Meeting **P. 17**

Membership Application

Join or Renew Now **SEE FORM**

Federation Meeting 879

Monday, October 10, 2016

7:45 p.m.

Lobby Level Auditorium
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street | Rockville

AGENDA

- 7:45 Call to Order/Introductions
- 7:50 Approval of Agenda
- 7:51 Announcements
- 7:57 Approval of Minutes, Sept. 12 Meeting 878 [SEE P. 14]
- 7:58 Treasurer's Report
- 8:00 Program:
 - Part 1: State Legislation
 - Part 2: Discussion of November Ballot Referenda
- 9:25 Committee Reports
- 9:35 Old and New Business
- 9:45 Adjournment

About MCCF Meetings

All monthly MCCF meetings are open to the public. They are held on the second Monday of each month, September through June, at 7:45 p.m.

Meetings for the remainder of the year will be held in the **Lobby Level Auditorium of the Executive Office Building at 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, Maryland.**

Due to construction, access to the building is difficult; walkers must come through the cafeteria. You can park (free) in the lowest level of the EOB. Drive onto the ramp in the front of the building (ignore “permit parking only” sign), turn left at the second, lower level; use the intercom at the gate to the parking garage and at the door to the elevators to inform security you’re attending the MCCF Meeting. ■

mccf

The **Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc.**, is a county-wide nonprofit educational and advocacy organization founded in 1925 to serve the public interest. Monthly MCCF meetings are open to the public (agenda and details at left).

The *Civic Federation News* is published monthly except July and August. It is emailed to delegates, associate members, news media, and local, state, and federal officials. **Recipients are encouraged to forward the *Civic Federation News* to all association members, friends, and neighbors.** Permission is granted to reproduce any article, provided that proper credit is given to the “*Civic Federation News* of the Montgomery County (Md.) Civic Federation.”

Civic Federation News

civicednews AT montgomerycivic.org

TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE, SEE **PAGE 20**

October Program: The Upcoming General Assembly Session and Local Ballot Questions

By Paula Bienenfeld, Immediate Past President

Our October 10th Program focuses on legislation, and we'll be discussing the upcoming Annapolis session, as well as the Montgomery County ballot questions.

UPCOMING GENERAL SESSION

This will be the 437th Session of the Maryland General Assembly, which begins on January 11, 2017, and ends on April 10, 2017. Legislation is already being proposed.

[View these bills here.](#) Visit our [County Delegation website here.](#)

To guide us through the legislative process we are honored to have **Jennifer Bevan-Dangel**, Executive Director of Common Cause Maryland. Bevan-Dangel is responsible for implementing



JENNIFER BEVAN-DANGEL

the Maryland organization's policy campaigns and building its capacity. Since joining the organization in 2013, she has spearheaded several significant reforms, including establishing the first local public funding program in the state, modernizing

the state's public information laws, and advancing key voting reforms.

Bevan-Dangel came to Common Cause with a strong background in advocacy at the state and local levels, having worked for 1,000 Friends of Maryland and other environmental organizations on a variety of land use and clean water reforms. She is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and the University of Maryland School of Law. She was recognized by the *Daily Record* as an "Influential Marylander" in 2014 and a "Top 100 Women" in 2016.

We know there are a lot of issues and proposed legislation that has been discussed at the Civic Fed, especially during last spring's "Un-Program." Please attend so we can

October Program on Ballot Questions, cont.

discuss ways to push our neighborhood agendas through the Assembly.

LOCAL BALLOT QUESTIONS

Following the discussion of the upcoming legislative session, we'll discuss the three questions on the local Montgomery County ballot, all of which would amend our county Charter. Questions A and C were proposed by the County Council and Question B was the result of a peti-



tion [[see story on p. 8](#)].

The ballot questions were discussed in the September 2016 newsletter, and they are:

QUESTION A

County Executive Vacancy—Special Election, proposed by the County Council, which seeks to amend the County Charter and provide a special election to fill a vacant office of County Executive;

QUESTION B

Term Limits—County Council

and County Executive, proposed by petition, which seeks to limit County Council and County Executive office holders to three consecutive terms, or 12 consecutive years in office; and

QUESTION C

Term of Office—County Council and County Executive, proposed by the County Council, which seeks to exempt office holders who have been appointed or elected in a special election from the term limits that would be imposed should Question B pass. The Question proposes that partial service of a full term for either a Councilmember or the County Executive means service of more than two years of a term.

We hope you will join us on October 10th for these timely and important discussions. ■



CourtWatch Montgomery: Monitoring Maryland's Domestic Violence Justice System

By Cynthia Ewel

Court Watch Montgomery is a nonprofit organization that reduces domestic violence by improving the way courts handle civil and criminal domestic violence cases. Our 70 volunteers monitor over 1,000 protective order hearings and criminal DV assault cases each year. Local and state courts have made important improvements based on our findings and recommendations, but many victims and their children are still endangered by gaps in safety procedures, inadequate legal protection, gaps in services or inappropriate demeanor.

OUR GOALS

- Impartially monitor and evaluate Maryland's domestic violence justice system.

- Make judicial personnel aware

of the public's interest in how domestic violence cases are handled by the court.



GAIL PUMPHREY AND HER THREE CHILDREN WERE KILLED BY THE CHILDREN'S FATHER DURING AN ATTEMPT TO EXCHANGE THE KIDS FOR A THANKSGIVING VISIT IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

- Report regularly to judges, court administrators, county advisory boards, local non-profits, the media, and the public on our findings and recommendations.

- Educate Maryland citizens about domestic violence in their counties and the role of the local judiciary.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY NEEDS SAFE, AFFORDABLE, COMMUNITY-BASED SAFE HAVEN CENTERS

Montgomery County provides many excellent services for domestic violence survivors. Tragically, though, there is a serious gap in our domestic violence safety net. Victims are regularly put at risk of harassment and abuse every time they follow a court order to exchange their children for a visit with an abusive

MORE

CourtWatch, cont.

partner without a program to provide that service. Many children are traumatized when forced to have unsupervised visits with a parent whom they fear.

Thousands of County domestic violence victims urgently need safe, affordable, convenient facilities at which to exchange their children for visitation to prevent harassment, injury, or retraumatization. Transfer and supervision services should be available at a network of sites reachable by buses and Metro.

We're asking for your support for the Safe Haven Centers Initiative. If you support safe visitation services for domestic violence victims, or want more information, contact: courtwatchmontgomery@gmail.com, 240.606.6620, www.courtwatchmontgomery.org. ■



Chinese American Parent Association of Montgomery County

**CHINESE-AMERICAN PARENTS ASSOCIATION
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Board of Education Candidates Forum

DATE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2016

TIME: 7:00 P.M. – 9:30 P.M.

**PLACE: HERBERT HOOVER MIDDLE SCHOOL
8810 POST OAK ROAD, POTOMAC, MD.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO

WWW.CAPA-MC.ORG

WHAT'S TRENDING IN THE COUNTY

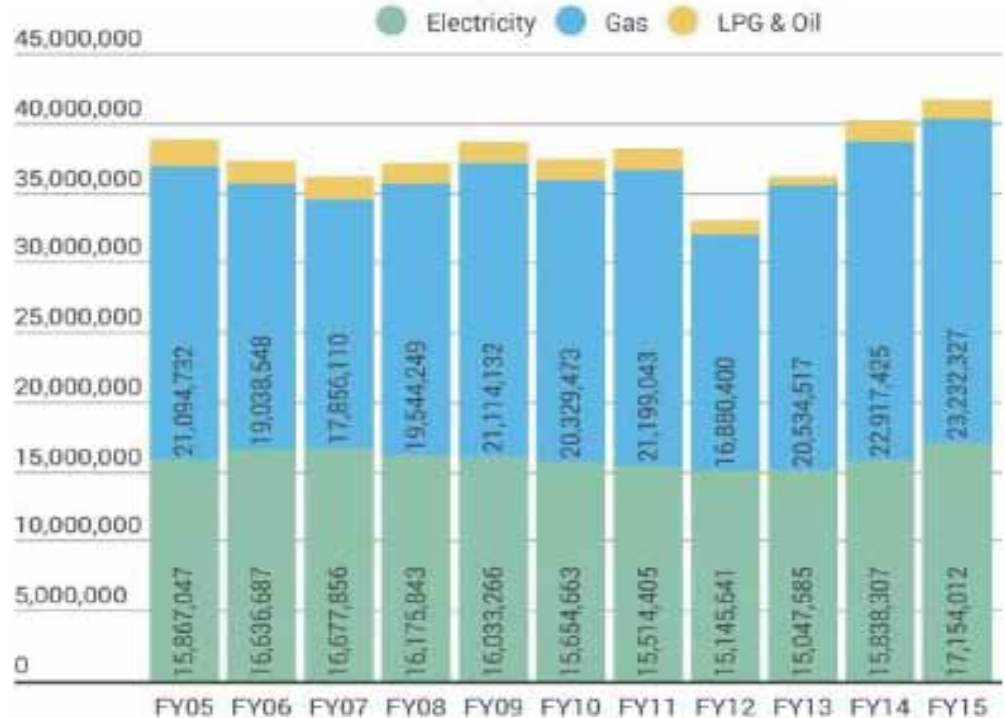
An exploration of data trends in Montgomery County. Each month statistics for a different topic will be reported.

Building Fuel Energy Use— Residential (Million Btus)

Residential building energy use has grown more than seven percent from the FY05 base year. At a low point in FY12, but energy use has grown by more than 26 percent in the last four years.

This data is collected as a result of the County's fuel energy tax, which provides information on the consumption of electricity, natural gas, and other building fuels. The data are broken out by residential and nonresidential use; usually, larger multifamily properties are included in the nonresidential data. The CPP goal is for homeowners to reduce energy use by 25 percent by 2020.

Source: *Montgomery County Fuel Energy Tax Data*



Ballot Question and Resolution to Support Term Limits and Vote Yes on Question B

By Paula Bienenfeld, Immediate Past President

There will be three ballot questions on the upcoming ballot. The first, Question A, proposes changing the process for filling an unexpected term for County Executive, to allow the County Council to allow for a special election. Right now, if a vacancy occurs, the County Council appoints someone to fill the office and there is no input from voters as to who will represent them in this important office. **Question A** remedies that solution, in part, by providing the Council with the choice of allowing a special election. I encourage people to vote Yes in Question A.

The second ballot question, **Question B**, would establish term limits for the County Council and County Executive offices. If passed, Question B would amend Sections 105 and 202 of the Charter to limit office holders of the County Executive and County Council to three consecutive terms, or 12 consecutive years.

The Executive Committee discussed the term limits ballot question at the most recent Executive Committee

Arguments Against the Amendment to Support Ballot Question B on Term Limits

By Peggy Dennis, Past President

If term limits are arbitrarily imposed, voters lose the fundamental right to retain their elected officials or vote them out. In Montgomery County, several Councilmembers have been voted out and replaced by new representatives in the recent past. Incumbency is no guarantee of a permanent job.

Like our U.S. Representatives who have no term limits, our Councilmembers have multiple and very important roles. They must not only legislate, but study the County's budget, provide oversight of the many departments and agencies run by the Executive, and deal with constituent services. It takes many months before a new Councilmember becomes effective (some don't become effective for years) and there is little time for "on the job training."

With term limits, the knowledge, experience, and institutional memory of seasoned Councilmembers will be lost. With new office holders, unelected staff and lobbyists may play a much greater role in governing. More-

Arguments FOR Question B, cont.

meeting, and voted unanimously to approve and recommend the following resolution regarding Question B to our general membership.

Whereas incumbent politicians have enormous advantages in running for office that discourage new candidates, including accumulated finances, a bully pulpit, county resources, and name recognition; and

Whereas the State of Maryland has term limits for the office of Governor; and

Whereas the Maryland counties of Howard, Prince George's, Frederick, St. Mary's, Anne Arundel, Harford, and Baltimore all have term limits; and

Whereas the term limits would encourage new candidates and open the process to people from across the county;

Therefore, the Montgomery County Civic Federation supports term limits for the County Executive and the County Council members as proposed in Question B on the 2016 Ballot.

WHY VOTE FOR TERM LIMITS?

Question B was placed on the ballot because the

Arguments AGAINST Question B, cont.

over, should Question B pass, a majority of the current Council will be out of office, and the challenges of having so many new representatives at one time could be more harmful than beneficial to local governance.

With a limited tenure, short-term and parochial goals may take precedence over longer-term needs and visions.

P.G. County is the only county in the metropolitan area to have term limits. Several other counties in Maryland have term limits, but the great majority do not arbitrarily limit the voters' choice. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. ■

required number of signatures, 10,000, was approved by the Board of Elections. In fact, almost 18,000 people signed the petition. It was a truly nonpartisan effort. Forty-two percent of the people who signed were registered Democrats; 39 percent, registered Republicans, and 18 percent, unaffiliated voters. That is the surest sign that term limits fill a need for the residents of the county.

At this point in our history as a Charter County, we

Resolution in Favor of Term Limits Supported by Executive Committee, cont.

have seen a politically diverse community gradually change to a homogenous one, where office holders are not, as originally envisioned, citizen representatives, but instead have become long-term professional office holders. As one example, we have had only two county executives in the past 20 years. Term limits would bring back the idea that office holders are privileged elected citizens who have taken a limited time from their lives and jobs to serve the residents of the county. Term limits would encourage people who otherwise may not consider running for office to step up and take a risk and run for office.

With the advent of the long-term professional office holder comes a special “in the bubble” group of people who have accumulated enormous campaign “war chests.” These “war chests” grow from year to year, allowing an unfair advantage to the incumbent. In addition, incumbents are able to give money to fellow professional office holders, something that new candidates cannot do. Again, here, term limits would limit the financial advantage that incumbents have.

Long-term incumbents also have the free county “bully pulpit,” name recognition, and an advantage with

the press.

Term limits are a successful tool in the toolkit for a truly democratic county. Term limits help to create a more level playing-field so that the tremendous advantages of long-term incumbency are somewhat slowed.

Some are saying that, with term limits, the institutional knowledge of these offices would be gone. That is in no way the case. As it is, as we all know, lobbyists and special interests hold tremendous sway in the county currently and, while those with special interests meet often with office holders to push their case on different issues from which they benefit, the average resident has two minutes to present public testimony. Term limits would assure that these special interests would not hold sway indefinitely, with growing ties to the same incumbents and increasing power over our system, creating a lop-sided government process.

Term limits would mean that new faces from across the county would be encouraged to step up and enter the political arena. Term limits would mean that new ideas and innovation could take hold in the County.

Proposed Resolution to Extend Deer Hunting Season, Reduce Archery Safety Zone

By Peggy Dennis, Past President

On February 13, 2012, by a vote of 19 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstention, our members approved the resolution “that the Montgomery County Civic Federation urges our county and state officials to expand funding and to work collaboratively towards liberalizing appropriate regulations to extend the hunting season for deer and facilitate controlled and safe hunting on both public and private lands.”

In June, the County Council unanimously voted to ask our state delegation to introduce four bills pertaining to deer hunting. My article in the [September newsletter](#) (p. 21) asked that the MCCF thank the County Council for their continued support on this issue and urge members of our state delegation to put

forward three of the four proposed bills in the 2017 session. Leadership felt that this was not specific enough, so I brought an Emergency Resolution to the September 12 meeting.

Arguments against the Resolution said that archery hunting in suburban areas is unsafe and does not effectively reduce the herd size.

Both of these assertions are untrue. Archery hunting is one of the safest sports in the U.S. and, when it comes to deer hunting, it is a sport that has a demonstrable public benefit. Neither Maryland nor Virginia, which allows archery hunting for deer in all neighborhoods, has any record of a

[MORE](#)

Resolution in Favor of Term Limits (Question B), cont.

At the close of the 1787 Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, a bypasser is reputed to have asked Benjamin Franklin, “Well Doctor, what have we got? A Republic, or a Monarchy?” Franklin’s reply: “A Republic, if you can keep it.” Let’s keep it.

Please support this resolution

and revitalize our county government.

Question C is related to the term limits question and proposes to define “partial service of a full term” to be service of more than two years of a term. In this case, I have no opinion on this Question. ■

Deer Hunting, cont.

bow and arrow hunter wounding any person or pet.

Maryland's DNR is seeking ways of expanding deer hunting into urban and suburban neighborhoods because it is safe and effective. Our own Parks Department has expanded its Managed Hunting and Sharpshooter programs (both use firearms) in our parks, with 38 parks and public spaces now benefitting from the reduction in herd size.

Moreover, the Parks Department's Pilot Archery Managed Deer Hunting Program during the past season was highly successful. In the Great Seneca and Watts Branch stream valley parks, 84 deer were harvested. There were no adverse interactions with the public.

The Emergency Resolution brought up at the September 12



meeting failed to pass by a hair. I am introducing the same Resolution as a Floor Resolution, which will be voted on at the October meeting:

Be it resolved that the Montgomery County Civic Federation thanks the County Council for their continued support for archery hunt-

ing to reduce the numbers of deer in suburban neighborhoods and asks our State Delegates and Senators to introduce legislation in the 2017 session to:

! Reduce the Archery Safety Zone for Deer Hunting from 100 yards from a house, church, or other building, or a camp occupied by human beings to 50 yards [local bill].

! Allow Sunday Deer Hunting on Private Land during the 130-day hunting season, not just on two Sundays [local bill].

! Extend the Hunting Season for One Month though February [state bill].

I ask that MCCF delegates from neighborhoods that have way too many deer (that's most neighborhoods in the "down county") attend the October meeting to vote on this Resolution. ■

Bicycles—The Coming Thing in Multimodal Transportation, Progress on New Plans

By Peggy Dennis, Transportation Committee Member

Maryland National Capital Park and Planning has a Transportation Planning Section which includes planning for bicycling, an important aspect of “multimodal” transportation. FMI, see [their web page for bicycle planning](#).

The [Functional Master Plan on Bicycling](#) was last updated in 2005. The Planning staff began working on updating this Master Plan in June, 2015. I serve as the Civic Federation’s representative on the Citizens’ Advisory Group for the rewrite, and we began meeting in February of this year. Months were spent working on the [“framework” for the new plan](#).

We are now getting into the nitty gritty. The staff and volunteers have carried out a survey of all bike racks



currently available in the county. The resulting draft [“Bicycle Parking Guidelines”](#) are online.

Later this autumn, we hope to begin work on recommendations for improvements to the bicycling infrastructure that will make all types of bicycling—commuting, errands, recreation, club cycling, and Safe Routes of Schools—safe, low stress, and enticing for bicyclists of all ages and experience levels. Of particular interest is the [Bicycle Stress Map](#), which shows the levels of traffic

stress that people who bicycle experience on each public road (excluding freeways) and trail in the County, to identify locations where investments are needed to reduce the level of traffic stress.

LOANER BIKES AT GREAT FALLS

If you haven’t been on a bike for years, or if you want to go biking with a few other people and skip the hassle of getting bikes onto bike carrier racks, come out to the C&O Canal National Historic Park at the Tavern at Great Falls. On weekends and federal holidays you can borrow a bike (all sizes and many styles) and helmet for two hours. This *free* program—run completely by volunteers—will continue until the weather no longer permits and the volunteers pack it in for the winter. ■

Minutes of the September 12th, 2016, Meeting #878, Held in Rockville

By Bailey Condrey, 2nd Vice President

Call to Order: President Jim Zepp called the 878th session to order at 7:52 p.m. Introductions followed.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Member Sue Schumacher announced a free shredding, electronics recycling, furniture and household goods collection for A Wider Circle will be held on October 8th, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. at the parking lot of 4315 50th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

■ Past President Paula Bienenfeld presented the Federation gavel to President Jim Zepp.

■ Public Discussion on [the Tran-](#)

[sient Lodging Bills—Bill 2-16 and ZTA 16-03](#)—is on September 19th at 7:00 p.m. with Planning Department.

Minutes: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 13th general meeting as they appeared in the Newsletter. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Jerry Garson reported a balance of over \$12,000.

COMMUNITY HERO

■ Award presented posthumously to Malcolm “Mike” Winffel, accepted by Mrs. Winffel, for bravery and selflessness. On May 6th of this year, Mike Winffel tried to protect a complete stranger at the Westfield Montgomery Mall as she was being carjacked. Mr. Winffel was shot in

the chest and died. Read the [Montgomery Sentinel coverage of the award presentation](#).

PROGRAM

The September program, the first of the season, featured a discussion of the proposed changes to the Sub-division Staging Policy (SSP). Formerly known as the Growth Policy, the intent of the SSP is to ensure public facilities—particularly school and transportation facilities—are adequate to meet the needs of new development and growth. Speakers included *Pamela Dunn*, Division Chief, and *Eric Graye*, Planning Supervisor, and *Jason Sartori* of the Montgomery County Planning Department.

If changes are to be made to the

Sept. Mtg. Minutes, cont.

current SSP, they must be adopted by the full Council by November 15th. The policy must be different now that most of the rural space within the County is already developed. The Planning Board draft was reviewed.

There are eleven recommendations for the school component including lowering school impact taxes but also tightening the capacity test. One is to change the school facility payment threshold trigger from 110 percent of capacity to 105 percent.

The process of placing a school in a moratorium was discussed. A moratorium would mean that a developer cannot construct new homes in a school cluster. All developments over three units pay a school impact tax unless in an exempt category, such as an enterprise zone, senior

housing, or MPDUs. Currently, an additional school facility payment is required if capacity is over 110% in the cluster and the MCPS proposed lowering the trigger for the facility payment to 105% and lowering the moratorium threshold from 120% to 110% of capacity.

School facility payment funds are historically tracked by the Finance Department. Developments in Enterprise Zones are exempt from impact tax collections, including Glenmont, Gaithersburg, Silver Spring CBD, Wheaton, Takoma, Langley. Portable classrooms don't figure into the head count.

No new land is being bought to actually expand the footprint of schools. Dedicated land means no impact tax refund or density somewhere else. No incentive for building new schools in areas with little land. What is the plan for those who

live in dense urban areas? Portion of school impact taxes goes into fund to purchase land. The land may be purchased anywhere. Montgomery County collected \$150 million in impact taxes over the last five years. The Planning Board recommends removing exemptions in former enterprise zones.

Are new school tests an improvement? No thorough analysis has been performed to date. Recommendations will be shared with the County Executive.

Where are we going to put the extra students without a plan for infrastructure? When the Bethesda Chevy Chase expansion is finished, it will be at 100 percent capacity. Councilmember Marc Elrich (D-At-Large) stated that we have the lowest birth rate in many years, so the projections are a slight overestimation

Sept. Mtg. Minutes, cont.

of what will happen in five years.

Transit recommendations were included in the SSP report. The Corridor Cities Transitway additional funding was removed from the State's CIP budget draft.

Also discussed by member representatives: transportation demand models, jobs reached within 60 minutes by transit, policy area tests, transit accessibility tests for policy area, and trip generation rates that are quite dated, with last one performed in 1989. Councilmember Elrich stated that the highway capacity manual can help determine better adequacy figures for transit. Retain critical lane volumes only as a screening tool. Adding lanes decreases walkability and bikability in urban areas. Require mode share splits to force cars off the road,

mode share splits would limit the number of cars at Metro stations; doing this versus setting standards will not solve our problems. The County Council appoints every member of the Planning Board, and all concerns will have to be delivered to the Council now that this has been handed to them. Much of the analysis is premised on a false assumption that Metro has extra capacity; the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority needs \$25 billion just to keep up and they are not getting it. How can they absorb more demand? Impact taxes must be updated using current Capital Improvement Program projects. The Planning Board voted to reduce commercial impact tax rates. If you provide less parking below the minimum, you can receive a credit on impact taxes. The Executive Branch comments have not been released.

Montgomery County Public Schools released their comments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education

■ Discussion of the Walter Johnson High School synthetic turf field. G-MAX levels are exceedingly high. G-MAX measures the amount of impact a field can absorb. The higher the rate, the more dangerous the field. G-MAX levels at Walter Johnson were over 190. OSHA identifies a G-MAX rating of 200 as "will cause death."

■ Discussion of Parks Department field management practices: they have a Geographic Information System that they own and maintain; it has taken them years to track all the properties that they own. Looking at the SoccerPlex for best method and circulating a questionnaire to gather feedback.

Sept. Mtg. Minutes, cont.

█ Governor Hogan issued an executive order for schools to start after Labor Day.

Planning and Land Use

█ Harriet Quinn, Member at Large, reported on the bills coming from the Council: the **Transient Lodging Bills, Bill 2-16 and ZTA 16-03**, that would relax zoning requirements for commercial short-term transient lodging in residential zones, and ZTA 16-05, to remove the requirement for public hearings when placing **cell phone towers in residential zones**.

Transportation

█ WMATA managed to make \$1 million by manipulating its accounting. Needs billions to make ends meet.

█ Safe Track program must continue; they want eight more hours every night to make big gains on the work that must be done.

RESOLUTIONS

█ Support of testimony for SSP hearing passed by emergency resolution as proposed by Harriet and amended.

█ Emergency resolution to increase the culling of deer in Montgomery County by Past President Peggy Dennis failed.

OLD BUSINESS

█ The summer meeting with state legislators went well. The October general meeting will focus on State legislative process and upcoming bills.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:51 p.m. █

Minutes of the September 22, 2016, MCCF Executive Committee Meeting

By Danila Sheveiko, Recording Secretary

The Executive Committee (Ex-Comm) convened at the Mid-County Community Recreation Center.

Call to Order: Jim Zepp, President, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. **Present:** Carole Ann Barth, Paula Bienenfeld, Jacquie Bokow, Peggy Dennis, Danila Sheveiko, and Louis Wilen.

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

Approval of Minutes for June

Sept. ExComm Mtg., cont.

ExComm Meeting: Jim called for and received approval of the minutes with one abstention.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ The Chinese American Parent Association of Montgomery County is holding a **Board of Education Candidates Forum** on Friday, October 7th, 7:00–9:30 p.m. at Herbert Hoover Middle School, 8810 Post Oak Rd, Potomac, MD 20854.

ISSUES DISCUSSED

■ Executive Committee meeting location has been set to the Mid-County Community Recreation Center (2004 Queensguard Rd, Silver Spring, Md.) until May 2017 and will alternate with conference calls.

■ Monthly Programs:

| October program will feature

Jennifer Bevan-Dangel, Executive Director, Common Cause Maryland, with an overview of the Maryland General Assembly legislative process and bills pre-filed for next year's session.

| The November program will feature a discussion on the state of the County's environment.

■ Awards Committee is preparing for the 2017 banquet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Utilities

■ Verizon is quietly retiring copper phone lines, leading to reliability concerns, emergency 911 service during power outages, and interoperability with medical alert devices, fax machines, and home alarms. Some Verizon customers in Montgomery County should expect their lines retired on or after September 15, 2017; visit www.verizon.com/fiberupgrade

for more information.

Planning and Land Use

■ Executive Committee voted to oppose, as currently written, **Zoning Text Amendment 16-09 Commercial-Residential Zones—Location Signs** that would allow a location sign (a wall sign at least 26 feet from the ground) in CR zones on each face of a building.

■ Executive Committee voted to oppose as currently written **Zoning Text Amendment 16-11 Rural and Residential Zones—Road Setbacks** (introduced as emergency legislation) that would reduce front yard setbacks for Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit optional method of development.

■ Executive Committee decided to get more information from MCCF members before taking a position

Sept. ExComm Mtg., cont.

on the **Westbard Sectional Map Amendment**.

█ Executive Committee voted to support residents asking to reduce the Floor Area Ratio to 1.5 along Grubb and Lyttonsville Roads in the proposed **Greater Lyttonsville Sector Plan**.

█ Subdivision Staging Policy and Development Impact Tax update—currently in Council worksessions scheduled for September 26th and 30th, October 10th and 17th. The new impact taxes would be slightly less than currently collected for schools and slightly more for transportation. As proposed, the SSP will not result in additional income for infrastructure projects for new development.

█ The Council's PHED Committee held off voting on **ZTA 16-05**, sponsored by Nancy Floreen to **eliminate**

public notice and hearings for placement of “small” cell phone towers, between 30–40 feet in height in residential zones in the right of way in front of people's houses. The ZTA would also reduce the setback from 60 to 30 feet from residential buildings. These separate poles could accommodate multiple antennas. Currently, public notice and a hearing are required and the proposed ZTA would allow these by right. A public meeting with residents is in the works for some time in October.

█ The MCCF Planning & Land Use Committee opposed the Executive hiring of outside counsel to “implement the White Oak General Development Agreement” Because the County has sufficient personnel to handle the sketch and subdivision plans. The attorney, Ms. Francoise Carrier, a registered lobbyist with the County, and former Chair of the

County Planning Board, worked on several matters for the government that are substantially related to the GDA she would be negotiating and serves on a board of an organization with , the general counsel for the company she would be negotiating with. This organization, which is a registered lobbyist, lobbies the County on matters directly related to the White Oak GDA.

Transportation

█ County staff and Bicycle Master Plan Advisory Group spent many months developing a **framework for the new Montgomery County Bicycle Master Plan**.

█ MDOT and MCDOT to hold public meeting on September 28th on **MD 586/Veirs Mill Road Bus Rapid Transit Study**, 6:30–8:30 p.m. in the Mont. County Executive Office Build-

Sept. ExComm Mtg., cont.

ing Cafeteria, T (Terrace) Level, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850.

■ U.S. 29 Colesville Road **South Corridor Advisory Committee** will hold a regular meeting on Monday, September 26th, 6:30–9:00 p.m. at the Silver Spring Civic Center, 1 Veterans Place, Silver Spring, Md.

■ A new coalition, **Fix I-270**, wants a better ride for I-270 commuters by advocating for dedicated rapid bus service in the high-occupancy lanes.

Public Safety

■ Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation is looking to hire more prison guards.

OLD BUSINESS

■ Executive Committee voted unanimously to support the term limits for the County Executive and

County Council members as proposed in Question B on the 2016 ballot – read the October newsletter for text of proposed resolution.

■ Discussion of the draft policy/procedures for MCCF communications was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

■ Discussion of the **Courtwatch Safe Families Initiative** was tabled.

■ Newsletter deadline and articles Monday, September 26th, at 6 p.m. to Jacquie Bokow at *civicfednews AT montgomerycivic.org*.

■ Date and location of next two ExComm meetings:

| October 20th—via teleconference.

| November—**Mid-County Community Recreation Center**.

Adjournment: Jim called for and received unanimous approval for adjournment at 9:00 p.m. ■

cfn

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Submit contributions for the next issue by the 26th of the current month. Send to CFN at *civicfednews AT montgomerycivic.org*.

Send all address corrections to membership AT montgomerycivic.org.

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