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**I** County Council ZTA 19-07: Telecommunications Towers—Limited Use in Residential Zones  
**I** County Council Bill 34-19, Taxation—Development Impact Taxes—Affordable Housing—Housing Impact Fairness Act

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## of note

### Next MCCF Meeting

Monday, December 9, 2019, 7:45 p.m., in the **Cafeteria** @ the Executive Office Building in Rockville. Topic: "2020 Subdivision Staging Policy Development Review Process"

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### Meeting Minutes

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November *See Next Newsletter*

### Membership Application

Join or Renew Now **SEE FORM**

*Coming Soon: Online Dues Payment*

## Federation Meeting #908

Monday, December 9, 2019

7:45 p.m.

Cafeteria (below lobby level)

**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 This Agenda
- 7:51 Announcements
- 7:57 Approval of Minutes, November 11 Meeting **P.13**
- 7:58 Treasurer's Report
- 8:00 Program: 2020 Subdivision Staging Policy **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 December meeting will be held in the **Cafeteria 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 21**

## December Program: 2020 Subdivision Staging Policy: How Does the Development Review Process Determine Adequacy of Public Facilities and Need for Infrastructure?

By Harriet Quinn

Every four years, the Planning Department and the County Council review and update the **Subdivision Staging Policy (SSP)**, which used to be referred to as the Growth Management Policy for the County. The focus of this session will be on the County's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) and how the SSP guides and administers compliance with the APFO.

The APFO is a set of laws in the Montgomery County Code that requires the government to evaluate public infrastructure capacities and find them to be sufficient to support a proposed development before approving certain plans and permits. The SSP provides the criteria, guidelines, and tools to be used for the

capacity analysis and determination for how timely delivery of public facilities will serve existing and future development.

The speakers will include:

■ **Jason Sartori**, Chief, Functional Planning and Policy, Montgomery County Planning Department;

■ **Eric Graye**, Senior Transportation Planner, Functional Planning and Policy, Montgomery County Planning Department; and

■ **Brian Krantz**, MCCF Representative on **Schools Technical Advisory Team (STAT)** to the Planning Department.

The County APFO states: "A *preliminary plan of subdivision must not be approved unless the Planning Board determines that public facilities will be adequate to support*

*and service the area of the proposed subdivision. Public facilities and services to be examined will include roads and public transportation facilities, sewerage and water service, schools, police stations, firehouses, and health clinics.*"

Some of the questions that will be addressed in this meeting include:

■ Is the County's infrastructure keeping pace with new development?

■ Who is responsible for administering the APFO and measuring its effectiveness?

■ How does the County determine if facilities and infrastructure are adequate to support a new develop-

MORE

## December Program, cont.

ment?

■ What tests are performed and what do they measure?

■ If the tests indicate that additional infrastructure is needed to support the development, who builds the additional infrastructure and who is paying for it?

■ Are development impact taxes (Transportation Impact Tax, School Impact Tax) being collected and, if so, how much do they contribute to the infrastructure required to support the new development?

■ How much is the County foregoing in impact taxes with developer exemptions?

■ In 2018, the Office of Legislative Oversight completed a report, **Private Development and Public Infrastructure**, that examined the types of infrastructure that develop-

ers are required to build or fund in a development project. This report was completed prior to the Council legislation that exempted all developments from paying impact tax on a project that provided 25% MPDUs. What have been the results of that legislation?

■ How are the forecasts of school population done and how accurate are they? Currently, MCPS is using 553 portable classrooms at the County's 196 schools. Nine of the 25 school clusters are over 120% of capacity and 22 individual schools are over 120%. Consequently, the MCPS Superintendent is requesting funding for 25 school capacity projects in the CIP Budget for 2021–2026 with a cost of \$761 million for the projects.

■ Are there other public infrastructure categories that should be reviewed for adequacy that are not

currently included in the APFO?

■ What changes to these policies and tests are being discussed through the quadrennial review of the Subdivision Staging Policy which will be taken up by the County Council in 2020?

■ What suggestions do you have for improvement?

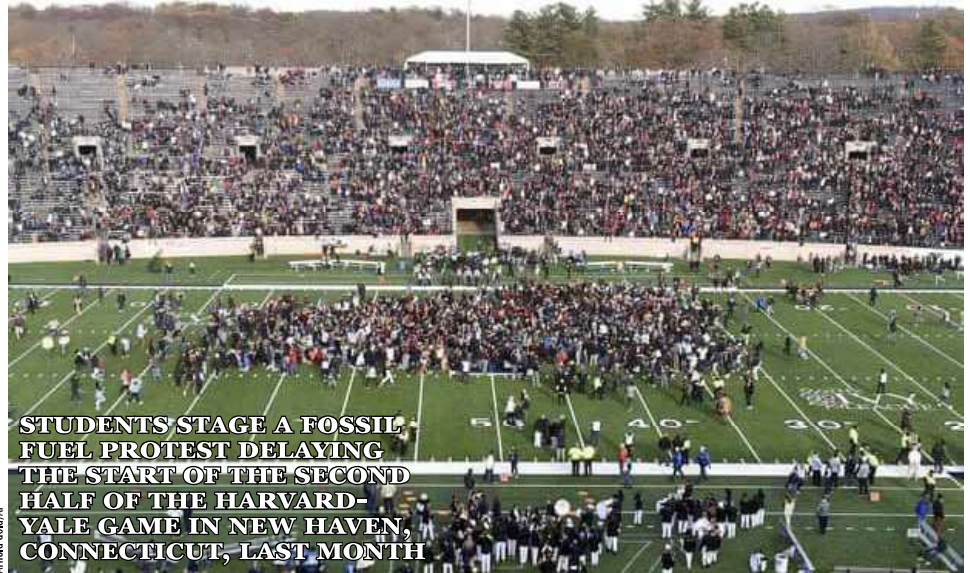
At the end of the evening, we should all have a better understanding of the criteria for the administration of the APFO, the required tests for adequacy of infrastructure, how the costs for the infrastructure are allocated and how effective the overall policy is. We hope your association representatives will attend to become informed and involved about how decisions are made regarding how infrastructure is provided to accommodate new development and to make suggestions for improvement. ■

## The Climate Crisis and Synthetic Turf: The Dumping Has Begun

By Bailey Condrey, MCCF President

The universities of Harvard and Yale don't pique the average football enthusiast's attention, regularly, but the gridiron game between the Ivy League pillars on November 23 received greater attention when students and alumni from both schools swarmed the "Yale Bowl" at half-time to protest **the schools' lack of progress toward enacting meaningful plans to divest their endowments from the fossil fuel industry**, which has helped bring the world the climate catastrophe.

Perhaps the greatest irony to the halftime protest lies in the field under the protestors' feet. Ahhh, synthetic turf with crumb rubber infill, the icing on the cake of the hydrocarbon industries' control over our lives, where something as



simple, nourishing, and sustainable as grass gets replaced with all manner of complex, petroleum-derived molecules for the improved health of

children and youth.

According to Nancy Alderman of Environment and Human Health,

MORE

## Synthetic Turf, cont.

Inc., Yale administrators were provided with the scientific evidence about syn turf's toxicity, especially the crumb rubber, **but they chose it anyway after a group of alumni agreed to pay the majority of the cost**.

Rather than spend the necessary funds to maintain the grass field, or better yet, make it world-class for a world-class university, the school allowed free money to trump sound science, as if they couldn't afford great grass.

Last month's edition of the *Civic Federation News* contained **an article on recent scientific testing of synthetic turf that reveals the grass blades leach PFASs**. This article also examines the contributions these fields make toward climate change and the ongoing environmental risks



they pose for the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Montgomery County is not Yale University, but schools in MoCo act as though they have the same multibillion dollar endowment as the Bulldogs. Several syn turf fields in MoCo failed years ago, but Montgomery County Public Schools continues to use them despite the

deplorable conditions that exist on them.

This photo [at left] from WJHS reveals how abysmal this field has become. Piles of decomposing plastic grass blades and crumb rubber infect both the users and the local ecology with particulate dust rising from the fields and micro-plastics. If micro-plastics can now be found in rain in some of the most remote places on the Earth, what effect are this field's conditions doing to the lungs of regular users?

The WJHS field is slated for replacement and none too soon, but they won't replace it with a state-of-the-art grass field. MCPS will smother the site with more petroleum products and the used field will become what exactly? It won't be recycled and its toxic legacy will build unabated.

MORE



## Synthetic Turf, cont.

Reporting from the *York Daily Record* in York, Pa., reveals that **post-consumer syn turf fields are now showing up across the countryside of the “Keystone State.”** The rolls of carpet and the infill are illegally dumped in some instances, and legally stockpiled on private land in others. Photos from the article reveal a stockpile of thousands of rolls in Cleona, and heaps of dumped rolls in York County.

Pennsylvania, Maryland, Montgomery County, and the rest of the nation have no plan for managing the disposal of this product. One might suggest this stems from the mythology about the recyclability of syn turf, but in the end this amounts to one big, colossal lie, much like the one about cigarette smoking not harming the smoker. Just like sec-

ond-hand smoke affects the health of others, these syn turf dumps will continue degrading and polluting, releasing green house gases, leaching PFASs into the water supply and creating homes for rats and mosquitoes.

In the case of Montgomery County, the MoCo Solid Waste Advisory Board predicted in 2011 that a syn turf waste tsunami would hit



the waste stream and preparations should be made. It was projected nationally that one to four million tons of syn turf waste would be generated in this time frame. That was informed thinking, which was ignored. Today, used syn turf has nowhere to go from a post-use processing perspective, so it will become piles of pollution blighting the land.

This represents a completely avoidable man-made problem. The answer is not to wait for a mythical and ultimately toxic “recycling” solution, but to just *stop* using this incredibly destructive petroleum product and start building top-of-the-line grass fields.

The growing list of risks to both humans and the environment from syn turf fortifies the case against the continued use of these plastics fields, which were intentionally never regu-

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## Synthetic Turf, cont.

lated as a children’s product.

Montgomery County declared a Climate Emergency in 2017. How does a product that creates extraordinary heat islands, pollutes the watershed with micro-plastics, off-gases both methane and ethylene (GHGs) from the moment it’s exposed to the sun, infects the watershed with PFASs, and can’t ever be recycled contribute positively to the county meeting its climate emergency goals?

We subvert our own ability to be responsible caretakers of our children’s future environment when science gets repeatedly dismissed in making public policy decisions. It’s time to force MCPS and the private schools in MoCo to use science in policy making. The same science they teach our children. ■

## A Citizens Guide to Safe Bow-and-Arrow Hunting for Suburban Neighborhoods in Montgomery County, Md.

By Peggy Dennis, Past President, Transportation Committee member

If your neighborhood is overrun with deer, take heart. It’s not too late to have the herd culled during the 2019–2020 hunting season. As deer populations have increased, suburban and urban areas in Montgomery County face too many deer. In some suburbs, the deer population exceeds 400 animals per square mile, while the carrying capacity of the land is about 40 animals per square mile.

Although pleasing to watch, large numbers of free-roaming deer increase the risk of human injury from deer-vehicle collisions (DVC). Montgomery County has more than 2,000 reported DVCs per year, and this statistic does not include the thousands of deer which are injured

or killed but are not reported.

From the public health standpoint, most people know that deer and deer ticks spread Lyme disease. How many are aware that they are also associated with debilitating and costly diseases such as *Babesiosis*, *Bartonella*, *Ehrlichia Chaffensis*, and *Powassan encephalitis*?

Deer cause great damage to the environment. They have destroyed the understory of many of our regional, community, and stream valley parks, denuded hillsides of native plants, destroyed habitat for other species, accelerated soil erosion, and promoted the takeover of invasive species. Some naturalists now consider overabundant deer as significant a threat to the bird population

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## Bowhunting Deer, cont.

as climate change because they destroy the forest understory in our parks needed by ground-nesting birds. Too many young deer make your neighborhood very attractive for predators such as coyotes to move in, a situation we are beginning to experience in Montgomery County. And if you have too many deer, forget about your landscaping or trying to grow your own fruits and vegetables in your back yard!

### THE BOWHUNTING OPTION

You can help change this situation for the better. Other options for deer management—such as feeding, exclusionary fencing, and chemical “birth control”—are impractical, counterproductive, or prohibitively expensive. Regulated hunting, specifically bowhunting, is

a safe, ethical, humane, and efficient method for decreasing the number of deer in residential neighborhoods. It provides deer population control at the least cost to taxpayers because volunteer bowhunters do the “work” of removing deer as a public service.

Hundreds of metro areas—including Fairfax County, Virginia; Columbus, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Pa.; and many cities in Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Canada—allow bowhunting. Few problems and no accidents have been reported. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources supports the use of bowhunting to curb deer populations in the suburbs.

### WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Archery is one of the safest sports in the United States. Most accidents involve the bowhunter

falling out of a tree stand. In Maryland and Virginia, there have been no recorded incidents involving injury to persons, pets, or property caused by a bowhunter.

Bowhunters typically hunt from elevated positions or tree stands. This means that an arrow is shot at a downward angle. If it misses the deer, it goes harmlessly into the ground. And an arrow, under most conditions, cannot travel any appreciable distance once it hits even a twig or small limb. National surveys show that most deer harvested with a bow are shot at distances of 20 yards or less, which makes it ideal for hunting in and around suburban and urban areas.

Deer taken by reputable hunters are never “wasted.” All the meat (venison) is used, either by the hunter or by donation to local food

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## Bowhunting Deer, cont.

banks, soup kitchens, and shelters. In Montgomery County, this is done by an organization called Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry. Property owners who wish to obtain venison may do so through arrangement with their hunter.

### HOW TO FIND A SAFE AND RELIABLE HUNTER

Many individuals know little about hunting, particularly bowhunting. Bowhunting in residential neighborhoods should never be undertaken by amateurs, but left to licensed, well-trained, skilled sportsmen.

In Montgomery County, several groups can link you to an expert bowhunter. The Animal Connection Deer Management Team (ACDMT) is an organization of seasoned,

veteran bowhunters with strict rules and enforcement to ensure the safety of hunters and the public. Most members of ACDMT are members of the Maryland Bowhunters Society, an organization dedicated to preserving and promoting safe and responsible bowhunting; educating the non-hunting public about the role of the bowhunter in wildlife management and conservation; and educating bowhunters in safety, shooting skills, hunting techniques, and landowner relations. Both groups strongly advocate ethical bowhunting within the laws of the jurisdiction hunted. A third organization is the Bow Hunting Fire Fighters of Maryland. (See below for contacts.)

Not every suburban yard is appropriate for bowhunting. The bowhunter will first tell you if your property has a suitable location for

hunting. If it does, the bowhunter should provide you with copies of his/her hunting license, safety certificate, a release of liability form, and a copy of the permission form for you to sign, plus copies of the permission form for your neighbors to sign, if needed. Your contract or agreement with the bowhunter may stipulate what days and times hunting may take place, how you will know that the hunter is at work, where the hunter will be shooting from, where bait will be located, whether the hunter may field dress the animal and leave remains on your property or not, and whether you wish to be gifted with venison for your own consumption.

### GET SUPPORT FROM YOUR NEIGHBORS

Under Montgomery County

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## Bowhunting Deer, cont.

law, owners of inhabited dwellings within 50 yards of the hunting location must give permission before hunting takes place. (Thanks to the County Council and our delegation for working with us to decrease the “safety perimeter” over the past several years.)

You should draw the distinction between the shooting that will take place on your property and the permission that the hunter may need to enter neighboring properties should a wounded deer stray onto their property. Hunters are required to make every attempt to track, euthanize, and remove a wounded deer, even if it is no longer on the property where the shooting has occurred. Most homeowners do not want to return home to find a dead or dying deer in their yard. If your

neighbors have questions or express anxiety or reluctance, it will help if you hold a meeting with them and the bowhunter. The bowhunter can then explain how, where, and when the hunting will take place. It is crucial that your neighbors understand that this form of hunting is safe, humane, and presents no risk to people, pets, or property.

This year, the season for archery hunting begins in early September, so now is the time to discuss this with your neighbors and local civic association and line up one or more hunters to work in your neighborhood. To find an experienced, licensed archery hunter, contact one or several of these organizations:

- **Animal Connection Deer Management Team**
- **Bow Hunting Fire Fighters of Maryland**
- **Maryland Bowhunters Society** ■

## Legislative Updates

*By Harriet Quinn*

### COUNTY COUNCIL ZTA 19-07, TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWERS, LIMITED USE IN RESIDENTIAL ZONES

On November 19, a County Council public hearing was held on the ZTA 19-07, which is sponsored by Councilmembers Riemer, Rice and Albornoz. Twenty-five residents testified in opposition to ZTA 19-07 and many others were in the audience in the packed Council chamber. Our testimony is on the [MCCF website](#).

This is the fourth time a ZTA has been proposed to place small cell towers in close proximity to homes.

The County Executive proposed

**MORE**

## Legislative Updates, cont.

a pause on further action while he convenes a working group comprised of technical experts, key residents, industry representatives, and County staff to address issues related to: administrative effectiveness and ensuring the public processes are fair and transparent; timely and transparent notice; the permitting and inspection of cell poles and towers by the Department of Permitting Services (DPS); the coordination between the Tower Committee, DPS, and Office of Zoning and Administrative hearings (OZAH); and whether the application fees cover the costs of processing.

There are also two very significant pending court cases in the Ninth Circuit where Montgomery

County has joined the National League of Cities and dozens of other local governments from around the Country in an appeal of the FCC Orders. The outcome of those cases could affect decisions related to tower placement.

The PHED Committee has tentatively scheduled a worksession on the ZTA for January 23rd.

### COUNTY COUNCIL BILL 34-19, TAXATION—DEVELOPMENT IMPACT TAXES—AFFORDABLE HOUSING—HOUSING IMPACT FAIRNESS ACT

A public hearing was held on December 3rd on Bill 34-19 which is sponsored by Councilmembers Glass and Jawando. The Bill would impose impact taxes and a demolition excise tax on “tear-down” houses and would add about

\$50,000 to a project that replaces 50% or more of an existing house. Impact taxes were originally established on new development to contribute to the cost of the new infrastructure that is needed to accommodate new development such as schools and transportation.

The MCCF Planning and Land Use Committee believes that this proposal should be reviewed as part of the comprehensive update to the Subdivision Staging Policy (SSP) which is currently underway and reviews all impact taxes and exemptions rather than as a separate Bill. The SSP is scheduled to be taken up by the Council next year and must be adopted by November 2020.

A Government Operations Committee worksession on the Bill is tentatively scheduled for January 16, 2020. ■



## Minutes of November 11, 2019, MCCF General Meeting #907 in Rockville

*By Karen Cordry, Recording Secretary*

The General Meeting convened at Richard Montgomery High School

**Call to Order:** President Bailey Condrey called the meeting to order at 7:47 and attendees provided introductions.

### Adoption of Meeting Agenda:

It was moved and seconded that the agenda as printed in the newsletter be adopted. The agenda was unanimously approved.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ The State Highway Department will be holding public meetings this month in Gaithersburg and other locations to discuss the pending I-270

expansion proposals.

■ Approval of October Minutes. It was moved and seconded that minutes of the October meeting, as published in the November newsletter (p. 24), be approved. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jerry Garson reported on recent transactions and the account balance for the year. As of now, we have received \$1,060 in dues. Expenses to date, including payment for the awards dinner earlier in the summer, totaled \$891.80, for a net total of \$168.20.

### NOVEMBER PROGRAM

The topic for November was the Park and Planning Department's work on producing a Pedestrian Master Plan. The speaker was Eli

Glazer, who is heading up the plan project.

The overall goal of the project is to take a comprehensive look at the County's infrastructure—everything from sidewalks, to road design, to lighting, shade, snow removal, etc.—with a view to making sure that, at a minimum, every trip of 1/4 mile or less has a pedestrian option. He noted that P&P does not itself design or build the projects; rather it works in consultation with other county agencies and the schools to set the overall vision. In 2016, the County official adopted the Vision Zero philosophy with a goal of reaching 0 pedestrian deaths by 2030. A fundamental part of the Vision is that safety is the most important criteria as opposed to simply moving traffic

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## Nov. Mtg. Minutes, cont.

more quickly. Among the problem are roads with no or very narrow sidewalks, inadequate lighting, and long distances between crossing points.

Since more than 60% of residents include a pedestrian portion in their work trips, these issues are critical. They are looking at best practices across the county, in addition to doing data gathering within the county by rating every sidewalk and crossing on an overall "pedestrian comfort" scale, i.e., how comfortable pedestrians will be using those features. They have an interactive program to get feedback from residents about various design examples. They are also looking at enforcement issues in terms of the best way to get compliance and what levels of fines will be optimal.

The results of their pedestrian comfort assessments are going into area Master Plans, in terms of how many people can access parks and other infrastructure over highly rated paths. They are also working on developing recommendations for traffic calming, and proactive planning for future building, such as ensuring that utility poles are sited outside of walkways, school siting criteria, and dealing with construction detours, etc. They are also looking at the best sorts of barriers to preclude mid-block jaywalking. This is expected to be a two-year process and the activities during that period can be accessing at [www.montgomeryplanning.org/walkinghere](http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/walkinghere). They will also be convening a Community Advisory Group and will be posting the application later this month.

Kristy Daphnis, the chair of the County's Pedestrian, Bike, and

Traffic Safety Advisory Committee ("PBTSAC") discussed the work of the committee and her involvement. About half of the group is composed of County officials; the other half is made up of a variety of community advocated in both the pedestrian and bike safety areas. They meet bimonthly and have many of the meetings out in the community in areas such as Wheaton, Germantown, and Long Branch to give more residents access to the discussions. The PBTSAC has been pushing the county to determine progress on the Vision Zero deliverable, as well as pushing on specific measures such as the Capital Crescent Trail, and has commented on various master and sector plans. They welcome the chance to come out and talk to local community groups.

Some of the considerations for

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## Nov. Mtg. Minutes, cont.

recommendations are: (1) who owns/maintains an area, (2) what does the area look like now, (3) what funding is available, (4) what is the design of the road and current traffic, (5) how will changes fit into the overall traffic network, and (6) what measures are allowed under the federal traffic control manual. PBT-SAC's role is to present comments and perspectives, not to design the changes. The County has a program to get out more reflective gear for pedestrians but hasn't always used the most reflective paint or the best lighting. Pepco is currently responsible for road lighting based on long-standing agreements that don't always require the most effective lighting in ways that don't waste energy or create light pollution.

There were a number of com-

ments from the audience about problem areas and concerns about how responsive the County had been in the past. Some of the suggestions were to utilize the County's "walk audit" toolkit, to make reports via the 311 line, to work with the Safe Routes to School coalition, and to start with one's own civic association and then try to link up with other groups to build and strengthen county-wide coalitions.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### Resolutions

**I Independent Inspector General for MCPS.** A resolution was published in the October and **November newsletters (p. 17)** to support the creation of an Office of Inspector General with oversight of only MCPS which represents over half of the County's budget. The Of-

fice would be separate from the current County IG which has oversight of all County agencies plus HOC and Montgomery College. It was moved and seconded to approve the published resolution. There was discussion of Sen. Kramer's bill that would authorize the existing County IG to include the schools, i.e., a somewhat different approach. The published resolution was approved without dissent, but with one abstention.

**I Pedestrian Safety.** The resolution as published in the newsletter (**p. 5**) was moved and seconded. There was discussion about various measures that audience members thought were needed to better balance the needs to both move traffic and ensure pedestrian safety. Kristy noted that, in general, experience has shown that these pedestrian safety measures could be made with-

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## Nov. Mtg. Minutes, cont.

out impeding overall traffic. One primary concern was to ensure that school bus stops and walking routes were better situated to try to keep students away from exposure to very busy roadways. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to amend the resolution to make specific reference to these school safety issues. As amended, the resolution was approved.

**I Nine Council Districts.** As discussed at the October meeting, there is a petition circulating by Nine Districts for MoCo to place an amendment before the voters to have the County Council restructured from five District and four At Large members to nine District members. A motion was made and seconded to support the resolution as published in the newsletter (**p. 10**)

which supports the effort to place the matter before the voters.

The Council has had five Council Districts since its creation in 1970 when the population was 520,000. The population has increased 100% during that half century but the District representation has not. Increasing the number of Districts to nine would provide responsive representation as each Council member would represent ~125,000 residents instead of the current 225,000 residents.

There was discussion about the reasons for the proposal, including whether there was adequate concern for the up-county area. It was noted that very few counties the size of Montgomery County have At Large representatives and that the MCCF supported the same measure in 2004. On the other hand, several saw value in having members with

a county-wide view, either under the current structure or an enlarged counsel with more Districts as well as At Large members. Due to time constraints and more dialogue requested, a motion was made, seconded, and adopted, to table the current motion and have the Executive Committee review the issue further before the next meeting.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Public Safety

**I Alan Bowser** reported that Marcus Jones has been appointed as Police Chief. He has 34 years of experience.

### Planning and Land Use

**I Harriet Quinn** reported that there will be a hearing on November 19 to discuss the most recent iteration of the proposal on small

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

## Nov. Mtg. Minutes, cont.

cell tower placement in residential zones, ZTA 19-07. Montgomery County, the National League of Cities, and dozens of other cities, counties, and local governments have appealed the FCC orders that remove local government authority regarding siting. The ZTA hearing has a waiting list for those wishing to testify.

### Transportation

■ Jerry Garson reported that H.B. 376 passed the House unanimously but was killed in the Senate. Its goal was to get commercial vehicles in accidents removed from limited access roads more quickly to keep traffic moving. The Transportation Committee will meet on Monday, November 18.

### Environmental

■ Bailey Condrey reported that there was continuing to be emerging evidence about the problems arising from contamination, including PFASs leaching from synthetic turf and entering the soil and ground water. The County has a policy on the Climate Emergency and five working groups but the turf is still installed despite creating greenhouse gases and heat islands.

### NEW BUSINESS

■ Jerry Garson noted that the NTSB has recommended that every state implement mandatory helmet laws for bike riders.

**Adjournment:** Bailey called for and received unanimous approval for adjournment at 9:45 p.m. ■

## MCCF Executive Committee October 24, 2019, Meeting Minutes in Silver Spring

*By Karen Cordry, Secretary*

The ExCom met October 24, 2019, at the American Legion in downtown Silver Spring.

**Called to Order:** Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:54 p.m. Agenda approved.

**Attendance:** Bailey Condrey, Alan Bowser, Tim Willard, Jerry Garson, Karen Cordry, Jacquie Bokow, and Sue Schumacher.

**Treasurer's Report:** See report at October General Meeting [p. 24, October CFN]; have received one additional check for \$15.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 28

■ Md. Legislature: Senate Presi-

dent Mike Miller will be stepping down due to ill health.

■ Del. Frasier-Hidalgo will be holding a town hall meeting in Germantown to discuss transportation issues in the area.

### November 1

■ Emancipation Day for Maryland in 1864, when slavery was abolished in the state. There will be several events that weekend to celebrate, mostly in Sandy Spring.

### November 6

■ Free Concert for Veterans will be held on Nov. 6 at the S.S. Civic Building. There will be "big band" type music.

### November 8

■ Conservation Montgomery's an-

nual meeting will be at the Writer's Center in Bethesda. The Audubon Naturalist Society award will be given to Caroline Taylor from the Montgomery Countryside Alliance. Meeting will be free.

### NOVEMBER PROGRAM

Speakers will be Kristy Daphnis, Chair of PBTSAC and Eli Glasser, County Planning Department, lead planner for the Pedestrian Master Plan, which is slated to be done by 2021. Bike and pedestrian deaths have increased while traffic accidents have declined. The Action Committee for Transit had been involved in doing a memorial action at the places where someone had died.

We could invite them to attend as well as working with the MoCo

## ExCom Oct. Minutes, cont.

Council of PTAs and the Safe Routes to School Program and other groups interested in these issues to form a county-wide coalition to keep pushing these issues. We should also invite the Council Members, state reps, etc. to the meeting.

Alan proposed that the Civic Fed. should adopt a resolution supporting pedestrian safety; he'll draft it for the November newsletter [see page 5] to be voted on at the meeting. Alan and Karen will also put together newsletter article on meeting.

### ISSUES DISCUSSED

■ Jacquie had been working on trying to get the PayPal system working. It took the money but did not necessarily bring the person to the next page to input contact data. She'll keep working on it with Bailey.

■ Committee Chair appointments: current committees are Education, Environment, Legislation/Committee for Montgomery, Membership, Planning/Land Use, Public Finance, Public Safety, Public Utilities, and Transportation. Bailey will do an article on need for additional volunteers for committee chairs.

■ Discussion of impact taxes list on website. The December meeting will be on the Subdivision Staging Policy and Harriet would also do an article on that and the Cell Tower ZTA, which was proposed again.

■ Membership: we're doing a bit better than last year and we've already collected as much as all last year but need to get the renewal reminders up. Notices will be going out in conjunction with website payment page.

■ Committee for Montgomery: It was agreed we would renew our

membership. Their legislative breakfast is coming up on December 15 and it was agreed we would pay for 2 tickets to the breakfast for Bailey and Alan; Jerry stated he would buy his own. Moved and seconded to buy the tickets (at \$75 each) and approved by voice vote.

■ Kim Persaud will do a newsletter article on the proposed referendum by 9 Districts for MoCo. The proposal is to have the Council structure changed from 5 Districts and 4 at-large to 9 Districts. [See p. 9, November CFN.]

■ Jeff Wisener from Maplewood (?) has been pushing for MoCo to adopt a "Green New Deal" including pushing for a carbon tax/rebate bill. Tim Willard and Jon Foreman will be asked to coordinate with him to work on drafting a general resolution on the climate emergency, which Jon

MORE

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has been pushing to do as well.

■ It was moved, seconded, and approved that the MCCF expressed its sympathies to the family of Officer Bomba and to his friends and colleagues on the force.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Education

■ The Kirwan Commission report came out with their funding proposal and some jurisdictions (including MoCo) will be expected to commit substantially more funding than is currently required in order to get the additional state funding.

■ There has also been more testing on artificial grass and they are finding there are persistent toxic chemicals (PFASs) that leach out from them. Bailey will do an article

on this for the newsletter [see page 6, November CFN]. This makes the use of these fields a public health issue as well as not being good for the health of those playing on them.

#### Public Utilities

■ There is a growing problem with water main leaks due to the aging system. It's not clear if there is any overall program to deal with them.

#### Public Finance

■ No one wants to raise taxes to deal with upcoming issues; some potential new revenue sources are from taxes on legalized marijuana and increasing taxes on casinos and/or tobacco.

#### Planning and Land Use

■ Harriet submitted report in advance.

#### Transportation

■ SHA wants to have a meeting with MCCF transportation committee (and Ex Com) to discuss ongoing developments with I270/495 plans. It was agreed we would have a meeting on Nov. 18 at Richard Montgomery High at 7. One suggestion about dealing with effects of construction work would be to make ICC free during those times. There are still delays with the Purple Line largely due to issues with the concrete.

#### Environment

■ The Council is considering a racial equity bill that would require all legislation to be evaluated by that standard. There is also a similar requirement pending on doing climate assessments on legislation and there is some concern as to how the two bills could interact.

MORE

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■ The continued effects of climate change are creating recurrent flooding in a number of areas such as Dorchester County, Annapolis, Alexandria, etc. Rising levels also affect wells and septic systems, compromising houses using such systems and reducing home values. Bailey will have an article on this, too [see page 19, November CFN].

### Legislative

■ The State Delegation met with the County Council yesterday; among the topics discussed was support of the Kirwan funding.

### OLD BUSINESS

■ At the November meeting, the membership needs to vote on the resolution that was printed in the October newsletter that supports

a separate Inspector General for MCPS. The resolution will be reprinted in the November CFN [p. 17].

### NEW BUSINESS

■ County will be holding budget forums in various areas; Alan noted there will be a meeting on October 30 at 7 p.m. at the Civic Center Bldg. Tim Willard agreed he could attend and present MCCF's views. Alan will do a first draft of suggested topics and ask Harriet to assist. Among topics suggested were support for increasing the tree canopy, requiring solar panels on all new public buildings, eliminating funding for synthetic turf, fully funding recommendations of the Pedestrian and Bike Safety Plans, and better analysis of the best way to use transit funds to ensure a net energy benefit.

■ Review of items for newsletter.

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