

**June Program** | New Officers for 2020–2021 will be elected, followed by MCCF's Annual Awards | **P. 3**

**County Urban Tree Initiative** | Three-step plan proposed | **P. 5**

**Resolution Proposed** | Urban tree canopy resolution | **P. 6**

**Impervious Surface Limits** | A joint letter asks County Council to reject the proposed ZTA | **P. 7**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE JUNE MEETING WILL BE HELD ONLINE USING THE ZOOM APP AND BEGINS AT 7:00 P.M. USE THE LINK AT RIGHT OR CALL-IN NUMBER ON PAGE 2.**

**Grassroots Group Wants to Abolish At-Large Seats on County Council** | Reprinted from MyMCMedia | **P. 10**

**Insects, Flowers, Elections** | Why it's important to vote | **P. 11**

**MoCo Sees Progress in Coronavirus Status** | More hospital beds have been added | **P. 13**

**MoCo FY21 Operating Budget** | Plus FY2021–2026 Capital Improvements Program highlights | **P. 14**

**Election of New Officers** | See the proposed slate | **P. 29**

**TO PRINT, USE PRINT VERSION**

## of note

**Next MCCF Meeting #914**  
Monday, June 8, 2020, 7:00 p.m.  
online via Zoom. **Note time change!**  
New officers will be elected and MCCF Annual Awards will be presented.

■ **Join the Zoom Meeting Here**  
[See further instructions on page 2. Password is 989577.]  
**AGENDA, P. 2 • PROGRAM, P. 3**

### Meeting Minutes

May 11 Zoom Meeting #913 **P. 22**  
Executive Committee Meetings  
April 23 (Online Meeting) **P. 30**  
May 21 (Online Meeting) **P. 27**

### Membership Application

Join or Renew Now **SEE FORM**

## Federation Meeting #914

Monday, June 8, 2020

**NOTE NEW TIME: 7:00 p.m.**  
Online Zoom Meeting

### AGENDA

7:00 Zoom "Doors Opened"  
7:05 Call to Order/Introductions may be limited to VIPs due to the number of participants  
7:10 Approval of Agenda  
7:11 Election of Officers **P.29**  
7:15 Annual Awards **P.3**  
8:30 Announcements  
8:33 Approval of Minutes, May 11th Online Meeting **P.22**  
8:34 Treasurer's Report  
8:35 Committee Reports  
8:45 Old and New Business  
9:00 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. **So note time change!**

**The June 8 meeting will be held online via Zoom** (see page 3 for program) at 7:00 p.m.:

■ To be part of the video conference, download the **Zoom Client for Meetings here.**

■ Meeting Name: "MCCF Elections and Annual Awards."

■ Date and Time: June 8, 2020, 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

■ To **join the Zoom meeting from your browser, use this link.**

■ To participate by phone (audio only), call 301.715.8592. The meeting ID is 869 9543 7665. Password, if requested, is 989577.

We hope you will join us! ■

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 33**

## June Program: Civic Federation Elections and Annual Awards Zoom Call

By Bailey Condrey, MCCF President

We will slip through the brief bit of business and conduct the 2020 election of a slate of candidates, taking nominations, if any, from participants on the call, before we move to the awards ceremony. Details about the election and the positions are contained in [the May newsletter](#).

In 1927, the Montgomery County Civic Federation first awarded the Star Cup. The “Roaring Twenties” were a time when countries around the world were becoming voracious consumers of news. Ninety-three years later, the news media has been depicted as fake, a pandemic

has crippled meaningful response from the federal government, and the murder of a black man in Minneapolis by a white police officer has sparked nationwide civil unrest. In the midst of all this, the Civic Federation has continued to publish the *Civic Federation News* online and now holds monthly meetings via Zoom.

### THE STAR CUP

The 2020 Star Cup will be presented this year to the editor of the *Civic Federation News*, Jacquie Bokow. We’ve all heard the term, “indefatigable.” It’s often times used

to describe those working on deadline to publish information that’s meaningful to others. The Civic Federation has been publishing the *CFN* for decades and Jacquie is the person who ensures this happens 10 times each year for the Federation. She has been doing this for as long as I have been engaged with the organization. She accomplishes this with aplomb even when the process is fraught with challenges.

### WAYNE GOLDSTEIN AWARD

The Wayne Goldstein Award will be presented to Safe Healthy Playing Fields, Inc. For at least a decade, members of SHPF have been sharing information on the human health effects and environmental toxicity of using synthetic turf (petrochemical

[MORE](#)

**DUE TO THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY, THE 2020 MCCF ANNUAL AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED ON JUNE 8 VIA A VIRTUAL MEETING ON ZOOM. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING YOU JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF THESE AWARDEES.**

## June Program, cont.

grass) for athletic fields not only in Maryland, but also around the country through a network of activists and like-minded groups that believe the best surface for youth-oriented athletic play is top-of-the-line grass.

While reaching out across the nation and the planet, the group of roughly 10 Montgomery County citizens expanded to include groups on both coasts and other regions of the nation. They have done investigative work to track down the whereabouts of fugitive turf rolls headed for the shores of an estuary on the Byrd River, and they have tracked down shipping containers full of turf rolls headed to Malaysia for “recycling,” and they determined that tons of synthetic turf from Richard Montgomery High School were landfilled

in Brunswick, Virginia.

When you know what the independent science says about petrograss, what the economics reveal about its high cost, what players say about their injuries from using it, the ungodly heat it creates and its constant pollution of the environment with microplastics and greenhouse gases, you have a better idea of why they will never stop advocating for great grass—perseverance and patience and indefatigability. Details about presenters are being finalized.

### THE SENTINEL AWARD

The Sentinel Award will be presented this year to Lynn Kapiloff of *The Montgomery County Sentinel* newspapers for the critical role they played for decades in delivering local news to the county’s citizens. Richard Schifter will present the award to

Lynn. Mr. Schifter has been a county resident for 65 years and served at the local, state, and federal level in many important roles. A lawyer by profession, Richard has served on the Montgomery County Central Committee, the state Board of Education, at the U.S. State Department, the United Nations, the White House and the National Security Council. He came to know *The Sentinel* and, later, the Kapiloffs through his extensive civic engagement and need to be locally informed.

### SPECIAL AWARD

Finally, the MCCF honors James “Woody” Brosnan posthumously for the many years of service he provided to the county and his fellow citizens. Alan Bowser, MCCF First Vice President, will make the presentation. ■

## Proposal for a County Urban Tree Initiative

By Carole Ann Barth

The urban areas of Montgomery County are suffering as trees continue to be lost in the very places that can least afford it. The impacts are real and go way beyond the loss of community character and beauty. Neighborhoods with fewer trees have higher rates of childhood asthma and more cases of heat-related illness. Crime and violence also go up in areas devoid of mature trees. Students whose schoolyards feature only grass and playing fields do not perform as well as students who can see trees from the classroom windows.

There are many reasons urban trees are being lost. Some age out in older neighborhoods, some succumb to pests, and others die early because of tough urban conditions. Development, utility projects, and transit

projects all take a toll. It's time to tackle this problem head on.

I am proposing a three-pronged program to address this need. First would be **establishing Community Tree Councils** composed of residents plus representatives from all the entities involved in tree regulation, planting, maintenance, and management in urban areas (DEP, DPS, MCDOT, MNCPPC, MCPS, utilities and nonprofits). Residents can contextualize the data on tree loss in a way staff never can; they can closely monitor progress and outcomes, and they are best positioned to engage and empower communities. The agencies and other institutions have the capability to leverage mutually reinforcing actions.

The Tree Councils would inven-

tory problems, opportunities, and barriers to increasing tree canopy within their respective areas. The Councils would improve communication and coordination across agencies and programs and enable quick response to emerging issues. Each Council would have some funding available for a participatory budgeting process thus targeting funds more effectively. Lastly, there would be a citizen science component using low-cost portable monitors to document local air quality and heat islands.

The second component would **pilot techniques for improving tree growth and survivability in urban conditions**. For example, using flexible and permeable paving for walkways near tree roots or pedestal sidewalk paving and soil trenches to maximize soil volume for

MORE

## Urban Tree Initiative, cont.

root growth. If urban trees can grow larger and have better root mass, they will sequester much more carbon and live well beyond the average 8 years most street trees achieve.

The third component would **target forest patches for preservation and enhancement**. These remnant forests provide important ecological services. They are waystations for wildlife, seed banks for native plant species, and havens of biodiversity. They also provide experiences (such as active imaginative play and forest bathing) that formal landscapes and street trees can never provide. Because these patches are small and often impacted by invasive plants, deer, and dumping, they are not protected. They may even be comprised of small slivers of property spread between multiple owners. But

research in other areas has shown that these patches can become the jewels of our urban communities.

This is an ambitious proposal, but it is achievable. Mostly it requires a willingness to engage with communities to problem-solve. There are also grants that could help with those aspects which require additional funding. There would be cost savings as tree survivability improves, and one could document the monetary value of the increased ecosystem services (such as improved air quality, reduced heat, greater carbon sequestration, and reduction in stormwater flows) provided by greening our urban neighborhoods.

As the old Chinese saying goes, "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second-best time is now." I believe it's high time we got serious about increasing urban tree canopy. ■

### MCCF's Urban Tree Canopy Resolution

*Whereas* urban areas of Montgomery County have the lowest tree canopy of the County; and

*Whereas* trees continue to be lost in these areas; and

*Whereas* adequate tree canopy is crucial to the health and wellbeing of residents and the environment;

*Therefore, be it resolved* that the Montgomery County Civic Federation supports the establishment of a new Urban Tree Initiative which creates Community Tree Councils whose mission is to achieve and sustain at least 25% tree canopy in urban areas of the County and to enhance existing urban tree canopy.

**Joint Letter Asks County Council to Reject Proposed ZTA on Impervious Surface Limits**

*[The following letter was sent by the signatories at the end to the County Council on May 26, 2020.]*

Dear Council President Katz and Councilmembers:

At this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are reminded that environmental health is essential to public health for all people. Here in Montgomery County and our region, we are fortunate to have clean drinking water supplies, including for use in hand-washing and disinfecting our spaces. Ten Mile Creek in Clarksburg is a crucial high-quality stream; it's the cleanest source of water to Little Seneca Reservoir, our region's only nearby emergency drinking water supply. We are writing in opposition to a proposed Zoning Text Amendment that would

weaken existing clean water protections by exempting any master-planned bikeways from the Ten Mile Creek impervious surface limits. *We object to this false choice. We are for bikeways and for clean water protection.*

Public health protection requires full enforcement of existing clean water and clean air regulations. Many of us are cyclists, and we all support bikeways, recognizing that more Montgomery County residents need to bike and walk rather than drive, to stay healthy and help meet clean water, clean air, and climate



goals. The way to provide bikeways while protecting clean water supplies, is to build the master-planned bikeways while keeping the sum total of all impervious surfaces in a given site plan within the impervious surface limits.

Accordingly, the Friends of Ten Mile Creek and Little Seneca Reservoir, and its 14 partner organizations, request that you reject the proposed Zoning Text Amendment that would weaken the core protection established by the County in 2014—the impervious surface limits (6% cap in the Clarksburg West Environmental Overlay Zone and 15% in the Clarksburg East EOZ). The proposed ZTA would exempt ANY master-planned bikeway from the impervious surface caps—regardless

MORE

**Joint Letter, cont.**

of how a bikeway is funded. Under the existing Clarksburg Environmental Overlay Zones, privately-funded bikeways are subject to these caps, while publicly-funded bikeways are exempt from the caps.

We want to highlight our strong support for bikeways, including in the Ten Mile Creek watershed. Those who say “we must choose between bikeways and clean water” are offering a false choice. Maintaining and enforcing the Ten Mile Creek limits on impervious surfaces in no way should exclude bikeways.

**The Solution: We can have our bike trails, and maintain existing Ten Mile Creek protections, by building needed bikeways, and then reducing other impervious surfaces, in order to compensate for what-**

**ever is added by the proposed bikeways. Doing this enables us to protect Ten Mile Creek by staying within the science-based limits on additional hard, paved surfaces.**

When taking up environmental issues, we expect the County Council, County Executive, and Planning Board to strengthen—not try to weaken—our local environmental protection laws and zoning codes. So, we were surprised to learn that, on March 26, the Planning Board voted without public input to recommend a Zoning Text Amendment that would broaden the exemptions from the impervious surface caps in Ten Mile Creek.

*The science-based limits on impervious surfaces are the core regulations in the clean water protections Montgomery County established in 2014 for Ten Mile*

*Creek and its watershed.* The proposed ZTA would amend the Clarksburg West and East Environmental Overlay Zones, so that development applications in these zones in the Ten Mile Creek watershed would not have to count pavement constructed for any master-planned bikeways as impervious surfaces subject to the limits. With existing exemptions, some categories of impervious surfaces to be built in Ten Mile Creek are already allowed to exceed science-based limits; the proposed ZTA would expand the scope of exemptions, allowing development projects to exceed those limits by even more.

On the procedural side, we are concerned that, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the public is unable to participate fully in government decisions, so we support the Council's policy, also supported by County

MORE



## Joint Letter, cont.

Executive Elrich, that public hearings on nonbudget issues be delayed and that the focus be on essential items. We are glad that Council President Katz indicated agreement, in a phone call with Diane Cameron on May 1, 2020, that this protocol needs to be applied to the work of the Planning Board.

**In conclusion, we request that you reject the proposed ZTA, since it would weaken clean water protections the County placed on Ten Mile Creek in 2014.** We object on both procedural grounds due to the public's inability to fully participate in government decisions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and on substantive grounds, since this proposal would weaken the County's science-based protections for Ten Mile

Creek.

Yours for clean water and public health,

■ *Anne James*, President, and *Diane Cameron*, Advisor, Friends of Ten Mile Creek and Little Seneca Reservoir

■ *Anne Ambler*, Advocacy Chair, Neighbors of the Northwest Branch

■ *Ginny Barnes*, Vice Chair, Conservation Montgomery

■ *David Blockstein*, Representative, Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee

■ *Bailey L. Condrey, Jr.*, President, Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc.

■ *Diana Conway*, President, Safe Healthy Playing Fields, Inc.

■ *Lauren Greenberger*, President, Sugarloaf Citizens Association

■ *Denisse Guitarra*, MD Conservation Advocate, Audubon Naturalist

Society

■ *Susanne Lowen*, Steering Committee Member, Takoma Alliance for Local Living Economy (TALLE)

■ *Gino Renne*, President, UFCW Local 1994 MCGEO

■ *Deborah Sarabia*, President, Seneca Creek Watershed Partners

■ *Margaret Schoap*, Organizer, TAME Coalition (Transit Alternatives to Mid-County Highway Extended)

■ *Miriam Schoenbaum*, President, Boyds Civic Association

■ *Caroline Taylor*, Executive Director, Montgomery Countryside Alliance

■ *Nanci Wilkinson*, Chair, Environmental Justice Ministry, Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church

cc:

■ County Executive *Marc Elrich*

■ Planning Board Chair *Casey Anderson* & Planning Commissioners ■

## Grassroots Group Wants to Abolish At-Large Seats on Montgomery County Council

By Suzanne Pollak

[Reprinted with permission from *Montgomery Community Media*, May 27, 2020]

A push to abolish all at-large seats on the Council is being led by some of the same people who were on the County's Charter Review Commission.

Concerned that so many of the nine Councilmembers live in and around the Bethesda area, a group calling itself "Nine Districts for MoCo" seeks to put a citizen's charter amendment on the November 2020 ballot that they believe would enable all areas of the county to be represented equally.

Currently, there are five districts and four at-large seats on the nine-member Council.

Residents throughout the County vote in the at-large contests, and those who are elected can live in any part of the County. Only residents living in a district are eligible to vote in the five districts races.

According to Nine Districts, a large hunk of the County from Rockville to Germantown and Poolesville and Damascus have little voice on the Council.

Removing at large seats "will guarantee smaller districts, more responsive representation, and an avenue for your voice to be heard," the group stated on its website.

Kimblin Persaud, of Wheaton, is chair of the group.

Mark Lautman, treasurer, wrote in his biography on the Nine

District's website, "something is terribly wrong in MoCo" when one section of the County has the Metro, Purple Line, and major highways but another section has "no one on the County Council taking an interest in their welfare."

The group currently is gathering signatures online. They have almost 5,000 now and hope to collect at least 15,000 signatures.

Only 10,000 approved signatures are needed to get it onto the ballot. It is common for groups to collect extra signatures in case some are disqualified.

According to its website, Montgomery County Civic Federation, Greater Olney Civic Association, and the Town of Laytonsville support putting this issue on the ballot. ■

**Insects, Flowers, Elections: What it All Means***By Bailey Condrey, MCCF President*

These last seven days of spring have finally delivered warmer temperatures, less rainfall, and hours-long periods of sunlight free from cloud cover. The effect has been to push many of May's flowering beauties to full display. This glorious annual rite of spring provides food to thousands of species within the animal kingdom and fertilizes thousands of plant species, enabling reproduction. Plant pollen and DNA get distributed across the landscape, increasing plant diversity and ecosystem stability. The wind also contributes to this phenomenon.

This spring, however, the largest subgroup of the Animal Kingdom, insects, are missing from numerous pollinator gardens grown expressly for the purpose of providing food



and sustainable landscapes for wildlife. Salvia is normally covered with honey bees and other pollinators, dozens at a time. Less than a handful are present. Peonies, normally home to platoons of ants, have attracted alarmingly diminished numbers. On a single peony plant with 54 flowers, I can't find any. Bees, beetles, and butterflies are missing

in action.

What does the absence of insects have to do with elections? If you consider that the climate crisis is a primary driver of the extinction crisis, and this is borne out by science, then those elected to State and Federal office in November should at least be knowledgeable about the stakes confronting the sustainability of life on Earth. Dismissing them, for me, represents grounds for disqualification.

Both of these should already have activated a modern day Marshall Plan for the United States and the rest of the world for reducing the fallout from both. Many other countries have adopted versions of this, but not the United States. Regrettably, at the national level, we witness

**MORE****Insects, Elections, cont.**

one inexplicable tactic after another, driving us toward environmental and climate chaos.

We all have the right to live in alternative realities, but the fairy tales we believe collectively don't get to wipe out other species, or our own. All major theologies support this belief. Elected leaders feeding nonsense to their constituents for their own re-elections undermine the body politic and the national sense of community in dealing with these formidable challenges.

As we all deal with the protocols of the COVID-19 pandemic, the resultant deaths of 100,000 Americans, rampant unemployment and making ends meet, the fundamental laws and regulations that form the foundation for protecting human and environmental health are being

undermined. *Inside Climate News* reports that **"on the last day for public comment, the EPA's 'Secret Science' rule met with an outpouring of protest."**

The article goes on to say that "the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world's largest scientific society, and a wide array of other professional groups and universities, strongly opposed the rule, which they said is 'not about strengthening science, but about undermining the ability of the

EPA to use the best available science in setting policies and regulations.' The **AAAS group letter can be found here.**

Should the United States get the coronavirus pandemic under control here at home, it won't matter how quickly the job market is resurrected and how quickly we all get back to full employment if the planet is being driven to a toxic state on a one-way street at a high rate of speed by those in state and federal office.

Think about the death, dying, and missing-in-action status of natural systems as messengers. The winter of '19-'20 barely existed. The spring of '20 has just now arrived. Weather, it's true, but it fits an ongoing climate trend. How many messages do we need to receive from the natural world to comprehend that elections matter?

Make it happen. Vote! ■



**Montgomery County Sees Progress in Coronavirus Status; To Add More Hospital Beds**

*By Alan Bowser, First Vice President*

Montgomery County is on track to partially lift coronavirus restrictions as early as the beginning of June, as the county has seen slight improvements in some of the benchmarks used to determine when the region can safely reopen.

Montgomery and Prince George's counties—which did not reopen with the rest of Maryland on May 15—continue to have the highest number of coronavirus deaths and cases in the state. As of May 27, COVID-19 has claimed the lives of 535 Montgomery County residents and infected 10,467.

Prince George's County has recorded 14,100 positive infections and 496 fatalities. It intends to reopen in some form early next month.

Montgomery County is monitoring a number of key metrics for reopening, including confirmed cases, deaths, hospitalizations, and percentage of ventilators in use. The goal is to see a 14-day downward trend.

Data for those benchmarks can be found on the [County's online coronavirus dashboard](#), which is updated daily around 2 p.m.

As of May 27, the County has met two of seven reopening benchmarks: the rate at which ICU beds are being used (less than 80%) and the rate at which ventilators are being used (less than 70%).

According to County Health Officer Dr. Travis Gayles, the data calculates a three-day rolling average because of potential outliers, like the occasional 24-hour spikes in cases,

deaths, and hospitalizations.

While the County has not met its 14-day goal with most metrics, Gayles said he is cautiously optimistic about the data.

In 11 of the past 14 days, the county has seen a decline in its hospitalization rate, as well as "significant improvements" in the number of coronavirus-related fatalities, Gayles said.

The acute hospital bed rate, however, is lagging behind all other benchmarks, according to Gayles. In a two-week span, the county was only able to meet its benchmark once.

Gayles added that officials are working to add 200 more hospital beds over the next three weeks, which he says will help the county meet that benchmark of 70% or less. ■

**MoCo FY21 Operating Budget and FY21–26 Capital Improvements Program Highlights**

*[From the Montgomery County Council, May 2020]*

On May 21, 2020, the Montgomery County Council voted unanimously to approve the County's \$5.8 billion Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Operating Budget and a \$4.4 billion FY21–26 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) to fund school construction, infrastructure improvements, and community projects.

The County's \$4.4 billion Capital Improvements Program provides funding to address the County's most urgent building needs. Some items of note in the CIP include keeping the reopening of Woodward High School and the Northwood High School Addition/Facility Upgrade on schedule and adding major capital project improvements for Burnt Mills Elementary School, Neelsville

Middle School, Magruder High School, and Poolesville High School on schedules proposed by the Board of Education. Additions at William T. Page and Bethesda Elementary Schools and major capital projects at Woodlin, South Lake, and Stonegate Elementary Schools and Damascus and Wootton High Schools were also added to the CIP.

The CIP also funds the following important projects for Montgomery College: a feasibility study to expand the college into the eastern part of the County, continued construction of the new math and science building on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus, and information technology systems and infrastructure improvements. Moreover, the CIP includes planning and design for a new Clarksburg Library and addi-

tional improvements for pedestrian and bicycle safety throughout the County. The Council also included \$54.9 million for the construction of the Capital Crescent Trail Tunnel in Downtown Bethesda.

The Montgomery County Council voted unanimously to maintain the County's property tax rates at the Charter Limit and to provide a property tax credit of \$692 for homeowners. The Council also rejected the County Executive's proposal that would have increased property tax rates by 0.24 cents per \$100. This decision was made to provide certainty in budgeting for County residents and to maintain consistency with the fiscal policies that the County has maintained for 30 years.

The budget also meets the FY21



## FY21 Budget/CIP, cont.

target for the County's reserve, which is 10% of adjusted governmental revenues, and provides \$92.2 million in additional resources for Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB). Funding for these fiscal obligation helps the County retain its triple-A bond rating.

The capital and operating budgets will go into effect on July 1. Below are some of the key Council budget recommendations by funding categories.

### COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

More than half of the County's budget, \$2.76 billion, funds Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). Since the Council's focus was on continuity of services, this amount funds MCPS at the Maintenance of Effort level which is

mandated by the State of Maryland. This represents an increase of \$74.9 million or a 2.8% increase from the FY20 approved budget and includes a local contribution of more than \$1.75 billion.

The County continues to rank near the top of all Maryland jurisdictions for total per-pupil funding. With ever-increasing student enrollment, the Montgomery County Board of Education estimates that 167,041 students will attend MCPS in FY21, which is an increase of 1,774 students from FY20.

MCPS Board of Education President Shebra Evans and Superintendent Jack Smith acknowledged the tremendous fiscal uncertainty resulting from the COVID-19 global health pandemic and committed to using the funding to maintain the operational and instructional infrastructure of the school system and

to continue the focus on excellence and equity throughout these unprecedented times.

### MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

The Council approved \$318.3 million in funding for Montgomery College, which is an increase of \$3.6 million or 1% from last year's budget. This includes a local contribution of more than \$145.8 million. County funding for the College is at the required Maintenance of Effort level. The College budget includes no increase in tuition rates or fees paid by students for FY21. The College's budget maximizes existing resources to protect affordable tuition and offer additional scholarships. Prior to the health crisis, the College projected a Fall 2020 enrollment for credit bearing courses of 21,007 students, which is a decrease

MORE

## FY21 Budget/CIP, cont.

of 253 students or 1%. Enrollment in noncredit-bearing courses was projected at 47,448 students, which is an increase of 820 or 1.8%. The potential impact of financial difficulties for students, continued closure of College facilities, and access to remote learning all could have a significant impact on enrollment.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

The Council funded a budget of \$281.95 million for the Montgomery County Police Department. This is a 4.5% decrease from last year's budget. The budget reflects the separation of the Animal Services Division from the Police Department. The shift in costs from the budget to the new Office of Animal Services is approximately \$7.9 million.

The Police budget includes

\$495,072 for mobile video systems upgrades in the last 100 patrol vehicles that do not yet have mobile video installed. Also, a social worker position was added to the Emergency Communications Center to provide stress management resources. In addition, the department will receive seven new crossing guards for new schools.

In the Sheriff's Office, the total budget is \$25.6 million, which is an increase of \$223,930 from last year's budget. The funding allows for the replacement of mobile video units and ballistic vests and adds additional body-worn cameras. Further funding may be needed for emergency activities related to the COVID-19 response.

The budget for the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation is \$71.1 million. This is an increase of \$506,667. The budget includes

funding for cell vent, bunk, and door enhancements that were identified in the National Institute of Corrections' findings on how to reduce the risk of inmate self-harm or suicide.

Fire and Rescue Service's operating budget is \$225.4 million. This is an increase of \$2.1 million or 1% from last year's budget. The budget includes a Communications Contingency Plan that reflects the cost of adding cell phones to fire apparatus to provide an additional mode of communication in the event of public safety radio system disruptions. The new Radio System Infrastructure Project is on schedule to be completed by late December 2020.

The Council also approved \$700,000 in the Emergency Management and Homeland Security budget for security grants for faith-based and ethnic organizations.

MORE



## FY21 Budget/CIP, cont.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Council funded more than \$5 million in FY21 to support the work of the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC). This organization implements the County's economic development strategic plan that includes marketing, business attraction and retention, entrepreneurship, and promoting the County's economic base.

The Council also agreed to allocate \$1.3 million in funding for WorkSource Montgomery, which implements the County's workforce development policies to promote job growth and attract talent.

The Council allocated approximately \$3 million for the County's incubator programs. This includes funding for the Wheaton Small Busi-

ness Technical Assistance Program.

In addition, the budget includes \$1.6 million to fund Visit Montgomery, which promotes and markets the County as a destination and provides information to County visitors.

### TRANSPORTATION

The Council funded the Department of Transportation's budget at more than \$235.6 million. This includes funding for items like road maintenance, leaf collection, Ride On, and the parking lot districts. The continuity of services budget includes funding for the Kids Ride Free program and a new limited stop FLASH service that is scheduled to launch this summer between the Burtonsville Park-and-Ride Lot and the Silver Spring Transit Center. The line will include 18 new station platforms with a fleet of 16 60-foot articulated buses.

### CHILDREN, YOUTH, FAMILIES

Continuing the Council's commitment to helping children, families, and individuals thrive, the budget includes level funding of \$5.99 million to support the Montgomery County Early Care and Education Initiative, which was spearheaded by Councilmember Nancy Navarro and is supported by the County Executive and Council, to expand quality early care and education opportunities for infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

Councilmembers noted how important the availability of child care is to the County's economic recovery and expressed their intent to review the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on the child care industry and provide additional funding that ensures that families can access quality early care and education services when they go back to work.

MORE

## FY21 Budget/CIP, cont.

### HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The Council funded \$339 million for the Department of Health and Human Services. In the middle of the COVID-19 global pandemic, a continuity of services budget for the Department of Health and Human Services ensures that the service needs of the community continues to be met. The Council added \$887,761 in funding to hire 10 additional school health nurses in FY21. The Council also funded a school health technician for the new Emory Grove Early Childhood Center. When schools are not in session, school health nurses and health technicians work on other programs and in other departments to address public health needs including those from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Also included in the budget is

a \$100,000 County match for the Summer Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This funding is the required match for a state grant. The Summer SNAP for Children program provides an additional \$30 per child for each summer month and an additional \$10 per children during the winter break.

In June, the Council intends to revisit funding for payments to eligible providers of services to the developmentally disabled and providers of adult medical day care.

### COMMUNITY GRANTS AND WORKING FAMILIES INCOME SUPPLEMENT

The Council funded the Community Grants NDA and Capital Grants as part of the capital budget within the Cost Sharing: MCG Project and deferred the review of new community grants organizations and

programs to reassess service needs in light of COVID-19. The Council approved the recommendation to move 67 community grants funded as part of the FY20 budget (totaling \$3.8 million) into the base budgets of departments. The Council also increased the County Executive's recommendation of \$9,795,238 for community grants to organizations that improve the quality of life for County residents by \$614,736 to total \$10,409,974. The Council approved \$1,583,362 to fund nonprofit organizations for capital projects and deferred the review of the arts and humanities capital grants to the Education and Culture Committee.

The full list of FY21 grants to nonprofit organizations that provide health and human services can be viewed on pages 23-42 of [the Council staff report online](#). A summary of

MORE

## FY21 Budget/CIP, cont.

the community grants contracts that were shifted to County department base budgets [can be found here](#).

The County's budget provides \$20.1 million for the Working Families Income Supplement NDA that supplements Maryland's Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and is intended to benefit low-income working families in the County. The federal government authorizes the federal EITC for working people with low- to moderate-incomes. The County supplements the State's refund by 100% for County residents, in effect doubling the amount received.

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Council allocated more than \$61.8 million in capital and operating funds to support the production

and preservation of affordable housing through the Housing Initiative Fund and reserved \$6.8 million to determine how the County can leverage additional funding sources and investments to accelerate the production and preservation of affordable housing.

The Housing Initiative Fund includes the Building Neighborhoods to Call Home program, which is a rental subsidy and assistance program for low-income households that moves households from homelessness to permanent housing and provides assistance with home ownership.

The Council approved a cap of \$19.07 million for Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreements for affordable housing. In addition, Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreements for the Housing Opportunities Commission are valued at \$9.8 million.

## RECREATION

The Council funded total expenditures of \$46.3 million for the Recreation Department. This is an increase of more than \$1.4 million from last year's approved budget. The budget restored funding for transportation to senior centers on Fridays and added service for the North Potomac senior program. The budget also includes relocation expenses for the move to Wheaton and more than \$280,000 for Wheaton senior programming.

## ENVIRONMENT

The Council funded \$131.4 million for the Recycling and Resource Management portion of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) budget. This is a \$15.7 million or 13.6% increase from last year's approved budget.

MORE

## FY21 Budget/CIP, cont.

This includes funding for DEP's implementation of the Commercial Food Waste Program, at-home food composting bins, and a pilot Single-Family Food Waste Program. Solid Waste Service charges were approved at levels slightly below those recommended by the County Executive. The Council also agreed to fund \$3.4 million for DEP's general fund. This includes funding for increased tree planting paid for with Tree Canopy Fund revenue.

The continuity of services budget approved by the Council totals expenditures of \$29.4 million for the Water Quality Protection Fund (WQPF). The WQPF covers County costs associated with water quality and the inspection, maintenance, and rehabilitation of stormwater management facilities. The Council

approved an FY21 Water Quality Protection Charge Equivalent Residential Unit rate of \$107.60, which is 50¢ below the County Executive's recommendation.

The Council also added \$400,000 in funding for the Climate Change Planning Non-Departmental Account (NDA). This NDA was started in FY20 and provides funding for the prioritization of greenhouse gas reduction strategies and the development of an implementation plan to meet the County's goal of an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2027 and a 100% reduction by 2035.

### PARK AND PLANNING

The Council funded \$164.5 million for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC). This is more than a 3.9% increase from last year's

approved budget. Included in this amount is more than \$105 million to enhance and maintain the County's park system that includes 422 parks and almost 37,000 acres of land. The Council also approved funding of \$300,000 for athletic field renovations at school sites.

## LIBRARIES

The Council funded \$42.1 million for the Department of Public Libraries. The Council indicated its willingness to revisit the expansion of public service hours in early FY21 at the Long Branch, Twinbrook, and White Oak Libraries, as well as adding an early literacy outreach librarian for the Early Care and Education NDA. Montgomery County Public Libraries has a special emphasis on developing and supporting workforce and business devel-

MORE

## FY21 Budget/CIP, cont.

opment in the County. The County Executive realigned \$305,283 for the Workforce and Business Development Program, and the Council fully supported the measure to continue this initiative.

### WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

The Montgomery and Prince George's County Councils held their bicounty meeting and reached a budget agreement for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC). The Council approved an FY21 operating budget of \$849.7 million. The new budget includes the reduction of the proposed 7% rate increase to 6% for WSSC water and sewer customers. All new bicounty spending plans are effective starting July 1, 2020.

### NEGOTIATED AGREEMENTS

Given the unprecedented economic impact of the pandemic, the Council did not fund salary and benefit increases for employees represented by the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), the Municipal and County Government Employees' Organization (MCGEO), or nonrepresented County government employees. The Council also did not fund any increases above the FY20 amount in the agreement with the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association. Moreover, all Councilmembers agreed to forgo their own legally mandated salary increases, which will result in a budget savings of approximately \$12,000 as determined by the Consumer Price Index in December.

Continuity of service was the

Council's goal for the fiscal year 2021 operating budget. The Council made it clear that this decision was not about what County government employees deserve, but instead was about what the County can afford.

The goals moving forward are to preserve the jobs of existing employees, prevent layoffs, and continue to provide the services that are essential for residents. The Council also indicated its willingness to consider possible increases later in FY21, if the County's revenue picture improves significantly. ■

## Minutes of May 11, 2020, MCCF General Meeting #913 (Virtual Zoom Meeting)

*By Karen Cordry, Recording Secretary*

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the General Meeting was held via Zoom as a virtual meeting.

**Call to Order:** President Bailey Condry called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m. and attendees provided introductions.

**MoCo Primary Voting Information:** Gilberto Zelaya, from the MoCo Board of Elections Outreach Committee, attended and provided an update to the group about the steps being taken by the County to ensure a safe and workable primary election on June 2. The County will be sending absentee ballots automatically to all registered voters.

They should have been mailed from the production site the previous Saturday, so they are expecting them to start showing up in the next few days.

Voting in primaries is by party, so one must be registered with a party to be able to vote in the primary. Voters can text "check" to 77788 to check on the status of their ballot. Black or blue ballpoint pen should be used; the voter oath on the back must be signed; and, if you helped anyone, that has to be listed, too.

There are four in-person voting sites (in Burtonsville, Silver Spring, Gaithersburg, and Germantown) and three more drop-off sites at the Board of Elections, Rockville City Hall, and the Wheaton Library. Social distancing will be in place so if you can avoid in-person voting, please do.

### Adoption of Meeting Agenda:

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

### Approval of March Minutes:

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Jerry Garson briefly reported and provided a copy of his report.

### MAY PROGRAM

The topic for May was a presentation by Adam Ortiz, Director of the MoCo Department of Environmental

**May Mtg. Minutes, cont.**

Protection (“DEP”), about the current programs and plans of DEP.

**Recycling:** He spoke first about the County waste disposal facilities at Dickerson for recycling, composting, and incineration. The facility is outdated and not overly efficient; they have made recommendations to update it, particularly with respect to recycling.

Current efforts are acceptable, but not as good as a number of other Maryland jurisdictions. There is about 15% recycling for ash, and about 42% for other recyclables, which is middle of the pack. The levels have been flat for a while and they are trying to work with the growing immigrant population to increase their compliance.

They are also working towards pushing manufacturers on what

they produce, which gets much less attention. Polystyrene, for instance, the #6 plastic, is not recyclable, but still gets used a lot and a lot ends up in the recycling bins. The result is there has to be extensive presorting by hand and as much as half of what comes in must be thrown away.

One step to reduce this problem that is being considered is to simply issue regulations banning use of #6 plastic and other single use plastics, including plastic straws, if they can’t effectively be recycled. Plastic bags in the recycling bins are a continuing problem. They can’t be reused and they mess up the machinery. They are trying to emphasize that message to consumers. Mr. Ortiz noted there was a lot of detailed information on the DEP website on these issues.

**Artificial Turf:** Mr. Ortiz then turned to the use of artificial turf,

indicating that it was not being used much in parks but was in a lot of schools. He noted that the use of crumb rubber allowed particles to wash off or be tracked off and to get into the watershed. He noted that they have seen this and that catch trays are needed. When replaced, the materials are not recycled; instead they are either incinerated or landfilled. There were a number of audience comments about the use of the fields in their areas.

**Composting:** He next discussed the Commercial Compost Pick-Up Program launched on Earth Day (in April) to have country trucks pick up waste from large commercial generators—such as Holy Cross Hospital, MoCo Comm. College, supermarkets, and the like—and take it to a facility in PG County. The County is planning

MORE

**May Mtg. Minutes, cont.**

on having county-wide, residential pick-up within five years. This would allow removal of 20% of the waste currently being incinerated.

**Energy:** The County is working on reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, with goals of an 80% reduction by 2027 and 100% by 2035. Currently, the reduction in buildings is about 50% and in transportation about 41%. The County has been working on electric transit buses and the Bus Rapid Transit but the current surge in teleworking has been making a huge difference in how much is being emitted.

**Working Group Review:** County Executive Elrich has convened several environmental working groups and, to date, they have produced more than 800 recommendations. DEP is currently

working with consultants to sort through and prioritize all of the comments to see which will produce the fastest results at the lowest cost. Elrich would like to require that all new projects either use solar or some other highly efficient method of energy use in the building. There is a MoCo Green Bank that will be able to provide added lending for such projects.

**Watershed Program:** These are efforts directed at creating “green streets,” improving storm water runoff control and promoting low-impact development. They have been mapping existing water sheds to show levels of stress and, not surprisingly, those on major corridors are most stressed. They are also looking at suitable areas for management projects and considering equity concerns.

**Audience Questions:** Mr.

Ortiz was asked about a number of concerns ranging from runoff from a school construction project, to stream management projects being put on hold including in Stoneybrook, to comments on how to make efforts to add shade tree coverage more effective (including setting up councils with multiple agencies and local residents and looking at the Baltimore Green Space Program). He gave his email—[adam.ortiz@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:adam.ortiz@montgomerycountymd.gov)—so that people could contact him with other issues and concerns.

Mr. Ortiz noted that they had some 900 applications to receive shade trees from the County, and that they had been way behind but were starting to catch up. The program made a huge impact on the urban environment with relatively little work. They have gotten in

MORE



## May Mtg. Minutes, cont.

some good contractors recently for this work and enforcement of other tree laws and they were getting back on track. He was asked about oversight of construction work and noted that the bond amount required of contractors when they disturb the land and do cutting and clearing isn't enough and they need to strengthen repayment and mitigation requirements. The same is true for forest conservation efforts (which is also a state issue) and, again, there is not enough monitoring and enforcement and they are looking at it.

A question was raised about the green corridors for wildlife program which seems to have been lost track of and Mr. Ortiz agreed that there was not sufficient coordination in the Master Plans and between the

executive agencies and the Planning Department to make sure that green pieces of the plan were kept intact.

A question was raised about how to get electric cars charged in areas where they had to be on the street and cords were crossing sidewalks, etc. He agreed this was an issue (and there was a similar problem in D.C.). He would check with this staff and see what was being looked at.

On the COVID-19 front, he again noted that there was a definite effect on emissions levels and they were trying to get complete data. The downturn in electrical usage in office buildings does not seem to have been fully replaced by increased home use.

A question was raised about whether mobile recycling centers could be set up periodically around the county for types of items that

otherwise would have to go all the way to Gaithersburg (including batteries and other specialty items). He agreed it was an idea worth looking into. There was also some discussion on ways to divert waste, i.e., donating paint to nonprofits or having a spot at Dickerson where people could leave and pick up.

The discussion ended with our grateful thanks to Mr. Ortiz.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

The legislation setting up an Inspector General for the MoCo Board of Education had not been vetoed (or signed) by the governor as of May 1. If not action is taken, the bill becomes law.

### *Traffic and Transit*

■ Jerry Garson reported there is

MORE

## May Mtg. Minutes, cont.

still a substantial decrease in traffic due to the shutdown. The main adverse consequence is that trucks aren't slowing down as they head into I-270 and there have been close to a dozen accidents.

■ Rail ridership is down about 90%-95% (35,000 versus 350,000 to 400,000 before).

■ RideOn has limited its service to only about 31 routes.

■ They are using the empty roads as an opportunity to move more quickly on building construction projects. One such project, to add an extra lane on I-270 from Montrose Road to Democracy Blvd., is moving forward quickly, as is the Watkins Mill interchange. One effect of this change may be to revise some of the calculations regarding

demand for the P3/toll lands project.

■ Also, due to the effect of COVID-19, bus ridership is way down, which also affects some of the analysis on the BRT proposals, but, as of now, the County still wants to move forward on those ideas.

### *Environment*

■ Bailey Condrey reported that reporting in *The Wall Street Journal* indicated that used synturf was shipped from the U.S. to Malaysia. It is unclear where product being removed from MoCo fields is going to, especially since some recycling plants in Europe are refusing to take U.S. waste. The County is still converting grass fields to turf, with Northwood and Kennedy High Schools being among the possible spots.

## NEW BUSINESS

The Executive Committee supports having the Civic Fed sign a letter being prepared by the Ten Mile Creek Coalition to oppose changes proposed by the Planning Board to allow additional impervious surfaces (primarily for bike and pedestrian paths) within the protected area.

There was also some discussion about whether recordings of the Zoon sessions could be made available on the website and Allen Myers will look at that.

**Adjournment:** Bailey called for and received unanimous approval for adjournment at 9:30 p.m. ■

**Minutes of the MCCF Executive Committee Zoom Videoconference Meeting on May 21**

By Karen Cordry, Recording Secretary

**Attendees:** Bailey Condrey, Karen Cordry, Alan Bowser, Sue Schumacher, Tim Willard, Jerry Garson, Carol Barth, Jim Zepp, and Jacquie Bokow (signing on later in meeting due to schedule conflict)

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m. and it was moved and seconded to adopt the agenda previously circulated.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Jerry Garson reported there was essentially no change to his report from the general meeting. KHCA will use the Paypal system to pay dues for 2020 to be sure that it works. He noted that we are wait-

ing on refunds from the County for unused meeting rental space and, that the last time he visited the Post Office, there had been no mail.

Jerry also reported on arrangements for the June 2 primary. Ballots have been somewhat slow getting out (and they are being mailed from the printer in Minnesota) but they are all supposed to have gone into the mail by this Saturday. They must be postmarked by June 2 or can be dropped off at 7 locations.

**JUNE PROGRAM: AWARDS CEREMONY**

Awardees will be Safe and Healthy Playing Fields ("SHPF") for the Wayne Goldstein award, Jacquie Bokow for the Star Cup; Lynn Kapiloff of *The Sentinel* for the Sentinel Award; and a posthumous Special

Recognition award to Woody Brosnan from North Woodside Civic Association for his dedicated community leadership over many decades.

Alan will come up with the language, noting that in addition to N. Woodside, he had also been a long-time President of Prezco, and had been active in Save Silver Spring and other actions.

Logistics: Alan will get the awards from Gladiator after they have been engraved and will show them on camera. Bailey will send the names to Gladiator. We will work with nominees to see who they would like to have introduce them. Lynn Kapiloff may be in able to announce that *The Sentinel* will be resuming in an online format. Bailey and/or Alan will also check with

MORE

**May ExCom Minutes, cont.**

Marc Elrich and/or Evan Glass to say something about Civic Fed and the importance of citizens groups in the County as well as to speak about Woody Brosnan. The order of presentation of awards will be 1) Brosnan, 2) Bokow Cup, 3) Kapiloff, and 4) SHPF.

Jim Zepp is looking into a new partnership with *Montgomery Magazine* to do an article on the Awards Ceremony and then we would urge them to continue following up with articles on our on Community Hero Awards; the same idea was also discussed with respect to reaching out to the *Bethesda Beat*. We can also look at whether we can reach out to NextDoor to be accepted as a group that can post countywide (in the way that elected officials can).

We discussed having co-hosts for

the event as needed to help moderate; Karen volunteered to be one along with Bailey and Alan. We will start at 7 pm, have voting on officers first, and then move to the awards. Harriet Quinn will be asked by Alan to present the pending proposed slate of officers for the next terms.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

We discussed the need to remind groups to become members and pay dues, even in this current time of confusion and uncertainty. Alan will remind groups that are part of Prezco about the value of being Civic Fed members in addition to being in Prezco and also noted that, in view of the ease of having virtual meetings, it may actually be more likely that useful meetings can be held for the community. Prezco has had two meetings related to COVID-19 developments.

MoCo has released a COVID-19 Dashboard that shows variables the County is tracking with a goal of a 14-day downturn on all of the measures. The county is between 8-14 days on the measures. The ratio of deaths to cases is going down; about 70 percent of MoCo deaths are in nursing homes. Maryland has had a recent day with the highest number of cases but the average has peaked and begun to decline. In light of the continuing uncertainty, we will hold off on plans for the September meeting, but the Ex Com meeting will convene in August.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS****Public Finance**

■ Budget for most localities are in bad shape and cuts will likely be coming absent aid. MoCo passed its budget today, with a \$5.8 billion

MORE

## May ExCom Minutes, cont.

“continuity of services” operating budget and a \$4.4 billion capital budget. The budget rejects union contracts but there are automatic increases built in for Council members under the Charter. They have agreed to donate them to charity.

■ Sue questioned whether the budget takes into account the possibility of a significant increase in school enrollment from those who cannot afford private school at this point.

### Transportation

■ The planning for the P3/toll road projects is still proceeding; the widening of one lane on part of I-270 has been completed and the Watkins Glen interchange will open in a few weeks.

■ The Council had a discussion with Greg Slater from the State DOT

where they had serious concerns about the amount and quality of information on the Purple Line; as of now, it is not slated to open in MoCo until 2023.

■ The Corridor Cities Transitway BRT project from Clarksburg to Shady Grove is still in play.

### Environment

■ Carole Barth will write about the County’s Urban Tree program for a newsletter article.

■ We will also communicate our concerns about the Planning Board’s plan to allow bike paths to create more impervious surfaces in the Ten Mile Creek area.

### Legislation

■ We also need to resume pushing for the bill requiring information for permits be provided “on pain of perjury.” We originally had agreement

with Parks and Planning but now they are afraid it might be too stringent, particularly for homeowners although it is not directed at them. The NAB came all the way from Baltimore to testify against the bill, so this is something that will take a concerted effort to get through. ■

## Election of New Officers

Elections for new officers for 2020–2021 will be held during the MCCF online meeting on June 8. The following have been recommended to serve (nominations also may be made during the meeting):

- President: Alan Bowser
- First Vice-President: Tim Willard
- Second Vice-President: Sue Schumacher
- Secretary: Karen Cordrey
- Treasurer: Jerry Garson ■

## Minutes of April 23rd MCCF Executive Committee Zoom Videoconference Meeting

*By Karen Cordry, Recording Secretary*

The meeting was called to order at 7:54 p.m.

**Attendees:** Bailey Condrey, Alan Bowser, Tim Willard, Jerry Garson, Sue Schumacher, Harriet Quinn, Karen Cordry; Jacquie Bokow (later in meeting)

Motion made and seconded to adopt meeting agenda.

### TREASURER’S REPORT

We will receive some refunds due to cancellation of meetings at County building for which we had prepaid. The Committee expense is primarily for membership in the Committee for Montgomery. Alan Bowser

suggested that it would be useful for future reports to have an extra column showing monthly expenses along with the year-to-date column and Jerry agreed to do so. He hasn’t been to the Post Office to pick up revenue checks for several weeks so that side hasn’t changed.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS — UPCOMING EVENTS

■ Alan noted, with respect to the pandemic, that scientists were warning this could be increasingly common with global warming and that density and poverty were big drivers. Sebastian Smoot been tracking cases in MC; zip codes with the largest number of cases are 20901, -02, -04, -06, and -10.

■ The SHA is still working on the P3 contracts (for I-495/270 spur

toll lanes) as they can fly under the radar with Cv19. With the lack of traffic, it has been able to complete a planned lane SB on I-270.

### OFFICER ELECTIONS

We had not set up nominations committee yet, but Harriet Quinn agreed to be the chair. There were discussions as to which current officers would be willing to run. Alan Bowser agreed to run for Pres., Jerry Garson for Treasurer, Karen Cordry for Rec. Secretary, Tim Willard for 1st VP, Sue Schumacher for 2nd VP, and Jacquie will remain as Newsletter Editor. The next newsletter will also have a call for anyone else would like to run and they should contact Harriet. The election will be held at the June meeting (which will

## April ExCom Minutes, cont.

be held online on June 8) and will take place before awards are made.

### AWARDS

#### Ceremony

■ Held as main topic of June meeting. We will do certificates for plaques and have plaques done later and delivered to recipients. PP presentation to show the various awards with descriptions.

■ We will plan on inviting a major political figure (i.e., Raskin, Elrich, or Katz) to speak on current topic.

■ Allow each awardee to speak for five or so minutes about their activities leading up to their award. Can probably also them to have a PPT if they wish.

#### Awardees

■ **The Star Cup** will be awarded

to Jacquie Bokow for her redesign and many years of work on both this newsletter and the MCCF website.

■ **Sentinel Award** will be given to Lynn Kapiloff of the *Sentinel* and **7th State Blog** in recognition and memory of their long service to Montgomery County.

■ **Wayne Goldstein Award** is given for exemplary service to the people of Montgomery; for persons other than elected officials. Several potential nominees were discussed. Consensus was to select the Safe Healthy Playing Fields coalition for its work all over the county in terms of barring and removing artificial turn field and dealing disposal issues. Bailey will reach out to SHPF to inform them. We may also choose to provide special Recognition to others, including to Woody Brosnan of the North Woodside Civic Association, who was extreme-

ly active in his community and died in April.

■ Overview article will be written by Harriett for awards and elections.

■ Alan will give Gladiator Trophies a call to retrieve the Star Cup. He will also check with awardees to be sure they can be on the scheduled June meeting call.

### MAY PROGRAM AND FUTURE MEETINGS

May's topic will be Montgomery County Environmental and Water Issues. We will ask Adam Ortiz (Director of MoCO DEP) speak about the county's environmental, storm water, and recycling efforts. Some other potential speakers were mentioned as fallbacks, if necessary.

Last meeting on the County budget had approximately 65

## April ExCom Minutes, cont.

people on the call, far better than most in person meetings. We will have a report on the discussion in the newsletter. It was noted that MoCo received its first \$160 million payment from the Feds for the COVID response today.

Alan noted that Zoom meetings may help bolster participation, but we also need to consider how it may affect dues paying members; we could also do Zoom with in-person and project to others at home. We don't want to lose the sense of community from people being able to meet in-person when that works again, but we can keep a lot of sense of support even if only on-air. Having speakers that are interesting to the most people is the most impor-

tant way to keep people involved.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Transportation

■ Shutdown has left highways running in ways they haven't in years, but there still have been major accidents from distracted drivers with less to concentrate on; similarly, pedestrian and bike accidents are still happening.

■ Purple Line has asked for another \$187 million to construct a crash wall between themselves and CSX tracks, which will cause several months delay.

#### CEMETERY COALITION

Bill introduced by Del. Queen to provide funds for the up-keep of historic African American cemeteries. Tim will do an article on the

Cemetery Coalition.

### CONTROVERSY OVER PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS

Elrich wrote the Council and asked that Planning Board be directed to place major planning decisions on hold due to difficulties in ensuring adequate public participation. We should publicly support that view. Harriet will draft a letter to that effect.

### IG FOR SCHOOLS BILL

Governor has only signed bills on the COVID emergency; other legislation has not yet been dealt with, so that bill is still in limbo.

### NEWSLETTER

Summed up various articles to be including – article on May meeting (by Alan Bowser), Ed Amatetti



## 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.

## **April ExCom Minutes, cont.**

outside article discussion on budget as counterpoint to write-up of County presentation. Bailey will do an article on tornado outbreaks and relationship with climate change, as well as article on new sustainable energy technologies.

**Motion to Adjourn** was made, seconded, and adopted at 9:45 p.m. ■

---

### Montgomery County Civic Federation

[www.montgomerycivic.org](http://www.montgomerycivic.org)  
info AT montgomerycivic.org  
Twitter Feed @mccivicfed  
[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 *civicfednews AT montgomerycivic.org*.

**Send all address corrections** to *membership AT montgomerycivic.org*.

**VIEW PAST ISSUES ONLINE [HERE](#)**