



Civic Federation News

September 2013

Serving the Public Interest since 1925

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Montgomery County Civic
Federation

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Recipients of the e-newsletter are encouraged to forward it widely

September Program: Implementing the Affordable Care Act in Maryland

By Paula Bienenfeld, First Vice President

Our September program will be a discussion of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), which was signed into law on March 23rd, 2010. The speaker will be Ms. Uma S. Ahluwalia, Director of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Ahluwalia holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Delhi in India and a specialist post-master's in health services administration from George Washington University

According to Wikipedia

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patient_Protection_and_Affordable_Care_Act), the ACA aims to increase the quality and affordability of health insurance, lower the uninsured rate by expanding public and private insurance coverage, and reduce the costs of health care for individuals and the government. It provides a number of mechanisms—including mandates, subsidies, and insurance exchanges—to increase coverage and affordability. The law also requires insurance companies to cover all applicants within new minimum standards and offer the same rates regardless of pre-existing conditions, or sex. As always, our program will allow for a lively dialogue and plenty of Q & As with the program presenter, so come and learn all the fine points of how this new system will be implemented in Maryland, and how it may affect you and yours.

September Community Hero: Intergenerational Bridges

By Carole Ann Barth

On Monday, September 9, we will honor as our Community Hero *Intergenerational Bridges*: a mentoring program for ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) students in elementary, middle, and high school. Many of the students are recent immigrants and the goals of the program are to help students adjust to life in the U.S., to develop students' English skills, and to boost students' self-esteem. Volunteers meet with the same student each week to spend time talking, reading, and playing games in English. Lesson plans, materials, and on-site supervision are provided by staff from the JCA Heyman Interages Center.

Over the last 25 years, Interages programs have brought together over 30,000 children and older adults in over 100 schools and 50 senior facilities. On Tuesday, September 10, 2013 adults age 50+ are invited to a volunteer open house to learn about opportunities in the 2013-2014 school year to make a difference in the life of a child. The open house will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Jewish Council for the Aging, 12320 Parklawn Drive, Rockville, MD 20852.

For helping enrich the lives of students and seniors alike, the Montgomery County Civic Federation recognizes the staff and volunteers of *Intergenerational Bridges* as this month's Community Hero.

Resolution in Support of Bill 2-13

By Peggy Dennis, Immediate Past President

The following Resolution in support of Bill 2-13 will be discussed and voted on at our meeting on September 9. The bill will be back before the T&E Committee on September 9, but a date for a final vote before the Council has not been set. To view this bill and related documents, go to:

http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/pdf/bill/2013/Packets/20130115_3B.pdf

Whereas County roads and streets are often resurfaced then torn up by utility crews doing necessary repair work, and

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Whereas greater advance notice of road reconstruction projects and better coordination between DOT and other county agencies and public utilities would minimize public expense and inconvenience,

Be it resolved that the Montgomery County Civic Federation supports Bill 2-13 and all future efforts to coordinate and rationalize repair work on our roads.

Resolution on 10 Mile Creek

By Alan Bowser, 2nd Vice President

Whereas, Ten Mile Creek in Clarksburg, Maryland is the cleanest tributary to Little Seneca Reservoir and a crucial part of the greater metropolitan Washington, DC region's drinking water supply; and

Whereas, the Montgomery County Planning Board and the Montgomery County Council are considering amendments to the 1994 Clarksburg Master Plan to significantly increase development in the protected Ten Mile Creek watershed that would degrade water quality and jeopardize the regional water supply; and

Whereas, proposed development in the Ten Mile Creek watershed would divert public resources and infrastructure away from the Clarksburg Town Center and could further delay the provision of important community amenities in the Clarksburg Town Center which were provided for in the 1994 Master Plan; and

Whereas, the Save Ten Mile Creek Coalition, comprised of such organizations as the Montgomery Countryside Alliance, Conservation Montgomery, the Sierra Club, the Audubon Naturalist Society, Upcounty Action, Clean Water Action, Coalition for Smarter Growth, and the Stormwater Partners Network, has been working to protect the Washington, DC region's water supply by ensuring smart development in upper Montgomery County;

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Montgomery County Civic Federation supports the Save Ten Mile Creek Coalition and its efforts to preserve and protect the Ten Mile Creek watershed, the regional water supply, and the natural environment in the surrounding area; and

Be it further resolved that that Montgomery County Civic Federation calls upon the Montgomery County Planning Board and the

Montgomery County Council to protect the Ten Mile Creek watershed by rejecting development proposals that would significantly increase impervious surfaces, increase pollution, and the degradation of Little Seneca Reservoir; and

Be it further resolved that the Montgomery County Civic Federation supports the Livable Clarksburg Coalition, the Save Ten Mile Creek Coalition and all other organizations that are committed to helping the residents of Clarksburg to obtain the amenities needed in Clarksburg Town Center and promised in the Clarksburg Master Plan.

President's Message: Making Real Change After the Campaign

By Carole Ann Barth

The campaign season has started. My inbox is full of invites to kick-off events, and every social gathering seems to have its coterie of earnest potential candidates. I don't have any campaign wisdom to impart, but I do have some suggestions on how to be an effective office-holder should you be elected.

Appropriate staffing is one key to effectiveness (or lack thereof). It seems to me that staffing styles can be illustrated by considering three staff archetypes, the "politico", the "activist", and the "wonk".

The politico is probably the most common staff archetype. Politicians have a tendency to hire other aspiring politicians as staff people. This apprentice-type relationship provides valuable experience for the aspiring politician, while giving the office-holder a loyal political partner. But it may not be the best approach to governing.

A staff person who views his/her job as a stepping stone has little incentive to fully engage the potential of that job to improve communities or serve constituents. Instead, they are more likely to see their role as "protecting" their boss from unwarranted contact with citizens. Unless the citizen input is politically significant (e.g. over 200 emails received on a topic), staff filters it out.

Contrast this with the activist, who relishes the opportunity to engage the public in order to make change. The activist will affirmatively seek ideas and information from citizens, and strive to understand different communities. The activist will then try to leverage what they've learned to inform policy and build long-term partnerships to push for change.

Lastly we have the wonk. Part researcher and part manager, the wonk is all about the deep knowledge of policy issues. Data-driven, the wonk considers the potential unintended consequences of proposed legislation, policies, or decisions. Put another way, the wonk analyzes program effectiveness rather than program popularity.

Too often, elected officials surround themselves with politicians only. While it's important to know which way the political winds are blowing, it doesn't tell you how to solve the problems we face as a society. For that, you need to understand the problems. You need a wonk who can give you objective information and an activist who can connect you with the citizens who are striving to address those same problems.

Membership Renewals

By Dan Wilhelm, Database Manager

As of August 24, the groups and individual members listed to the right have renewed their memberships for the 2013-2014 year which began on July 1. Thanks to the many who have renewed. This is our fastest renewal rate in our memory. We give a hearty welcome to our newest member, the Village of Drummond.

If you have not yet renewed, we encourage you to renew now. The renewal form is on page 11 and available on our web site. Note that the form and checks are to be mailed to me, Dan Wilhelm, and I will forward the checks on to our treasurer.

County Council Considers Zoning Code Rewrite and Transit Plan

by Harriet Quinn, Virginia Sheard & Jim Humphrey, Planning & Land Use Committee

Zoning Rewrite

In May 2013, the Planning Board delivered their Draft of the rewritten the Zoning Code to the County Council, intended to modernize antiquated, redundant zoning regulations, and create new tools to help achieve goals in community plans. This Draft is a rewrite of Chapter 59 of the County Code, which covers what is allowed in each zone, how one can build, and the process by which development is reviewed and approved.

On May 7, 2013, the County Council introduced the Draft Zoning Ordinance as ZTA 13-04, accompanied by a District Map Amendment that would apply the new zoning to properties throughout the county. The Council conducted a public hearing on June 11. During the Council hearing, representatives of the development

Renewed memberships	
Associations	
Allanwood-Gayfields-Willson Hills-Gaywood Estates Civic Assn	North Bethesda Neighborhoods
Battery Park Citizens Assn	North White Oak Civic Assn
Burnt Mills Hill Civic Assn	Northwood-Four Corners Civic Assn
Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights	Parkwood Residents Assn
Congressional Forest Community Assn	Regency Estates Citizens Assn
Coquelin Run Citizens Assn	Snowdens Mill Homeowners Assn
East Silver Spring Citizens Assn	South Four Corners Citizens Assn.
Fox Hills West Citizens Assn	Stonegate Citizens Assn
Garrett Park Estates-White Flint Park Citizens Assn	Strathmore-Bel Pre Civic Assn
Greater Colesville Citizens Assn	Town of Somerset
Greater Goshen Civic Assn	Village of Drummond
Greater Olney Civic Assn	West Bradley Citizens Assn
Kenwood Park Citizens Assn, Inc.	Westmoreland Citizens Assn
Manor Lake Civic Assn	Wildwood Manor Citizens Assn
Manor Oaks Neighborhood Assn	Wood Acres Citizens Assn
Maplewood Citizens Assn	Woodside Park Civic Assn
Norbeck Meadows Civic Assn	
Individuals	
Timothy French	Stan Schiff
Ben Petree	

industry supported streamlining the development process and reducing the number of uses that require special exceptions. Industry reps also supported loosening of building standards, creation of new floating zones, and less specificity in required findings for application approvals.

At this hearing, neighborhood representatives presented critical testimony on many aspects of the new Draft that

remove protections of the integrity of existing residential areas. They strongly supported maintaining existing protections of the current Code, and in some cases adding specific language to strengthen them.

Residential advocates also requested that master plans and sector plans be maintained as the road map for future development, to implement whatever final version of the Zoning Code the Council approves, rather than using a single District Map Amendment to apply new zoning to the entire county. Many pointed to flaws in the Planning Board's proposed "translation" methodology for converting all commercial properties to mixed use Commercial-Residential (CR) and Employment zones without benefit of a master plan review process. A Council statement in 2011 asserted that new zones would not be implemented unless recommended in a Master or Sector Plan, yet approval of the proposed District Map Amendment would violate that commitment.

Members of the public are strongly encouraged to review the County maps that show the current zoning and proposed new zoning for all properties in their communities, to determine the impact of the changes. They should also review the standards proposed for the new zoning used in their area. The maps and proposed code can be found at www.zoningmontgomery.org

The Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) Committee expedited their review of the Draft Zoning Code with eight work sessions held this June and July, while the Planning Department invested 4 years of effort in preparing the document. The final PHED work sessions are scheduled for September 13 (on the Administration and Procedures section of the Code), September 20 (any additional issues), and September 27 (wrap up), with all sessions beginning at 9:30 AM in the Council 7th Floor Hearing room. These sessions will also be broadcast on County Cable Montgomery. Once the PHED Committee has completed its work, the matter will be referred to the full Council.

Residents are encouraged to submit general or specific comments, suggestions, and criticisms on the contents of the Draft to the PHED Committee, prior to completion of its sessions in September.

Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan

The Council has scheduled public hearings, to be held September 24 and 26 at 7:30 p.m., on the Planning Board proposal to approve routes for a Countywide Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system.

They have also scheduled five Transportation and Environment Committee work sessions over two weeks,

to review and make changes as desired to the Planning Board Draft that was created over a two year work span. The work sessions will be held at 9:30 AM on: October 7, 11, 14, 18, and 21.

This proposed Functional Master Plan is a process whereby Council will insert recommendations for a BRT system into multiple area master plans by approving the single countywide Functional Plan. Because there was no Citizens Advisory Committee created for this Master Plan members of the public, especially MCCF delegates, are strongly encouraged to review the proposed plan, as well as the proposed minimum rights-of-way that are being recommended for each route segment.

Appendix 11, which is only available online, contains the typical route sections and preferred and constrained amounts of right of way for each. Communities in the lower part of the county, where roadways are currently between 65 and 80 feet wide, could be significantly affected by potential right-of-way impacts from creation of a BRT system.

The Draft Plan and corresponding Appendices may be found at montgomeryplanning.org/transportation/highways/brt.shtm

Mark Your Calendars for Delegation Events

By Dan Wilhelm, Legislation Chair

The Montgomery County Delegation's fall calendar is provided below. These events are leading up to the General Assembly session that begins in January 2014. You can always get the latest information at their website: www.montgomerycountydelegation.com

- Thursday, October 17. **Consolidated Transportation Program Presentation ("Road Show") by State Highway Administration.**
- Wednesday, November 20. **Joint House and Senate Priorities Hearing.** This hearing is an opportunity for the public to respond to the Road Show and to bring other issues of importance for the 2014 Session to the attention of the legislators.
- Monday, December 2. Hearing before MC House Delegation on **Local Bills** (those that apply only to Montgomery County).
- Wednesday, December 4. Hearing before MC House Delegation on **Bi-County Bills.** (Bi-County bills refer to legislation that requires the approval of the Montgomery County and the Prince George's County Delegations. It covers

WSSC and Maryland National Park and Planning Commission.)

All the above events begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held in the 3rd Floor Hearing Room, Stella Werner Council Office Bldg., 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

Hackathon Coming!

By Paula Bienenfeld, First Vice President

The Civic Fed is teaming up with the Sunlight Foundation and the Parents' Coalition of Montgomery County for our first annual "Hackathon," #hackMontgomery. The Taxpayers League may also be a partner, pending. The hackathon is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of October 26-27th, so stay tuned.

What is a hackathon?

A hackathon is a concerted effort to collect, or 'scrape' data available from, in our case, Montgomery County, and make the data available in an easy to use format.

Here are two examples we have come up with:

Bus Routes. Ever try to figure out how to get from point A to Point B using the Ride-on website? Unlike wmata.com, you can't just type in your location and your destination and get a route online. This project would take the route data and put it in a usable format so it would be easy for bus riders to get to where they want to go.

Filing a Maryland Public Information Act request. Every so often you need to file an MPIA at the county level to obtain data from a county agency. How is it done? What is the format? For many of us, it involves writing a letter from scratch and figuring out the appropriate official and their contact information. This project would create an application that would provide an electronic form to complete, and an easy-to-look-up contact with their contact information. In addition, the project would retain the MPIAs so we can all know if similar, or related, MPIAs have been filed.

Do you have an idea for a project for the hackathon? Let us know. We are on twitter, at #hackMontgomery, and there will be more information on the website, at www.montgomerycivic.org.

Upcoming Events

Silver Spring Jazz Festival - Saturday, September 7

The 2013 Silver Spring Jazz Festival is on Saturday, September 7, 4:30 to 10pm. The headliner is the renowned saxophone legend, Branford Marsalis! See more at

http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/rec/new_images/ss_jazzfest2013.pdf

County Executive's Hispanic Gala - Thursday, September 12. Tickets are now on sale!

The Executive's Hispanic Gala is a completely volunteer-run event. The Gala brings together stakeholders and organizations that are committed to assist Hispanic youth to achieve a high level of education while building strong, diverse and united communities in Montgomery County and throughout the State of Maryland. This year's Gala "Latino Dreamers" celebrates Maryland's Dream Act. Funds raised will be directed to scholarships for Latino students enrolled in Montgomery County and Maryland's higher education institutions. For more information, visit:

<http://www.montgomeryhispanicgala.org>

Update on State Transportation Projects

By Dan Wilhelm, Transportation Chair

Approximately 90% of the funding for transportation in Montgomery County comes from the state and federal government and the remainder from the County. During the 2013 General Assembly session, the state gasoline tax was increased for the first time since 1992. Since the gasoline tax had not been increased in over 20 years, the state had no funds to build new infrastructure and was hard pressed to maintain what had already been built. Many of us have noticed the deterioration of our roads. With the funding increase, the Governor has announced the following projects for Montgomery County:

- \$280 million to complete right-of-way acquisition and final design for the Purple Line. An additional \$400 million will be provided for construction of the \$2.2 billion Purple Line project with the remainder to be paid for with a combination of federal grants, state and local financial contributions, and private investment.
- \$100 million to complete right-of-way acquisition and final design for the Corridor Cities Transitway.
- \$85 million in operating assistance for the County's Ride-On Bus (FY 2014-2019).
- \$125 million to construct a new interchange along I-270 at Watkins Mill Road.
- \$25 million to build a relocated MD 97 around Brookeville.
- \$7 million in design funds to build two interchanges along U.S. 29, at Musgrove Road

and Fairland Road, to replace existing intersections.

- \$3 million in design funds to widen MD 124 from Mid-County Highway to south of Airpark Road.
- \$3 million in planning funds for the MD 28 / MD 198 Corridor Transportation Improvement Study.

The Governor announced that the State will deliver the Purple Line through a public-private partnership (P3) – the State’s first transit P3 project. The General Assembly over the last several years passed legislation concerning the use of P3 for state projects. The use of P3 to build and operate the Purple line will speed its construction and is expected to produce lower construction and operating costs for the state than would otherwise be the case than if it were operated by WMATA or the government.

Countywide Transit Corridor Functional Master Plan

The Planning Board held four lengthy work sessions in June and July on the Staff Draft Master Plan. After a number of modifications, the Planning Board draft was sent to the Council. The Council will hold hearings on September 24 and 26 beginning at 7:30 PM.

As with any Master Plan, approval by the Council doesn’t necessarily mean anything will be built. Rather, it just allows the implementation agencies to propose study/build actions and the council to consider and act on them. Thus, there will be many future opportunities to address specifics in the design effort and funding requests.

The following information was included in Chairman Carrier’s transmittal letter to the Council:

“This Plan provides enhanced opportunities for travel by transit to support Montgomery County’s economic development and mobility goals in an environmentally sustainable way, and in a way that preserves our existing communities. As a Functional Master Plan, it makes no changes to current planned land use or zoning, but recommends changes and additions to the transportation network that are needed to serve the County’s most densely developed areas, areas planned for redevelopment, and areas planned for new dense development. These recommendations include:

- Transit facilities along ten corridors to facilitate Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service that will move more people to and from jobs, homes, shopping, and entertainment areas in urbanizing parts of the County, while making more efficient use of our public rights-of-way and existing pavement.
- Pedestrian facilities that meet ADA Best Practices and provide safe and adequate accommodation

along and across the recommended transit corridors, ensuring that transit patrons can safely cross to and from transit stops and that the general public can safely cross these roadways at all intersections.

- Accommodating all master plan bikeways within the recommended rights-of-way and accommodating additional on-road bike facilities where possible.
- Designating more than two dozen Bicycle-Pedestrian Priority Areas around major transit stations, several of which are included in the County’s initial round of proposed bikeshare stations.
- A third track on the MARC Brunswick Line between the Frederick County line and the Metropolitan Grove station to reduce conflicts with freight service and enable the expansion of commuter service, as recommended by the Maryland Transit Administration’s Growth and Investment Plan.

BRT has the ability to greatly expand the people-moving capacity of a travel lane, either all day or during peak periods, and can be a highly effective way to decrease dependence on single-occupant vehicles and the resultant congestion on our roads. The Plan provides the flexibility to make modifications to the recommended type of transit treatment in specific corridors or segments, while achieving an overall network that is consistent with the minimum level of service that would be provided by the recommended transit corridor treatments in this Plan. Toward that end, an important implementation step after adoption of the Plan will be creating minimum performance standards to guide the detailed planning and engineering efforts to ensure that the proposed BRT network will be an attractive alternative to driving.”

There has been some concern raised about the right-of-way (ROW) proposed in the Master Plan for the BRT and its effect on existing neighborhoods. The Plan contains recommendations for the minimum ROW for different sections of each of the 10 corridors that are needed to support the typical lane configuration contained in Appendix 11. The Plan identifies the existing ROW in Appendix C. In 74 of the 97 segments, the proposed ROW is the same as the existing ROW. For the other 24 segments, the average increase is six feet. The idea behind the BRT is to avoid “major impacts on existing development, such as requiring the removal of buildings, slope impacts within ten feet of buildings, or eliminating

off-street parking for residential properties.” Such impacts would be cost prohibitive. The actual amount of land needed will not be determined until detailed studies are undertaken. Those studies can’t be undertaken until the Council approves the master plan and corridors and then approves funding for the studies. The earliest that could happen is next spring.

Information You Can Use

Effective Monday, July 1, there are some new numbers to call to [report animal emergencies and complaints](#).

Call 911 for **animal-related emergencies in progress**, such as an animal attack or a dog locked in a hot car.

Call 301-279-8000 for **animal-related complaints**, such as animal neglect, a bear in your back yard, non-stop barking or other nuisances.

Call 311 or 240-777-0311 to report a **dead deer or other roadkill** on or along the road, Monday through Friday, 7 am-7 p.m, or report it online at www.MC311.com.

Minutes of the June 10 Meeting

By Sue Schumacher, Secretary

Call to Order: President Carole Ann Barth called the meeting to order at 7:48. Introductions followed.

Agenda: The agenda was amended to include an emergency resolution on the Roadside Tree law.

Announcements: Paula Bienenfeld, announced that there will be a “hack-a-thon” to get students interested in IT development.

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

Program: Eileen Finnegan of the Land Use Committee introduced Jeff Zyontz, the County Council’s legislative attorney, for land use and development matters. Jeff was with us to discuss the implementation of the Zoning Rewrite. He began with the overview of the changes to the current zoning codes. He said there are new digital zoning maps that can be found at mcatlas.org. This site allows one to navigate by address or zoning. He explained that there will be many conversations on the commercial side if the council accepts the recommended changes. He brought up the subject of “Floating Zones” which Jeff described as a rezoning request. Special Exceptions would become a “limited use”. There were questions and answers throughout his presentation. Jeff did say that all of the

different non-floating zones changes will be applied at once when they are approved, no rolling out one or a few at a time. He said that when approved, the CR zones will be applied at once, and that in principle the density and heights for these zones will be the same as in the current master plans. It was pointed out from the audience that the time limits set up for reviews of these zones by the areas involved are too short and it was pointed out that adopting it all at once will have unintended consequences. Two other items Jeff pointed out were that parking space requirements are being reduced and the easiest zone change will be the agricultural zone, because it’s only one zone.

Resolutions:

Bylaws Amendment on Executive Committee quorum, as it appeared on page 3 of June newsletter. The proposed amendment was adopted, vote was 18 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention.

County Ethics Law as it appeared on pages 3 and 4 of the June newsletter. The vote was 18 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. The resolution as adopted now reads:

Be it resolved that the Civic Federation call on the County Council to write and pass an amendment to the current Ethics Law adding a new provision under the “Other Regulated Conduct” section requiring all elective and appointed officials to be honest and truthful in carrying out their official duties.

Resolution in Support of Bill 41-12: Peggy Dennis introduced emergency resolution supporting Bill 41-12 addressing the Roadside Tree law:

Whereas, current State regulations implementing the Maryland Roadside Tree Law do not adequately address the protection and conservation of roadside trees and State enforcement of the Maryland Roadside Tree Law has been dilatory and inadequate; and

Whereas, State Department of Natural Resources has consistently refused to cede rights of enforcement to Montgomery County Department of Transportation and/or the Department of Permitting Services, and

Whereas, additional and more stringent regulations for the protection of roadside trees are needed, particularly with regard to protections for the trees’ critical root zones, and

Whereas, Montgomery County is authorized by revisions to the Maryland State Roadside Tree Law (2009) to pass roadside tree legislation that is more stringent than that of the State; and

Whereas, failure to implement street tree regulations constitutes passive approval of the State's laissez-faire policy with regard to removal or damage of street trees and thus contributes to the decline and eventual death of street trees with subsequent increases in air, noise, and water pollution, especially in urbanizing areas, and

Whereas, Montgomery County can serve as a model to the entire State of Maryland for designing, re-planting, and maintaining tree-lined streets, i.e., a sustainable roadside tree canopy, supported by environmentally responsible regulations that are fair to business and home owners alike, but only if the County insists that builders and property owners abide by roadside tree law and regulations that protect the canopy.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Montgomery County Civic Federation urges the Transportation and Environment Committee to vote Bill 41-12 out of committee on June 24; that shortly thereafter the County Council pass Bill 41-12; and that the Executive branch then develop regulations to implement more stringent tree protections and flexible options for tree replacement, while concurrently establishing a roadside tree fund for purposes of planting roadside trees with a goal of replenishing and sustaining our county's tree canopy.

The vote was 18 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. The resolution was adopted.

Nominating Committee: Jim Zepp, Election Committee Chair, read the slate as it appeared in both the May and June newsletters. It was moved and seconded to accept that slate. The vote was 15 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention. The slate was elected.

Committee Reports

Education: Paula Bienenfeld, Committee Chair announced that Friday, June 14 was the last day of school.

Public Safety: Jim Zepp said that late night community night life can impact surrounding communities.

Parks and Recreation: Carole Ann Barth, Chair reported on the legal definition of impervious/pervious surfaces and, as it is interpreted, a gravel parking lot equals a grove of trees.

Land Use: Virginia Sheard of the committee urged everyone to review the draft zoning rewrite plans for their communities.

A member of the audience congratulated Carole Ann Barth on a great job as President this year.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:45p.

Minutes of the June 25 Executive Committee Meeting

By Co-Recording Secretary, Sandy Vogelgesang

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

Call to Order. President Carole Ann Barth called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM. Present: Carole Ann Barth, Paula Bienenfeld, Alan Bowser, Jesse Cantrill, Peggy Dennis, Jerry Garson, Jim Humphrey, Harriet Quinn, Virginia Sheard, Sandy Vogelgesang, and Jim Zepp.

Adoption of the Agenda. Carole Ann called for approval of the proposed ExComm agenda. The agenda as amended (noting reminder to fill open committee assignments and to write articles for the *Sentinel*) was approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of May 22 Excomm Meeting. Carole Ann called for and received approval of the minutes as published in the June 2013 newsletter.

Treasurer's Report. Jerry Garson requested and received ExComm approval for signature authorization for himself as treasurer and Carole Ann Barth (president) on the Federation's account with the M. & T. Bank.

Announcements. Carole Ann called for announcements. Paula Bienenfeld noted that Gwen Wright, recently named director of planning for Montgomery County, will hold a listening tour. Paula also noted that the U.S. Department of Education will kick off the Summer Series of "Let's Read, Let's Move" with celebrity guests on July 10.

Programs. Carole Ann introduced discussion of future programs. Peggy Dennis emphasized the value of planning ahead at least two months for programs.

- **September:** Implications of Affordable Care Act – with Special Emphasis on Maryland Health Insurance Exchanges. Paula Bienenfeld will organize the program.
- **October:** Innovations in Energy Conservation. Carole Ann Barth will organize a panel presentation, including government, academic and private sector experts.

Community Hero. Carole Ann said that she will write up a proposal for one nomination for this autumn. In the meantime, Paula Bienenfeld nominated Louis Wilen to receive the October 2013 Community Hero Award for his work on MCPS audits. ExComm approved that nomination.

Issues for Discussion. Carole Ann led discussion of the following:

- **Committee Chairs.** There are nine standing committees for the Federation. Carole Ann reported that we are seeking chairs and members for three committees: public utilities, public finance and the environment.
- **County Trail Plan.** Sandy Vogelgesang asked about the recently completed report of the Trails Working Group on a County-wide Trail Plan. The Group is in the process of holding public meetings on the Plan before taking it to the full Planning Commission. Carole Ann agreed to check on the scope of proposed changes and time-line for County action.

Committee Reports.

Planning and Land Use: Jim Humphrey, Chair, reported on improvements made by the County Council PHED Committee to the residential zones in the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite: stricter conditions on animal husbandry; a requirement that "general buildings" retain the character of the neighborhood; and a time limit for seasonal sales permits. He will communicate to PHED members the PLU committee's concern about not allowing new C/R, employment and industrial floating zones to be applied to residential properties. Virginia Sheard reported on her work with two groups. One is the ad hoc group dealing with problems with the large 80-inch water mains used by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC). Those mains have been prone to failure without warning. The other ad hoc working group has been convened by the Department of Permitting Services to oversee implementation of recommendations to streamline the County's development process. Virginia will keep ExComm apprised of recommendations from both groups.

Education. Paula Bienenfeld, Chair, reported on charges made by parents of students at Rock Terrace School in Rockville about alleged misappropriation of money which students had earned in work-study programs. MCPS is reportedly undertaking an internal review of the matter. Paula also reported that Joan Fidler, president of the Montgomery County Taxpayers League, is interested in cooperating with MCCF on a program next year regarding the MCPS budget.

Parks and Recreation. Carole Ann Barth, Chair, reported on the latest developments at North Four Corners Park including her submission of public information requests and a request for reconsideration. She noted a particular concern about apparent violations of the Forest Conservation Law.

Public Safety. Jim Zepp, Chair, noted the work underway on the County's newly established "Nighttime Economy Task Force."

Old Business:

July 12, 2013 Potluck Dinner Meeting. This annual event for current, past and prospective MCCF members will be held at the home of Peggy Dennis.

Adjournment: Carole Ann called for and received unanimous approval for adjournment at 10:00 PM.

Minutes of the August 21 Executive Committee Meeting

By Co-Recording Secretary, Sandy Vogelgesang

The Executive Committee (ExComm) met at the home of Dan Wilhelm.

Call to Order. President Carole Ann Barth called the meeting to order at 7:55 PM. Peggy Dennis told us of the passing of former MCCF Treasurer, William Schrader, on August 19. Present for the meeting: Carole Ann Barth, Alan Bowser, Peggy Dennis, Harriet Quinn, Sue Schumacher, Virginia Sheard, Sandy Vogelgesang, Dan Wilhelm, and Jim Zepp.

Adoption of Agenda. Carole Ann called for and received unanimous approval of the proposed agenda.

Approval of Minutes of June 25, ExComm Meeting. ExComm agreed to table approval of draft minutes, pending publication in the September newsletter.

Membership Report. Dan Wilhelm provided a written report of membership dues paid for the new fiscal year. He noted that the number of payments (30) is considerably ahead of the payments made at this time in previous years.

Announcements. President Carole Ann Barth called for announcements. Members noted a range of events -- from local theater and Countryside Alliance Bike Ride, to "Park after Dark" event supporting the C and O Canal National Park -- and agreed to send material to Peggy Dennis for inclusion in the next newsletter. Alan Bowser mentioned upcoming rally on September 10 at Park and Planning on behalf of the Save Ten Mile Creek Coalition and agreed to have a resolution ready for Civic Fed consideration at the meeting on Sept. 9.

Programs. Carole Ann introduced discussion of future programs.

- **September:** Implications of Affordable Care Act -- with Special Emphasis on Maryland Health Insurance Exchanges. Paula Bienenfeld is organizing the program.
- **October:** Wealth versus Well-Being -- Maryland's General Progress Indicator Program to measure, not just economic progress but also social well-being and environmental sustainability. Carole Ann will organize this program which will address both

what is being done state-wide and how this program might be used in Montgomery County.

- **November:** Panel Discussion on Zoning Code Rewrite. ExComm agreed that Civic Fed will use this program to present status and next steps. The program is to facilitate community feedback on the current draft, identify priorities, and recommend options before the County Council takes final action.

Community Hero. Carole Ann proposed “Interages” for Community Hero recognition at the September meeting. We will recognize their Intergenerational Bridges mentoring program for ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) in elementary, middle and high school. ExComm approved the nomination unanimously.

Issues for Discussion. Carole Ann led discussion of the following:

- Amending Ethics Law. Peggy Dennis agreed to draft a letter to the County Council for Carole Ann’s signature. The letter will recommend an amendment to the current County ethics law.
- County support of festivals and social events. Virginia Sheard and Alan Bowser agreed to prepare a letter for Carole Ann’s signature. The letter will seek clarification of procedures for County funding policy and procedures.

Committee Reports.

Transportation: Dan Wilhelm, Chair, reported on upcoming hearings for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), Sept. 24 and 26, and work sessions in October. He also noted the Governor’s appointment of members to a study that will address next steps in funding transportation. He indicated that he will check further on plans for Public Private Partnership (PPP).

Parks and Recreation: Carole Ann Barth, Chair, reported on use by Prince George’s County of mobile recreation centers. ExComm agreed with her recommendation to explore possible use in Montgomery County. Several Board members will send her information on related programs, including the one used by Boy Scouts for summer camps. Peggy also noted plans for the 2014 session of the Maryland General Assembly to re-introduce the local bill on deer management and bills addressing concerns about artificial turf.

Planning and Land Use: Main focus remains Zoning Code Rewrite (see above and separate article in the newsletter).

Public Safety. Jim Zepp, Chair, noted some ongoing issues.

Old Business:

- **Costco Gas Station and WSSC Pipe Setbacks.** Virginia Sheard presented an update on hearings planned for the Costco gas station and provided a

status report of discussions about how to set priorities for replacement of WSSC’s old, large diameter pipes. Virginia observed that issues involved in WSSC review also reflect comparable issues of lack of coordination for work done by various County agencies on the same site.

New Business

- Newsletter assignments were made.
- Future ExComm meetings: We decided to hold ExComm meetings on the third Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be on Sept. 19 (location TBD) and the Oct. 17 meeting will be held at the home of Sandy Vogelgesang.

Adjournment: Carole Ann called for and received unanimous approval for adjournment at 10:00 PM.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Serving the County since 1925

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014

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
301-704-0757; 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		\$25*	1	Yes
	51 to 300		\$45*	2	
	301 to 600		\$65*	3	
	601+		\$85*	4	
Umbrella Association (Two or more local associations. Cannot be single local issue group.)	60 to 500		\$45*	2	Yes
	501 to 1000		\$65*	3	
	1001+		\$85*	4	
Regional or County-Wide Organization (environmental, transportation, or other civic/community).	50+ memberships, not households		\$45*	2	Yes
Individual Associate	(not applicable)		\$20*	1	No
Associate Group (Gov't agency, business, or other organization)	(not applicable)		\$85*	2	No

***A \$5 discount may be taken for each delegate who elects to receive the newsletter via email.** Organizations can also select less than the allowed number of delegates and pay according to that number. Please provide all the information below no matter the newsletter delivery method.

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"/>	
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4.	Name		Phone (H)	
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	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"/>	

Federation Meeting

Session 848

Monday, September 9, 2013
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
- 7:53 Approval of Minutes of June 10 meeting
- 7:54 Treasurer's Report
- 8:00 Community Hero: Intergenerational Bridges
- 8:10 Program: Implementing the ACA in Maryland
- 9:15 Vote on Resolution on Bill 13-2 Roads
- 9:20 Vote on Resolution on Ten Mile Creek
- 9:25 Committee Reports
- 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. 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, September 22**. Prepare submission as an MS Word, Word Perfect or text document, **attach** it to an e-mail, and send to **mccfnewsletter@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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

7:45 P.M.

**WEST MONTGOMERY COUNTY REGIONAL SERVICES
CENTER, 2ND FLOOR**

4805 EDMOOR LANE, BETHESDA



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

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