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of note

Next MCCF Meeting

Monday, April 8, 2019, 7:45 p.m. @ the Executive Office Building in Rockville. "The Montgomery County Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget"

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Meeting Minutes

March 11 Meeting #902 **P. 17**
March 21 ExCom Meeting **P. 19**

Membership Application

Join or Renew Now **SEE FORM**

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TO PRINT, USE PRINT VERSION

Federation Meeting #903

Monday, April 8, 2019

7:45 p.m.

Lobby Level Auditorium

Executive Office Building

101 Monroe Street

Rockville, Maryland

AGENDA

7:00 Social Time for Members
7:45 Call to Order/Introductions
7:50 Approval of Agenda
7:51 Announcements
7:55 Approval of Minutes,
March 11th Meeting **P.17**
7:56 Treasurer's Report
8:00 Program: County FY2020
Operating Budget **P.3**
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.

The April meeting will be held in the **Lobby Level Auditorium of the Executive Office Building at 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, Maryland.**

Walkers can enter by buzzing security at the door. You can park for free either in the lot at East Jefferson and Monroe Streets or 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. ■

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

April Program: The Montgomery County Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget

By Jerry Garson, Treasurer

Our guest speakers will be Rich Madaleno, Director of the Office Management and Budget, and Executive Director of the County Council, Marlene Michaelson.

OPERATING BUDGET BY THE NUMBERS

The 2020 recommended operating budget is \$5.7 billion. The County has 36,266 Full-Time Equivalents.

The Operating Budget and Public Services Program (PSP) covers the costs of running our County. It pays for the transportation worker who fixes a pothole, powers the lights at your local library, provides health and human services and much, much more. Funds are set aside to operate each County department and agency. This also includes the Debt

Service, the County's annual loan payment for long-term Capital Projects for which the County borrows

money.

The major appropriations proposed are as follows:

Service Area	Appropriation	Percent	Employees
Mont. Co. Public Schools	\$2,647,500,000	46.3%	22,867
Public Safety	619,400,000	10.8%	4,042
Other Co. Government Functions	442,800,000	7.7%	465
Debt Service	442,800,000	7.7%	0
Health and Human Services	323,600,000	5.7%	1,682
Mont. College	310,400,000	5.4%	1,910
Transportation	225,100,000	3.9%	1,238
General Gov't./Other Functions	204,600,000	3.6%	1,495
M-NCPPC	155,500,000	2.7%	1,102
Environment	149,200,000	2.6%	216
Community Development/Housing	107,000,000	1.9%	349
Libraries/Culture/Recreation	98,600,000	1.7%	897

We do have to question the Mass Transit budget which shows Expenditures of \$138,872,591, which includes Salaries and Wages

of \$60,438,322 and benefits of \$21,194,306 or \$93,723 per the 871 employees, while the revenue for

MORE

April Program, cont.

Mass Transit is \$205,626,694 compared with last year of \$166,857,158. This includes \$138,627,663 of Property Taxes.

A careful analysis of the budget will show other supervising items.

The *Bethesda Beat* has reported that:

Several pay and benefits recommendations in County Executive Marc Elrich's budget proposal are being criticized by County Council members who worry that raises for county employees, combined with putting off a payment for a retirees health-benefit trust fund, aren't the most fiscally responsible course.

Under a \$5.7 billion budget plan released earlier this month and being scrutinized by the Council, some union workers could get raises of close to 10%, in part because they

agreed to forego increases several years ago in a limping economy and were promised the increases when conditions improved.

In addition, the Elrich budget would not put money next year into the County's retirement health benefits trust fund, established in 2011 to provide health care, prescription, and life insurance coverage to employees, retirees and their dependents.

Altogether, more than \$28 million is budgeted to cover county employee salary increases in fiscal 2020, which begins July 1, and another \$39 million would be needed annually in future fiscal years.

Elrich has justified his budget recommendations by referring to projections that State tax revenues could be down \$80 million a year for the next two budget years. Elrich said a priority is to shore up a reserve fund, which functions as a

"rainy day fund" and also helps the county maintain a high bond rating with credit rating agencies in New York.

Councilmember Andrew Friedman, who previously worked in the State Comptroller's office, said the County must heed warnings from the Comptroller of a possible recession. This, he said, requires increasing the retirement fund, in addition to boosting the reserve fund and bringing down debt.

Gino Renne, the president of the county's largest union, MCGEO, said the wage increases cover 11,000 County employees between three unions. The money included in a category known as "deferred service increments" is deserved because it makes up ground lost during the last recession, he said.

"It's money they'll never recoup.

MORE

April Program, cont.

And it's money that was lost in their Social Security going forward, and it's also lost in the County retirement benefits for a lifetime.... All we're trying to do is catch up," he said.

When asked about the criticism that the money funding the union contracts was taken from the retirement trust fund, Renne said he wasn't worried because the goal of fully funding it would not be achieved "any time in the near future."

Renne said fewer than 2,000 members are likely eligible for the 9% raises because many employees are already at the top of their pay grade. ■

Call for Nominations and Volunteers for Awards Event

Do you know someone who has made great contributions to Montgomery County and who you would like to see recognized with one of the annual MCCF Awards? If so, be sure to send your nomination to the Awards Committee this month! The Awards Event will be held in June (more details to follow) and the Committee will be reviewing the nominations in May.

Also, if you'd like to help the Awards Selection Committee, let us know. The work of the Awards Selection Committee includes accepting nominations for award recipients, evaluating those nominations, and making final recommendations on the awardees. The work should be of short duration and may be done largely by phone. If you would like to help with the event and/or

the committee, please let us know by sending an email to mcciviefed@gmail.com.

LIST OF AWARDS

■ **The Wayne Goldstein Award** is awarded to an individual or group for outstanding service to the people of Montgomery County.

■ **The Sentinel Award** is sponsored by the *Montgomery Sentinel* newspaper and awarded to an individual or group for a significant contribution to "good government" at the local level.

■ **The Star Cup** is awarded to a Delegate or Committee of the Federation for outstanding public service on behalf of Montgomery County.

We look forward to hearing from you! ■

Massachusetts and Maryland Commuter Rail Plans Headed in Opposite Directions

By Tim Willard, Environmental Committee Chair

When it comes to electrifying and modernizing their commuter rail systems, Massachusetts and Maryland are headed in opposite directions. Massachusetts transportation officials have approved a long-term plan for its commuter rail service to replace diesel engines with electric engines. Initially, this can only be done on the line shared with Amtrak that has the needed power systems, but the plan also calls for making all other lines electric as well.

In contrast, Maryland has replaced nearly half of its electric engines with diesel engines on the Penn Line, the one line that can support electric engines. MARC now only has six electric engines in



service and they date back to 1998.

The Massachusetts advocacy group TransitMatters has long advocated for a regional rail system that is more flexible, more efficient, and cleaner. Massachusetts' plan would replace the current diesel-fueled system over the next 10 years with one that uses electric-powered trains.

New electric trains would accelerate, decelerate, and travel more quickly than their diesel counterparts, cutting commuting time by as much as 40%. This would allow trains to arrive at suburban stations every 30 minutes at most and every 15 minutes in denser communities. The plan would cost \$2 to \$3 billion, but advocates say it would pay for itself over time, as electric trains are less expensive to run and maintain than diesel ones.

The Massachusetts plan represent a win/win situation. Maryland transportation authorities should take a close look at it. Montgomery County is badly in need of more efficient transit systems and increased service. Improving regional rail should be an important part of any transit program. ■

In Search of a New Police Chief for Montgomery County This Year

By Alan Bowser, 1st Vice President

After 15 years on the job in Montgomery County and a law enforcement career that has spanned more than 40 years, Montgomery County Police Chief Tom Manger has announced his retirement. Now begins the process for Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich to find and appoint a new Chief of Police.

There has been no lack of advice from elected officials and community activists about the nature of the search process and what kind of individual the County Executive should nominate for Chief. There seems to be a consensus that a search must incorporate the broadest possible community input and that the nominee should support innovative and effective community policing strategies.



County Executive Elrich has said that he is open to promoting someone already in the Montgomery County Police Department, but he will also conduct a national search for a possible successor to identify the best candidates from across the country. He has asked Chief Manger for his help in selecting a new chief.

Chief Manger has suggested two local candidates for the job—Assistant Chiefs Marcus Jones and Laura Lanham, but agrees that a national search is important.

Montgomery County Council President Nancy Navarro, along with many community groups, has advocated for a broad community engagement process into the decision. She has expressed

MORE

ISO New Police Chief, cont.

the view that, beyond finding “the most qualified police chief,” that the County needs someone “who understands what Montgomery County is all about, and who we are as a community.” She has said that the new Chief should have a strong track record in community policing.

In a recent letter to the Executive, the Montgomery County Council said, “We want to encourage the kind of transparency and community input that will help build bridges and create the relationships needed to move us forward together.”

At-Large County Councilmember Will Jawando says he would like the priorities of the next chief to be implementing community policing, engagement, and transparency in any police-involved deaths or injuries. “Seventy percent of

the arrests in 2018 were people of color, over fifty-five percent were African American. If we look at the deaths of Robert White and others in our community at the hands of police, it’s important that this position we have a clear sense of what the priorities are for this chief.”

The search for a new Montgomery County Police Chief will get enhanced scrutiny by all community stakeholders following the fatal shooting of an unarmed African American Silver Spring resident in June 2018. Robert White was fatally shot during a June 11, 2018, encounter with Montgomery County Police Officer Anand Badgujar near Sligo Creek Park. White had been walking through the Three Oaks Drive neighborhood, about a mile from his home, when Badgujar began investigating him as a suspicious person. The interaction

between White and Badgujar escalated and White was fatally shot.

Montgomery County Police, pursuant to an inter-County agreement, requested that Howard County prosecutors investigate the police-involved shooting. Howard County concluded that no charges should be filed against the Montgomery County Police officer. That conclusion has resulted in demands from community activists and many elected officials that the investigatory process be changed. After his election, Councilmember Jawando introduced legislation—The Law Enforcement Trust and Transparency Act, now supported by all members of the County Council—which would require an outside agency to investigate officer-involved fatal shootings, which would then be followed up by a public report if no charges are filed. ■

New Council Members Alborno, Jawando Speak at MCTL March Monthly Meeting

By Ed Amatetti, Montgomery County Taxpayers League

On March 20, 2019, the Montgomery County Taxpayers League's monthly meeting welcomed two of the newest members of the County Council, Gabe Alborno (HHS and Public Safety Committees) and Will Jawando (Education and Planning/Housing/Economic Development Committees), for their thoughts about how they plan to govern. This follows MCTL's February meeting with Andrew Friedson and Evan Glass, our other new Council members.

Will Jawando comes to the Council with a law degree from Catholic University, a history of local civic involvement, and experience in government service at the national level, including within President

Obama's Dept. of Education. Gabe Alborno is the former Director of Montgomery County's Department of Recreation and has served on 37 boards, many for local civics organizations and citizens commissions.

A myriad of topics were discussed and many questions from attendees were answered. The following is just a synopsis.

Early discussions revolved around the **recent embezzlement of \$7 million** by the former CEO of Department of Economic Development. MCTL has been advocating for expanding the contract provisions of the county's external auditors to include rendering an opinion on the county's internal controls. Instead, in March, the new Council voted unanimously against such a contract expansion, a vote ques-

tioned by many of the attendees, especially in light of this fraud.

Economic development was next on the block, which first focused on the county's two and a half year old Economic Development Corp. EDC's performance to date received tepid reviews by the two invited Council members as well as attendees, particularly as compared to its counterpart in Fairfax County.

Discussions then moved to MC's decade-long underperformance in creating jobs or growing the tax base. There was talk about incubators and the need for region-wide development. But, there was little admission that many of Montgomery County's policies make it an undesirable place to do business. The issues of regulations and mandates on busi-

MORE

CC Members @MCTL, cont.

ness, and the need to streamline the permitting process were raised by attendees. While Mr. Jawando didn't feel our business taxes were out of line and mentioned D.C.'s recent imposition of a new tax on developers, he also expressed support for a line-by-line audit and benchmarking of business fees, regulations, mandates, and permitting.

Education followed, mostly centered on two areas: (1) efforts at closing the achievement gap ("AGap"), and (2) taking initial steps toward universal pre-K. It was agreed that efforts on the AGap has yielded little progress for decades and that MCPS has not been measuring performance outcomes on its many ongoing programs. School Superintendent Smith's Equity Accountability Local School

Report Card program, which will be launched on April 5, 2019, was suggested as a hopeful strategy.

Pre-K expansion was supported by both Council members as a way to lower the AGap. However, several attendees questioned the effectiveness of Pre-K without establishing academic performance measures to assure that regression doesn't occur by third grade, as studies of Head Start show. Both Council members support creation of an IG for MCPS.

The idea of using alternative education programs, such as charter schools and P-TECHs ("Pathways in Technology Early College High Schools"), was raised as a possible way to leverage the efforts of traditional schools and inject innovation and competition, but this was rejected as a strategic component by both new Council members. ■

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT?

Need to share a community concern?

Want to know how to do something for your own civic association?

Would like to meet your fellow civic activists?

Come early to the April 8th meeting. From 7:00 to 7:45 p.m., members of the MCCF Executive Committee will be available to talk in the EOB Auditorium. Light refreshments will keep you from going hungry. Be social, be a part of the civic movement, and be here.

When Farmland is Compromised, Price Spikes and Food Shortages May Follow

By Bailey Condrey, President

Scientists have begun to understand that arctic amplification and bomb cyclones are related. Arctic amplification will be explained shortly. When you remove the protective blanket of snow and ice from the north pole of planet Earth, it creates destabilization in the jet stream, that river of air that circles the globe in the tropopause, the boundary in the Earth's atmosphere between the troposphere and the stratosphere. The deep latitudinal dives that it has begun to take more regularly into North America can wreak havoc on our weather, especially during the winter months. The winter just ended and 2019's spring down provide stark evidence of what this destabilization can bring.



Nebraska State Patrol Twitter Page

This winter, the Midwestern United States was thrown into a deep freeze, rivers locked up tightly in ice, and the land blanketed with deep snow by repeated bomb cyclones made possible by a destabilized jet stream. The last bomb cyclone arrived late in the

season. To be clear, the Midwest is no stranger to blizzards and sub-zero temperatures. However, these winter patterns typically give way to the regular progression of seasonal warming, but this spring a perfect storm of atypical factors collided with the atypical results already on the ground.

The spring equinox found 89 cities, 77 counties, and four tribal areas in Nebraska under states of emergency, the declarations covering more than 80 percent of the state, according to *The Omaha World-Herald*. Nebraska, Wisconsin, and South Dakota also declared flood emergencies and Iowa issued a disaster proclamation. Nebraska, Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Missouri all suffered

MORE

Farmland, cont.

substantial flooding from a perfect storm of natural events that were made more extreme by climate change.

Forbes Science interviewed a panel of experts to explain how the tragedy evolved and why we heard so little from the media.

In the aftermath of another natural disaster the people of the

region must assess what it means for their lives and livelihoods. It is not good news. It could not have come at a worse time for this farming region and it bodes ill for the greater economy of the United States and the nation's food supply. Interviews and coverage compiled by *The New York Times* reveal that **"It's Probably Over for Us': Record Flooding Pummels Midwest When Farmers Can Least Afford It."**

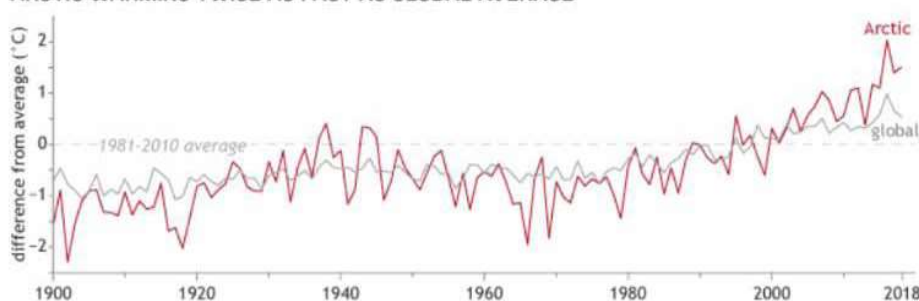
The story will continue as the floodwaters converge and spread the length of the Mississippi River valley and eventually further broaden the dead zone taking up permanent residence in the Gulf of Mexico.

What we all need to understand is that climate change is warming the Arctic twice as fast as the rest of the globe.

The graph at left shows that, since 2000, Arctic temperatures (shown in red) have been higher than overall global temperature anomalies (gray). In 2018, the Arctic was shown to be warming at an alarming rate, twice as fast as the average global temperature. Yes, there is news of **glacial growth in Greenland's Jakobshavn Glacier**, but scientists feel the growth is temporary brought on by cooler seawater circulating at the glacier's

MORE

ARCTIC WARMING TWICE AS FAST AS GLOBAL AVERAGE



NOAA Climate.gov

Farmland, cont.

Definitions of Flood Levels for Rivers from the National Weather Service

MAJOR FLOODING

Extensive inundation of structures and roads. Significant evacuations of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations.

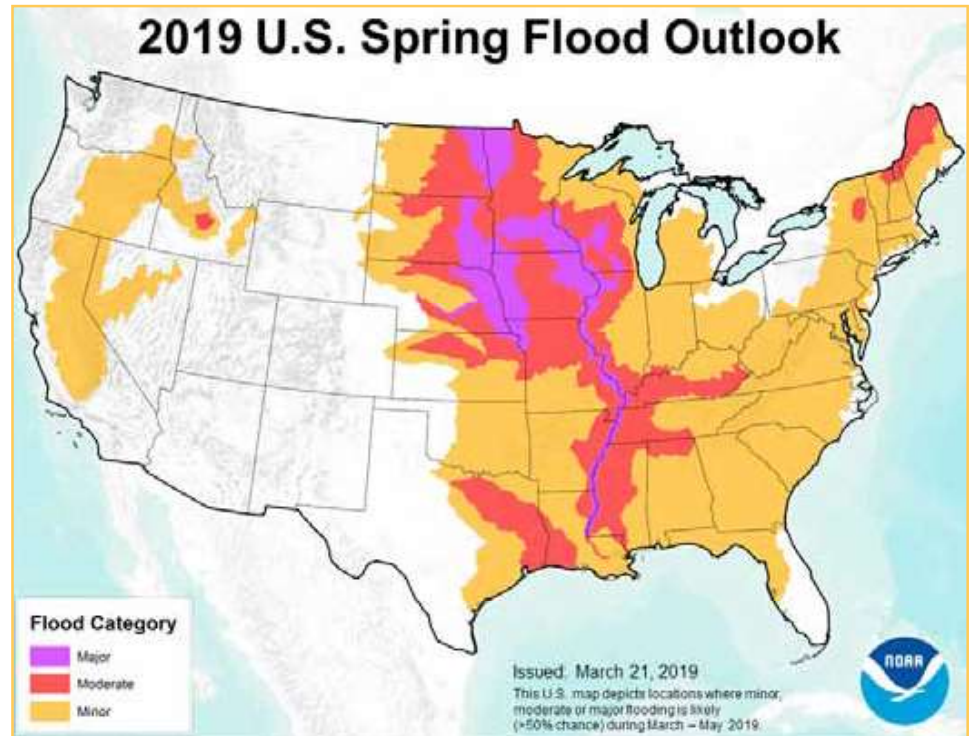
MODERATE FLOODING

Some inundation of structures and roads near streams. Some evacuations of people and/or transfer of property to higher elevations.

MINOR FLOODING

Minimal or no property damage, but possibly some public threat (e.g., inundation of roads).

[MORE](#)



WHERE THERE IS A GREATER THAN 50% CHANCE OF FLOODING

Farmland, cont.

terminus.

“The changes we are witnessing in the Arctic are sufficiently rapid that they cannot be explained without considering our impacts on the

chemistry of the atmosphere,” said Thomas Mote, a research scientist at the University of Georgia who authored part of the report to news outlets.

This returns the discussion to arctic amplification, a series of

feedback loops that work to enforce continued loss of sea ice and glaciers in arctic latitudes. In its simplest form, it can be explained in this manner (“albedo” is the proportion of the incident light or radiation that is reflected by a surface):

**Higher Temps = Less Ice And Snow = Less Albedo = Warmer Oceans =
Less Sea Ice And More Open Ocean = Increasing Cloudiness =
Warmer Arctic Ocean Surface Temperatures Late Into Year**

And the series repeats.

What the newly elected Democratic members of Congress and Democratic presidential candidates are advocating with the **Green New Deal** may seem unreachable and too costly for many that have yet to delve into its details. However, it certainly offers the United States a new way of thinking about the climate change predicament that we have created

for our nation and the world, and it cannot simply be dismissed as socialism by those whom have lied about climate change for decades.

The laws of supply and demand have created price spikes in food supplies before, but introducing climate change into the mix can up-end the entire national marketplace. The report that outlined the economic consequences of climate change for

the greater U.S. economy was dismissed outright by many conservatives. What’s hard to dismiss is the **2019 spring flooding outlook recently published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**. What I can’t dismiss is the image of this map (on page 13, covering March-May 2019 only) of our potential near future with its attendant explanation. ■

Two IG Bills Passed Both Houses of the State Legislature

By Jerry Garson, Treasurer

Two bills dealing with Inspectors General passed both Houses of the State Legislature and are awaiting the Governor's signature.

I HB 304: *Montgomery County – Authority of County Council Over Inspector General – Montgomery College MC 12-19.* Sponsored by the Montgomery County Delegation, it deals with authorizing the County Council of Montgomery County to enact a local law that grants to the Montgomery County Inspector General the same authority over Montgomery College as the Inspector General has over a department of county government.

I HB 344: *Montgomery County – Authority of County Council Over Inspector General – Housing Opportunities Commission MC 7-19.* The bill was sponsored by the Montgomery County Delegation. It authorizes the County Council of Montgomery County to enact a local law that grants to the Montgomery County Inspector General the same authority over the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County as the Inspector General has over a department of County government.

Both bills passed the House of Delegates and the Senate without any opposition.

These two bills were introduced in the Montgomery County Delegation by Senator Ben Kramer. ■

CIVIC FED TONIGHT!

SEEKING POSSIBLE SPEAKERS FOR YOUR CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETINGS?

Members of the MCCF Executive Committee have extensive experience in issues such as transportation, land use and zoning, schools, parks, environmental concerns, taxes, and public spending. Plus, they have a community-oriented perspective on these matters. If you would like an executive committee member to speak at a meeting, contact President Bailey Condrey at president@montgomerycivic.org. Include topics/possible dates.

April 24 is Deadline for Applications for Mont. County Planning Board Commissioner

The Montgomery County Council is seeking applicants to fill two vacancies on the Montgomery County Planning Board. The second terms of Chair Casey Anderson (Democrat) and Norman Dreyfuss (Republican) expire on June 14, 2019. Mr. Anderson is eligible to reapply as Chair (per Section 15-102 of Land Use Article of Maryland Code) and has indicated his intent to do so. This would be Mr. Anderson's third term on the Board. Mr. Dreyfuss is not eligible to reapply.

Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 24, 2019.

No more than three members of the Planning Board may be from the same political party, and each member must be a resident and reg-

istered voter of Montgomery County when appointed. Members serve four-year terms and are limited to two full terms, except when applying for a third term as Chair. The positions can be filled by a Democrat, a Republican, a voter who declines to affiliate with a party, or a member of another party officially recognized by the Montgomery County Board of Elections.

Current Boardmembers are Casey Anderson (Democrat), Chair; Norman Dreyfuss (Republican); Natali Fani-Gonzalez (Democrat); Gerald Cichy (Republican); and Tina Patterson (Unaffiliated). Annual compensation for Boardmembers is currently \$30,000, and the Chair currently earns \$207,262. The Council expects to set the salary for the Chair prior to the ap-

pointment.

The Planning Board serves as the Council's principal adviser on land use planning and community planning. Planning Boardmembers also serve as commissioners of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Applicants should submit a letter of interest and résumé (no more than 4 pages) listing professional and civic experience to coun cil@montgomerycountymd.gov or by mail to Council President Nancy Navarro, Stella B. Werner Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

For more information on the responsibilities of Commissioners, please visit the [Montgomery County government website](http://montgomerycountygovernment.com). ■

Minutes of the March 11, 2019, MCCF General Meeting #902 in Rockville

By Bailey Condrey, President

The General Meeting convened at the Montgomery County Executive Office Building.

Call to Order: Bailey Condrey, president, called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m. and attendees provided introductions.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Montgomery County will hold its own “Social Justice” day on March 13th. No mention of the Farm Road Community has been included in its announcement.

■ Description of status of “House

Bill 687 – Civil Actions – Child Sexual Abuse – Definition and Statute of Limitations,” sponsored by Del. C.T. Wilson.

■ Announcement of dates for State Highway Admin. Workshops on 495/270 proposed construction:

■ 4/13 @ T. Pyle Middle School,
■ 4/24 @ Eastern Middle School,
■ 4/25 @ Thomas Wootton High School.

■ The MC Taxpayers League meeting will take place on March 20, from 7:00–9:00 p.m.

■ Langley Park will host a tree planting on March 23rd.

Treasurer’s Report: Jerry Garson reported on recent transactions. Account balance \$10,414.46.

Approval of Minutes, Jan.

Executive Committee Meeting: Approval was sought and granted.

MARCH PROGRAM

Establishing Offices of Inspectors General is an issue that the MCCF fully supports for improving government accountability and integrity in local government. State Senator Ben Kramer has sponsored legislation creating these offices. The speakers for this month’s program are County Inspector General Edward L. Blansitt III, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission Inspector General Renee M. Kenney, and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission IG Arthur A. Elkins, Jr. They discussed the current challenges for oversight and accountability and their priorities.

MORE

March Minutes, cont.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Environment

■ State Bill: Carole Ann Barth reported on the Tree Bill championed by the MCCF that would require in Montgomery County certification under penalty of perjury for certain development plans submitted to certain planning boards. The Bill would discourage falsifying development plans. Bill received an unfavorable report in the County Delegation Committee and an unfavorable report by the County Delegation. Some delegates didn’t think there was a problem and some were concerned that developers would have to increase their liability insurance if they had to certify under penalty of perjury. Certification under penalty of perjury is already required for stormwater documents.

■ Bailey Condrey reported on the three synthetic turf State Bills introduced: HB 246, HB 1118, and HB 1142, which were highlighted in the newsletter. It appears that none of them will receive the support they need to make it out of committee.

Planning and Land Use

■ Harriet Quinn reported on two Sector Plans being reviewed by the County Council: Veirs Mill Road Corridor Plan and the MARC Communities Plan.

■ State Bills were proposed that would preempt local authority on the siting and permitting of small cell towers in residential zones but did not pass in this session of the General Assembly. The issue has been referred for summer study.

■ ZTA 19-01, introduced by Councilmember Hans Riemer, would

make significant changes to the County Code regarding accessory apartments in residential zones. It would allow by right detached units in all single family zones without a hearing, reduce the parking requirements, and eliminate the provisions that prevent overconcentration. The ZTA as proposed would allow a second detached house 50% of the size of the primary house to be built on a lot without any of the adequate public facilities review/requirements that are required when subdivision of property is requested. The County Executive opposed the new proposal. MCCF and many civic organizations also testified against the proposal as written.

Adjournment: Bailey called for and received unanimous approval for adjournment at 10:07 p.m. ■

Minutes of the March 21, 2019, MCCF Executive Committee Meeting

By Bailey Condrey, President

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:55 p.m. at the Silver Spring American Legion Post, 8810 Fenton Street. *Present:* Alan Bowsler, Karen Cordry, Bailey Condrey. On the phone: Harriet Quinn, Tim Willard, and Jacquie Bokow.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ A meeting among county environment leaders, Executive Elrich, and DEP Director Ortiz will occur on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the DEP offices on Rockville Pike.

ISSUES DISCUSSED

■ Tim Willard was officially welcomed to the Executive Committee as Chair of the Environment Committee.

■ Constant Contact discussion regarding links to social media.

■ *Sentinel Newspaper* and Podcast – submissions for April Meeting Program.

■ April Program: Proposed County Budget for FY20. Jerry Garson is coordinating and working with members of the MC Taxpayers' League. OMB Director Rich Madaleno will be a speaker. Alan will prepare a flyer announcing the meeting and promote it on social media.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning and Land Use

■ ZTA 19-01 proposed by Council-

member Riemer would once again make very significant changes relaxing standards in the County Ordinance regarding accessory apartments in residential zones. There have been 3 other ZTAs adopted in the last 4 years and as recently as October that have removed the standards. PHED Committee workshops in March and April.

Transportation

■ State Bill: Legislation proposed in the General Assembly and passed the full House to ensure that environmental impact statements are completed before solicitations for Public Private Partnership (P3) agreements are entered into for significant transportation projects.

MORE

March ExCom Mtg., cont.

Environment

■ State Bills: The Clean Energy bill does not appear to have good prospects for passage. Three bills addressing the installation, proper disposal, and funding of synthetic turf have been met with stiff opposition, again.

■ Other State Legislation: The Minimum Wage bill has passed by a veto-proof majority.

OLD BUSINESS

■ Yard Signs: At the February meeting on Pedestrian Safety, a proposal was made to sell yard signs to alert motorists about the presence of pedestrians. Alan will research pricing/procurement and will write a proposal in newsletter encouraging members to purchase the signs before the next school year begins.

■ New Logo: We are looking for a new, high-resolution logo to place on the yard signs and for administrative use.

■ MCCF Awards Event: Alan volunteered to chair the event, venue, menu, tickets and Harriet will assist with the awards committee. Monday June 10th and Thursday June 13 are possible dates.

■ CFN Articles: Deadline March 26. Articles on Governor's 270/495 proposal, Awards Event, and Nominations, New Police Chief, ZTA on Accessory Apartments.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m. ■

Montgomery County Civic Federation

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Submit contributions for the next issue by the 26th of the current month. Send to CFN at civiefednews@montgomerycivic.org.

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