



Civic Federation News

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

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SESSION 779

WWW.MONTGOMERYCIVIC.ORG

SEPTEMBER 2006

September Program: County's Affordable Housing Programs

by Jim Humphrey, MCCF Housing Committee member

The program at our September 11 meeting will focus on the several types of affordable housing available to residents. Joy Flood, Director of the Rental Service Division at the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) will explain Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, a Federal subsidy program. A representative from the Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) will talk about the Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit (MPDU) Program, covering the eligibility standards for and the accomplishments of this 31 year old program. The official from DHCA will also discuss the new Workforce Housing Program, even though many specifics will not be known until approval of the Executive Regulations for the program, expected

to occur in October.

In addition, members will also receive an explanation of Opportunity Housing, Productivity Housing, the Accessory Apartment section of the County Code, the Transitional Housing Program, and get an explanation of what constitutes a PLQ (the acronym for Personal Living Quarters). John Carter, head of Community Based Planning at Maryland-National Capital/Park and Planning Commission will brief delegates on the various affordable housing requirements addressed by the Planning Board during the development approval process, and touch on bonuses available to developers in exchange for providing affordable units in their projects. Following the presentations on these various types of affordable housing, there will be a brief question-and-answer period.

President's Message

by Wayne M. Goldstein

This is my first "Message" as the 47th president of MCCF. I have, however, been busy writing columns for our Federation Corner column in the Montgomery Sentinel since late June. I encourage you to read my column titled: "Introducing the Montgomery County Civic Federation" to give you some historical perspective about our durable and long-lasting organization. Two years ago, in November 2004, after our Ballot Question C received but 39% of the vote, there were some in the county who openly proclaimed that MCCF was now a "marginal" organization.

As incoming 1st Vice President and as a member of several MCCF committees, I've had numerous opportunities to interact with public officials and other

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organizations, and I've seen scant evidence that MCCF is being disregarded. In fact, my Sentinel column about MCCF included this: "Throughout much of its history, the Federation was in conflict with the County government because it championed such politically unpopular causes as a nonpartisan County government, a County Manager system, and the abolition of state-appointed officials to the MNCPPC and the WSSC."

Our 2004 support for an all-district County Council was as politically unpopular as other issues championed by MCCF in its 8 decades and may have angered some. However, MCCF was there seven months later on July 7, 2005 when the first Clarksburg violation hearing was held. We supported the Clarksburg residents then, and we went much further, supporting and vigorously advocating for meaningful reforms to the site plan violation, inspection and amendment processes, as well as enforcement of MPDU site plan agreements. As a risk-taking civic organization, we are always there to champion important county issues, whether or not they capture the popular imagination, and when the lime light fades, as it has over Clarksburg, we are still there, working to ensure that the government doesn't let a future Clarksburg occur.

I'm providing a little autobiographical information to show how my personal background has helped me to become and be a better activist. While I am interested and involved in a wide range of issues, historic preservation continues to be a driving passion for me. I passed my first 2 years of life in the early '50s in Sedgwick Gardens, an Art Deco jewel on Connecticut Avenue in northwest D.C. designed by Turkish architect Mehran Mesrobian. I was more obviously influenced by two childhood visits to Williamsburg, which ignited a passion for Colonial Revival and Georgian Revival architecture in the 1930s and quietly primed me for a similar enthusiasm decades later.

My clearest, most memorable influence was in May 1970 when I cut class in my senior year attending Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School - a 1935 Georgian Revival masterpiece in its own right - and spent the day driving on the back roads of lower Montgomery County.

It was that day that I stumbled upon the National Park Seminary, then in excellent condition as the U.S. Army was still willing to care for this remarkable collection of buildings. I, like thousands before and since, was astonished to see the Japanese Pagoda, the now-universal symbol of this remarkable place.

This was probably the first time that it occurred to me that Montgomery County might be a very special place and not just the vast suburban wasteland I experienced growing up in a brand new subdivision with its tiny trees and shrubs and its endless, empty lawns. I spent New Years' Eve 1982 inside the Seminary's extraordinary ballroom, surely the finest interior space in Montgomery County. Later, in February 1998, I unknowingly began my journey as a historic preservation activist when, in my new identity as a social dancer, I attended an afternoon waltz at the Ballroom and met someone who told me about her efforts to try to save the Silver Spring Armory so that it could return to being used as a dance hall.

It was my search for dance spaces that also brought me to Glen Echo Park in the late 1990s. As a child, I had been taken to play at Glen Echo in the late 1950s when it was still an amusement park. And I had taken classes there in the late '70s when the Writer's Center first began in the then-deteriorating South Arcade Building. As a landscape contractor in the '70s, '80s and '90s, I worked regularly in a number of down county neighborhoods that later either became historic districts or which now might want to find ways to control mansionization, tree loss, and storm water runoff.

As a student, I was always keenly interested in history. This interest helped me appreciate the various stories embodied in the buildings, other structures and environmental settings that are used to legally justify what we decide should be protected through "historic designation". Not only have these experiences and interests come together to help put me in the position of leading the county's preservation advocacy organization, but I frequently apply the same approach to researching any civic or environmental issue that I apply to researching the history of a building or an architect.

As a historic preservationist, I cannot imagine not wanting to know the political and issues history of the place whose historic buildings I value. I also cannot imagine not wanting to help create the history of the place, rather than watching and documenting it from a safe distance. This is why I push historic preservationists to become civic activists and push civic activists to place a high value on our historic places. It is because it is all inseparable to me and of equal importance that I also have the privilege of leading MCCF today. In fact, MCCF showed that it would take on politically unpopular historic preservation issues when it braved fierce criticism from colleague organizations to advocate for the preservation of the Silver Spring Armory in 1998 and to keep Montgomery College from building in Jesup Blair Park in 2001-02.

If you are an inactive delegate or member of MCCF, please come to our meetings and join those committees that will allow you to turn your interests and passions into valuable civic involvement. If you are not a member of MCCF, encourage your neighborhood association to join or join as an individual and take advantage of the opportunity that MCCF will provide for you to make a real difference.

Legislative Committee Notes

by Dale Tibbitts, Chairman

Now is "prime time" for citizen activists to pin down our elected representatives on their positions on key issues. While our elected officials are campaigning for reelection and before the Montgomery County delegation begins planning their agenda for the 2007 session, please make the commitment to go to campaign events where your state delegates and senators and their challengers will be appearing. Ask them publicly to commit to supporting future bills to provide "clean money/clean elections" public funding for Maryland's state races - one of MCCF's top priorities. Ask them if they will vote for the next bill to do away with the "limited liability corporation - or LLC - loophole". Also ask them to kill any effort to increase the number of signatures required to put charter amendment measures on the ballot. Let us see no more of MC-604, Delegate

Charles Barkley's bill from the 2006 session that would have made it even harder for Montgomery County residents to take part in this fundamental form of political activism.

Cast Informed Votes for the Board of Education!

by Mark R. Adelman, Chair, MCCF Education Committee

When you go to the polls for our Primary (September 12) and General (November 7) Elections, be sure to exercise your right to vote for members of the Montgomery County Board of Education (BoE) wisely. Your votes for future members of the BoE are among the MOST important you will cast. The BoE and its staff oversees the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) system and the MCPS budget which, for FY2007 is almost two billion dollars, or about one half of the county's budget. Electing the best candidates for the BoE is, therefore, as important as electing the best candidates to the County Council. You can find more information about the BoE on its website: <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/boe/>.

Elections for members of the BoE differ from those for the County Council in two fundamental ways. First, all seats are non-partisan. Second, all members are elected by all voters county-wide. In addition to one student member elected each April by the students in our school system, there are seven seats on the BoE: two are "at-large" members and five are "district members". The district designations are to assure geographic diversity of representation on the BoE, but "district members" are elected by voters from the entire county and NOT just by voters from their geographic districts. Because there is commonly confusion about this fact, we emphasize: EVERY VOTER GETS TO VOTE FOR CANDIDATES TO FILL EACH SEAT, WHETHER "DISTRICT" OR "AT-LARGE".

This year, four of the seven seats are up for election. The other three will be up in the next electoral cycle. The ballot for the Primary Election, will list only seats

for which more than two candidates have filed; thus you will select, for the at-large and school district 5 seats, two candidates to appear on the General Election ballot. School districts 1 (two candidates) and 3 (one candidate) will NOT appear on the Primary Election ballot, but WILL be on the General Election ballot in November. As you may know, two of the occupants of seats on the BoE that are contested in this cycle have chosen not to stand for re-election. Thus the composition of the Board is certain to change after this year's election.

In previous election cycles, the Civic Federation Education Committee sponsored BoE Candidate Forums, but we found them only marginally effective in educating voters. This year we are trying a "questionnaire" approach. We sent a questionnaire to all candidates for the BoE containing 12 questions prepared by our committee with input from other delegates to the Civic Federation. We did not limit the length of the candidates' answers, but urged brevity wherever possible. We received detailed responses from all but two candidates (one is running uncontested and chose not to respond; one chose to send a platform statement rather than answer the individual questions) and have posted the questionnaire and responses on our website: www.montgomerycivic.org. Using a "facts sheet" from the Montgomery County Board of Elections, we have also excerpted information on the candidates and added links to each candidate's website.

We urge all voters to read the candidates' responses to our questions, as well as information available in their various flyers, mailings and/or websites. Neither the Civic Federation nor any of our committees endorses candidates running for any elective office. We are simply providing you with information about candidates for the BoE and urging you to go to the polls informed and prepared to vote for those individuals you believe will best serve our children and the CMPS system. It is the essence of the democratic process to carefully select from those who offer themselves for public service, to monitor what they do once elected, to provide them feedback as YOU deem appropriate, and to either re-elect those who have served the public well or to elect new candidates as events and your opinions dictate. We believe that an educated electorate is essential to the

strength of our county and our country, and that our system of public schools is educating our children to be well informed adults and the attentive citizens on which our democracy depends.

Reminder: Forum on "Revitalizing Centers" September 27

By Dan Wilhelm, Immediate Past President

The Planning Department held two community forums on "Revitalizing Centers, Reshaping Boulevards and Creating Great Public Spaces" this spring. The first forum covered demographics and community design. The second forum covered growth and planning. A third forum is scheduled for Wednesday, September 27, from 6:30 to 10:00 PM at the Brookside Gardens Visitors Center, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton, MD. The purpose of the third session is to cover implementation strategies and tools.

Thirteen individuals from eleven different groups were not pleased with the outcome of the first two forums. The main problems were that the material was too general and there was too little time for comment from the audience and serious discussion. We held several follow-up meetings to discuss how we might correct these problems. Our informal group decided to write a white paper that lays out what the **goals** of the effort should be, propose **strategies** for achieving them, and propose a **process** for achieving the strategies. The main authors of the white paper were Pam Lindstrom with the Sierra Club and myself. After developing a draft, we circulated it to the other 11 members of the group for comment. Most of the comments were incorporated into the white paper in some manner, but not everyone agreed with all points or wanted to place more or less emphasis on some of them. We didn't ask any of the eleven groups to endorse the white paper.

The paper was sent to the Planning Staff for their consideration. Our informal group hopes that M-NC/PPC will use the material from the white paper as the basis for the September 27 forum and that the larger community would have ample opportunity to express

their views. After hearing various comments, the Planning Staff, Planning Board, and various civic, environmental and business groups will be better prepared to make their own decisions.

Montgomery County Civic Federation Calendar 2006-2007

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

September 11	February 12
October 9	March 12
November 13	April 9
December 11	May 14
January 8	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.

July 12	January 17
August 23	February 21
September 20	March 21
October 18	April 18
November 15	May 23
December 13	June 20

MCCF ANNUAL AWARDS RECEPTION AND DINNER

Friday, May 11, New Fortune Restaurant, 16515 Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, in the Walnut Hill Shopping Center.

What's Bugging You ???

by Arnie Gordon, 1st V.P.

We are anxious to hear from our Civic Association leaders or delegates about what problems are foremost in the minds of your members. We need this information in order to plan better programs for you in the months ahead. Your suggestions as to topics, speakers, or discussion subjects are vital to our effort to make the MCCF's programs and activities more relevant to your needs. Please bring them to my attention at nmcaprexy@aol.com or 301-570-0481. Remember if we don't hear from you, we don't know how best to serve you.

Montgomery Countryside Alliance

invites one and all to attend

an evening benefit and reception.

Since 2001, the Montgomery Countryside Alliance has worked successfully to protect and preserve the Agricultural Reserve and rural wedge. It has invited two distinguished speakers, Royce Hansen, Chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board, and Janna Howley of Fresh Farm Markets to share their experiences and visions for the county.

Wednesday, September 13

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Comus Inn

Route 109 and Comus Road in Comus, MD

Beer, wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served

RSVP by Thursday, September 7

202-244-4408

esp@ruralmontgomery.org

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION, INC.
PROPOSED BUDGET for the FISCAL YEAR July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

	2007 Proposed	2006 Actual	2006 Budget	Notes
MCCF INCOME				
Dues	\$ 2,590.00	\$ 2,937.00	\$ 4,985.00	
Local Associations	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,542.00	\$ 4,130.00	40 @ \$55 av. (47 in 05-06)
Umbrella Associations	\$ 45.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 180.00	01 @ \$45 (2 in 05-06)
Regional or County-Wide A.	\$ 45.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 90.00	01 @ \$45 (1 in 05-06)
Individual Associate	\$ 300.00	\$ 395.00	\$ 500.00	15 @ \$20 av. (17 in 05-06)
Associate Group	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 85.00	00 @ \$85 (0 in 05-06)
Donations	\$ 50.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 200.00	From Organizations & Individuals
Community Advocacy	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	
Awards Dinner	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,675.00	\$ 2,300.00	Income \$600 over Expenses
Miscellaneous	\$ 25.00	\$ 5.00	\$ 30.00	Income not assigned elsewhere
In-Kind Contributions/Journal	\$ 400.00	\$ 407.55	\$ 50.00	
MCCF INCOME	\$ 6,065.00	\$ 6,084.55	\$ 7,565.00	
Transfer from Reserves	\$ 720.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	
TOTAL MCCF INCOME	\$ 6,785.00	\$ 6,084.55	\$ 7,565.00	
MCCF EXPENSES				
Member Communications	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,464.81	\$ 2,530.00	
Newsletter	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,464.81	\$ 2,500.00	250 copies of 10 issues, Sept - June
Layout	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	Bob Dennis pro-bono
Printing	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,142.04	\$ 2,000.00	10 issues @ 12 pages; 250 copies
Mailing	\$ 600.00	\$ 322.77	\$ 500.00	150 @ 0.39 each x 10 months
Web page	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 30.00	Web development; address rental
Civic and Social Betterment	\$ 3,225.00	\$ 3,441.49	\$ 3,950.00	
Federation meetings	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 300.00	COB rental; 10 mtg/yr@3hr@\$25/hr
Awards Dinner	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,631.49	\$ 2,300.00	Restaurant, invitations, awards
Community Information Forums	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,200.00	Possible; requires outside sponsors
Federation Memberships	\$ 75.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 50.00	Committee for Montgomery
Training	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 100.00	Workshops for member org. officers
Organizational Support	\$ 935.00	\$ 580.28	\$ 950.00	
Executive Committee	\$ 235.00	\$ 181.92	\$ 250.00	CUPF rental; 12 mtg/yr@\$19.50/mtg
President	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 100.00	CfM, Housing Conf., supplies
Committees	\$ 400.00	\$ 373.21	\$ 100.00	Housing Conf., supplies
Membership Committee	\$ 200.00	\$ 25.15	\$ 400.00	Postage, copying; fair booth in 2007
MCCF Directory	\$ 100.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 100.00	printing costs
Miscellaneous/Journal	\$ 25.00	\$ 28.00	\$ 25.00	
Transfer to Reserves	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 110.00	
MCCF EXPENSES	\$ 6,785.00	\$ 6,514.58	\$ 7,565.00	

Cash on Hand July 1, 2006: \$ 8,392.41 2005-06 Change in reserves: \$ -430.03

Luella W. Mast, Treasurer; August 16, 2006

Note: Per MCCF Bylaws: Article XVII. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT. Section 1. Annual Budget. An operating budget for the Membership Year shall be adopted to plan and manage the Federation's fiscal affairs. A proposed budget shall be prepared by the Treasurer and submitted to the Executive Committee for approval in August. The budget as approved shall be printed in the September Newsletter and included in the September Agenda for action by the Membership. The budget shall include all planned and expected expenditures and revenues. Federation officials shall assist the Treasurer as requested in developing the budget.

Look Out! Speed Cameras in Montgomery County

by Byron Bloch, Transportation Chairman

The State Legislature approved a contentious bill in January, and the first installations of speed cameras have begun, but only here in Montgomery County. An early installation is on Connecticut Avenue NW, between the Chevy Chase Circle and Bradley Boulevard in both directions. If the speed cameras prove successful in Montgomery County, they will likely spread to other counties throughout the state.

Here's how they work. A grey rectangular box houses a radar-controlled camera, mounted on a pole at about street sign height. The posted speed limit must be at 35 mph or below, and some of the early installations will probably be in school zones. If your car exceeds the posted speed limit by at least 10 mph, your car will be automatically ticketed for a \$40 fine. No points will be assessed on your driving record.

Failure to pay the fine can result in the suspension of the license of the car owner even if someone else was driving your car at the time. The legislation removes the presumption that the cited car owner is innocent until proven guilty. The fine is not levied on the person who was driving, but on the owner of the vehicle. You are automatically determined by the camera system to be guilty. There is no system to appeal the citation.

Proponents cite increased safety on residential and near-school streets as a major rationale. The camera manufacturer wants to sell and maintain as many cameras as possible. County officials want to pull in lots of extra revenue by issuing as many tickets as possible. Opponents of the automatic speed cameras point to the automatic presumption of your guilt and lack of a way to appeal the citations. There may be more likelihood of rear-end collisions if cars suddenly slow and impede the traffic flow. On roads with even a slight downslope, many modern vehicles easily and smoothly accelerate a bit so that, in a 25 mph zone, you're at 36 mph before you even know it.... And, bingo, that's an automatic \$40 ticket!

We citizens have a Constitutional First Amendment right to petition the government for a redress of our grievances. Maryland legislators consider this speed camera system an experiment and Montgomery County is the guinea pig. They will wait to gauge citizen response. You and your fellow citizens may want to consider your position... and petition or write accordingly. Do you want this speed camera system or not ?

Dues Paid Members

The following **member organizations** have paid dues for 2006-2007. If your organization is not listed, please fill in the Membership Applications Form (in this newsletter or down loadable from our web site) and get it to your treasurer as soon as possible.

Good Hope Estates Civic Association, Inc
Norbeck Meadows Civic Association, Inc.
Layhill South Citizens Association
Boyd's Civic Association
Deerfield Weathered Oak Citizens Association
Kenwood Park Citizens Association, Inc.
Randolph Civic Association
South Tuckerman Inverness Citizens Association
Maplewood Citizens Association
Allanwood-Gayfields-Wilson Hills-Gaywood Estates
Brook Manor Estates Homeowner Association
Montgomery County Taxpayers League
Riverhill HOA, Inc.
Strathmore BelPre Civic Association
Potomac Towne Homeowners Association
West Montgomery County Citizens Association
West Bradley Citizens Association
Congressional Forest Community Association
Sonoma Citizens Association
Grosvenor Park Condominium Citizens Association, Inc.
Tulip Hill Citizens Association
Manor Lake Civic Association
Preserve at Small's Nursery
Wheaton Regional Park Neighborhood Association

We want to thank the following **individuals** who are supporting MCCF by joining as 2006-2007 individual members:

Chuck (Charles R.) Floyd
Bernard (Bernie) Fiske
(Nathaniel) French Caldwell
Wilber H. Friedman
Stanley (Stan) D. Schiff
Eric Friedman
Marie De Maria
Richard Strombotne
Norman G. Knopf, Esq.
Lewis M. Helm
J. Brian McTigue

Employment Services Offered in East County

The Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, in cooperation with the Montgomery Works Career Development Center, will provide job-related assistance on the third Thursday of each month, beginning September 21.

An employment specialist with Montgomery Works will be available at the Center, located at 3300 Briggs Chaney Road in Silver Spring, from 8:30 to 5:00. Residents will be able to receive career guidance for returning to the workforce or for building skills to help advance within a current job. Individuals can get help with skill assessments, resume writing, interviewing, career planning, networking and using computers to find job opportunities.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call 240-777-8400.

Minutes of the June 12 Regular Meeting by Richard Zierdt, Recording Secretary

MCCF President Dan Wilhelm calls the meeting to order with introductions: 20 are present at 7:52 PM; 37 are present at 7:55.

Agenda is approved with Forest Conversation issue and Comsat Building preservation added.

Announcements. Friends of Comsat: Alicia makes arguments to preserve the building.

Minutes from the May 8, 2006 regular meeting are accepted as published in the Newsletter.

Treasurer's Report. Luella Mast leaves her report on back table. MCCF has \$8175.77 in cash assets as of May 31, 2006. 132 attended the MCCF Awards Banquet.

Caren Madsen introduces Steve Kanstaroom from Ashton. Forest Conservation. He owns about 30 acres. 15 acres are under protective easements. Apparent illegal tree clearing occurred by an adjacent landowner, yet Park and Planning declared that no forest conservation violations were made. Park and Planning said evidence was not conclusive, and that the subject land was not a forest. 10 minutes is added for discussion. Caren moves that the MCCF call for a moratorium on FCL exemptions until flaws in the process have been investigated and addressed by Park and Planning. Five seconds. Motion passes, 21-0-1.

Program. Housing. Jim Humphrey. Topic: Home tear-downs and (usually larger) rebuilds - "McMansionization." Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services staff is present: Susan Scala-Demby, Reginald Jetter, George Muste, and Joseph Cheung. How do you obtain building plans? A demolition permit is issued first, then the building permit. Residents have 30 days to appeal the building permit to the Board of Appeals. There is a fee to file. Requests for building plans can be made. What protections are available to adjacent neighbors? Mr. Jetter recommends that one first talk to one's neighbor.

There are construction noise limits. Permits are needed for driveways. Driveway apron is monitored during construction. Notify DPS before construction of driveway begins. Dumpster permits are good for six months. What about cutting down trees in the right-of-way? State Department of Natural Resources handles trees within the public right-of-way. What is a Wall Check? When the foundation walls are constructed, the foundation walls are checked for setbacks, etc. Complaint phone number is 240-777-6259. Stormwater Runoff? Call the complaint line. How many inspectors are there? Five for zoning complaints for the entire County. Six inspectors for setbacks. Twelve Right-Of-Way inspectors. 14 sediment control inspectors. 14 residential inspectors. Are "retroactive" permits allowed, that is, permits granted after the work is done? Goal is to get owners into compliance. Response to complaints is usually returned within 24 hours; inspections with 72 hours.

Wayne Goldstein introduces Eric Friedman and Ralph Vines from the County Consumer Protection Agency. MC has a very capable Consumers Protection protections. Prosecutes unlicensed contractors. www.montgomerycountymd.gov/consumer Happy to speak before a group. Six to eight months to prosecute. "The gatekeeper makes the rules."

MCCF Officer Elections. Slate of candidates voted for 2006-07 is approved by acclamation.

Historic Preservation. Wayne Goldstein moves that MCCF urge, in the strongest possible terms, that the Montgomery County Council follow the historic preservation law and immediately schedule the public hearing for the COMSAT Building that it so clearly deserves, and then promptly designate this internationally-important building by an internationally-important architect on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation. Five seconds. Richard Zierdt feels the motion is overboard in its wording, but will nonetheless vote in favor. Motion passes 22-1-2.

Finance. Chuck Lapinski. County Council approved its budget up to the legal limit. Council pre-funded road construction of \$88M. Over 900 new, non-educational positions are approved.

Planning and Land Use. Jim Humphrey distributes a two-page wrap-up report for the year.

Transportation. Byron Bloch, Peggy Dennis. Distributes a paper on public involvement in an upcoming policy on unimproved and privately maintained roads, and recommends that a representative of MCCF be involved.

Adjournment. 10:05 PM

Minutes of the June 21 Executive Committee Meeting

by Richard Zierdt, Recording Secretary

7:53 PM thirteen are present: Jim Humphrey, Marvin Weinman, Richard Zierdt, Arnie Gordon, George Sauer, Arnie Gordon, Dan Wilhelm, Peggy Dennis, Luella Mast, Byron Bloch, Sandy Vogelgesang, Elizabeth Conklin, Bill Schrader.

7:57 Meeting is called to order by MCCF Vice President Arnie Gordon

7:55 Treasurer's Report. Luella Mast. \$8,289.52 in cash assets.

2007 Awards Dinner set for Friday, May 11, 2007.

Environment Committee. Wayne Goldstein. One landowner cut and drained a wetland. Potential \$83K fine.

ExComm minutes for May 2006 are approved.

Summer Planning and Potluck dinner will be on Friday, July 14, at Peggy's from 6:00 PM on.

Planning and Land Use. Jim Humphrey. Workforce Housing: proposed bill will allow projects for which plans are submitted before December 1, 2006 - the date on which the legislation goes into effect - to be exempted from including Workforce Housing. Dan moves that the MCCF ExComm support the

Community Land Trust model. Seconded. Passes 11-1.

Programs. September: Housing concepts: workforce housing, accessory apartments, MPDUs, affordable housing, etc. Jim Humphrey to organize.

Public Safety Committee. George Sauer. Fernando Bren is stepping down, so committee needs a new chair.

Public Finance and Utilities. Marvin Weinman. "Circuit Breaker" rules for property taxes: \$60K maximum income, \$200K or less of non-house assets, IRAs are excluded. Only the first \$300K of property value is protected. Spending in Montgomery County aggregate operating budget up 11.1% up from last year.

Membership Committee. Peggy Dennis. Will publicize MCCF's meetings. May print a Member's Directory. Should the MCCF allow extra newsletters?

Education Committee. Wayne Goldstein. The Superintendent's contract can be a maximum of 4 years, and cannot be renewed before January of the last year.

Transportation. Byron Bloch. (1) Speed cameras primarily for streets near schools will be installed starting in September. In any speed limit area of 25 to 35 MPH, you will automatically be ticketed with a top fine of \$40 if you exceed the limit by 10 MPH or more. More information is needed about appeals, etc. How will you appeal a camera ticket if you wish to do so? Topic is suggested as a program. (2) E-mails should include a quick, three-line summary at the top. This may become impracticable if an e-mail gathers several replies. (3) Orphan Roads. A \$250K study will start this July, 2007. There should be citizen input to this process.

Legislation. Peggy Dennis reads report from committee chair, Dale Tibbitts, about the Charter Review Commission. ZTAs may be able to be introduced by citizens. Jim will investigate.

Meeting adjourned 9:55 PM.

Minutes of the July 12 Executive Committee Meeting

by Arnie Gordon, Acting as Subst. Recording Secretary

Present: Gordon, Goldstein, Mast, Sauer, Shipman, Weinman, Vogelgesang, Humphrey
Topics to be discussed at July planning session should include budget, room rentals, membership advancement
Minutes to be emailed to Board henceforth by Recording Secretary.

Humphrey reports 3 new land use categories (TOMX, MXTC, RMX2C) and 3 TDR receiving zones.
Knapp sponsors special ZTA for florist shop - bad precedent.

Humphrey explained Parking Lot 31 development in Bethesda - probably a precedent for other areas where there are county-owned parking lots.

Work force housing bill passed by County Council with control period for sales to be 20 years. 30 year control period failed by a vote of 5 to 4. Density allowed above what master plans currently provide.

Education Committee: Goldstein reports BoE adopted resolution commending Wiest. BoE asked not to make advance commitment to renew his contract.

OLO moved mansionization study to next year's work plan.

Transportation Committee: Goldstein to testify on mandatory referral on ICC on 7/13.

By-laws: Looking to remove extraneous material from by-laws and transferring same to Standing Rules.

Web site needs updating. Needs to catch up on all resolutions adopted. Also, chart of elected officials and committee chairs needs periodic updating.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes of the August 16 Executive Committee Meeting

by Richard Zierdt, Recording Secretary

7:48 meeting begins with VP Arnie Gordon presiding. President Wayne Goldstein arrives a few minutes later and carries on with 12 present. ExComm minutes of June 21 and July 12 are approved.

Treasurer's Report. Luella Mast. Provides copies of bylaws and treasurer's report, which is accepted. Luella presents a budget for 2006-07, which is accepted.

Committee Reports.

Planning and Land Use. Jim Humphrey. Clarksburg Village violations: hearing about fines in September. There may be a deal proffered where the developer pays a "fine", in exchange for no finding of a violation. Jim will try to work with new Planning Board Chairman, Royce Hanson, to reinstate capacity ceilings. With Centers and Boulevards - and redevelopment - there's too much on the plate already. Dan Wilhem, Pam Lindstrom, and others wrote a response to Park and Planning's three-meeting citizen's forum, the last of which will be held in September. Discussion about the scope and focus of the forums. Some felt both were limited. No action.

Housing. Jim Humphrey. One quarter of MCPS teachers does not live in Montgomery County. The number of employees who want to live in the County is the only meaningful statistic, but this is not measured. The definition of building height has been stabilized.

Environment. Jim Humphrey. Montgomery County will issue awards to residents who reduce their storm-water runoff. Wayne: Committee is working on three County storm water bills.

Membership. Peggy Dennis. Receives reports from Luella and Dan about renewing member organizations. Peggy has talked with Jorge Ribas about membership.

Public Finance. Marvin Weinman. Budget increased \$307M last year. 37.7% increase over the last four years, which is unsustainable, unless the charter limit is overturned for each of the next five years. County will experience a \$675M shortfall in retirement funding, starting with \$100M in 2007. There will be a public hearing on this problem on September 18.

Transportation. Byron Bloch. Suggests that Montgomery County Dept of Transportation present a road plan for the next few years at the MCCF October meeting. Speed cameras will start in September. Dan suggests that State roads, transit, bicycles be included.

Peggy offers that most residents want to know about roads.

Education. Mark Adelman. Candidates for Board of Ed. have returned committee's questionnaire. Arnie suggests an MCCF program on education, inviting representatives of Montgomery County Education Association (MCEA). Discussion ensues. Some feel such a program is too political and would prefer that it occur after the November 7 elections. Others feel the politics would be interesting before the election.

Program. Arnie Gordon. A motion to hold a program with MCEA in October fails, 3-8-0. A motion to hold a program on transportation in October and education in November passes 10-2. Arnie will report his proposals for the education program to the ExComm in October. Sandy Vogelgesang suggests a candidates forum, separate from a MCCF program, if volunteers can arrange it.

New business. Richard Zierdt moves that the MCCF oppose multiple voting days and multiple voting locations. He feels that such arrangements prevent the one time (Election Day) that citizens can advocate their positions, without the thousands of dollars necessary for mass mailings and campaigning. Others feel there's no reason to act because there is no pending legislation, that MCCF has not heard arguments in favor of multiple days/locations, and this may not be an issue relevant to MCCF's charter. [One court has invalidated the State's authorizing multiple voting days/locations, but this is under appeal.] Motion fails, 2-8-2.

Newsletter assignments. Dan suggests article about ballot questions.

Meeting adjourned 10:05 PM.

Federation Meeting

Monday, September 11, 2006
7:45 1st Floor Auditorium
County Council Office Building.
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: Affordable Housing
9:00 MCCF Budget: presentation & approval
9:10 Committee Reports
9:45 Member Issues
9:50 Old Business
9:55 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, except for July and August. 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 September 23.** 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,

NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, September 20, 7:45 p.m.

Julius West Middle School
651 Great Falls Rd Rockville

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

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