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TO PRINT, USE PRINT VERSION

of note

Next MCCF Meeting

Monday, September 9, 2019, 7:45 p.m.
@ the Executive Office Building in Rockville. "The Upcoming 2020 Maryland General Assembly Session"

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Election of 2019–2020 Officers

Due to the Awards Reception instead of a General Meeting in June, election of Officers for the coming year was postponed until the Sept. meeting **P. 19**

ExCom Meeting Minutes

August 4 *Unavailable*

Membership Application

Join or Renew Now **SEE FORM**

Federation Meeting #905

Monday, September 9, 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
- 7:56 Treasurer's Report
- 8:00 **Program: The Upcoming 2020 Maryland General Assembly Session** **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 September 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 22.

Sept. Program: 2020 Maryland General Assembly Session

Two State Delegates will present the leg. priorities for the MC Delegation for the upcoming 2020 session.



Delegate Marc Korman joined the House in 2015. He chairs the Montgomery County Delegation and currently is on the Appropriations Com-

mittee, serving on both its Capital Budget and its Transportation and the Environment Subcommittees; he also is Chair of its Oversight Committee on Personnel. Korman has served on the Joint Committee on Federal Relations since 2015. He is part of the Assessment and Funding of School Facilities Workgroup and an Associate Member of the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus.

Senator Craig Zucker was ap-



pointed to the Maryland Senate in February 2016 after serving in the Maryland House of Delegates 2011–2016. He is currently Deputy Majority Leader; Vice Chair of the Rules Committee and the Capital Budget Subcommittee of the Budget and Taxation Committee; Senate Chair on both the Spending Affordability Committee and Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee; serves on the Pensions and the Health and Human Services Subcommittees of the Budget and Taxation Committee; and has served on the Joint Committee on Pensions since 2017. He, too, is an Associate Member of the Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus and belongs to the Maryland Veterans Caucus.

Time to Renew Your Dues

If you or your organization have not yet renewed your MCCF membership for the 2019–2020 fiscal year, please do so now! Dues cover July 1 through June 30 so, if you haven't paid, your dues are past due.

The mission of the MCCF is to preserve and improve the quality of life for all current and future residents of Montgomery County. If you want to support and be a part of an organization that has your interests at heart, now's the time to step up—volunteer to follow an issue as a committee chair, attend the meetings, pay your dues.

We're working to have dues payable online via credit card or PayPal; until that is up and running, please print out a [membership form](#) (found on our website) and return it to our old-school Treasurer with a check. ■

Montgomery County's Climate Emergency

By Bailey Condrey, MCCF President

It will be two years this December 5th since Montgomery County declared a climate emergency, becoming the nation's first large jurisdiction to do so. Did you know that the county has issued this declaration? Did you know the county has launched a planning process to develop prioritized actions and strategies to meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction goals of 80% by 2027 and 100% by 2035?

The County has selected volunteers with demonstrable expertise in climate and energy issues, including identifying economic and equity challenges and opportunities that might arise in meeting these goals to serve on "technical workgroups" that will help in this effort. The work groups met for the first time in July,

subsequent meetings will follow monthly into early 2020.

The first three workgroups include the following:

I Buildings Technical Workgroup. Roughly half of all measured GHG emissions in Montgomery County come from energy use in buildings. Increasing the energy efficiency of new and existing buildings is critical to meeting the County's climate goals. However, this is unlikely to occur without requirements for, and incentives to encourage, reductions in building energy consumption. This workgroup will identify innovative strategies and develop recommendations related to building codes, benchmarking, energy efficiency, building energy performance standards, auditing, and retrofitting.

I Transportation Technical

Workgroup. The transportation sector accounts for 41% of all measured GHG emissions generated in the County. While the overall fuel efficiency of the vehicle fleet has increased in recent years, the adoption of hybrid electric and all electric vehicles is still relatively limited. This workgroup will identify opportunities to increase the use of electric vehicles by the County, as well as the availability of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The workgroup will review ongoing County initiatives to increase the amount of personal travel accomplished by public transit and other low/no emissions modes. It will identify other innovative strategies to reduce emissions in the transportation sector.

I Clean Energy Technical

MORE

Climate Emergency, cont.

Workgroup. Energy efficiency and conservation are the first steps in reducing GHG emissions from homes and buildings. However, installing renewable energy infrastructure is the next step toward reducing fossil-fuel-based energy use. Opportunities exist for expanded use of solar photovoltaic, solar hot water heating and geo-exchange energy systems and for requiring increased sustainable energy purchasing by electric utilities supplying the national energy grid. This workgroup will be tasked with developing recommendations for greening the energy supply and expanding the use of distributed renewable energy.

The work groups have been asked to engage in the following manner:

- Review past County climate



reports and plans, and best practices from other jurisdictions.

- Recommend actions and innovative strategies that have high potential to meet the County's GHG reduction goals in an equitable manner.

- Identify metrics that can be tracked, as well as data and knowledge gaps that could benefit from additional technical analysis.

Following the technical workgroup process, the public will be

invited to review the workgroup findings and provide input.

In August, the county announced plans to add two additional work groups to the effort that would focus on community engagement/education and climate adaptation/sequestration. These groups will examine communication issues and develop plans to share information and enlist the support of county residents in the efforts.

These work groups will focus their attention on the following issues:

- **Climate Adaptation and Sequestration Workgroup.** Climate change has created new weather patterns. In Montgomery County, this is most evident in the frequency of rainfall events that, coupled with historical development patterns, create flooding and drainage is-

MORE

Climate Emergency, cont.

sues. This workgroup will develop recommendations for reducing the County's climate change vulnerability and strengthening the County's ability to prepare for and withstand threats (known as hazard mitigation). Other topics for exploration include the effect of periods of high heat on vulnerable populations, the reliability of the electric grid and the reliability of public infrastructure. The workgroup also will develop recommendations for carbon sequestration, which is the process of removing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it (such as in soil through tree planting or regenerative agriculture). Specific skills/background sought for volunteers: public health, agriculture, green infrastructure, emergency management, climatology, utility/energy management,

social services and/or finance/economics.

- **Public Engagement/Education Workgroup.** Engaging the public regarding climate change and the County's aggressive climate goals is vital to the success of all other County efforts. If the public does not understand the issues the County is trying to address, and the policies and programs that may be put in place, the County's GHG reduction efforts will not reach their full potential. This workgroup will identify opportunities to communicate with and educate residents about the urgency of taking climate action; advise on effective communications strategies for engagement with diverse audiences; identify partners and linkages to other issues that concern citizens (such as public health); identify and promote resources that people can use personally to re-

duce GHG emissions and adapt to a changing climate at the household level; and identify mechanisms to conduct on-going "climate conversations" with residents. Specific skills/background sought for volunteers: marketing and communications.

Education, youth perspectives, public health and/or community leaders.

Interested individuals should have demonstrable expertise related to the workgroup topics, including identifying economic and equity challenges and opportunities that might arise in meeting these goals. Applicants not selected for the original three workgroups will automatically be considered for the new workgroups. The deadline to submit letters of interest is Sept. 15.

The workgroups will engage in the following manner:

- Review past County climate

MORE

Climate Emergency, cont.

reports and plans and best practices from other jurisdictions.

■ Recommend actions and innovative strategies for community engagement/education and for climate adaptation/sequestration.

■ Identify metrics that can be tracked, as well as data and knowledge gaps that could benefit from, additional technical analysis.

Each workgroup consists of community members as well as County Government staff. Each workgroup is cofacilitated by a county government staff member and by a member of the community. Workgroups will convene approximately once a month from Fall 2019 to early 2020. Meetings will be held on a weekday or weeknight, in Rockville or Silver Spring. Workgroup members are expected to attend each meeting in

person.

Following the workgroup convening process, the public will be invited to review the workgroup findings and provide input.

Qualified community members interested in volunteering with one or more workgroups can submit an expression of interest, cover letter and resume by Sept. 15 to climate@montgomerycountymd.gov. Anyone interested in serving on both communications workgroups should indicate their first and second choices.

The need for these work groups is real. The need for the county to open its books to analysis is real. For instance, how many vehicles does the county own; what types of engines do they run; what is the mileage per vehicle per month; and what is their fuel consumption? Based on these data points, the technical work groups can determine

a baseline level of GHG emissions for the vehicle fleet. Baselines must be established across the county's entire carbon footprint in order to measure progress toward its goals to reduce the impacts of climate change. These baselines can then be used by the communications groups to better inform the citizens of Montgomery how carbon emissions can be reduced in their personal lives, where the low-hanging fruit hangs, and demonstrate that the government is willing to do what it asks of its residents. Climate change is going to test the social contract upon which democratic society is founded. We're all going to be asked to do our part.

Success can then be shared statewide and nationally.

For those unwilling to engage or participate, a carbon fee may be staring you in the face in the near future. ■

Food for Thought: Public Participation in Montgomery County, Maryland

By Caroline Taylor, Executive Director of Mont. Countryside Alliance

WE ARE ASKED REPEATEDLY BY OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS TO CONSOLE OURSELVES WITH THE MOST DEGENERATE OF POLITICAL ARGUMENTS: THOUGH WE ARE NOT DOING AS WELL AS WE MIGHT, WE COULD DO WORSE, AND WE ARE DOING BETTER THAN SOME. —WENDELL BERRY

We face tremendous challenges, locally and globally, with climate crisis posing the existential threat of our time. This reality must be met collaboratively, creatively, and aggressively. There is not a minute to waste to get it together... to get all of us together. Voice was given to this imperative at recent launch of the

County's Climate Change Planning initiative. County Executive Marc Elrich took heart that over 100 citizens with a wide range of professional and civic acumen had submitted applications to serve on the technical work groups. Councilmember Tom Hucker's words resonated, "We need to unleash the power of expertise of our residents. We are lucky to have a smart talented pool to advise us as to how we will tackle this emergency together." These are good words. But are we poised to do that?

PARTICIPATION — THAT'S WHAT'S GONNA SAVE THE HUMAN RACE. —PETE SEEGER

When Montgomery County rises to this ultimatum, we will have a model to use to address myriad other

crucial local issues, the solutions of which will benefit from meaningful public participation. With that inspiration, and some of my own recent experiences in mind, I thought to explore the current state of public participation in Montgomery County to see how it plays out day to day at the local level. I reached out to folks, making time for calls and meetings, fully expecting that few would have time or the inclination. I was wrong. Stories and sentiments were freely offered from residents in Wheaton, Damascus, Silver Spring, Poolesville, Bethesda, Clarksburg, Boyds, and beyond. The responses were both sobering and instructive.

And here's what happened with my recent foray into local government decision-making:

Public Participation, cont.

With 15 days' notice of a public hearing addressing an important land use proposal, we only had three days to review staff recommendations and hundreds of pages of attachments. So, a group of concerned citizens, municipal representatives, and advocates from and for the Agricultural Reserve got down to it.

We arrived at the hearing prepared to present our concerns. The land use proposal was next on the agenda. From behind the dais, the man who presides over the hearings came towards our group confronting several of us he recognized as we were taking our seats. "I do not want to hear from all of you. Pick one person and make your case," he commanded. Shocked but not deterred, we pushed back, reminding him that this was a legally required

public hearing, that we six stakeholders had signed up to speak, and would do so. His terse response: "I better not hear the same thing again and again. We've received a bunch of form emails." Chill was effectively cast, and I feel we were less effective as a result. And to have had the hundreds of emails from concerned citizens that were written, many thoughtful and personalized, dismissed added to our deflation.

**THE MOST COMMON WAY
PEOPLE GIVE UP THEIR POWER
IS BY THINKING THEY
DON'T HAVE ANY.
—ALICE WALKER**

This experience is apparently not unique as evidenced by other disquieting remarks leveled at local government of not being heard, of giving up, of feeling that there was

no seat at the table for residents to have meaningful exchanges. One resident said, "It can take years of showing up and paying attention to be able to truly follow and be part of the system."

Another remarked, "I occasionally participate, and feel I am listened to at the time. Then the authorities go ahead and do whatever they want. So why participate?" "If you are not a member of the party in power, they won't listen to you." And this sentiment was shared by several: "Why have hearings to develop zoning and conditions on land uses and little or no real enforcement?"

Importantly, the criticism was more broadly aimed as well: "We have issues that are a reflection of what is going on nationally with name calling, polarization, coarse dialogue."

MORE

Public Participation, cont.

IDEAS WERE OFFERED

Folks obviously have been thinking about what could be done to improve public participation with and trust in local governance:

"If we want to build a sustainable community with an engaged base, we need to make it easier to engage meaningfully on many different levels. One thing would be to livestream more meetings so folks with kids and tough schedules can participate."

"Utilize citizen advisory boards and committees for more than just rubber stamping."

"We need to resurrect the office of the People's Counsel perhaps using the successful Office of Consumer Protection as a model. County businesses have government staff to guide and assist them through

the complexity of our local system. The people should have this type of resource too."

"People should reach out to one another and collaborate like they did with the way they protected Ten Mile Creek."



"After the Gazette papers folded, we lost a watchdog. We need better in-depth investigative reporting to hold local government to account."

"Publish a good clearinghouse of resources. 311 is not really effective."

"Get out of the Rockville offices

and into the community more often."

"Voters must better educate themselves prior to elections, on both the issues and the candidates and vote in the primaries."

"Elected representatives should try to do less a lot better... meaning: make a better study of issues and impacts of their legislative actions."

"Utilize the strengths of the people who know things and can help. In other words, rely on citizen advisory groups and others who volunteer more."

Direct democracy through public participation promotes accountability and greater understanding. It builds a foundation of trust. Citizens' input helps to enhance public policy by sparking innovation and improving responsiveness to community needs. When the public is disregarded or thwarted in their ef-

MORE

Public Participation, cont.

fort to participate meaningfully in local governance, they feel disempowered, deflated, defeated, and many may withdraw. While this sense of fatigue and near surrender was conveyed by a number of those I spoke to, an equal number were eager to improve things. For those in the community, the message here is one of solidarity and an invitation to feel empowered to take part in this most important aspect of our democracy. For our local government leaders, both elected and staff—please take this message as intended—A Call to Action with a sincere belief that all of our needs will be more easily met through non-adversarial collaboration. Let's get down to it together.

[Reprinted with permission from the Montgomery Countryside Alliance, August 14, 2019.] ■

MCCF Executive Committee Meets with County Executive



On August 28, members of the Executive Committee of the Montgomery County Civic Federation met with Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich and members of his senior staff to discuss a broad range of issues important to the Civic Federation, including pedestrian safety, fiscal policy, economic development, environmental policy, and transportation options. The Civic Federation also noted its concern about safe playing fields, road maintenance, affordable housing, and tree canopy. Photo by Alan Bowser.

Photos from the MCCF Annual Awards Celebration Held in June in Silver Spring

Congratulations to our 2019 Montgomery County Civic Federation Awardees—Alan Bowser (The Star Cup), the Talbot Avenue Bridge Centennial Committee (The Wayne

Goldstein Award), Kristy Daphnis (The Sentinel Award), and Special MCCF Recognition to Joan Fidler and Maryland State Senator Ben Kramer.

The Talbot Avenue Bridge Centennial Committee Awardees are Charlotte Coffield, Patricia Tyson, Merrie Blocker, Alan Bowser, George French, Laura Hussey,* Anne Kennedy,* David Rotenstein,* Eva Santorini, Elmorina Stewart, Marcie Stickle, Joel Teitelbaum, and Anna White. (*Not pictured.)

We were honored to welcome special guests U.S. Congressman Jamie Raskin, Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich, Maryland State Delegates Emily Shetty, Al Carr, Charlotte Crutchfield, and Bonnie Cullison, as well as Montgomery County Councilmember Tom Hucker.

Additional photos of the celebration event appear on the next page. (All photos courtesy of Alan Bowser.)

MORE



L-R: HUCKER, BOWSER, STICKLE, FRENCH, COFFIELD, ELRICH, TEITELBAUM, TYSON, CONDREY, STEWART, BLOCKER, SANTORINI, WHITE. (HUSSEY, KENNEDY, AND ROTENSTEIN NOT PICTURED.)

Annual Awards, cont.



Lynn Kapiloff (right), Publisher of *The Montgomery County Sentinel*, with Sentinel Award recipient Kristi Daphnis, Chair of the Montgomery County Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee.



County's Subdivision Staging Policy to Be Reviewed this Year, Volunteers Needed

By Harriet Quinn

The Montgomery County Planning Department is updating the County's Subdivision Staging Policy (SSP), formerly known as the Growth Policy. This Policy—which is scheduled for adoption by the County Council in November 2020—helps to ensure the County's public facilities, particularly its school and transportation systems, keep pace with development and growth patterns. An overview of the SSP and the 2020 update process will be presented to the Planning Board on Thursday, September 5, 2019.

The Subdivision Staging Policy is the tool by which the County ensures its essential public facilities, particularly schools and transportation systems, keep pace with development. It tests the County's

infrastructure for adequacy based on projected capacity, growth, and future development. The policy is updated every four years to ensure that the tools used for evaluating the impact of development on essential public facilities, such as a delay-based transportation test or student generation rates, reflect the latest growth patterns of the County.

As part of the SSP update, Montgomery Planning staff invite community members to apply to serve on the Schools Technical Advisory Team and attend the SSP Community Workshop on October 7, 2019, at 7 p.m. at the Silver Spring Civic Building (1 Veterans Plaza, downtown Silver Spring).

The policy, last revised in 2016, tests whether the county has adequate infrastructure based on pro-

jected capacity, growth, and future development. It includes criteria and guidance for the administration of Montgomery County's Adequate Public Facility Ordinance (APFO), which matches the timing of private development with the availability of public services.

In the past, the APFO was designed to ensure that road and school capacity—as well as water, sewer, and other infrastructure—kept pace with growth. Where new areas of the county were developed, infrastructure to support new homes and businesses was identified and built. Today, growth is occurring through infill development and redevelopment, including the resale of homes in many established neighborhoods. This type of growth creates pressure

SSP Review, cont.

on public school facilities. The 2020 SSP update provides the opportunity to examine the evaluation tools currently used to measure the impact of development within the context of these changing growth patterns.

CALL FOR COMMUNITY MEMBER APPLICATIONS: STAT

As part of the 2020 SSP update, Montgomery Planning seeks interested community members to participate in its Schools Technical Advisory Team (STAT). They are looking for members who represent the various needs and perspectives of our diverse communities. Selected candidates will serve alongside representatives from key stakeholder groups to support Montgomery Planning staff in drafting recommendations.

STAT members will serve as

links between their communities and Planning staff, sharing knowledge of neighborhoods, diverse perspectives, and relevant information. Members must be available to attend all meetings; be active participants in STAT discussions on data, maps, and policies; and be open to considering different points of view.

The STAT will meet regularly between October 2019 through February 2020. Meetings will be held approximately once every three weeks on weekday evenings at the Planning Department (8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring). To apply to become a member of the Schools Technical Advisory Team, [complete the online application](#) by September 20, 2019.

Additional information about the SSP and the 2020 update, along with an online form to submit comments, are available on [the Montgomery Planning website](#).

If you have any questions regarding the STAT or the application, please contact Jason Sartori at 301.495.2172 or Jason.Sartori@montgomeryplanning.org.

TIMELINE

- September 2019: Planning Board Briefing - SSP Overview
- October 2019: Public Kick-Off Forum
- February 2020: Planning Board Briefing - Growth Status and Trends
- February–March 2020: Planning Board Work Sessions on Draft Recommendations
- June 2020: Public Hearing
- June–July 2020: Planning Board Work Sessions on Public Hearing Draft
- July 2020: Planning Board Draft and Resolution
- November 2020: Council Adoption required ■

MCCF ExCom Members Meet with County State Delegation in August

By Alan Bowser, MCCF First Vice President

On Thursday, August 22, 2019, members of the MCCF Executive Committee met with several members of Montgomery County State Delegation to discuss their respective legislative agendas for the General Assembly in 2020.

We were pleased to host State Senator Ben Kramer and State Delegates Lorig Charkoudian, Jarod Solomon, Leslie Lopez, Gabriel Acevero, Emily Shetty, and David Fraser-Hidalgo, as well as representatives of the Offices of State Senator Jeff Waldstreicher and Delegate Julie Palakovich Carr.

The informational session was held in the evening at the American Legion Cissel-Saxon Post in downtown Silver Spring. ■



Alan Bowser

Critical Numbers and Contacts to Keep for Montgomery County, Maryland

*By Reemberto Rodriguez, Director,
Silver Spring Regional Area*

9.1.1 ■ Life-Threatening Emergency

3.1.1 ■ County Information on most
anything (If in doubt, call 3.1.1)

2.1.1 ■ Statewide Human Services
Locator and Resource

5.1.1 ■ State Highway Administra-
tion [Graffiti, potholes (on Ga. Ave.,
Colesville, East-West Hwy., N.H.,
and other State numbered roads; for
local/county roads: 3.1.1)]

240.777.0311 ■ Alternate 3.1.1 num-
ber (calling from outside the county)

240.773.TIPS (8477) ■ Crime Tips
[Anonymous]

301.279.8000 ■ Police Non-emer-
gencies

240.777.6800 ■ 3rd Police Precinct

240.876.2911 ■ Urban District Ho-
tline [for downtown issues needing
immediate attention]

240.777.4000 ■ 24-Hour Crisis Ctr.

240.907.2688 ■ Homeless Assistance

301.949.3010 ■ County Park Police

301.670.8080 ■ Parks Service Cen-
ter [problems or repairs in parks]

202.962.2121 ■ WMATA/Metro Police

703.750.1400 ■ Washington Gas
(If you smell gas, call 9.1.1 first!)

301.607.4722 ■ Graffiti Abatement

240.773.6411 ■ Abandoned Vehicle

301.206.4003 ■ Discolored Water

240.773.5960 / 240.773.5900 ■ Ani-
mal Lost and Found/Animal Control

240.733.DRUG ■ Drug Tip Line

240.424.5325 ■ **Purple Line Project**

FIRE STATIONS

240.773.4701 ■ 8100 Georgia Av-
enue (Downtown Silver Spring)

240.773.4702 ■ 7201 Carroll Avenue
(Takoma Park)

240.773.4716 ■ 111 E. University
Blvd. (Near Blair High School)

240.773.4719 ■ 1945 Seminary Road
(Montgomery Hills) ■

Planning Department Launches Development of Countywide Pedestrian Master Plan

By Harriet Quinn

The Montgomery County Plan-
ning Department is developing a
Pedestrian Master Plan to improve
pedestrian conditions countywide.
The plan will complement the 2018
Bicycle Master Plan and plans for
other modes of transportation
through strategies for making streets
safer and more accessible.

This plan will be comprehensive.
In addition to prioritizing needed
infrastructure, it will recommend
new and amended policies and op-
erational practices, design standards
and programming.

With support from pedestrian
planning experts, a study of world-
class pedestrian plans from around
the nation and world is currently
being undertaken to identify plan
components and best practices to



emulate and refine. The Pedestrian
Master Plan will also draw on data
about existing sidewalks and pedes-
trian crossings now being collected
by the Montgomery County Depart-
ment of Transportation.

The project team will prioritize
countywide pedestrian infrastruc-
ture using, among other factors, a
pedestrian level of comfort analysis,
similar to the Bicycle Level of Traf-
fic Stress developed for the Bicycle
Master Plan. While the Bicycle Level
of Traffic Stress was solely an infra-
structure assessment, the pedestrian
level of comfort analysis will also

assess other factors that influence
the pedestrian experience like land
use and urban design. This priori-
tization will provide guidance to the
Montgomery County Council and
Montgomery County Department of
Transportation in directing resource-
s to improve pedestrian infrastruc-
ture.

The Plan will pay particular
emphasis to those pedestrians
with vision and/or mobility issues,
including recommending design
treatments and policies that exceed
basic Americans with Disabilities Act
compliance.

Pedestrian Plan, cont.

“Pedestrian” is defined for Plan purposes as any person who travels by foot or a wheeled conveyance that is not a bicycle, including scooters, wheelchairs and other mobility devices. “Walking” is defined as “the act of being a pedestrian.”

Similar to the Bicycle Facility Design Toolkit, the plan’s guidance on pedestrian-oriented design treatments and operational approaches will be highly visual and include definitions, dimensions and tips on appropriate uses. Existing programs and public awareness events, such as Safe Routes to School, will provide opportunities for community engagement and education. Public engagement strategies will include walk audits and interactive maps to determine community priorities for access and safety. For more

information, the staff contact is eli.glazer@montgomeryplanning.org or visit the website showing a schedule of events.

PLAN TIMELINE

- July 2019: Planning Board Scope of Work
- September 2019: First Community Meeting
- September 2019: Identify Best Practices and Existing Conditions
- March 2020: Prioritization of Pedestrian Infrastructure
- June 2021: Pedestrian Design Toolkit
- June 2021: Pedestrian Supportive Policies
- June 2021: Working Draft of Plan
- June 2021: Planning Board Draft of Plan
- June/July 2021: Planning Board Approval ■

Election of MCCF Officers

Officers for the coming fiscal year are usually elected at the June meeting. Since MCCF’s Annual Awards Celebration was held in June in lieu of the general meeting, elections were moved to the Sept. 9 meeting.

The following slate of officers has been proposed. Each of these individuals has agreed to serve again.

- President: Bailey Condrey
- 1st Vice President: Alan Bowser
- 2nd Vice President: *Open!*
- Treasurer: Jerry Garson
- Recording Secretary: Karen Cordry

A Second Vice President is still needed. Meetings occur twice a month: general member meetings (Sept. through June) and Executive Committee meetings (August through June).

[See other positions online.](#) ■

Council Adopts Changes to Accessory Apartments, Proposes Changes to Licensing

By Harriet Quinn

At its July 23, 2019, meeting, the County Council adopted ZTA 19-01, Accessory Apartments—Amendments. This major change to the Zoning Ordinance goes into effect on Dec 31. Additional amendments proposed by Councilmembers Albornoz and Katz to address various concerns expressed by communities were not approved as Councilmember Riemer and first-year Councilmembers Friedson and Jawando—the three members of the PHED Committee—led the opposition to the amendments.

The proposed changes were reviewed in the [May 2019 Civic Federation News](#). These zoning changes in the ZTA include:

- Allowing as a limited use, a sec-

ond house in the backyard in every lot in the small lot zones of R-60, R-90, R-200. Previously detached units were only allowed as a limited use on lots of 1 acre or more.

■ Removing the distance from another unit requirement that helped discourage over-concentration of units in one area, which can make parking and infrastructure issues worse. The previous code allowed for a waiver hearing request for the distance requirement.

■ Elimination of off-street parking requirements if the property is within a 1-mile radius of a Metro-Rail, Purple Line, or MARC station. The previous Code allowed for a waiver hearing if on-street parking was sufficient. Now there will be no requirement at all for parking in

those locations.

There are restrictions on size. The size of the detached unit is limited to 50% of the footprint of the primary dwelling, or 10% of the lot size, or 1,200 sf, whichever is lowest. [The final adopted ZTA is online here.](#)

The Council has proposed minor changes to the licensing requirements regarding Accessory Apartments and will hold a public hearing on Bill 22-19 on September 10 at 1:30 p.m.

The [introduction memo for Bill 22-19 is online here.](#)

So far the Council has ignored the issues expressed by many about the impact of short-term rentals for travelers (e.g., Airbnb) on availability of affordable units for long-term tenants. ■

Planning Department Starts Work on Revisions to the County General Plan

By Harriet Quinn

A General Plan is a policy document that guides, over multiple decades, how a jurisdiction will develop and change over time; maintain its important assets; and respond to future opportunities and challenges. Unlike sector, master, or functional plans, a General Plan does not provide specific land use guidance to address short-term issues in targeted geographic areas; it does not change zoning; and it addresses multiple topic areas, rather than just one.

A General Plan is a long-term vision with broad policies that will guide future, more detailed land use planning; public investments in infrastructure and communities amenities; and private development. The Planning Department has

named this General Plan revision “Thrive Montgomery 2050.”



Thrive Montgomery 2050 will ultimately result in an update to this General Plan, which informs the shape and character of every neighborhood in Montgomery County, the types of community facilities and amenities that serve residents and businesses, and the ways we travel throughout the county. The General Plan guides policy and decisions for the county in the coming decades. It is continually revised with amendments and through local master

plans, sector plans, and county-wide functional plans.

Thrive Montgomery 2050 is about the policies and ideas needed to carry our community forward to 2050. It’s the long-term vision of where we want to go and it drives every decision we make, including what types of investments the county government makes.

What is the update process? The Planning Department is asking for your help to envision Montgomery County in 2050. To think about what’s going to be different about the world when you’re 30 years older, and when the kids in your life are your age. To question assumptions so that they can address the evolving nature and impacts of technology, societal shifts, and lifestyle and

MORE

General Plan, cont.

demographic changes on employment, retail, transportation, education, housing, health, infrastructure, culture and recreation, social equity, and environmental resilience.

From now through October of 2019, they will develop visioning to imagine what life in Montgomery County can and should be like in 2050 and what we need to put in place to allow us to thrive in the decades to come.

Then, with your input—along with consultation with County officials, trends data, expert analysis, and best practices—the Department will develop a draft of the Thrive Montgomery 2050 General Plan Update for community review and feedback beginning January 2020.

Your insight will inform the plan that goes to the Planning Board in

October 2020 and eventually to the County Council in spring 2021. MCCF hopes to host a meeting this fall on the General Plan update. The Planning Staff contact is [Khalid Afzal@montgomeryplanning.org](mailto:Khalid.Afzal@montgomeryplanning.org) and the web page showing events and updates is montgomeryplanning.org/planning/master-plan-list/general-plans/thrive-montgomery-2050/

PROJECT TIMELINE

- Pre-Plan: July 2018–May 2019
- Visioning: June–October 2019
- Analysis: November–December 2019
- Draft Plan Development: January–September 2020
- Planning Board Review and Transmittal: October 2020–March 2021
- Council Review and Approval: April 2021 ■

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