

February Program: Greening the County | What's happening at the county and state levels to improve environmental stewardship | **P. 3**

Volunteers Needed | Nominating Cmte. for new officers | **P. 4**

The County Executive's Recommended FY2021–2026 Capital Improvements Program | In his first State of the County Address on January 15, Marc Elrich revealed aspects of his proposed \$5 billion FY2021–2026 Capital Budget and Capital Improvements Program (CIP) | **P. 5**

Feb. 2020 Legislative Session Details | Here are details | **P. 6**

Letter to MGA Leaders on Handicapped Parking | The lack of handicapped parking in Annapolis keeps disabled and elderly individuals from testifying | **P. 6**

We Must Rise to a New Era of Activism | With *The Sentinel* newspapers closing, we must all engage in local activities | **P. 7**

MCPS, Synthetic Turf, and WJHS Greenwashing? | 20 tons of synturf to be shipped 9,000 miles to Malaysia and repurposed | **P. 8**

Call for Nominations | Who should be recognized for their contributions to the County? | **P. 10**

TO PRINT, USE [PRINT VERSION](#)

of note

Next MCCF Meeting #910

February 10, 2020, 7:45 p.m. @ the Executive Office Building in Rockville. "Program Title"

[AGENDA, P. 2](#) • [PROGRAM, P. 3](#)

Meeting Minutes

January 13 General Meeting **P. 11**
Executive Committee Meeting via
Teleconference on January 23 **P. 16**

Membership Application

Join or Renew Now **[SEE FORM](#)**

**Like our new [Facebook Page](#)
and follow us on [Twitter](#).**

Federation Meeting #910

Monday, February 10, 2020

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
- 7:57 Approval of Minutes, January 13th Meeting **P.11**
- 7:58 Treasurer's Report
- 8:00 Program: Greening the County **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 February 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. ■

mccf

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 18**

MCCF February 10th Program: Greening the County

By Bailey Condrey, MCCF President

The February program will delve into what's happening at the county and state levels to improve environmental stewardship across Montgomery and Maryland, highlighting the activities of numerous constituencies to reduce our carbon footprint, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and overall address the county's self-declared climate emergency of 2017.

That emergency declaration has "the multiple goals of initiating a global mobilization to restore a safe climate and, closer to home, build a sustainable economy and reduce the county's greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2027, reaching 100% elimination by 2035, and initiate large-scale efforts to remove excess carbon from the atmosphere."

We'll look at activities across the region and efforts at the state level to educate target audiences and initiate the hands-on work of making our economy more sustainable and helping a greater number of citizens understand the reasons for improving environmental stewardship. It's difficult to build a sustainable, greener economy without the knowledge to understand why it's necessary.

One of the evening's speakers will be **Helga Luest**. She's been working on two of the county's climate change workgroups, the "Transportation Technical" (Electric Vehicle Subcommittee) and the "Communications and Community Engagement Workgroups." (She's Chair of the Evidence Based Communications Subgroup.) She'll

discuss what these workgroups have been doing for the past six months. She'll look at the need for adaptation, with a focus on community connectedness, because we already feel the effects of climate change.

Helga has worked in health communications for 30 years, has been named a Congressional Unsung Hero and ran for state delegate in District 18. She has also earned her climate change professional (CC-P) certification from the state of Maryland and the Association of Climate Change Professionals.

Helga started "Give A Shift," a YouTube channel, as a way to get community leaders more deeply committed to climate action and to raise awareness in MoCo (and beyond) about little things we can

February Program, cont.

do every day that make a difference. She started a Facebook group called “Climate Change & Health” and a LinkedIn group named “Climate Reality” to make sure that climate activists have a line to the latest research, news articles, and opportunities to dialog.

Our second speaker will be **Theresa Cullen**. She’s the Executive Director of the **Alice Ferguson Foundation** and a Prince George’s County native. Theresa has spent 27 years in the field of education, with 12 of those years teaching outside of the United States, most recently in Switzerland where she was the Head of The American School in Switzerland (TASIS). She holds two Master’s degrees in leadership education.

The Alice Ferguson Founda-

tion’s mission is to connect people to the natural world, sustainable agricultural practices, and the cultural heritage of their local watershed through education, stewardship, and advocacy. Theresa will speak about the Caffritz Environmental Center and how the AFF was instrumental in creating this NET ZERO environmental learning facility that has a focus on the Potomac River watershed.

Bailey Condrey will speak about activities and legislation specific to Montgomery. A lot is happening and certain legislative proposals will require the attention of county citizens to bring them to reality.

We hope you can make it. These presentations will energize attendees for engaging with the work of sustainability and will be welcome news for younger audiences. ■

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!!

Please volunteer for MCCF’s Nominating Committee. The MCCF will only be effective with good leadership.

Recommendations are needed for:

President

1st Vice President

2nd Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

A report will be due by May. Contact the MCCF at *info AT montgomerycivic DOT com* to volunteer or ask questions.

The County Executive's Recommended FY2021–2026 Capital Improvements Program

By Alan Bowser, 1st Vice President

In his first State of the County Address on January 15, Montgomery Co. Executive Marc Elrich revealed aspects of his proposed \$5 billion FY2021-2026 Capital Budget and Capital Improvements Program (CIP).

As background, the County Executive noted that, overall, the CIP shrank by \$141.0 million or 3.2%. The tax-supported CIP shrank by even more: \$179.9 million or 4.3%. The CIP reflects Spending Affordability Guidelines and the impacts of prior changes to the impact tax exemptions for affordable housing. He said that agencies' requests exceeded available resources and very front-loaded. As a result, most agencies had a reduction from the prior CIP. Montgomery County Government's CIP is 7% smaller than previously

approved. Montgomery College increased their 6-year CIP. He added that the County needed to consider how to leverage additional non-County funding, noting that staff was working on developing proposed legislation to scale back some of the impact tax exemptions.

The County Executive announced the following top priorities:

Education. The County Executive has proposed funding 94% of the MCPS request at \$1.714 billion.

Early Child Initiative. \$26.7 million for renovating County child-care facilities and playgrounds.

Affordable Housing. A record \$132 million for affordable housing preservation/acquisition, a 61% increase.

Bus Rapid Transit. \$15 million to complete MD355 BRT cor-

ridor design and \$14 million for system development and planning costs for the New Hampshire Avenue and North Bethesda BRT corridors.

Vision Zero. \$266.6 million in total, with increases for \$9.3 million for increased pedestrian safety work, \$4.5 million for bicycle-pedestrian improvements near the Purple Line, and \$4.2 million for sidewalk improvements.

Climate Change. Energy conservation projects in County buildings, for streetlights, using non-County resources such as Energy Savings Performance Contracts and utility incentives.

Roads. Over \$180.6 million for resurfacing, patching and rehabilitation of primary/arterial and residential and rural roads.

[Learn more about CIP here.](#) ■

February 2020 Legislative Session Details

The Maryland General Assembly meets in regular session for 90 calendar days each year beginning the second Wednesday in January to act on more than 2,500 pieces of legislation and the State's annual capital and operating budgets. The Session kicked off on January 8th and, 22 days into the Session, there have been 680 bills introduced in the House and 513 bills in the Senate.

The General Assembly has **re-designed its website**. You can easily track a bill throughout the session and receive automatic updates. Many committee hearings may be viewed via video.

In addition, our local **Montgomery County House Delegation has a website** where you can track local and bi-County bills they sponsored. The Delegation also now **live streams**

its Friday weekly meetings on the Delegation Facebook page which is used only for the meeting streaming.

The **MCCF January newsletter has a summary of the local bills**. Let us know if there are important local or state bills you would like the MCCF to weigh in on. ■

Letter to MGA Leaders on Handicapped Parking

[Sue Beth Schumacher, MCCF Second Vice President, sent the following letter to Bill Ferguson, President of the Maryland State Senate, and Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker of the Md. State House of Delegates.]

Dear President Ferguson and House Speaker Jones,

This letter is a notice of the lack of handicapped parking anywhere near the Maryland Capitol building and its surrounding meeting buildings. This makes it impossible for handicapped citizens being able to testify at hearings or even meet with

their representatives and senators.

It has been brought to my attention that when the people [who] make the rules about this ARE NOT HANDICAPPED, [parking] spaces are for them are ignored. This makes handicapped Marylanders half-citizens. For example, last year I was to testify on the cost of medicines. I drove around for exactly an hour, burned up a quarter of a tank of gas, and finally said to myself "screw this" and drove home.

Solve this problem!

I thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this problem. ■

We Must Rise to a New Era of Activism

With The Sentinel Papers Closing, We All Must Engage

Change is inevitable. We all must adapt. The end of January creates a sea change with the closings of the *Montgomery County Sentinel* and the *Prince George's County Sentinel* newspapers. *The Sentinel* has brought valuable news to the region's residents for more than 160 years, and we will always be grateful for its service to our communities. The Kapiloff family's editorial leadership has been first-rate.

For generations, *The Sentinel* provided excellent independent reporting on important issues such as land use and planning, transportation, education, public safety, and business and economic development in the counties, Annapolis, and Washington, D.C. The Civic Federation has greatly benefitted from this

coverage which informed our work on behalf of Montgomery County neighborhoods.

We are grateful to *The Sentinel* for publishing our "Federation Corner" column for many years and for the support of our annual awards program through the Civic Federation's "Sentinel Award" that recognizes the outstanding contributions of Montgomery County residents. It has been a very valuable partnership.

The loss of *The Sentinel* will no doubt leave a major void, so, in this third decade of the 21st Century, we ask all of you to engage with us to help keep the work of *The Sentinel* alive. While the thanks that they are indeed owed are endless, we all must now assume the mantle that

they have shouldered over these past decades and become active in all aspects of local life by engaging with the issues and challenges that our communities and region face.

It's no small task to look out for the interests of the county's community civic groups, but that is the charge that the Civic Federation has accepted for generations. We need your light, enthusiasm, and creativity to ensure that what *The Sentinel* helped create lives well into the future.

We hope to see you at the next MCCF meeting on February 10. Details can be found at www.montgomerycivic.org.

[The preceding column was written in the final issue of The Sentinel on behalf of the Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc., by President Bailey Condrey and First Vice President Alan Bowser.] ■

Montgomery County Public Schools, Synthetic Turf, and WJHS Greenwashing?

By Bailey Condrey, MCCF President

How does Montgomery County, in the third year of a self-declared climate emergency, not expect its public school system to fully participate in the many measures that will be required of citizens and businesses to meet its aggressive greenhouse gas and waste reduction goals?

Montgomery County Public Schools and private schools are doubling down on their use of synthetic turf at a time when **methane emissions are rising** and the synthetic turf waste issue balloons across the nation. Synturf being a petroleum product, science reveals that it continuously off-gases both methane and ethylene forever once the sun warms it for the first time. Montgomery's own solid waste reduction

group predicted that syn-turf waste would become an issue a decade ago.

So the plan for taking apart the old Walter Johnson High School synturf field—according to MCPS—involves using Target Technologies International, Inc., based in Canada, and another company, PolyPacific, Inc., based in Malaysia, to recycle the carpet into various post-consumer products. The plan, as it's been hatched, will ship roughly 40,000 pounds of defective synturf carpeting more than 9,000 miles around the globe for reprocessing into other products, so they say. PolyPacific is then supposed to provide proof that the carpeting was made into other stuff.

I guess that we should all congratulate MCPS on the attempt to

have the defective carpet recycled, but at what environmental cost? As of Monday, January 27, 2020, the crew from Turf Prep, out of Boston, had been running two tractors and a Bob Cat for six days straight, eight to 10 hours each day, just to remove the infill from the field. The carbon footprint to remove a synturf field is huge and the old carpet, once bundled, will be shipped 9,000 miles to Malaysia, where it's a total crap shoot what will happen to the material.

The chain of custody letters that MCPS will share later, however, are going to verify that all of this carpeting was made into something more than 9,000 miles from its home, where no one in Maryland has any jurisdiction. MCPS is going

WJHS Synturf, cont.

to send 40,000 pounds of plastics waste to a distant country expecting county taxpayers to just foot the bill for this dumping in the middle of our climate emergency?

MCPS published a schedule and background on the Walter Johnson field rebuild, but a number of questions that [Safe Healthy Playing Fields](#) would like answered remain. Those questions include the following:

■ What is the name and address of the recycling plant in Malaysia to be used for recycling the WJHS field by Target Technologies International, Inc., and PolyPacific, Inc?

■ What is the address of the headquarters of PolyPacific, Inc? What is the company phone number and website?

■ The TTII website lists Mr.

Thomas Lam as the representative for PolyPacific, Inc. What is Mr. Lam's contact information?

■ Where will the bill of lading for the shipment of the approximately 40,000 lb. of plastic be posted?

■ What post-consumer products will be produced from this recycled artificial turf?

■ What is the name of the company that produces these products and where are they offered for purchase?

■ The [Recycling Specification sheet](#) on the TTII website indicates they do not accept and recycle tire crumb infill, as confirmed in [this TTII/PolyPacific presentation](#).

The tire crumb infill represents a significant volume of the material that will be removed from WJHS. Where, how, and by whom will the infill material be handled? Will it be recycled?

■ What other contractors or subcontractors are part of this field replacement contract and what is their contact information?

■ How will MCPS guarantee to the public that the chain of custody forms provided by its selected contractors are valid?

And I have a number of questions of my own. What is the total cost to taxpayers for taking this field apart and shipping its various components to numerous destinations? What happens to the 188 bags of old infill that have been staged around the WJHS field track? Are the taxpayers paying a tipping fee to TTII and PolyPacific to accept this material? Are environmental laws in Malaysia sufficient to protect the environment there from the plastics pollution that careless treatment of this ma-

WJHS Synturf, cont.

terial can create?

If the landlocked county of Montgomery finds itself in a climate emergency, what do we all think is happening in Malaysia, surrounded by the ocean?

Supporters of synturf should consider that their continued embrace of this product creates global environmental challenges helping to drive climate change and species extinction. Rather than allow children to play sports on a planet with which we evolved, we place them on petroleum-derived plastics and bake them under the sun. MCPS and its public relations greenwashing would be a distraction if it weren't so logically absurd and such an affront to helping the county reach its greenhouse gas reduction goals. ■

Call for Nominations and Volunteers for Awards Event

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

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

event and/or the committee, please let us know by sending an email to *info AT montgomerycivic DOT org*.

LIST OF AWARDS

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

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

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

We look forward to hearing from you! ■

Minutes of January 13, 2020, MCCF General Meeting #909, Rockville

By Karen Cordry, Recording Secretary

The General Meeting convened at the Executive Office Building.

Call to Order: President Bailey Condrey called the meeting to order at 7:47 p.m. 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 AND OTHER BUSINESS

■ The April meeting will be held in the cafeteria of the EOB.

■ *The Sentinel* newspaper will be going out of business at the end of

January. They have been in existence in one form or another for 165 years, but this will be their last publication.

■ It was moved and seconded that minutes of the December 2019 meeting, as published in the newsletter, be approved. The minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of January 13, revenue from dues was a total of \$1,115. Total expenses have been \$1,828.30, which includes a number of substantial prepaid expenditures: \$106 for the post office box and \$214.80 for the website. The total cost for meeting room rentals for the year was also paid up front for a total of \$957.50. In addition, there was \$550 spent on memberships, primarily for mem-

bership in the Committee for Montgomery.

JANUARY PROGRAM

The topic for January was a briefing on MoCo's ongoing work on transportation, transit, and road services, as well as a report on the status of the proposed "Public Private Partnership" (P3) project that the Hogan administration is looking at for the I-270/I-495 corridors.

The speakers were Gary Ehrenreich from the Director's Office of Montgomery County DOT; Josh Faust, the Outreach Manager for the county Division of Highway Services; and Carol Rubin, from the MoCo Park and Planning Dept. The County presentation will be posted on the MCCF website.

January Minutes, cont.

Gary began by noting the DOT priorities: creating a balanced system of road, transit, and bike/pedestrian routes in order to both promote smart growth and economic development. The agency has five primary segments—highway, transit, parking, transportation engineering, and traffic engineering.

The Ride-on bus system takes up about \$120 million of a total \$225 million operating budget for the department. The capital improvements budget is primarily funded from within the county and takes up about 12% of the overall county budget.

The balanced transportation system includes:

a) the Purple Line, with 16.2 miles from Bethesda to New Carrollton;

b) the Ride On bus service (including the pilot program Ride On Flex, an on-call bus service) which has a ridership that is about 2/3 county residents, had added 65 new buses since July 2017 and, with 370 total buses, is the 40th largest in the United States;

c) Rt. 29 FLASH bus rapid transit system will be 14 miles from Silver Spring to Burtonsville, expected to start in May 2020, with \$21 million in County funding and \$10 million from a competitive federal grant;

d) Studying possibilities of FLASH service on Rt. 355, Bethesda to Germantown, with initial review of alternative done and will be preparing engineering study;

e) Rt. 586 BRT from Wheaton to Rockville, funding for engineering approved in 2019, looking to supplement, not supplant existing Metro-

bus service since County hasn't been able to get additional service on the route despite high ridership;

f) Metrorail and Bus (no turn-backs, working on station entrances, looking at development chances at station areas); and

g) Bike and Pedestrian Issues, such as Vision Zero, bike share program, and adding bike lanes when roads are resurfaced.

Gary also discussed community support initiatives, including the GreenFest and other green initiatives and have put together a mobile commuter store in an RV that they can bring to events to inform commuters of their options. They have also given two companies options to operate up to 1,500 dockless vehicles (i.e., e-bikes and e-scooters) each but right now only about 200 are being used, primarily in the dense areas in

January Minutes, cont.

Rockville and Silver Spring.

Josh then took over the discussion and explained the County's program for analyzing and setting priorities for when roads and sidewalks are replaced, upgraded, resurfaced, etc. He noted the County has about 5,200 lane miles, 9,000 separate roads, and 390 subdivisions. In their analysis, they want to concentrate on safety, equity for all users and all areas, maintaining accessibility for those with ADA issues and seniors, managing competition for the limited amount of road surface, along with public education and enforcement.

They send a digital van around to scan and assess every county road based on 19 separate factors, including volume, quality of road surface, transit use, etc. Those scores are

used to plan for upcoming years. This system has been operating since about 2008 and has guided where they do repairs and where to schedule more extensive repaving. There was discussion as to whether the minimal resurfacing (known as microsurfacing) really holds up well and is worth doing.

Josh did not necessarily disagree but noted that the County probably needed about \$40 million a year to keep all roads in shape, but currently were only funding this work at about a \$25 million level per year. Another issue is that the state does not set minimum structural requirements for road beds so they vary widely across the county. The County has about 260 employees doing routine maintenance and they have noticed that bike lanes do result in some reduction in vehicle traffic on those routes. The presentation also

contained a large number of slides showing completed, scheduled, and tentative projects in different county areas for FY 2020 and 2021.

Carol Rubin then spoke about the I-270/I-495 project. The bottom line is that the County remains deeply concerned with the proposal and unwilling to support it at this time. The Board of Public Works (BPW) voted before our meeting to phase the project, with the I-270 piece from the American Legion to I-370 first, then from that point north to Frederick, and finally the last section would be the I-495 expansion around to PG County. Right now, they are only soliciting contractors for the western corridor phase. The state's principal goal is to create a reasonably foreseeable travel time; managed toll lanes are intended to set demand at a level that they can

January Minutes, cont.

ensure that they can keep those lanes moving at 45 mph or better. If they aren't moving that fast, they will keep raising the tolls until they discourage traffic back onto the regular lanes.

The P3 law requires state approval of how the project will be implemented including looking at the impact of the entire project. The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) has a projected release date of May 1, 2020. Then there will be public hearings and finally a final EIS and a Record of Decision (ROD) laying out what the conclusions are. As of now, the state has not picked a preferred alternative and is looking at five options plus a "no build" option. The final selection will not be made

until the fall after comments on the EIS. The various options assume different forms of High Occupancy lanes (2 or 3 passengers or more), that buses will ride free, and various forms of regular toll lanes. They also generally propose to keep the new lanes within the existing footprint on I-270 by, among other changes, changing the HOV lane into a managed lane at all times.

The P3 requires a state-county memorandum of understanding on how much revenue will be collected and how much used for transit. The recent BPW vote required transit get revenues from Day 1, not just after the bonds are paid off. The county is concerned that the options did not include efforts to divert traffic onto MD-200 as a mitigation measure. They claim that would be ineffective but the County hasn't seen the documents it needs to evaluate why

that would be, although new MDOT Secretary Greg Slater does appear to be more cooperative than the prior head. In addition, the modeling the state has done doesn't appear to include any incentives to get people out of the "no toll" mindset or any effort to give more information on the options. One leverage the County has is that, for I-495, the state would have to use county park land and the county does not believe the state can use eminent domain for the purpose of taking away such land.

The federal efforts to speed up NEPA reviews has resulted in the state trying to finish the process a lot more quickly and they are pushing some of the study pieces that are normally part of NEPA into a pre-NEPA process to give them more time to finish. There were legislative efforts in 2019 to give the legislature

January Minutes, cont.

more oversight. They failed then but the new legislative leadership may change that result. They are looking at what has been done in other states (especially Virginia, which has a subcommittee for P3 oversight), including bringing in review by outside credit agencies. These changes appear to have the support of Treasurer Kopp and probably Comptroller Franchot as well.

Carol also noted that Metro is planning many changes to bus service in light of the County's planned Flash BRT service. They initially wanted to pull all of the "Z" lines on Rt. 29; now we may be down to just 1 route. They are also looking at cutting back service of "Q" buses in Rockville based on the Ride On service. The County is pushing back on all of that until there is a full study

on the whole route structure.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Environmental

■ Carol Barth and Bailey testified at a state bill hearing on the local bill PC/MC 104-20 that would require certain land use documents for development applications and forest conservation documents be certified under penalty of perjury. Not surprisingly, the Maryland Builders Association opposed the bill.

■ Bailey Condrey reported on a draft policy put out by the Maryland Dept. of the Environment. About 25 agencies have opposed the report as not being aggressive enough.

Transportation

■ Peggy Dennis reported on a bill (38-19) before the Council that would limit how long builders can close off sidewalks. This bill and

proposed resolution was reported on in the newsletter. A motion was made by Peggy and seconded by Jean Cavanaugh, to support the bill; the motion passed by voice vote.

Planning and Land Use

■ Harriet Quinn reported that the County's work on its General Plan is moving forward and they have released their "meeting in a box" tool for groups to use in talking about the issues and providing feedback to the Council. They expect to release a report on the feedback in February.

■ Alan Bowser also reported that the County delegation is discussing whether to support a proposal to televise state legislative sessions.

ADJOURNMENT

Bailey called for and received unanimous approval for adjournment at 9:48 p.m. ■

Minutes of Executive Committee January 23 Meeting via Teleconference

By Bailey Condrey, MCCF President

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m. on Thursday, January 23, 2019, via Teleconference.

Present: Bailey Condrey, Alan Bowser, Jerry Garson, Sue Schumacher, Harriet Quinn, Tim Willard.

Agenda: The proposed agenda was unanimously adopted.

Treasurer's Report: Expenses exceeded revenues for the period resulting in a bank balance of roughly \$10,000. Discussion ensued about building membership and revenue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

! Everyone was encouraged to revisit the legislative article in the January newsletter to ensure that deadlines are met for submitting testimony.

! Jerry Garson had met with legislators in Annapolis to support IG legislation.

! Important meetings are approaching for Vision Zero and MCPS.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM TOPIC

! "Greening Montgomery County" will be handled by Bailey Condrey and Tim Willard.

! The program will discuss activities taking place in the county and proposed legislation that will reduce the county's carbon footprint.

! Speakers had yet to be confirmed.

ISSUES DISCUSSED

! The online renewal application to simplify online dues payment and registration is being tested.

! Jerry Garson will provide a membership list in the coming days.

! An opinion piece will be written for the last issue of *The Sentinel* newspaper that will call on local groups to join the MCCF to carry on the important work of The Sentinel.

! Awards Committee and Nominations Committee articles will be placed in the next newsletter.

! Sue is working on real estate issue regarding the year that a building is constructed. The date changes if the building undergoes a major renovation.

Jan. ExCom Minutes, cont.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education

■ WJHS synthetic turf field re-placement.

■ Pam Queen Chairs the Education Committee for the MC Delegation.

Legislation

■ The General Assembly has a new web page.

■ There are Charter Commission public meetings being held around the County regarding the structure of the County Council and whether it is working.

■ The Nine Districts ballot petition has been circulating around the County.

Public Finances

■ 10-year old projects remaining in the CIP budget.

Transportation

■ There may be a new American Legion Bridge in five years.

■ Minor improvements to I-270 have been helpful.

■ The BRT on Route 29 is scheduled to begin in May. WMATA and Ride On are planning to cancel a number of local bus routes on this corridor in spite of being told this would be premature. Transit riders not on the corridor would have diminished access to the corridor. Evan Glass is in favor of free Ride-On.

Planning and Land Use

■ **ZTA 19-07** Small cell towers within 30-ft of homes. The January 23 PHED worksession was chaotic. The Ninth Circuit cases are still pending. On January 20, the Senate Finance Committee of the General Assembly announced they would not

introduce any state preemption bills regarding small cell siting this session. The potential for state preemption has been used as justification by ZTA 19-07 sponsors Riemer, Albornoz and Rice for rushing another proposed ZTA that would locate the cells 30 feet from homes.

OLD BUSINESS

■ Alan reported that \$100 million has been placed in the budget for pedestrian safety.

■ Facebook Page is active and all are encouraged to visit the FB page more often.

NEW BUSINESS

■ The CFN deadline was extended to January 28th.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m. ■

CIVIC FED TONIGHT!

SEEKING POSSIBLE SPEAKERS FOR YOUR CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETINGS?

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

Montgomery County Civic Federation

*www.montgomerycivic.org
info AT montgomerycivic.org
Twitter Feed @mcciviefed
[MCCF Facebook Page](#)*

cfn

The *Civic Federation News* is published monthly except July and August by the Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc. 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.”

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

Send all address corrections to membership AT montgomerycivic.org.

VIEW PAST ISSUES ONLINE [HERE](#)