



Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board Annual Report September 2011-July 2012

The MCCAB serves as Montgomery County's bridge to the 220,000 residents and businesses throughout the 99 square miles of the Mid-County service area. The boundaries of that area extend north along Georgia Avenue to the Howard County line; south to the I-495 Beltway; east to Sligo Creek Parkway, and west to Rock Creek Park. The MCCAB serves as a liaison between the wide network of mid-county communities including Aspen Hill, Brookeville, Capital View, Derwood, Flower Valley, Forest Glen, Glenmont, Kemp Mill, Kensington, Layhill, Laytonsville, Norbeck, Olney, Sandy Spring, Upper Rock Creek, and Wheaton; and Montgomery County agencies.

The MCCAB is statutorily charged with providing advice to the County Executive, County Council and the Director of the Mid-County Regional Services Center. In order to carry out this function the MCCAB holds public meetings where it discusses and receives input on a number of issues impacting the mid-county region. Traditionally this work has encompassed reviewing and commenting on proposed zoning and section map amendments, master plans and related plan amendments, six year capital improvements program (CIP) of County and Bi-County agencies, operating budgets of County and Bi-County agencies, health and human services matters, land acquisition by County and other government agencies, location and design of fire stations, schools, recreation centers, libraries, and other government buildings and facilities, transportation routes, schedules and services within the County, including School busing, and all other matters coming before the County government for decision which relate to, or affect, the Mid-County Regional Center's service area. Additionally the MCCAB has served to advise the Director of the Mid-County Regional Center in identifying demographic, economic, and social patterns in the area.

The first CAB was created by Council Resolution 8-449, introduced and adopted on September 2, 1975. This resolution established a Silver Spring Area Citizens Advisory Board with membership to be appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. The Silver Spring Area Citizens Advisory Board was to be large enough so that it could be divided into sub-committees as necessary and so that it could be constituted as to reflect the varying points of view of the community but not be an advocate for a majority position. Subsequent to this action on January 30, 1979, by Resolution 9-40, the Wheaton Center Citizens Advisory Board was established and subsequently renamed the Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board.

The MCCAB meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Mid-County Regional Center, 2424 Reedie Drive, Wheaton, MD 20902 at 7:00 p.m. Each year in July the MCCAB members elect a Chair, Vice Chair, and Parliamentarian who serve for one year and can serve 2 consecutive years.

The MCCAB structure also includes three permanent standing committees. Each MCCAB member joins at least one committee. Each committee meets, on average, 10 times per year. The MCCAB's standing committees consist of the Budget and Capital Projects Committee, the Land Use, Zoning & Transportation Committee and the Quality of Life Committee. The Executive Committee, composed of the three elected officers and the chairs of the committees, plans the recommended strategic work of the MCCAB. The general areas of responsibility of the standing committees are the following:

The Budget and Capital Projects Committee deals with issues involving the County Capital Improvements Program (CIP) and the Public Services Program (PSP), which encompasses the County's operating budget. The committee helps evaluate CIP issues including improvements for highways, transit, water and sewer, lighting, other utilities, parks and other County property, and other capital expenditures supporting commercial or neighborhood revitalization. It helps evaluate multi-year and annual budget plans supporting County operations and services, including the overall framework of revenues and expenditures as well as any legislative issues under its purview.

The Land Use, Zoning & Transportation Committee deals with issues involving master plans, zoning and subdivision requirements, special exceptions, neighborhood and commercial revitalization, sewer water category changes, and related issues including impact fees, assessments and other charges. It helps evaluate changes in land use development affecting the broad region, the County, sub-areas, communities, commercial areas, neighborhoods, individual properties, as well as any legislative issues under its purview. Lastly, the committee addresses issues involving all aspects of transportation, infrastructure and pedestrian safety for both County and State roads. The committee may also review legislative matters pertaining to transportation.

The Quality of Life Committee deals with issues brought to the MCCAB by community members as well as "quality of life" matters pertaining to the Mid-County region. "Quality of life" matters can include: housing, code enforcement, public health and safety, education, youth

The fifteen members of the MCCAB are selected from among applicants who reside, work or volunteer in the Mid-County service area. Each member is appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council for a three year term. An MCCAB member may also request appointment to a second term. Attendance at regular meetings is required. A member who is absent from 25 percent or more of scheduled official full MCCAB meetings during any six month period is considered to have resigned from the MCCAB.

The MCCAB membership also may include Associate Members who participate as non-voting members at MCCAB meetings, and Liaison Members from other County Boards and other civic and community organizations that facilitate and improve communications between and among community groups and the MCCAB.

MCCAB Member	Standing Committee	Neighborhood/ Community Representative
Theresa Bell	Transportation, Land Use and Zoning	Bel Pre
Luis Bonilla		Wheaton
Robin Brannan	Quality of Life	Kensington/Wheaton
Eileen Cahill	Olney Town Center	Holy Cross Hospital
Karla Fortunato	Budget	Wheaton
Barbara Heuter	Budget	Silver Spring
Gregory Intoccia	Transportation, Land Use and Zoning	Olney
Craig Long		Silver Spring
Kieran McHargue	Budget	Forest Glen/Mckenney Hills
Steve Morrison	Permitting Services	Layhill/Bel Pre
Richard Newman, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Transportation, Land Use and Zoning	Olney
Robert Shoenberg	Transportation, Land Use and Zoning	Wheaton
Gamunu (Gam) Wijetunge, <i>Chair</i>	Quality of Life	Wheaton
Ariel Winter, <i>Parliamentarian</i>	Quality of Life	Kemp Mill
Brenita Young	Transportation, Land Use and Zoning	Silver Spring

The MCCAB has accomplished much this past year that helps explain the nature and purpose of its work. The following are some of their accomplishments:

- Provided recommendations to the County Executive and County Council on matters pertaining to land use and development that help support business development as well as neighborhood development throughout the mid-county region;
- Supported policies and initiatives that strengthen healthy transportation enhancements throughout the Georgia Avenue corridor;
- Invited and hosted community and civic leaders to meetings to gain a better understanding of the challenges they face in their communities;
- Sent representatives to attend meetings with civic associations to hear from residents on community issues and bridge the divide between the community and the government;
- Hosted the County Executives Annual Budget Forums;
- Engaged in dialogue with several members of the County Council and their staff regarding important mid-county and County-wide issues.

2011-2012 Correspondence List with the County Executive and County Council

- Nov. 1, 2011: MCCAB sent the council their concerns on the youth curfew legislation.
- Nov. 16, 2011: MCCAB expressed concern about the change in design for Fire Station 18.
- Jan. 3, 2012: MCCAB forwarded their support of the Sandy Spring shared use path.
- Jan. 30, 2012: MCCAB shared that they were not in support of Bill 30-11.
- Feb. 16, 2012: MCCAB expressed their concern over the funding of the CIP project for the redevelopment of Wheaton.
- Feb. 23, 2012: MCCAB thanked the County Executive for the budget forum and shared their support of items in the FY 13-18 CIP.
- Mar. 16, 2012: MCCAB reiterated the County Executive's Wheaton Redevelopment CIP.
- Apr. 23, 2012: MCCAB sent their questions and support for department budget items within the Operating Budget for FY13.
- June 19, 2012: MCCAB asked for an independent evaluation of environmental data regarding the Costco megastation.
- June 20, 2012: MCCAB forwarded their support for the EMS Bill.
- June 20, 2012: MCCAB expressed their concern regarding staffing reductions at three MCFRS stations which frequently respond to emergency calls within the Mid-County area.
- June 22, 2012: MCCAB sent a letter in support of the Greater Olney Civic Association's (GOCA) request to dedicate the playground at the Norbeck Meadows Neighborhood Park in memory Ron Berger who passed away in December 2011.

The MCCAB will continue to focus on the issues affecting mid-county. Two ways to achieve this goal include gathering information on relevant issues while also creating opportunities for participation by community members that have not customarily participated in traditional civic life. Strategies involve holding special events, meetings on topics or areas of need, while using technology, blogging and the use of other electronic communications to maximize reach. The MCCAB will also reach out to civic leaders, community members, non-profit directors, businesses and youth to increase participation in MCCAB meetings and hence, enrich dialogue that impact MCCAB's decision-making processes. This may result in summer forums for CIP issues, operating budget conversations and meetings on issues that emerge throughout the community.

MCCAB Priorities for 2012-13: The committee spent time brainstorming priority topics for the new fiscal year. These included the following:

Quality of Life:

1. MCFRS: new FS 18 and implementation of EMS reimbursement fee program
2. Wheaton: design & planning of library/recreation center, redevelopment of CBD
3. MCPS: lack of adequate yearly progress at several schools (which can lead to state take-over)
4. Youth out-of-school time programs

Budget:

1. Understanding the budget process (briefing by OMB at the beginning of the year)
2. Performance—follow up on existing projects under development
3. Wheaton redevelopment/Wheaton library
4. Meeting w/civic groups to get budget input
5. Funding from speed cameras—how it is utilized

Land Use, Zoning and Transportation:

1. Rapid Transit Vehicles (aka: Bus Rapid Transit)
2. Traffic management and vehicular transportation issues (TPAR-how this works throughout the County)
3. Understanding and interaction of planning process
4. Pedestrian and cyclist safety as it pertains to growing development in Wheaton, Olney (entire mid-county area)—blinking lights when pedestrians are present
5. Parking and towing issues in Wheaton
6. Aspen Hill development and related traffic problems
7. Issues with state managed roads

Executive Committee

1. Create procedures for important last minute decisions that need to be made by the whole committee
2. Work on outreach with pertinent departments on a regular basis
3. Modernizing engagement and voting processes
4. Socializing outside of committee
5. Retreat for members at the beginning of the year
6. Asking members to connect with specific departments
7. Calendar of major milestones for the year
8. Outreach to civic groups

All of this will be achieved through continued monthly, regularly scheduled meetings with a high level of MCCAB member participation. The MCCAB expects to further engage County Council members and their staff on matters pertaining to the mid-county community. Further, MCCAB will also work with the County Executive and his staff by sponsoring, conducting outreach, and participating in the County Executive's forums, town Hall meetings and other events. These efforts are vital to MCCAB's work to provide county leadership with fresh and innovative ideas for moving Montgomery County forward.