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Like our new Facebook Page and follow us on Twitter.

TO PRINT, USE PRINT VERSION

of note

Next MCCF Meeting #929

Monday, January 10, 2022, 7:30 p.m.
online via Zoom. Topic: "A 2022 Maryland General Assembly Preview."

! **Join the Zoom Meeting Here**

[See further instructions on page 2. No password is required.]

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Meeting Minutes

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Executive Committee Meeting

DECEMBER 20 P. 17

Membership Application

Join or Renew Now **SEE FORM**

Federation Meeting #929

Monday, January 10, 2022

7:30 p.m.

Online Zoom Meeting

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes: December 13, 2021, General Meeting #928 **P.12**
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Announcements
6. January Program: State Legislators Briefing **P.3**
7. Committee Reports
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. 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. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the start time is now at 7:30 p.m.

The January meeting will be held online via Zoom (see page 3 for program) at 7:30 p.m.:

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

■ Date and Time: Monday, January 10, 2022, 7:30 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 832 5644 1438. No password is required.

We hope you will join us! ■

mccf

The **Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc.**, is a county-wide nonprofit educational and advocacy organization founded in 1925 to serve the public interest. Monthly MCCF meetings are open to the public (agenda and details at left).

The *Civic Federation News* is published monthly except July and August. It is emailed to delegates, associate members, news media, and local, state, and federal officials. **Recipients are encouraged to forward the *Civic Federation News* to all association members, friends, and neighbors.** Permission is granted to reproduce any article, provided that proper credit is given to the "*Civic Federation News* of the Montgomery County (Md.) Civic Federation."

Civic Federation News

civicednews AT montgomerycivic.org

TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE, **SEE PAGE 19**

January's Program: A 2022 Maryland General Assembly Preview

At its January 10, 2022, General Meeting, MCCF is pleased to welcome **Maryland State Senator Ben Kramer** and **Maryland State Delegate Marc Korman**, who will preview the upcoming 2022 Legislative Session in Annapolis. Both Senator Kramer and Delegate Korman are good friends of the Montgomery County Civic Federation.

Senator Kramer has been a member of the Maryland Senate since 2019. He previously served as a State Delegate (District 19) from 2007 to 2019, and was a member of the House Judiciary and Economic Matters Committees. He currently serves as the Chair of the Montgomery County Senate Delegation. Senator Kramer has sponsored a variety of good government and public accountability bills supported by the



KRAMER



KORMAN

Civic Fed. You can reach Senator Kramer at ben.kramer@senate.state.md.us.

Delegate Korman (District 16) was elected to the Maryland House of Delegates in 2014 and currently serves as Chair of the Montgomery County House Delegation. A member of the Appropriations Committee, he is Chair of the Transportation

and the Environment Committee and the Oversight Committee on Personnel. He is a co-chair of the Maryland Legislative Transit Caucus and a member of the National Capital Regional Transportation Planning Board, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. You can reach Delegate Korman at Marc.Korman@house.state.md.us.

The 444th session of the General Assembly will convene in Annapolis on January 12 and continue until April 11, 2022. Among the top issues facing the General Assembly are climate change policies, flood mitigation, police reform, transportation broadband, and telehealth.

[Learn more about the General Assembly here.](#)

[Learn more about the Montgomery County Delegation here.](#) ■

A Preview of the 2022 Montgomery Co. Legislation in the Maryland General Assembly

The Montgomery County Delegation in Annapolis submitted 27 pieces of legislation for the 2022 session of the Maryland General Assembly. They cover topics like police and traffic enforcement, the Board of Education, and voting. Interested residents can use each bill's link to get more information, links to sign up to testify, and to track the legislation. Here are some of the bills that we are watching.



POLICE AND TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

■ **MC 2-22:** Requiring certain enforcement officers of Montgomery

County to use body-worn cameras on or before July 2025.

■ **MC 3-22:** Constructing a median divider at certain locations where more than 1,000 citations are issued over a 12-month period for violations recorded by school bus monitoring, paid for by the fines collected by the citations.

■ **MC 18-22:** Giving the Montgomery County Department of Transportation the responsibility to implement automated traffic enforcement programs in the county instead of local law enforcement agencies.

■ **MC 22-22:** Requiring placement and use of at least one speed-monitoring system between each exit ramp on Maryland Route 200 by Oct. 2022.



MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

■ **MC 4-22:** Requiring members of the Montgomery County Board of Education who have to live in a specific board of education district to be elected by voters who live in that district and members who are not required to live in a district to be elected by voters from the entire county.

■ **MC 5-22:** Increasing the scholarship amount for the Student Member on the Montgomery County Board of Education.

■ **MC 16-22:** Adding an additional at-large member to the Mont-

Legislation Preview, cont.

Montgomery County Board of Education, increasing the membership to eight (not counting the student member).

■ **MC 19-22:** Changing the boundaries of the Montgomery County Board of Education districts.



VOTING

■ **MC 13-22:** Authorizing the Montgomery County Council to adopt a ranked-choice voting method for certain local offices.

■ **MC 20-22:** Allowing voters who are not registered with a political party to change their affiliation on election day in order to vote in that party's primary election.

[Reprinted from Montgomery Community Media] ■

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service Makes Service Adjustments as COVID Cases Increase Among Staff

The Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) announced at the end of December 2021 that the Omicron variant of COVID-19 is beginning to create staffing challenges for the department. Currently, 110 career and 23 volunteer personnel are unable to report to work, in addition to approximately 75 MCFRS staff who are unable to report to work due to other occupational health issues or injuries. As a result, the department is experiencing a 9% reduction in staff that will require some adjustments to meet service demands.

In an effort to continue providing high-quality emergency services to the community, MCFRS has taken the following steps:

■ Added recently graduated fire-

fighters, all who came to MCFRS with firefighter and EMT experience, to full shifts, which will augment daily staffing.

■ Reassigned firefighters and paramedics currently in training to their community service responsibilities.

■ Created an EMS “disposition officer” (EMS700) to ensure load balancing at the local emergency departments.

■ Requested volunteer partners to staff additional peak-time transport units, adding additional transport capacity to the system.

■ Prioritized Advanced Life Support care delivery and firefighting water delivery across the County.

■ Temporarily redeployed staff from one ladder truck (the Clarks-

MCFRS Shortages, cont.

burg Aerial Tower) and one heavy rescue unit (the Laytonville Rescue Squad).

These services were selected due to a lower number of calls for service compared to the rest of the County. The unit adjustments will take place daily as staffing is evaluated and will remain in-service if staffing permits.

“The recent surge in COVID cases has affected everyone, including our front-line first responders and those critical to our public’s health and safety,” said County Executive Marc Elrich. “The staffing shortages we are seeing are putting a strain on our emergency response operations. The steps MCFRS is taking will enable extra personnel to fill critical gaps elsewhere without completely removing service from any stations. I want to thank MCFRS for these

prudent decisions, wish all sick and isolating employees a speedy recovery, and recognize the hard work of all our firefighters and paramedics during these challenging times. I also encourage all residents to be aware of these staffing shortages and remember to only call or use 9-1-1 services in emergency situations.”

“All the adjustments that MCFRS has and will implement are designed to minimize the impact of staff reductions due to COVID-19 and enable the department to return to normal operations as staff becomes available,” said MCFRS Chief Scott Goldstein. “Let me be clear, MCFRS will maintain Advanced Life Support care delivery and the ability to deliver water to burning surfaces to stop the spread of fires. However, we do need our residents and visitors to be aware of the challenges we are facing, and we appreciate their

patience, cooperation, and support during these difficult times.”

MCFRS is recommending the following suggestions and tips to the public to help response times and emergency efforts:

- Only use 9-1-1 for emergency situations.
- If you’re eligible, please get vaccinated and/or boosted to reduce the threat of severe COVID symptoms. As of last week, 9% of unvaccinated Marylanders have accounted for 75% of COVID hospitalizations.

■ Please be patient and understand that the hospitals are currently handling a lot of patients and are backed up. These delays at the hospitals also impact EMS transport services response times, which is why these services should be used for dire emergencies only.

[From the MCFRS Public Information Office] ■

The New Year Brings New Laws to Both State of Maryland and Montgomery County

STATE OF MARYLAND

■ Maryland's minimum wage rate will increase to \$12.50 at businesses with 15 or more employees.

■ The Maryland Board of Physicians will require a license for genetic counselors and establish a committee for professionals.

■ Residents of the state who decide to become organ donors will be able to decide if they want their organs donated to research and education or transplantation and therapy.

■ Protections from excessive medical debt for low-income residents will begin in 2022 according to the law and protects patients making 200% or less than the federal poverty level, around \$53,000 for a family of four, The Associated Press reported.

■ The state's department of health



will be required to provide residents with informational materials to help residents plan for long-term care. The law requires the published material to be ready by April 1 and available in English, Spanish, and any other language requested. It

also requires that materials be accessible to people with limited literacy skills.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

■ Ezechiele's Law will require landlords to install window guards in residences where children 10 and under live or if requested by a tenant. The bill was passed after Ezechiele Nguemezi, 2, fell from a third-floor window and died in a Takoma Park apartment building.

■ On Jan. 12, the county attorney will be required to submit a report each year that summarizes details of each settlement entered into by the County. These settlement agreements will then be published on the County's website and apply to all County agencies, including the police department. ■

Who Should Win in 2022?

All MCCF delegates and members should start thinking about individuals and/or groups you would like to nominate for this year's awards. Here are the descriptions and the rationale for each award:

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

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

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

Haven't renewed? [See page 1!](#) ■

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 Alan Bowser at president@montgomerycivic.org. Include topics/possible dates.

Planning Department Information Update

By Alan Bowser, President

Montgomery County civic associations and homeowners associations are asked to update their information on the Montgomery County Planning Department's [website found here](#).

The Planning Department maintains a list of organizations to keep residents informed. Developers use the list to publicize their application plans, and the Planning Department send announcements about planning issues of interest to the community. Providing current email addresses cuts costs and ensures a rapid flow of information.

When you're updating your data, send a copy to MCCF at info@montgomerycivic.org. We'd like to keep in touch, too! ■

What You *Won't* Find in the County's Thrive Montgomery 2050 General Plan

By Elizabeth Joyce, Second Vice President

Thrive Montgomery 2050, supposedly a “general” vision and framework rather than a detailed implementation plan, will guide zoning countywide for the next 30 years. As the introduction to the [1993 General Plan](#) made clear, these plans are supposed to:

- Identify the general location, function, intensity, and pattern of various land uses;
- Help direct and integrate future development and redevelopment with existing development;
- Address the relationship between human activity and the built and natural environments;
- Address the varying needs and desires of a diverse and changing County population and economic

community; and

■ Promote connections among all areas of the County and between the County and the region.

But will Thrive meet these requirements, which should be consistent, regardless of the year the plan is published?

Probably not! While general plans should provide the flexibility to meet future needs, the absence of crucial elements from “Thrive” raises serious questions about its adequacy as a general plan. A recent letter from the Town of Chevy Chase Mayor Barney Rush included the following concerns about Thrive:

1. NO CHAPTER ON ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

From 2007 to 2019, the County

lost more than 14,000 high-quality jobs in “key industry sectors,” according to a [June 2021 report for Empower Montgomery](#) by former County Council manager Jacob Sesker. The cumulative direct revenue impact associated with the County’s underperformance in these years is approximately \$250 million to \$275 million, Sesker says. The County has fallen behind other local jurisdictions in job creation and suffered a decline in household income during the past 15 years.

Although the original draft of Thrive included a chapter on economic competitiveness (as one of three foundational goals of the document), the final draft did not. While the new draft suggests strengthening economic competi-

What's Not in Thrive, cont.

tiveness by creating the “kinds of places people want to live and work,” (*Thrive Montgomery 2050*, p.7), Thrive includes no comprehensive strategy for addressing these crucial challenges. Even more importantly, Thrive planners circumvented the County’s executive financial management agencies, such as the Office for Management and Budget, which had no role in developing the plan but estimates that it will cost \$8.16 billion and more than \$333 million per year to implement. Critics ask why the Council did not prioritize economic development before authorizing a general plan dependent on increased business investment and job growth.

The Town of Chevy Chase sug-

gests that the Council hold a hearing on integrating economic development back into Thrive, especially since builders will not build housing unless there are sufficient jobs in the area.

2. NO CHAPTER ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCY

Although the original Thrive document included environmental equity as one of its three foundational goals, the latest version diffuses environmental concerns throughout the entire document. Thrive appears to rest on the assumption that promoting density and reducing “sprawl” is the only environmental priority, rather than a host of related issues such as clean air, stormwater runoff, green buildings, preventing heat islands, environmentally friendly building

requirements, and water management. Because future implementation steps may not require needed infrastructure, newly densified areas could increase air pollution and similar environmental problems.

3. LACK OF CLARITY ON MASTER PLANS

Thrive includes almost no specifics on future land use implementation, which several Councilmembers say should be left for future consideration. “Area master plans, sector plans, and County-wide functional plans will remain valid *until modified pursuant to the guidance in this plan*,” states *Thrive Montgomery 2050* (p. 6). This somewhat ominous open-endedness suggests that Thrive will eliminate the master and sector planning requirements under previous

What's Not in Thrive, cont.

general plans. Master and sector plans require careful analysis of housing prospects, infrastructure needs, stormwater requirements to manage increased density, targeted economic development strategies, and anticipated tax impacts for each area. Unlike such neighboring jurisdictions as D.C. that plan literally block by block, Thrive presents only a “one size fits all” formula for the entire County, which could lead to unworkable “solutions” in many areas of the County.

4. IMBALANCE OF SUBURBAN AND URBAN PRIORITIES

In expecting that increased density and more housing in transit-rich areas will decrease racial disparities in home ownership and increase equity and affordability, Thrive rests

on unproven assumptions about the efficacy of its central vision. Failing to account for the high costs of land and construction in infill areas, Thrive provides no data on how it will promote greater ownership by a “broad swath of County residents” (p. 62). The Planning Board’s own [Silver Spring Missing Middle Marketing study](#) shows that multi-family units are likely to cost at least \$715,000, clearly unaffordable for the target beneficiaries. So why not promote market-rate housing in a wider range of areas and explore available financing mechanisms to increase greater affordability and home ownership?

Also, given the preference of many current and future residents for suburban living, Thrive’s criticism of this option is cause for concern. Thrive builds a case that the County includes too much

single-family housing and too many homes with too few occupants. But since its own data (p.59) show only a 4% increase in people living alone during the past 30 years, the emphasis on “over housed” suburbanites seems misplaced, suggesting a need for more expansive analysis of the best solutions for cited housing problems.

In addition to these concerns, Thrive provides no “reset” for post-pandemic life. Begun in 2018 before the pandemic, Thrive does not adapt for the massive changes in work patterns, transportation needs, and economic priorities the pandemic has caused. Passing this plan before reassessing and adapting for these changes would likely imperil its success. Why not take more time to ensure that this 30-year plan can meet its goals? ■

Minutes of December 13, 2021, MCCF General Meeting #928, 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. A total of 57 persons attended on the Zoom platform.

Call to Order: Alan Bowser, President, called the Meeting to order at 7:30 and led introductions.

Approval of Meeting Agenda: Moved, seconded, and approved by voice vote.

Approval of October Minutes: Moved, seconded and approved by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report (Garson): Since July 1, we had receipts of \$976.

Our expenses have been \$461, for a net gain of \$515. The current bank balance is \$9,303.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ The hearing session held by MCCF to take comments on Thrive 2050 and related issues had more than 100 registrations.

■ Alan thanked MoCo Exec. Marc Elrich for attending and speaking.

■ MCCF had a car in the County Thanksgiving parade, driven by Jerry Garson.

■ Our next meeting will be on January 10, 2022; topic TBA.

PROGRAM: POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES

The speaker was Chief Marcus Jones, who has held that position since 2018. He was invited to speak

generally about police and policing issues in the county and overall public safety issues.

He began by noting that a primary challenge has been from an uptick in violent crimes. There have been 30+ homicides this year, with the most recent in DTSS. Some have been domestic incidents and acquaintance shootings, but some they don't have a motive for. They have solved most but not all of them so far. Robberies are also up slightly; they went down last year during the initial lockdown days but now have been moving up. Most have been in SS/Wheaton but they are all over. Working with other local forces.

Auto thefts and thefts from autos are up and the latter is the number one crime in MoCo. Many happen

December Minutes, cont.

from unlocked cars at home so it's important to not make it easy for them or to leave things worth stealing.

One of his major concerns is that that number of guns being recovered is the highest is his 37 years. The legislature did create an Extreme Risk Protection Order that allowed police to seize guns where someone has made threats or had mental health crisis so that's part of it, but also a lot of people are owning guns illegally. Some of it comes from buying "ghost guns" over the Internet, including juvenile purchasers. A homicide in Germantown was carried by a 14-year-old with a ghost gun.

Shooting incidents have been occurring all over the County, not just SS. It often appears to be youth gangs trying to settle their differ-

ences. They have been working with the federal ATF to try to trace guns through forensics.

They also have a multijurisdictional car-jacking task force to identify those involved in multiple incidents of car-jacking. They can do this anywhere in the Metro area and then jump on major roadways to escape. The majority of those caught and identified weren't from MoCo; a large number have involved a group from Southwest D.C. These crimes have not necessarily been for financial gain as opposed to just fun or sport but they involved major violence issues so the police take them very seriously. They are working with both Md. and D.C. AG offices to try cases.

Another area is drug-related crimes. Marijuana use has been decriminalized but that doesn't mean all the transactions are no problem.

The most recent stabbing in SS was from a marijuana drug deal gone bad.

One of his greatest challenges is to maintain police morale as they work hard to make this a safe community. The workload is up and, while many do support police reform, they also wonder if some are using that theme as a way to demean them and are more interested in putting police in jail than to support them to do their job right. In-service training is a big area and they do what they can to keep their morale up, and to keep them working for the police since retention is a huge challenge, especially with COVID.

The Department's basic policy has a 25-year retirement date but they have incentive programs to encourage deferred retirement. The "DROP" program allows them to

December Minutes, cont.

officially retire but keep working for three more years at their same job. Right now, they are about 50 officers below their authorized strength, and about 20% of the force can retire now. Recruitment is an issue across the country. We've been looking for local talent, including by working with MoCo Community college for the last 5 years and it's been pretty successful both as to numbers in general and diversity in particular. In past years, they used to have 1,000 applicants for police academy; down to about 400 or now. He suggested all residents should encourage anyone who would make a good officer to apply.

[County Exec. Marc Elrich and Councilmember Tom Hucker were recognized as being on the call, as well as a reporter from Channel 4.]

QUESTIONS FOR CHIEF JONES

Question 1: Has discussion of police reform and criticism caused issues for the force in doing their job and what can be done to support them?

Answer: There are concerns but they are getting a lot of support from the Council and are making efforts to be more accessible and visible to both keep incidents down and make people more likely to report suspicious activities to them. He noted that District 3 and District 4 had the greatest issues with staffing. Both were above minimum levels but they definitely are trying to increase the numbers.

Question 2: How big a problem are illegal guns?

Answer: Many were coming from both legal and illegal sales in other states and then being brought back here, as well as residential

burglaries, where guns are stolen. A lot of people say they have a gun because everyone else does so it builds on itself.

Question 3: What to do if you have a complaint and haven't gotten a satisfactory answer.

Answer: The next step was the Bureau Chief. Complaints are tracked through the Internal Affairs Division, which decides how serious they are. After the officer's supervisor, the Bureau Chief is the next step; he wants to hear of problems. [His email is ChiefMCPD@montgomerycountymd.gov.] He also noted that the police have been given de-escalation training and they are continuing to look at added sessions, particularly with respect to mental health situations.

Question 4: How do we get more information on the police and

December Minutes, cont.

how can we get involved?

Answer: Police stats are on the website and there are various report through the year, including from Internal Affairs. If you want to be involved with Neighborhood watch, etc., the website lets you put in an address to find your district; from there you can click on district commander's picture and ask questions. Each district has a person assigned to working with community issues.

I Question 5: What are you doing about the screeching car rallies?

Answer: Large car rallies have become a problem with blocking traffic and causing accidents; some have had as many as 200 cars involved, with many coming in from out-of-state. Again, they are working with other chiefs in D.C. area, State of Maryland to beef up officers

to be able to plan ahead to stop them from starting and to break them up more quickly. They do distinguish between those trying to be disruptive versus classic "car clubs."

I Question 6: What kinds of gang activity is happening here?

Answer: On the homicides and assaults, they are definitely analyzing the cases if they are not obvious domestic/acquaintance issues. Drug-related issues seem to be relatively low-level and same for gang-related activities. They do have "gang officers" to address the issues and that has been fruitful in terms of identifying and getting problem individuals off the streets. Working with the U.S. Attorney to help those processes.

I Question 7: What kind of Community Engagement (CE) does the MCPD conduct?

Answer: They do have CE of-

ficers who work around schools. All are DARE-certified, and training and activities go beyond just drug issues to other issues such as bullying, making good life choices, etc. PAL programs have been very helpful and effective in all types of communities in creating positive impacts in many communities and they would like to bring that program back to MoCo. They also want to have more police visibility in DTSS and surrounding areas.

I Question 8: The Council is debating long-term planning/affordable housing. Is that an issue in terms of being able to have officers afford to live in the county?

Answer: There apparently is consideration of a local tax break for police officers. They do want to live in county but it's challenging now, both as to rentals and ownership.

TOP

MORE

December Minutes, cont.

THRIVE 2050

■ Liz Joyce reported that it appears comments and activism have slowed rush to passage and decision will go into next year. We are still looking for Council responses to concerns raised. The MCCF meeting and listening session yesterday had numerous comments and written statements and she will send recording to Council members as her “testimony” for the next hearing.

■ PHED Committee has voted out draft to full council. Gabe Albornoz has given good responses as incoming Council President. Jerry Garson noted that the Planning Board draft on the AHSI session was, if anything, expanding on prior proposals. Cary Lamari noted that many HOAs assume they can bar changes through their covenants but the Planning

Board may push for state legislation to overrule those covenants within the areas at issue, such as within 500 feet of transit corridors. Co. Exec. Elrich commented that, even in areas where there maybe some of what is being referred to as “Missing Middle” housing, there is still proposed upzoning and that is really what the proposal is all about. But changing zoning alone doesn’t really solve what we have to do to get houses at levels that people can afford. Alan Bowser noted that affordable/attainable housing for working families is likely to need subsidies and more intentional planning, not just assuming that we’ll get what we want. Cary Lamari will do an article for *CFN*.

COMMITTEES

There was a reminder of the need for more folks to step up as leaders and members on the committees. Joshua Montgomery will work on this.

Environment

■ Audubon Naturalist Society working on storm water issues and there are country-wide groups taking up issues along that line.

■ Several members of MCCF including—Amanda Farber and Jean Cavanaugh—are making a proposal to the Council about more language on green infrastructure to go into Thrive.

Land Use

■ Liz Joyce will be Acting Chair of Committee. She has been working with EPIC, Taxpayers League, etc.

Legislation

■ We would like suggestions on bills that we would like to see introduced and could support in next year’s General Assembly. One proposal is to enact limits on what can

December Minutes, cont.

be done to affect mufflers and other engine issues to deal with some of the problems noted above with nuisance cars.

Transportation

▮ Problems with roadway lights being out can be reported on the Pepco website and you can get a fix in about 2 weeks. You also can call 311 for County roads or contact the State Hwy. Dept. for State roads.

▮ The Purple Line is still trying to move forward. Right now it's about 2026 for completion.

OTHER BUSINESS

▮ Council approved redistricting map. A lot of folks have been moved around and not everyone still happy.

Adjourned at 9:55 p.m. ▮

Minutes of the December Executive Committee Virtual Zoom Meeting on December 20, 2021, 5 p.m.

By Karen Cordry, Recording Secretary

Attendance: Alan Bowser, Karen Cordry, Elizabeth Joyce, Jerry Garson, Jacquie Bokow, Joshua Montgomery

Approval of the Agenda: Moved, seconded, and approved.

Treasurer's Report (Garson): \$976 income this year; \$461 of expense. Net income of \$515. We currently have \$9,303 in the bank.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

▮ Jerry Garson noted that he had attended a meeting on the Housing Initiative and asked about whether building was contemplated in the

Agricultural Reserve. Planning Director Gwen Wright offered to give him a tour and he noted that, if others wanted to join them, they could let him know.

JANUARY PROGRAM

▮ The Program will be on the upcoming State Legislative session which begins 1/12/22. Our speakers will be Montgomery Senate Delegation Chair Ben Kramer and Montgomery House Delegation Chair Marc Korman.

- ▮ Future Meetings (tentative):
 - | February 14—Transparency and Accountability
 - | March 14—Candidate Forum for County Council
 - | April 11—Budget

Dec. ExCom Minutes, cont.

| May 9—Environment

■ Joshua said another thought is to have the school districts talk about their issues and redistricting as population increases; perhaps in February instead and it could tie into a continuing discussion on Thrive.

MEMBERSHIP

■ A discussion was held on membership data, although Harriet Quinn was not in attendance. Harriet is adding data to the Joinit software, which will enable members to make payments, maintain their contact information, and receive receipts, reminders, and emails. Liz will be reviewing the Association's database from Park and Planning and send letters to additional prospective members.

Moving the membership year to a calendar year to make it easier for groups to check if they are paid up was debated. Again, it was noted that the **Montgomery Planning Dept. HOA/CA tool** helps to locate those organizations, but it is not fully accurate. We need to tell civic associations how to update/correct their data.

■ Joshua described a process they went through in a prior group he was in to “renew” and “rebuild” the prior organization and membership.

COMMITTEES

■ Joshua has been working on committee membership and leadership outreach. He has had some expressions of interest but people are needing to check out their own conflicts with work, etc., before they commit.

■ Discussion about redefining committee roles.

■ Another area of focus is social media/publicity and direct press relations. The last couple of programs on Thrive and the Police have been well attended and we should keep up the momentum.

■ It was moved, seconded, and approved to spend up to \$100 for publicity for the March candidate forum to ensure a good audience for those who show up.

NEWSLETTER

■ The deadline for newsletter articles was extended to Dec. 29th due to the Christmas holiday.

■ Liz will submit something on Thrive and what's *not* in Thrive.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn, seconded. Adjourned at 6:10 p.m. ■

2022 MCCF Awards Committee Still Forming

The Civic Federation's Annual Awards Celebration will be held in June and there is much preparation to be done in the ensuing months. The work of the Awards Committee—soliciting and accepting nominations for award recipients, evaluating those nominations, and making final recommendations on the awardees—should be carried out during this winter. All of the work can be done by email, online meetings, or phone.

But first we need a complete Awards Committee. This group will be confirmed as soon as possible. Volunteers, please step forward! Contact our President, Alan Bowser, at president@montgomerycivic.org to let him know that you're willing to serve. ■

Montgomery County Civic Federation

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Submit contributions for the next issue by the 26th of the current month. Send to CFN at [civiefednews AT montgomerycivic.org](mailto:civiefednews@montgomerycivic.org).

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