



Civic Federation News

*Official Publication of the Montgomery County Civic Federation
Serving the Public Interest Since 1925*

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SESSION 783

WWW.MONTGOMERYCIVIC.ORG

JANUARY 2007

January Program: Prospects for the Annapolis 2007 Session

By Dan Wilhelm, Legislative Chair

The 2007 legislative session begins in Annapolis on Wednesday, January 10, two days after our January meeting, and our new governor will be sworn in on January 17. Montgomery County has a number of new delegates and senators. With these changes in elected officials, the issues in Annapolis will probably play out somewhat differently than over the last four years. Our January program will feature Delegate Anne Kaiser (Dist 14) and Senator-elect Richard Madaleno (Dist 18). Although Richard is new to the state senate, he knows Annapolis well since he has served as a delegate for a number of years.

Our guest speakers will give us their opinion about what issues of interest to MCCF will likely come up and how other senators and delegates currently view them. County Executive Ike Leggett has proposed an increase in the gasoline tax to pay for some transportation projects. Without additional funding, Montgomery County can expect little in the way of funding other than for the ICC. This year should be interesting since the state is facing a structural deficit this year which is likely get worse in future years. We will have plenty of time for questions and answers, so come prepared with your questions about slots, funding for schools, funding for transportation, public funding for state campaigns, ethics in state government, etc.

Information about the Montgomery County delegation and county bills can be found at www.montgomerycountydelegation.com.

Environment Committee Report

By Caren Madsen, Environment Chair

At the MCCF Executive Committee meeting, we discussed the continuing problems with violations of the Forest Conservation Law (FCL). A report on this will be written by MCCF similar to a previous report on Site Plan Enforcement Violations. FCL violations are currently handled as a Development Review issue by Park and Planning (M-NCPPC). Most violations however are not committed by developers but by owners of private property. This indicates a gap in public awareness of the forestry law. M-NCPPC is short-staffed and needs more inspectors to adequately enforce the FCL. A Forest Conservation Task Force set up by M-NCPPC last June is in the final stages of writing a set of recommendations for making operational improvements to the FCL. I have been representing the Civic Federation on this task force.

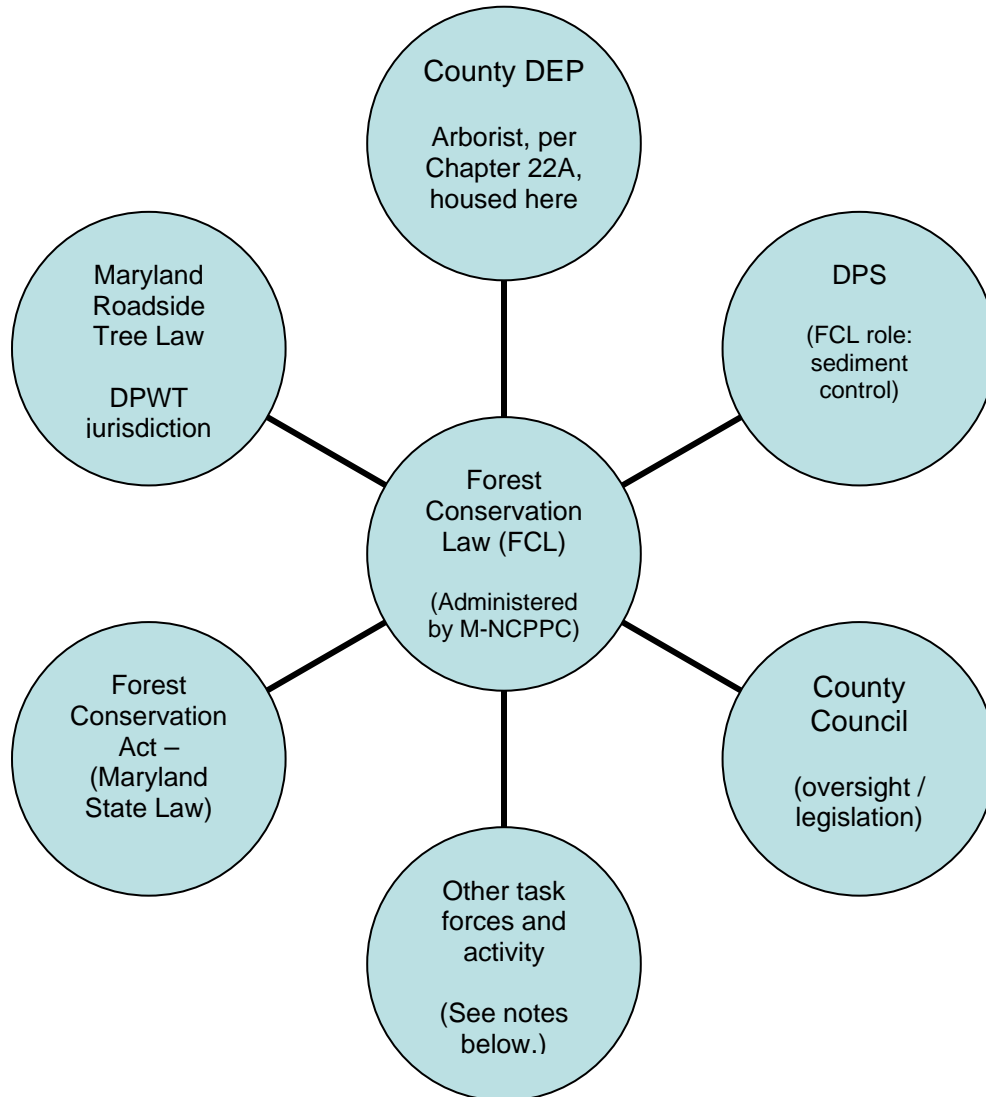
There was some discussion of the role of the county arborist, who the arborist is, and what role an official arborist plays. The Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) has an arborist on staff but the department destroys trees in the public right-of-way unnecessarily. Separately, Laura Miller at the Department of Environmental

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The Many Facets of the Montgomery County's Forest Conservation Law

byGinnyBarnes



Task forces and other activity:

- Forest Conservation Task Force - convened by Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission; working on operational revisions, not amendments
- C&O Canal Task Force – convened under guidance of Congressman Chris Van Hollen in the wake of the Snyder FCL violation in 2005; recommended increased penalties
- New Forest Conservation Advisory Committee – FCL was amended to add this stakeholder advisory group to be appointed by the County Executive; will focus on both forest and tree protection.
- M-NCPPC internal review – Requested by Planning Board Chairman Hanson to review the FCL, rewrite poorly written sections and clarify the law.
- Citizens – individuals and civic organizations report violations.
- County Council has amended law recently to increase penalties, protect champion trees and form a Forest Conservation Advisory Committee

Key to acronyms for government agencies:

DEP – Department of Environmental Protection
DPS – Department of Permitting Services
DPWT – Department of Public Works & Transportation
M-NCPPC – Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Protection (DEP) was hired to satisfy a requirement under Chapter 22A and could also be referred to as the "county arborist". She is studying models used in other jurisdictions to get ideas for improving the FCL and will make some preliminary recommendations on a county tree ordinance based on those models and input from a citizen group which I led last spring.

County Executive Leggett's transition team is wrapping up its work in a final report to be released shortly. Anne Ambler (Sierra Club Montgomery Group) and I drafted the environmental policy statement for the section on "Building Healthy & Sustainable Communities." Creating a county tree ordinance to supplement the existing forestry law with increased protection for individual trees tops the list of Leggett's transition recommendations. Once the Leggett report is final, a link to it will be posted on the MCCF web site.

On a separate issue, the C&O Canal Task Force continues to meet and discuss the status of a set of recommendations for amendments to the FCL that the group developed last fall. Former County Councilmember Howie Denis had committed to spearheading the effort to move those recommendations forward but was defeated in the November general election. Councilmember Marc Elrich has expressed interest in being the new Council champion for FCL improvements and development of a new county tree ordinance. He has hired Adrienne Lewis from Mr. Denis's office to assist in this effort.

Ultimately, a combination of the work of the M-NCPPC Task Force, the C&O Canal Task, and a yet-to-be-established Forest Conservation Advisory Committee appointed by County Executive Leggett could result in a combination of operational revisions, new staff at M-NCPPC, amendments to existing forestry codes and a new tree ordinance. Improved tree laws are clearly a priority for our new county leadership.

Council Proposes Slowing Growth While Studying the Issue

by Jim Humphrey, Planning and Land Use Committee

A majority of members of the 2006-2010 County Council were elected, at least in part, based on their promise to slow growth while enabling infrastructure to catch up. During the first session of the new Council on December 5, newly elected President Marilyn Praisner introduced legislation which attempts to do just this.

The proposed legislation would suspend until August 15, 2007 the approval of pending development projects which have not yet received Subdivision Plan (also known as Preliminary Plan) approval from the Planning Board. The Subdivision Regulation Amendment, SRA 06-03, is designed to give the Council and Planning Board some breathing room to consider how to meet the current infrastructure deficit--to provide schools, transportation and service capacity to support existing development--without the situation worsening.

Some exceptions would be granted under SRA 06-03, if approved. The Planning Board could still continue to accept and approve plan submissions for projects in Metro Station Policy Areas, as well as those in any area of the county (except in Poolesville and Greater Goshen) which would generate 5 or fewer vehicle trips during rush hours. Also, any project that has already received Preliminary approval could still seek final Site Plan approval to begin construction.

Those who are concerned that members of the construction trades might be thrown out of work by this 7-month suspension of some development approvals should remember that there is a considerable backlog of projects "in the pipeline," which have been approved but are not yet built. This pipeline contains projects throughout the county totaling 30,000 dwelling units and enough commercial space to create tens of thousands of

new jobs. So, while individual projects may be affected in the short term, the development industry should feel little overall impact.

A public hearing will be held on SRA 06-03 in the County Council Building in Rockville on Tuesday, January 16, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Individuals or groups may submit written comments to the Council via email to county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov. Those wishing to provide oral testimony at the hearing must sign up by calling Council Aide Delphine Harriston at 240-777-7931.

In addition to seeking this temporary hiatus in certain project approvals, the Council has already approved a resolution asking the Planning Board to push forward by 2 months its schedule for delivering suggestions for long-term changes in the county's Annual Growth Policy or AGP. The Board has been asked to submit its recommendations to Council before the August '07 break. In the meantime, public discussion should continue on ways to strengthen the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance and to better regulate the pace of new development.

State and County Budgeting and Your Taxes: an Inauspicious Beginning!

By Chuck Lapinski, Chair of Public Finance and Utilities Committees

The budget outlook is even grimmer than I thought it would be - both at the state and county levels.

Even though our new governor will inherit a surplus from this current fiscal year, his first budget will face falling income and rising costs. For starters, expected state revenues from corporate and real estate taxes are declining and expected to fall short by more than \$1 billion next year. Governor O'Malley has an estimated agenda of nearly \$750 million plus a list of over 30 items that are un-priced. My very rough, optimistic estimate would put a price tag on these items at about \$1

billion. And this doesn't even include the legislature's wish list. Everyone says they are owed a piece of the action, and you will be expected to pay, and pay, and pay more. These are not one-time items; these are items that will grow each succeeding year. Thus, unless you are willing to be taxed by dipping into your inheritances and then some, these are unsustainable budget expenditures. This will ultimately affect the county's financial picture as well.

The County won't be any better off. The new county executive is saddled with promises from defeated council members and backroom agreements or understandings with the former exec like the ICC. At least the new exec is aware of the issues, even if he doesn't know how to fix them. First, he is likely to be saddled with a roughly \$64 million budget shortfall from this year. On top of that, each of the school unions want a bigger chunk of the pie. This means we'll have to grow a much bigger pie at your expense through increased taxes. For example, the unions want an average 5% guaranteed wage adjustment to go with the 3.5% annual average step increases; that results in an average 8.5% total annual compensation increase per year or an increase of more than 28% total for wages in 3 years! And the rest of the county employees want the same! For the last 6 years, they have averaged at least 7% annually compounded. Some facts: for the last 8 years, the regional inflation rate has been less than 2% each year. Secondly, no survey of corporate wage adjustment exceeded 4% total wage and salary adjustments annually during this period. Thus we have a very costly wage and salary structure at the county level. Stay tuned for future developments.

And then, there is the failed Eminent Domain Protection bill from the last Annapolis legislative session. It was a big disappointment that not one candidate for state legislature ran on a promise to protect you and your property rights. We look forward to seeing this bill passed during the coming session and inconsistencies in the laws and regulations ironed out.

In short, the prognosis for both county and state is economically unaffordable! No sense in beating around the bush. Both county and state will tap into various rainy day funds, and maybe raise taxes and fees again (it has happened every year for the last 4 years) even if it hurts us in the longer term. Then, unless prudent thinking and actions prevail, for which I have less than faint hope, we will have built in a truly unsustainable budget and taxing structure that we will then be asked to bail out. Frankly, I am prepared to recommend that the taxpayers no longer bail any of them out. We did that in the early nineties, and they never kept their promise on the piggyback income tax. Then, the economy and the state did it to us. Since then, all our problems have been self-inflicted at the county level.

Education Matters

by Mark R. Adelman, Education Committee Chair

Since our last newsletter, the new members of the Board of Education (BoE) have been seated, a new member - Mr. Christopher Barclay - has been chosen to fill the district 4 vacancy, and new Board officers have been elected. Mrs. Nancy Navarro is the new President, Ms. Shirley Brandman is the new Vice President. All of these events have been attended by citizens, but not as many citizens as we would have wished. The video-records of the events are available on the BoE website (<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/boe/>), as are brief biographical sketches of all the Board members.

If you will take the time to attend a meeting of the BoE, or of one of its standing committees, you will realize that the Board does many things in its role as our elected overseers of the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). One of the most important functions of the BoE is the establishment and continual revision of a large number of BoE Policies. Each time a policy is prepared, or revised, citizens are offered the opportunity to comment and make suggestions for modifications of the proposed or revised policy. Recently our committee has

provided the BoE with comments on Policy FFA (Naming of Schools) and Policy IEB (Middle School Education). Both of these comment documents are posted to the MCCF website. In addition, we are working on comments regarding proposed revisions to Policy JFA (Student Rights and Responsibilities). We would welcome your suggestions regarding JFA (and any other policy revision), but remind you that any citizen is encouraged to comment directly to the BoE on such matters if s/he so wishes.

In addition, the new BoE has the added task of rebuilding the trust of those elements of the community that were so offended by the actions of certain members of the previous Board. In my Sentinel article of December 4 (also posted to our website), I expressed our concerns about actions suggesting some Board members are still insisting on making sure that citizens understand the authority of the BoE, especially when it comes to "submitting to external audits". We hope that the new board - and the County Council - will not lose sight of the fact that the authorities being so vigorously defended are authorities that the voting public has delegated to elected and appointed officials at all levels of government, and that citizens must retain the right to audit the actions of those we elect, if and when it seems appropriate to us to do so. "Debates" about such issues are inherently counterproductive, especially at a time when so many citizens are so dissatisfied with the actions of our previous elected representatives.

The proposed MCPS budget for FY 2008 has been released and a summary is widely available, including via the MCPS website at <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/departments/budget/>. We are pleased that the length (and thus the cost of publishing) of this document is significantly reduced from previous years, without, we would argue, reducing the amount of actual information provided to interested citizens. As we predicted, the cost of operating MCPS in FY 2008 (including debt service) is projected to be in excess of 2 billion dollars. We will be studying the budget - not just the summary, but also the details. The overarching

question is not whether to spend the money, nor is it really exactly how much money should be spent. The question is how we spend these dollars - and other precious resources. Are we spending them as wisely as possible? If not, what can we do better? We will be offering testimony before the BoE (probably on January 11) and, subsequently, before the County Council. We would welcome your suggestions as to what we should stress in our testimony. More importantly, we urge each and every one of you to offer your insights, in oral or written testimony. We suggest that you focus on those "pieces of the puzzle" that most concern you and about which you feel you can bring something to the dialogue. This is not rocket science. It is the democratic process. The bottom line will remain essentially the same. We will be trying to suggest changes that are cost neutral or cost/benefit positive. This is a tricky task, but no one says it's easy! And no one should suggest that the effort is without value.

Bylaws Committee

By Luella Mast, Bylaws Chair

Peggy Dennis, Dan Wilhelm and Richard Zierdt have all agreed to continue to serve on the Bylaws Committee. We will meet on Tuesday, January 2 for supper at Hollywood East on the Boulevard, 2621 University Boulevard, Wheaton, starting at 7:15. If you would like to join the committee, or have ideas for issues the committee should explore, please contact Luella Mast at 301-384-4178 or at luellam@comcast.net. You can read our bylaws on the website: www.montgomerycivic.org. They make great insomniac reading, but we welcome suggestions for further improvements.

Report on Membership

by Peggy Dennis, Membership Chair

We are excited to welcome the towns of Somerset and Kensington into our ranks. Many Montgomery County residents live in incorporated municipalities

including Rockville and Gaithersburg. These cities and towns have their own issues which we need to understand, so their participation is doubly welcome. We also appreciate the membership renewal of the Clarksburg Civic Association. Their expertise with site plan and zoning violations is particularly welcome as the new County Council and Royce Hanson's Planning Commission grapple with improving development rules and procedures.

The following organizations still need to pay their dues for the current year:

Avenel Community Association, Inc.
Ayrelawn Civic Association
Chevy Chase West Neighborhood Association
Fox Hills West Citizens Association
Layhill Alliance
Norbeck Citizens Association
Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association
Snowdens Mill Homeowners Assoc
Woodside Park Civic Association Inc.

Committee For Montgomery

by Dan Wilhelm, CFM Liaison

I represent the Civic Federation as one of the forty organizations that make up the Committee for Montgomery (CFM). CFM is a coalition of leaders representing a broad cross-section of Montgomery County's business, labor, education, civic and community-based organizations. Five of these organizations are civic. The CFM mission is to advocate in Annapolis on issues of importance to Montgomery County and the State.

While its membership is diverse and reflects a board spectrum of political views, CFM members unite in support of its priorities, which include: education, health and human services, economic and workforce development, effective government, transportation, energy and the environment. MCCF, like many of the members, doesn't take positions on every issue. Some are simply outside our areas of concern. CFM's bylaws require that at

least 85% of the members must vote to support legislative and budget priorities before they can be adopted. The two pages of priorities for the 2007 can be found on their web site www.committeeformontgomery.org. These priorities might be a good place to learn about issues that likely will be discussed in this next session.

Minutes of the December 11 Regular Meeting

by Richard Zierdt, Recording Secretary

MCCF President Wayne Goldstein calls the meeting to order at 7:52 pm with introductions: 38 are present at 7:52. More arrive later for an attendance count of at least 52. Introductions are made.

Announcements. The Planning Board on its Home Page has a Draft Manual for Development Review Procedures. Visit www.mc-mncppc.org. Peggy Dennis appreciates the new members present this evening. Keep 'em comin'!

Agenda is adopted.
Minutes of the November 13 meeting are accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Luella Mast reminds everyone to please sign in. \$100 was transferred from the newsletter account to the president's account so the president could attend the Committee For Montgomery's annual Legislative Breakfast. MCCF has \$8998.27 in cash assets.

Program: Meet the New County Council Members; two attend this evening. Valerie Ervin is the new Council member for District 5. She previously staffed for Councilmember George Leventhal, and was on the school board. Ms. Ervin's chief of staff is Sonia Healy, 240-777-7970. Her policy analyst is Ben Stutz ("a numbers guy"), 240-777-7960 main office. Ms. Ervin is a member of the Education Committee, and the Transportation and Environment Committee. Priorities: (1) Fighting poverty, pro-actively. Some children are not taking advantage of the Free and Reduced-priced Meals

(FARM) program because their parents won't fill out the necessary forms. Ms. Ervin advocates universal breakfast for all children, regardless of financial need. \$84K annually is necessary to raise a family of four in Montgomery County. Firefighters cannot live here because of the cost of living. (2) Predatory lending legislation. Ervin believes the Council should write new legislation. (Current legislation was overturned by the Courts). (3) Grants and Discretionary funds. Council should make some sense of this process. How does the council give out those dollars? (4) Schools, and after-school programs. Between 3 and 7 PM is when most teenagers get into trouble. Some schools (in the country) open at 7 am and close at 5 pm. Longer open hours would be paid for by the school system. (5) High School Assessment test. Students must pass this in order to receive a diploma starting in 2009. County school superintendent Dr. Weast has been trying to convince the Maryland State Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Grasmick, to stop the test.

Ms. Ervin takes Q&A. Q: Excessive growth, and a possible moratorium? A: Some people feel a moratorium will negatively impact downtown Silver Spring. The AGP will probably be passed unanimously tomorrow. 82 projects may be held up. Q: Free meals? Why don't parents fill out their forms? A: Some fear being negatively labeled by doing such. Q: Start the school day later to allow students more rest? A: Issue comes up every year. The increased cost of bus transportation is a problem. Q: What about high school assessment testing? A: The test is not tied to anything. Q: There were questions about eliminating pork in the budget and affordable housing (answers to which this secretary did not record). Q: ICC, housing, a techway to Virginia, and ending buyouts of affordable housing units? A: Techway(?) [or ICC?] is not going anywhere with this Council. We need to end buyouts. Building affordable housing means we have to have some building activity. Money will be needed to fund other transportation projects.

New At-large Councilmember Mark Elrich speaks. Our own Dale Tibbitts is Mr. Elrich's Chief of Staff,

240-777-7966. Mr. Elrich teaches 5th grade math through the 1st week of January. He's been a school teacher for the last 16 years. He is on the Council's Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee (PHED Committee). Mr. Elrich speaks on a variety of topics. To deal with youth gangs, you cut off the supply of young kids to gangs. Mr. Elrich wants to look fresh at current zoning rules, and the growth policy. The County has a deficit of twelve fire stations, but only 5 are being built. Mr. Elrich wants to re-examine the Growth policy, while getting into the technical aspects (for example) of traffic lane capacity, and reducing school classroom size. Developers must pay more for infrastructure. The costs are being disproportionately borne by the middle class. Mr. Elrich has met with developers, and assured them "that life has not ended, just life as you know it." He reminds them that too much of a tax burden on the middle class may spark a successful "Robin Ficker amendment" that would limit County finances. He sites one housing development in Virginia where developers are paying considerably more there than they typically do in Montgomery County. Affordable housing: 8000 condo conversions are up this year. Mr. Elrich ran his county-wide campaign on \$67K.

Mr. Elrich takes Q&A. Q: What about portable classrooms? A: Portables can be helpful, if used temporarily and not as essentially permanent space. Q: Growth? A: D.C. & Prince Georges County could take more development. Q: If you increase programs, better find a way to fund them other than raising taxes. A: In Takoma Park, the town changed the staff's responsibility to provide services that residents wanted without hiring additional staff. He feels he is a fiscal conservative, and is conscious of taxpayer's money. He advocates different tax rates for commercial and residential properties. He will ask for updated figures from agencies he was heretofore, as a private citizen, unable to get.

Community Hero Award: Wayne presents the December Award to Betty Dale Petrides, founder of Citizens for a Better Bethesda, which advocates for control over "mansions" and loss of trees.

Transportation: It is reported that at new County Executive Ike Leggett's "Town Hall" meetings, there was a consistent theme of support for the Bi-Cities Transitway and the Purple Line and getting rid of the ICC.

Housing: Jim Humphrey. Committee has composed list of "bullet items" that the committee feels are most important. Elizabeth Davis has resigned from head of HOC. Committee looks at the Community Land Trust model. Questions the County's estimate of the percentages of affordable housing lost as being too low.

Planning and Land Use: Jim Humphrey. Asks everyone to review the proposed Development Review procedures posted on Park and Planning's website:
www.mc-mncppc.org/development/development_manual/index.shtm

Education: Mark Adelman. Reports a significant change in the Board of Education. The MCCF Education Committee needs help in gathering information about things going on in schools, such as, how behind are students as per the State high school assessment tests.
Meeting adjourned 9:40 pm.

Minutes of the December 13 Executive Committee Meeting

by Peggy Dennis, Substitute Recording Secretary

Attending: Wayne Goldstein, Dan Wilhelm, Luella Mast, Sandy Vogelgesang, Mark Adelman, Arnie Gordon, Jim Humphrey, Peggy Dennis, Byron Bloch, Bill Schrader, Caren Madsen, Chuck Floyd, Lee Shipman, Chuck Lapinski. Quorum met.

Meeting called to order by President Wayne Goldstein at 7:49 p.m. Minutes of the November 15 ExComm Meeting approved with one abstention subject to agreed upon corrections to be sent to Richard Zierdt.

Treasurer's Report: Luella says memberships continue to come in slowly with Clarksburg Civic Assn., towns of Kensington and Somerset joining. Newsletter costs: October's low bill was a fluke. Jerry Garson has carried out an audit of the treasurer's books for the last 4 years. He recommends we keep all financial records for 10 years and has made several small but useful suggestions to improve bookkeeping. Jerry will not be able to audit the Question C PAC accounts.

Wayne introduces Chuck Floyd who has volunteered to chair the Public Safety Committee. Dan Wilhelm has agreed to chair the Legislation Committee. Both receive unanimous favorable votes. Chuck can be reached at 301-273-5620 or email: chuck@chuckfloyd.com

Environment: Caren discusses violations of the Forest Conservation Law (FCL). Jim's report on Site Plan Enforcement Violations will be model for report on FCL Violations. These are currently handled as a Development Review issue by Park and Planning. Most violations are not done by developers but by owners of private property. MNCPPC needs more inspectors and now fails to enforce FCL. DPWT has an arborist on staff but approves taking down trees in public right-of-way unnecessarily. State DNR must approve removal. Laura Miller at DEP is studying models used in other jurisdictions to get ideas for improved FC law in MoCo. Caren had already done this.

Leggett's transition team is wrapping up its work. Caren & Anne Ambler (Sierra Club) have written the report from the "Building Healthy & Sustainable Communities". Wayne will be on task force setting up the "CountiStat" program modeled after CitiStat in Baltimore.

Education: Mark reports Chris Barkley was selected to replace Valerie Ervin on BoE. Tenor of BoE meetings seems to be changing with 2 new Council staff members, new Council and new BoE, Mark is hopeful we will have more responsiveness than in past. New MCPS budget summary is available on website. Mark received a MCCPTA Directory from

Mark your Calendar **NOW!**
You are Cordially Invited to the

**Montgomery County Civic
Federation's
2007 Annual Awards Banquet**

Friday, May 11, 6:00 to 9:30 p.m.
New Fortune Restaurant
16515 S. Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg

that group.

Housing: Sarah & Jim are producing a "one pager" with recommendations on promoting affordable housing. Also on recommendations for changes to the Annual Growth Policy (AGP). Will send drafts of both to ExComm members.

Planning & Land Use (PLU): SRA-06-03 (subdivision regulation approval) will, if approved, bump timing of AGP up by 2 months. Council will have hearing on new procedures in this SRA on Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m. We should all attend. SRA will suspend new approvals from date of enactment through August 15, 2007, except for projects in Metro Station policy areas and those which would generate 5 or fewer vehicle trips, except in Poolesville or Greater Goshen. 82 projects potentially affected. Park & Planning's "Rules of Procedure" for hearings has been revised. Jim made comments on non-citizen friendly aspects which resulted in some changes for the better. Board has not released draft Manual on development approval process, and PLU is preparing comments.

Public Safety: Chuck Floyd said both Maryland and D.C. are poorly prepared for emergencies. Don't have plans. MoCo needs well designed plans and PR program to inform public about them. Emergency Operations Center is only 50% effective

because it doesn't track where county's emergency equipment is at any given moment.

Transportation: Byron attended Ike Leggett's Town Hall Meeting at the Black Rock Arts Center. Reports strong support voiced for the Corridor Cities Transitway. Suggests that if ICC is built, it should have light rail along same right-of-way to unify public transit system. Dan asks Byron to read up on positions adopted by MCCF following Transportation Policy Review process and recommendations. Peggy briefed group on the inventory she is creating on "Other Public Roads" and different possibilities of delivering this to the county executive and council.

Programs: Dan is organizing January program with state legislators. Arnie recommended February program with the Fraternal Order of Police and March program with union representing firefighters. Dan reminded we normally have program on county's Operating Budget in March, and we may want to do new AGP in April. Peggy suggested program on county's judicial system in future. Motion: to have the February program with the FOP. Voted in favor unanimously. Motion: to have Chuck Lapinski organize March program on the Operating Budget. Voted in favor unanimously.

Public Finance: Chuck expressed concern that county unions are pressing for 5% per annum pay increase which will result in 8 ½ % effective pay increase - tough to stick to this without busting the budget. Leggett's stated desire to increase the state gasoline tax won't help MoCo unless we make sure there is way to bring back our fair share of revenues raised here.

Membership: Peggy reports work on building membership is proceeding slowly. District VPs will continue working on this.

Public Relations: Need better updating on website and regular notices to media about programs, etc. Lyle to work on this.

Legislation and Committee for Montgomery: Dan

and three others attended the CFM Legislative breakfast. Felt it was successful use of time.

Old Business: (1) Wayne very disturbed about lack of certificates and photographer for Community Hero recipient at December regular meeting. Mark volunteered to do the necessary in future. (2) Board of Education may vote on Jan. 9 on their policy on external audits. Several members of Executive Committee express concern that agencies such as MNCPPC and MCPS are not adequately audited. Motion made by Jim: Resolved that the Executive Committee would support state legislation providing language clarifying that independent agencies must submit to external audits by the county's Inspector General. Seconded by Bill. After extensive discussion, motion passes, 8 in favor with 2 against.

New business: Bylaws Committee (Luella, Dan, Richard and Peggy) will resume meeting in Jan. MCCF name tags should be issued to all for Annual Awards Banquet. Meeting adjourned at 9:48.

Calendar for Winter & Spring 2007

REGULAR MEETINGS: 2nd Monday of the month, 7:45 - 10:00 PM, 1st Floor Auditorium, Werner Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville. Free evening parking in the adjacent garage.

January 8	April 9
February 12	May 14
March 12	June 11

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 2nd Wednesday after the regular meeting, 7:45 - 10:15 PM, Julius West Middle School, 651 Great Falls Road, Rockville. Free parking at the school.

January 17	April 18
February 21	May 23
March 21	June 20

MCCF Officers & Committee Chairs

Position	Name	Home Phone	Office Phone	Email
Elected				
President	Wayne Goldstein	301-942-8079	Same	waynengoldstein@hotmail.com
1st Vice-President	Arnold Gordon	301-570-0481	Same	nmcaprexy@aol.com
2nd Vice-President	Peggy Dennis	301-983-9738	same	hotyakker@comcast.net
District 14 VP	Alyce Ortuzar	301-774-6617	same	farmparity@starpower.net
District 15 VP	Sandy Vogelgesang	301-365-2347	same	everest.associates@erols.com
District 16 VP	Lee Shipman	301-229-2005	Same	plannerlee@earthlink.net
District 17 VP	<i>Vacant</i>			
District 18 VP	<i>Vacant</i>			
District 19 VP	Bill Schrader	301-946-6545	same	schraderw@erols.com
District 20 VP	Elizabeth Conklin	301-587-6210	same	elizabethconklin@earthlink.net
District 39 VP	<i>Vacant</i>			
Treasurer	Luella Mast	301-384-4178	same	luellam@comcast.net
Recording Secretary	Richard Zierdt	301-881-0283	703-464-1617	richard.zierdt@asg.com
Appointed				
Historian	Charles Wolff	301-585-9744	301-286-8185	wolff99@starpower.net
Public Relations Officer	Lyle Schofield		301-951-5340	lyle@norbeck.org
Newsletter Editor	Peggy Dennis	301-983-9738	same	hotyakker@comcast.net
Parliamentarian	<i>Vacant</i>			
Past President	Dan Wilhelm	301-384-2698		djwilhelm@verizon.net
Standing Committees				
Education	Mark Adelman	301-942-6893	301-295-3208	mra@educationalassistance.org
Environment	Caren Madsen	240-793-4603		carenmadsen@msn.com
Legislation	Dan Wilhelm	3010384-2698		djwilhelm@verizon.net
Planning & Land Use	Jim Humphrey	301-652-6359	same	theelms518@earthlink.net
Public Finance & Utilities	Chuck Lapinski	301-384-0392	703-506-4600	clapinsk@mclean.mcri.com
Public Finance & Utilities	Marvin Weinman	301-946-3799	same	weinmanm@msn.com
Public Safety	Chuck Floyd	301-273-5620	same	chuck@chuckfloyd.com
Transportation	Byron Bloch	301-299-1801	301-299-1800	byron@autosafetyexpert.com
Special Committees (Not Part of the Executive Committee)				
Bylaws	Luella Mast	301-384-4178	same	luellam@comcast.net
Database	Dan Wilhelm	301-384-2698	703-883-6847	djwilhelm@verizon.net
Housing	Sarah Gilligan	301-564-4373	Same	gilligan.j@worldnet.att.net
Sentinel Article Coordination	Wayne Goldstein	301-942-8079		waynengoldstein@hotmail.com
Historical Preservation	Wayne Goldstein	301-942-8079		waynengoldstein@hotmail.com
Committee for Montgomery	Dan Wilhelm	301-384-2698		djwilhelm@verizon.net

Federation Meeting

Monday, January 8
7:45 1st Floor Auditorium
County Council Office Building.
100 Maryland Ave.
Rockville, MD

Agenda:

7:45 Call to Order
7:46 Introduction and Announcements
7:55 Adoption of Meeting Agenda
7:56 Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report
8:00 Program: Meet New State Officials
9:10 Committee Reports
9:30 Member Issues
9:40 Old Business
9:50 New Business
10:00 Adjourn

The **Montgomery County Civic Federation** is a county-wide nonprofit educational and advocacy organization. It was founded in 1925 to serve the public interest. Its monthly Federation meetings are open to the public and are held on the second Monday of each month September through June at 7:45 p.m. in the First Floor Auditorium, County Office Building, Rockville, MD.

The **Civic Federation News** is published monthly. It is mailed to Delegates; associate members; news media, and local, state, and federal officials. Permission is granted to reprint any article provided proper credit is given to the "**Civic Federation News of the Montgomery County Civic Federation.**"

Submit contributions for the next issue by: **Midnight, Saturday January 20.** Prepare submission as an MS Word, Word Perfect or text-only document, **attach** it to e-mail, and send it to hotyakker@comcast.net Please send all address corrections to Dan Wilhelm, 904 Cannon Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904, 301-384-2698, or djwilhelm@verizon.net.

NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 17, 7:45 p.m.

Julius West Middle School

651 Great Falls Road, Rockville

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

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