



# Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 12, 2025

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Held virtual via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88162196572>;

Meeting ID: 898 2774 3604, + 1 301 715 8592

Call to Order:	Arquilla Ridgell, Chair			Respectfully Submitted by: Meghan Pazmino, Secretary		
Date/Time:	June 12, 2025, 7:00 PM ET					
Attendees:	X	Arquilla Ridgell (Chair)	X	Serge Thomas (Vice Chair)	X	Liza Smith
	X	Carol Kosary	X	Lee Rubenstein	X	Debra Liverpool
		Gary Fellman (Parliamentarian)		Ben DuGoff	X	Joan McDermott
	X	Meghan Pazmino (Secretary)		Phillip Ardanuy	X	Jonathan Chambers
	X	Rob Fox	X	Rick Gross	X	Irina Norrell
Staff:	Luisa Cardona					
Guests:	Hazle Crawford, Councilmement Natali Fani-Gonzalez’ office Suzan Jenkins, Montgomery Serves Suzan Jenkins, Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County					

Time	Topic	Notes
7:07	Call to Order & Welcome	The Chair called the meeting to order and reviewed meeting protocols.
7:08	Agenda Minutes	Meghan moved to approve the June agenda. Joan seconds the motion. Lee thirds. No nays. June agenda is approved.  Carol moved to approve the April minutes. Joan seconded.  April minutes are approved. No nays.

7:13	Elected Officials	<p>Hazle Crawford from Councilmember Natalie Fani-Gonzalez' office:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill 1424 Vehicle Noise Abatement Pilot Program</li> <li>• Uses automated noise cameras to reduce excessive vehicular noise in three locations across the county.</li> <li>• Will be implemented by county police.</li> <li>• One location will be in District 6, there are three candidate locations: Randolph Road, Veirs Mill, Georgia Ave (Aspen Hill Area)</li> <li>• Questions or concerns, please reach out to the office</li> <li>• Question: What is the pilot program trying to achieve and what results are they looking for? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Similar to the speed camera program. When they were first brought in, it was used to see how driving changed. The goal here is to get people who altered their exhaust systems to stop doing it and stop driving through our neighborhoods.</li> <li>○ Hazle will send info on the program if you send him an email. <a href="mailto:hazle.crawford@montgomerycountymd.gov">hazle.crawford@montgomerycountymd.gov</a></li> <li>○</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
7:20	<p>Presentations</p> <p>Montgomery Serves, Volunteer Center of Montgomery County</p>	<p><b>Montgomery Serves</b>  <b>Florence Jewell</b>  <a href="https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/">https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have a 24/7 tool that lists over 1900 opportunities to volunteer and we can post opportunities if you share them with us.</li> <li>• We are the only organization in the state where the government runs the volunteer center. We are under the community engagement cluster. We are a team of four.</li> <li>• The goal is to be a connector, to use technology to advertise. We recruit, support, and connect volunteers, non-profits, and government agencies.</li> <li>• We partner with MCPS on helping allocate SSL hours. How to recruit, how to train, and how to retain volunteers.</li> <li>• We have a TV show where we highlight a new organization and partnership every month. We do a newsletter that goes out to thousands of people.</li> <li>• We have a 50+ Volunteer Network for those who maybe volunteer, we can help get them connected.</li> <li>• Benefits and power of volunteering: When you are lifting others up and giving back you feel like you're making a contribution. It reduces depression, your physical health improves, and you can learn a new skill like event planning and outreach.</li> <li>• Luisa shared that the county takes advantage of the Volunteer Center to help with their big events.</li> </ul> <p><b>Montgomery County Cultural Plan</b>  <b>Suzan Jenkins</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are the designated county arts agency.</li> <li>• The Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County is the county level arts council.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are a 501c3, and a subcontractor for Montgomery County. We provide about 500 grants for organizations and about 2,000 artists. We also manage the county's public art collection, about 1,000 pieces. We also manage county sculptures and public art. We maintain, preserve, and commission public art.</li> <li>• We've been able to see how to respond through difficult times to support artists.</li> <li>• The first cultural plan was done in 2000. It's very different now than it was 25 years ago. We began to think about how we can influence the county's investments in the cultural sector.</li> <li>• In surveys, when people ask us what we want in Montgomery County, we want great quality of life factors.</li> <li>• We worked to align our plan with the Thrive 2050 master plan. They asked us our opinion of the cultural plan of the master plan and we saw a need to update our cultural plan.</li> <li>• Cultural Planning is the practice of creating place-based plans that identify priorities, guide investment, and inform local policies concerning arts and culture.</li> <li>• Objectives for the Cultural plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Establish cultural policies that advance community-backed priorities</li> <li>○ Provide specific, actionable steps</li> <li>○ Align the county's resources across all its agencies through a cultural lens</li> </ul> </li> <li>• We recently had a youth town hall to hear their ideas and get feedback on what types of activities they would like in the community and in their schools.</li> <li>• We want to make sure the plan is responsive to community needs. We'll have the Cultural Plan and then strategic plans informed by that every 3-5 years.</li> <li>• During the pandemic we saw people turning to the arts to rejuvenate and for mental wellness. We see this not as a "nice to have" but as a must have.</li> <li>• We don't produce events, we don't compete with other organizations. We are a funder, to uplift and support them and not compete with them. We don't need to do events because we have a plethora of organizations across disciplines that are already doing the work. We provide professional development and technical assistance.</li> <li>• Question: Have you felt the cuts from the federal government yet? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We are funded for \$7 million for 2026. At least your local money is secure. We know it's coming, but in the past we didn't feel it for about a year. We get front loaded with funding and then feel the effects later.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
8:15	Board Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CIP Letter was reviewed and minor edits made.</li> <li>• Debra moved to approve the letter.</li> <li>• Irina seconded.</li> <li>• No nays.</li> <li>• Letter is approved and will be sent.</li> </ul>

		<p>We have one vacancy on the MCCAB that will be posted soon. Arquilla, Phil, and Debra volunteered to be on the interview panel. Some members are up for renewal--Talía will be going through the list and e-mailing. Members can renew once or twice depending on when they joined.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serge thanked the Board for the assistance with the vacant property in his neighborhood. The county has come out and action has been taken.</li> </ul>
8:28	Mid County Director Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The county executive is celebrating Pride month</li> <li>• We finalized our micro placemaking grants throughout the county, we'll be releasing those names soon.</li> <li>• Taste of Wheaton was wonderful. There were thousands of people, everyone enjoyed the skatepark we did with Parks and Planning.</li> <li>• Our Friday night concerts start this Friday with the Nighthawks.</li> <li>• We have interns supporting us this summer through August. They are</li> </ul>
8:30	WUDAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wendy Howard from One Montgomery Green spoke about the Wheaton Streeter, rebranding to Wheaton Block Party. There are events starting up soon on June 21.</li> </ul>
8:39	Community Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wheels on Wheaton, a recommendation to get skates in a smaller size or put on signage to let people know the smallest size skates so younger kids are not disappointed.</li> <li>• There haven't been any more trucks parked in the Glenmont Shopping Center anymore.</li> <li>• A change is being made to the 355/Grosvenor Lane intersection but without any recent input from civic associations. Feedback was apparently collected in 2015. We need the county Civic Association contact list updated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Luisa will try to get someone from the Planning Board to attend July's meeting</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
		<p>Serge moved to adjourn the meeting.  Rick seconded.  Vote to adjourn.  No nays.  Meeting adjourned by Chair at 8:56 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEXT MCCAB MEETING: July 17, 2025</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEXT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (members only):  July 3, 2025</b></p>