

Join Us at the MCCF Annual Awards Reception on June 13th

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of note

Next MCCF Meeting

Thursday, June 13, 2019, 6:30 p.m. @ the American Legion Post in downtown Silver Spring: MCCF Annual Awards Reception **P. 2**

There will be no regular monthly meeting in June. Election of Officers will take place at the September 9, 2019, general meeting.

May Meeting Minutes

General Meeting #904 **P. 18**
Executive Committee Meeting **P. 20**

Membership Application

Join or Renew Now **SEE FORM**

Reserve Seats for MCCF Annual Awards Celebration 6/13

Please make your reservations by June 5th for MCCF's 2019 Awards Reception on Thursday, June 13th, from 6:30–9:00 p.m. at the Cissel-Saxon American Legion Post 41. The entrance is located at 8110 Fenton Street in downtown Silver Spring, 20910. A public parking lot and multitiered garage are conveniently adjacent to the building. Tickets are \$20 per person and include substantial appetizers and soft drinks, plus a cash bar for alcoholic drinks.

MCCF presents awards annually honoring deserving residents of Montgomery County, including the Sentinel Award, the Wayne Goldstein Award, and the Star Cup. This year's awardees are listed on **page 3** and special recognition award recipients on **page 5**. More details about the awardees are included within the

article of the newsletter. We look forward to seeing everyone to honor these dedicated residents.

Please send your registration to us by June 5th so we can plan accordingly. There are two convenient forms on our website: **a form for mailing your payment** (which is also included on **page 4**) and **a form to reserve your seats to pay at the door**.

PLEASE NOTE THERE IS NO REGULAR MCCF MONTHLY MEETING ON JUNE 10. INSTEAD, PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL AWARDS RECEPTION ON THURSDAY, JUNE 13, IN DOWNTOWN SILVER SPRING!

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 21

Montgomery County Civic Federation 2019 Annual Award Winners

THE SENTINEL AWARD

This award, sponsored by *The Montgomery Sentinel* newspaper, is given annually by the Civic Federation to an individual or group, typically outside government, for a "significant contribution to good government at the local level."

Recipient | *Kristy Daphnis, Chair Montgomery County Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee*

Recognition | *For her leadership and collaborative work on county-wide pedestrian and bicycle safety issues*

THE WAYNE GOLDSTEIN AWARD

This award recognizes outstanding public service contributions by an individual or group in Montgomery County. Instituted in 1984 by *The Journal*, it was called "The Journal Cup" until 1998, when *The Gazette* newspaper assumed sponsorship. In 2010, it was renamed in honor of MCCF Past President Wayne Goldstein, who passed away in 2009.

Recipients | *Talbot Avenue Bridge Centennial Committee*

Recognition | *For their work for racial reconciliation and preservation of elements of this historic bridge to educate future generations about segregation in Montgomery County's history*

THE STAR CUP

The Star Cup was presented by *The Washington Star* newspaper to the Civic Federation on March 14, 1927, to be awarded by the Civic Federation to the committee or delegate performing the most outstanding public service on behalf of Montgomery County.

Recipient | *Alan Bowser, MCCF First Vice President*

Recognition | *For his many years of service and civic leadership throughout Montgomery County*

See Special Recognition Awardees and full Award details on [page 5](#).

Reserve Your Tickets Now for Montgomery County Civic Federation's 2019 ANNUAL AWARDS CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2019

Awards Reception

6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Awards Presentations

7:15 to 8:15 p.m.

CISSEL-SAXON

AMERICAN LEGION POST 41

Entrance at 8110 Fenton Street
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Convenient Public Parking
Next to Building

*Reception Includes Substantial
Appetizers and Soft Drinks, plus
Cash Bar for Alcoholic Drinks*

SPACE IS LIMITED

PLEASE RESERVE ASAP

Questions? Contact Alan Bowser,
veep1 AT montgomerycivic DOT org

MCCF Annual Awards Reception

I/We will attend the Awards Celebration on Thursday, June 13, 2019:

Price is \$20 per person

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Number Attending _____

Name(s):

Association or Organization (as applicable):

Contact Information: Phone _____

Email _____

Please print or cut off and fill in this form with check payable to:
*Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc., and mail to Montgomery County
Civic Federation, Awards Celebration, P.O. Box 1123, Bethesda, MD 20827-1123*

Special Recognition

In addition to MCCF's Annual Awards, this year we will be recognizing two additional recipients:

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Recipient | *Maryland State Senator Benjamin F. Kramer*

Recognition | *In Appreciation for His Leadership and Outstanding Dedicated Service to the People of Montgomery County*

Recipient | *Joan Fidler, Montgomery County Taxpayers League*

Recognition | *In Appreciation for her Outstanding Dedicated Service to the People of Montgomery County*

Announcing the MCCF 2019 Annual Awards

THE SENTINEL AWARD

This 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. Our 2019 awardee is **Kristy Daphnis**, Chair of the Montgomery County Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee, who has helped lead the County's renewed emphasis on those safety issues. Kristy's desire to be involved in these issues started when a friend was killed in a pedestrian crash on Georgia Avenue in 2011. She learned of the work of the PBT-SAC, which combines community residents, officials from the County Council and local government, police, schools, and planning departments, and the State, to jointly work

towards making our roads safer for pedestrians, bikers, and auto traffic alike. She applied to join and was appointed in late 2013, becoming chair in early 2017.

As chair, she has been instrumental in working with the rest of the committee and the County Council in implementing the "Vision Zero" initiative that it approved in early 2016. Vision Zero is an ambitious program to bring fatal traffic crashes down to zero by 2030 through a data-driven approach that looks to design improvements targeted to the way people actually think and behave, better education, and laws that target dangerous behaviors.

What this effort quickly identified was three areas with both high

MORE

Awardee Details, cont.

rates of crashes and relatively low socio-economic status: the Wheaton-Glenmont area, the German-town area, and a portion of the East County in the Long Branch area. As a result, the PBT-SAC, under Kristy's chairmanship, has decided to concentrate its initial efforts in implementing the Vision Zero program in those three areas.

As part of that effort, the PBT-SAC is concentrating on reaching out to the affected communities to make sure their concerns are heard and incorporated. One of the first such efforts was a very successful "Make Wheaton Walkable" event held on May 19, and co-led by Kristy, where more than 100 community members and local and state elected and agency officials walked the streets of Wheaton to see first-

hand the challenges confronting residents as they try to move about their community. That effort will feed into the decisions being made for the capital improvement budget for this year and coming years, as well as other changes such as the reduced speed limits recently implemented for the dense urban areas in Wheaton and north. Similar efforts will be carried out in the other two priority areas in the coming months.

We applaud Kristy's energetic outreach activities and her hard work, made even the more impressive by her dividing her time with her civic association, the Wheaton Hills Civic Association, working with her daughters' Girl Scout Troop, and serving as outreach to the County PTA Association on these traffic and safety issues. We're happy she can find time to

join us to pick up her award.

THE WAYNE GOLDSTEIN AWARD

This year, MCCF's Wayne Goldstein Award is presented to the **Talbot Avenue Bridge Centennial Committee**. The Wayne Goldstein Award recognizes and honors an individual or group for outstanding service to the people of Montgomery County.

The Talbot Avenue Bridge Centennial Committee members are *Merrie Blocker, Alan Bowser, Charlotte Coffield, George French, Laura Hussey, Anne Kennedy, David Rotenstein, Eva Santorini, Elmorita Stewart, Marcie Stickle, Joel Teitelbaum, Patricia Tyson, and Anna White*.

Established in Spring 2018 by Lyttonsville residents Charlotte

MORE

Awardee Details, cont.

Coffield and Patricia Tyson, the Centennial Committee was formed to recognize the importance that the old Talbot Avenue Bridge played in the adjacent neighborhoods' history (North Woodside, Rosemary Hills, and Lyttonsville), to facilitate a process of racial reconciliation and understanding among residents of the communities, and to advocate for preservation of certain elements of the Talbot Avenue Bridge for posterity in order to help educate future generations about the Montgomery County's and Silver Spring's era of segregation and discrimination. The bridge separates the historically African-American community of Lyttonsville (formerly Linden) and the predominantly white community of North Woodside. The bridge,

slated for demolition later this year due to construction of the Purple Line light rail from Bethesda to New Carrollton, will be replaced with a new, wider bridge.

Founded in 1853 by Samuel Lytton, there were no paved roads and no running water and sewerage in Lyttonsville until the mid-1960s. Lyttonsville's residents had to cross a narrow two-lane bridge, across the CSX train tracks, to leave their under-served hamlet and travel through white neighborhoods to get to Washington, D.C., and other places. Lyttonsville's African-American residents were not allowed to eat in Silver Spring's restaurants, to go into Silver Spring's theaters, and couldn't try on clothes in Silver Spring's stores. In fact, while they could work in Silver Spring, they couldn't buy houses in Silver Spring as there

were restrictive racial covenants in the deeds for Silver Spring property, prohibiting African-Americans from living there. Lyttonsville residents were frequently greeted with hostility from some of their white neighbors as they made daily trips across the bridge and, from time to time, there were efforts to close the bridge to prevent the black residents from entering in the neighborhood. For official Montgomery County, Lyttonsville was on the "other side of the tracks," forgotten and ignored.

It was against this historical background of segregation and discrimination in Silver Spring that the Centennial Committee worked to facilitate racial reconciliation and understanding among the neighborhoods by recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Tal-

MORE

Awardee Details, cont.

bot Avenue Bridge's installation and celebrating the progress that the Silver Spring communities and Montgomery County at-large has made towards inclusion, diversity, and social cooperation.

On Sunday, September 22, 2018, the Talbot Avenue Bridge Centennial Committee held a major community celebration to recognize the Bridge's importance to the adjacent neighborhoods and a neglected part of Silver Spring's history. Former Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett and County Councilmembers Marc Elrich and Nancy Floreen joined many neighbors to celebrate the old bridge and the new spirit of friendship and cooperation that has developed among the communities in recent years.

The Centennial Committee has organized other events to promote unity among the neighborhoods: a Lantern Walk in November 2018, a Spring Party in May 2019, and a soon-to-be-scheduled Candlelight Vigil on the evening before the historic Talbot Avenue Bridge is to be closed permanently to the public and subsequently demolished.

The exemplary work of the members of the Talbot Avenue Centennial Committee stands as a shining example of civic cooperation and neighborhood pride and the Civic Federation is proud to recognize their accomplishments.

THE STAR CUP

The Star Cup is awarded to the Federation delegate or committee performing the most outstanding public service on behalf of Montgomery County. This year

we honor **Alan Bowser**, MCCF's current First Vice President, for his many years of civic leadership and dedicated service to the people of Montgomery County. Alan also chairs the Public Finance Committee; has organized programs on the MCPS budget, public safety, and senior services; and is the MCCF's representative to the Committee for Montgomery, a coalition of leaders representing a broad cross-section of Montgomery County who advocate in Annapolis on issues of importance to Montgomery County and the State. He served as President of the Park Hills Civic Association in Silver Spring and as a member of the Presidents' Council of Silver Spring Civic Associations.

An attorney in private practice, and a former Chief of Staff at the Montgomery County Council and

MORE

Awardee Details, cont.

the Maryland General Assembly, he is also an officer and member of the Boards of Directors of several County nonprofits, including Conservation Montgomery, Safe Silver Spring, the After School Dance Fund, and the Sligo Creek Golf Association.

For almost two decades, Alan has been active in many environmental, public safety, and transportation programs in Montgomery County. With Conservation Montgomery and the Green Montgomery Network, he has worked on land development, stormwater, and tree canopy issues that have come before the County Council. As President and co-chair of Safe Silver Spring, he has emphasized community policing issues and has worked with such groups as Casa de Maryland,

ACLU, and Takoma Park Mobilization on the proposals for a Maryland State and Montgomery County Trust Act. As a member of the Purple Line Community Advisory Team (Silver Spring), and the State and County US 29 Bus Rapid Transit Corridor Advisory Committee, he has advocated for pedestrian safety and greater outreach to communities along the alignments. In support of neighborhoods across Silver Spring, he has supported local small businesses and is a founding member of the Talbot Avenue Bridge Centennial Committee.

As the first President of the Silver Spring Town Center, Inc., Alan gave priority to community engagement and public participation. He founded the Summer Performances on Veterans Plaza, the Silver Spring Arts Salon, the annual Tribute to America's Veterans Concert, and

the popular annual Silver Spring Blues Festival, now in its 11th year. He received the Montgomery County Executive's Award for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities from former Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett.

We are very grateful for Alan's tireless work and extraordinary service to the residents of Maryland and Montgomery County and we are pleased to present him with the Star Cup Award.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

MCCF will also be honoring the following leaders for their service to our community:

■ **Joan Fidler**, in Appreciation of her Outstanding Service to the People of Montgomery County. As

MORE

Awardee Details, cont.

President of the Montgomery County Taxpayers League, Joan has provided important leadership, education, and advocacy on County and State budget and policy issues. She has worked collaboratively with MCCF and other stakeholders on many important Countywide legislative and budget initiatives and we are grateful for her valuable guidance and expertise over the years.

■ **The Honorable Ben Kramer**, Maryland State Senator, in Appreciation of His Leadership, Collaboration, and Dedicated Service to the People of Montgomery County. Senator Kramer served as a Member of the Maryland House of Delegates from the 19th District from 2007–2019 and was elected to the Senate in 2018. He has

distinguished himself as a skilled legislator and representative for his constituents. Recently, Senator Kramer worked tirelessly over a three-year period to craft and successfully pass four bills that created Inspectors General for the independent agencies that were not previously accountable to any County or State Inspector General. Montgomery County and Prince George's County residents will benefit from these bills that help ensure greater transparency and accountability.

Please help us celebrate the achievements of these wonderful residents at MCCF's Annual Awards Reception, June 13, 6:30–9:00 p.m., at the American Legion Post #41 in downtown Silver Spring, entrance at 8110 Fenton Street. [See registration links on page 2.] ■

Update on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) on US Route 29

By Jerry Garson

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation has started a Ride On Bus 129. It is a Limited Stop predecessor to the Bus Rapid Transit proposed to run on US 29 next year.

It has the following stops:

- Burtonsville Park and Ride
- Briggs Chaney Park and Ride
- Castle Boulevard
- Tech Road Park and Ride
- Stewart Lane and Old Columbia Pike
- Stewart Lane and April Lane
- Lockwood Drive and New Hampshire Avenue
- Lockwood Dr. and Northwest Dr.
- Lockwood Dr. and Meadowhill Road

MORE

US Route 29 BRT, cont.

■ Burnt Mills Shopping Center
■ Colesville Road and University Boulevard

■ Colesville Rd. and Spring St. Southbound (stop will be at Noyes until construction is completed)

■ Colesville Rd. and Fenton St. Northbound

■ Paul Sarbanes Transit Center (Silver Spring Metro Station)

It has 58 buses weekdays starting 5:30 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. and between 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

For Fiscal Year 2019, the Average Daily Riders were 341 for both directions or 5.9 riders per bus trip. The scheduled Annual Platform hours are 15,275 hours, with a riders per platform hour of 5.7.

This indication is that most buses will have less than a 15% passenger load for a 40-passenger bus.

The operating subsidiary for each passenger trip for FY2020 would be \$17.11 using the operating budget of \$1,487,740 divided by the estimated

passengers of 86,955 per year.

The Capital Budget for the US 29 BRT is \$31,000,000 or over \$180,000 per round trip rider. ■

MCCF Officer Nominations for 2019–2020

Since the MCCF Awards Reception will be in June, we will be scheduling our annual meeting for September 9th in Rockville and the election of MCCF Officers for the next fiscal year will be held at the September 9th meeting. The Nominations Committee is proposing the following slate of officers for 2019–2020:

- President: Bailey Condrey
- First Vice President: Alan Bowser
- Second Vice President: Karen Cordry

- Treasurer: Jerry Garson
- Secretary: Open

If you have suggestions for nominations for President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary, please contact one of the MCCF officers or the Nominations Committee at mccivcfed@gmail.com. Nominees must be Delegates from MCCF member civic associations. Nominations from the floor may also be made at the September regular meeting, but must be seconded by Delegates from three different Member associations. ■

Planning and Land Use Committee Report

DATES OF INTEREST

■ **Thursday June 13, 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.** **County Council Planning Board Interviews of 7 Finalists.** Third Floor Council Chamber. **Live streamed and televised.**

■ **Thursday, June 13, 6:30 p.m.** **MCCF Awards Reception.** See you there!

■ **Tuesday, June 18, 9:30 a.m.** Full County Council public work-session on ZTA 19-01 Accessory Apartments Amendments to Zoning Ordinance. See article on [page X](#).

■ **June 26–June 30.** Planning Department kicks off **Update Process to County General Plan with 5 public events.**

MASTER/SECTOR PLAN UPDATES

Check the [Planning Department website](#) for updates.

■ **Veirs Mill Road Corridor Master Plan.** The County Council adopted the Veirs Mill Corridor Plan on April 23, 2019.

■ **MARC Rail Communities Plan.** The County Council adopted the MARC Communities Plan on April 30, 2019.

■ **Forest Glen/Montgomery Hills Sector Plan.** Planning Staff Draft Recommendations presented to Community March 19 and to Planning Board April 25. Planning Board

Public Hearing scheduled for May 30.

■ **Germantown Plan for Town Sector Zone.** Community Open House was held March 14. Planning Staff will present Working Draft Document to Planning Board on June 6. Planning Board Hearing this summer.

■ **Ashton Village Center Master Plan (with Minor Amendment).** Community Kickoff Meeting held May 16 and Scope of Work Approved May 23.

■ **Shady Grove Sector Plan Minor Master Plan Amendment.** Community Meeting was held May 20. ■

Making a Difference on Climate Change Will Be Up to Us

Trump Administration Abrogates Responsibility

By Bailey Condrey, MCCF President

We all remember the scene from “The Wizard of Oz” when Toto pulls back the curtain to reveal that the “Great and Powerful Oz” is no more than a mortal man pulling the levers of distraction to create the illusion that all is well and he is in control.

According to Todd S. Glickman, “A tornado outbreak is the occurrence of multiple **tornadoes** spawned by the same **synoptic scale** weather system.” These repeated outbreaks have pushed major United States’ river systems to flood stage and kept them there for weeks. It is premature to reach conclusions about how bad the tornado outbreaks of 2019 will be compared to prior years, but more than 100 tornados have touched down across



KWTV-KOTV VIA AP — AN IMAGE CAPTURED FROM VIDEO SHOWS FUNNEL CLOUDS OVER CRESCENT, OKLAHOMA, ON MAY 20.

a wide area of the nation’s midsection in May alone, and the month has not ended. These deadly storms have dumped massive amounts of

rain. Numerous news outlets report that the historic flooding in Oklahoma has placed *every county* in the

MORE

Climate Change, cont.

state under emergency declaration. The Arkansas River will shortly reach 20-feet above flood stage. More Americans have died and countless more have had their lives, properties, and livelihoods upended. We delude ourselves to imagine that we are immune to these weather-related events. The very people who deny that climate change has severe effects on weather will ask all of us for more money to help those they have left at the mercy of the increasing atmospheric energy we are driving higher. Perhaps the greatest irony of the situation in which we all play a part.

Temperatures over Memorial Day weekend reached triple digits in the southeastern U.S., heat being one of those ingredients that can spawn severe weather. On that

single day, 51 tornados were reported in eight states (Idaho, Colorado, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio). The damage assessment for Memorial Day continues with more severe weather likely to hamper the effort.

Within this one climate change-related backdrop, *The New York Times* reported on May 27th that the “**Trump Administration Hardens Its Attack on Climate Science.**” Their efforts will assail the science and the scientists that are meant to inform the American people of the real world risk that failure to address climate change will have on our lives and the citizens of the globe.

Our present day “Man Behind the Curtain” also **recently refused to sign a communiqué to protect the rapidly melting Arctic region unless it was stripped of any references**

to climate change. Mike Pompeo orchestrated the effort.

So at a time when the world has surpassed 415 parts-per-million of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, the climate change denialist wizard and his surrogates have doubled-down on filling the minds of Americans with propaganda and stifling the free exchange of meaningful data on climate change. Information that can save lives and strengthen our economy will be withheld from the taxpayers who pay for the scientific research.

The challenge then falls to the states and localities to step up and create public education campaigns explaining how to weave climate change consciousness and personal action into our everyday lives. Efforts can be as simple as using public transportation, commuting

MORE

Climate Change, cont.

by bicycle, requiring PEPCO to **purchase your electricity from sustainable sources, composting your food waste at home**, recycling all of the material that can be reclaimed from your party or catered event into clean, source-separated streams, or encouraging your children and their schools to offer courses and credits in environmentally focused disciplines and activities. The list is not exhaustive.

Maryland, Montgomery County, the region, and all of us need to double-down on making a difference toward reducing the impacts of climate change because the “Wizard” in the White House, his administration, and their Senate lap dogs have abandoned their responsibilities for us on this grave threat that

is killing Americans and destroying property every week. Our nation cannot sustain this ongoing level of destruction and it’s only getting worse.

Maybe the greater challenge we might assume is to somehow inform the federal legislators who deny climate change that their sister states in this republic will no longer provide them with disaster assistance to recover from storms that their willful ignorance makes more deadly and destructive. Yes, an outlandish comment, but how do we break the back of this “Catch-22” in which conservative media, a minority of the country’s citizens, and their legislators have trapped us?

Submitted with respect and an increasing sense of urgency for people I don’t even know. ■

Building a Green Montgomery Network

County Executive Elrich Takes the Lead in Convening Environmental Leaders, Soliciting Input

[Reprinted from the April Conservation Montgomery Newsletter.]

In a time of transition for the county, environmentalists are eager to underscore priorities with a new County Executive and almost half of the County Council settling into their first term.

To address concerns about the omission of clean water from his transition planning process, County Executive Marc Elrich requested a meeting in February with environmental leaders and newly appointed Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Director Adam Ortiz. A single meeting has given rise to

MORE

Green Network, cont.

the Green Montgomery Network, a group of environmental leaders from more two dozen different organizations.

The Green Montgomery Network (the Network for short) has met three times with Elrich, Ortiz, and staff from the Executive’s office and DEP. It is an outgrowth of environmental advocates who served on the Elrich Greener County transition team in January.

“I want there to be no ambiguity about my priorities,” Elrich said, about a month before the release of his transition team report. The Greener County team was assigned with exploring three areas, or indicators: greenhouse gas emissions, the county recycling rate, and resident satisfaction with code enforcement. The code enforcement indicator left

some members of the team scratching their heads and wondering why clean water—a stated Elrich campaign priority—had not been one of the three indicators.

Emphasizing the importance of clean water as a pressing County-wide issue, the Stormwater Partners Network drafted a “Clean Water Blueprint” using the Results Based Accountability (RBA) framework used by Chief Administrative Officer Andrew Kleine.

According to Kleine’s statement in the transition report, RBA is “an organized system of thinking and taking action that can be used to improve the quality of life in communities and the County as a whole, starting with the ends we desire and working backwards to the means.”

The Stormwater Partners requested that the draft Greener County transition team report be

amended to include the Clean Water Blueprint. The Clean Water Blueprint was listed as a link at the end of the Greener County recommendations.

An initial February 12 meeting with members of his Greener County transition team and other environmental leaders from all sections of the County helped to clarify some of the questions raised during the transition team meetings. At the end of that initial session, environmentalists asked that Elrich and Ortiz meet with them regularly so that natural resource issues could be kept transparent and front and center for the administration.

“We’re pleased about this engagement with the community,” said Ortiz in a recent meeting. “And we’re looking at other ways to involve the public in these discussions.”

MORE

Green Network, cont.

Over the next few months, we'll look to form working groups and prioritize based on the input we hear."

A goal is to bring more diversity to the Network in the future. There may be opportunities for environmental leaders in the group to collaborate on formal diversity training as well as outreach to diverse communities.

While the first Network meeting covered a variety of issues—from climate change to waste reduction and pesticides—subsequent meetings have been more focused discussions. The second session explored the problem of silos within the county government and the lack of coordination between multiple County agencies and staff from the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission.

"When County agency staff and Parks and Planning staff with responsibility for environmental regulations don't play well together, it's the environment that suffers," said Conservation Montgomery Chair Caren Madsen, who has organized the Network meetings. "The value of the Network is bringing all of us together to break down our own silos. We can learn from one another and get a lot of information on these issues at the same time—and straight from the source if the Executive and DEP Director continue to participate in these discussions."

A third Network meeting focused on climate change. The discussion was coordinated and led by a climate team composed of Michal Freedman from the Sierra Club, Jim Driscoll from the Climate Mobilization, and Jeff Weisner from 350 MoCo. The Elrich administration has hired a

new Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, Adriana Hochberg, to coordinate environmental efforts with climate change at the center of her portfolio.

The Network will embark on its first field trip in May, a trek to the Watts Branch watershed. Elrich has cited Watts Branch cleanup as one of his priorities. Similar to the approach used by the Network climate team, a Watts Branch team is setting up the watershed tour.

"Local government and advocates find common ground through collaboration such as this active Network," said Caroline Taylor, Executive Director of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance. "Cheers to the Elrich administration for seeing the value of a productive teamwork strategy and to Caren Madsen for shepherding the process." ■

Minutes of May 13th, 2019, MCCF General Meeting #904 in Rockville

By Harriet Quinn

Call to Order: President Bailey Condrey called the 904th session to order at 7:45pm. Introductions followed.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda: It was moved and seconded to adopt the proposed agenda as printed in the May newsletter and the agenda was adopted.

Minutes of the April ExCom Meeting: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 18th Executive Committee meeting as they appeared in the May 2019 newsletter. The minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ It was announced that the Awards Reception on June 13 will be the only meeting of the MCCF general membership in June.

■ Elections of Officers will take place at the September meeting. See details within the newsletter for the list of nominees as well as details for the Reception.

Treasurer's Report: Jerry Garson reported no changes since April. Copies of the Treasurer's report are available upon request.

PROGRAM

The May program was a two-part discussion of important County-wide planning proposals. First was a discussion of Councilmember Riemer's major proposed amend-

ments to the Zoning Ordinance regarding Accessory Apartments (ZTA 19-01) and second was the Planning Department's Trends Report as a lead up to their proposed program to amend the County's General Plan over the next 2 years.

ZTA 19-01, the first ZTA proposed by the new County Council, was introduced on January 12 during their first full session as a Council. This is the fourth major revision in four years regarding Accessory Apartments and Accessory Residential Uses in residential zones but this major proposal was introduced without any prior public consultation.

In the introduction of this latest ZTA, Mr. Riemer implied that accessory apartments were a newer

May Mtg. Minutes, cont.

use. Yet the County has approved accessory apartments for the last 36 years and had over 1,600 approved accessory units prior to 2013. In 2012, Mr. Riemer and others proposed major deregulation of the approval and licensing process. Following those changes implemented in 2014, the number of licensed accessory units has decreased by about 50%.

Now Councilmember Riemer and new PHED Councilmembers Friedson and Jawando propose further deregulation, including allowing detached units by right without a hearing in small lot residential zones of R-60 and R-90. Currently, internal units in the primary dwelling are allowed and licensed in all detached residential zones and additional separate detached units

are permitted on lots of 1 acre or more. The proposed ZTA would allow by right a second dwelling up to 1,200 sf on all detached residential lots, without impact tax or adequate public facilities review as is done when new dwelling units are added during subdivision process. Further, all parking requirements would be removed if within 1 mile of Metro or Purple Line.

The distance requirement of 300 feet from another to prevent overconcentration in one area would be removed. Currently most units are located in older subdivisions with the oldest infrastructure. In addition, detached units would be allowed to become short term rentals (Airbnbs) as a separate license.

Statistics show that, while after the 2014 deregulation the number of accessory units licensed for

long-term tenants or relatives has decreased by ~50% in the last 4 years, during the past 2 years since the County starting allowing short-term lodging rentals in all residential zones, the number of short-term lodging rentals for visitors in the County is now over 1,500. Less than 200 of the 1,500 are registered.

Inspections are not required for short-term lodging rentals. The prevalence of short-term nightly lodging units for visitors and their role in removing housing units for long-term rental by residents should require further analysis by those concerned about availability of affordable housing. Unfortunately, the PHED Committee did not address the issue. The status of regulations in neighboring Counties was also reviewed.

Guest speakers Jeff Zyontz,

MORE

May Mtg. Minutes, cont.

County Council Zoning Counsel, and Claire Iseli, Special Assistant to County Executive Elrich, answered questions about the ZTA and the County's various departments responsible for implementation. The full County Council is scheduled to take up the ZTA on June 18. See article within newsletter which includes MCCF PLU Committee recommendations.

The second part of the May program included a discussion led by Caroline McCarthy, Chief of the Planning Department's Research and Special Projects Division. McCarthy and the research team reviewed their recently completed **Trends Report**, which documented the changes in the County since the 1990s, which is the last time the County amended the County's Gen-

eral Plan.

The General Plan is the long-term planning guide that establishes an overall vision and set of values and policies about how the County should grow over decades. This guidance is carried out through master plans, zoning, infrastructure projects, private development, and other mechanisms. The Planning Department is kicking off the General Plan update during June 2019 and will have public meetings over the next 12 months.

The MCCF will have an additional meeting in the fall with the Planning Department about the General Plan.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m. ■

MCCF Executive Committee Meeting Minutes Thursday, May 16, 2019, via Teleconference

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. *Present:* Alan Bowser, Karen Cordry, Harriet Quinn, Jerry Garson, Jacquie Bokow.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda: The proposed agenda to discuss awards reception logistics was unanimously adopted.

Treasurer's Report: No change from May General Meeting report.

ISSUES DISCUSSED

■ There will not be an additional June General meeting. Instead, the Annual Awards Reception will be

MORE

May ExCom Minutes, cont.

June 13. Elections will be in September. Proposed slate: President: Bailey Condrey; First Vice President: Alan Bowser; Second Vice President: Karen Cordry; Treasurer: Jerry Garson; Secretary: Open.

Awards Ceremony. Details for the reception were discussed. Thursday, June 13th, 6:30–9:00 p.m. at American Legion in Silver Spring. The entrance is at 8110 Fenton Street. Tickets \$20 will cover food and soft drinks. Cash Bar for alcohol will be available. Parking is available in public lot and garage adjacent to the building and is metered at 70¢/hour until 7:00 p.m. Newsletters will have articles on the event. Honorees: Sentinel Award: Kristy Daphnis; Wayne Goldstein Award: Talbot Avenue Bridge Centennial

Committee; Star Cup: Alan Bowser. Special Appreciation Recognition: Md. Senator Ben Kramer and Joan Fidler of the Taxpayer's League.

Coordinating: Bailey invitations and engraving, Karen and Alan food and location, Jerry and Jacquie reservations and website, Harriet newsletter details and printed program.

Newsletter Deadline: May 26th.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. ■

Montgomery County Civic Federation

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