

Frederick County Council welcomes you to our new electronic newsletter!



The Frederick County Council is here to serve you!

Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of the Frederick County Council. We are undertaking this effort to provide more information to the public so you have a better understanding of the legislative process. It is the goal of this newsletter to provide more information and detail on what is happening in the legislative branch.

Should you ever have any questions regarding the legislative process or upcoming

legislation, please do not hesitate to contact the council members either via email at: councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov, or by phone at 301-600-1135.

Following are a few updates on recent Council actions.

Livable Frederick Master Plan (LFMP)

We are pleased to have been a part of the Livable Frederick Master Plan (LFMP) process. This Plan is a new and innovative way to look at how we plan for Frederick County's future. It proposes no new growth areas, no expansion of existing growth areas, and no zoning changes. This new LFMP replaces the 2010 comprehensive plan, "Frederick County's Future," but does not change the Comprehensive Plan Map of 2012. The County will now commence with an implementation process that will take place, through small area or corridor plans.

The County Council had 11 meetings or public hearings with input from County staff, community groups, council members, and individual constituents. There were nearly 200 community meetings where community input was sought, welcomed, and in many instances, those suggestions were then incorporated into the final plan.

The County Council considered more than 50 amendments before finalizing the LFMP. We are extremely proud of the deliberative, open, transparent, and collaborative manner in which we finalized this document.

Frederick County is truly a community that has a rich history and a bright future, and the Livable Frederick Master Plan will aid us in setting a course for the years to come.

Monocacy River

The initial management plan was prepared by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and approved by Frederick and Carroll counties in May 1990. The purpose of the plan was to identify resources and issues, and to provide recommendations that address protection and conservation of the

resources and the river.

In 2016 the River Board initiated an update of the 1990 Plan and released an initial draft plan in October 2016. Following numerous public outreach meetings, the River Board released a final draft plan in June 2017, held a public hearing in July, and voted on a Recommended Plan on August 2, 2017. The Recommended Plan was then referred to both counties for review, public hearings, and consideration to adopt.

In March 2018, the River Board requested that both counties send the 2017 Recommended Plan back to the River Board for revision. The Frederick County Council did so in July 2018. The River Board released a revised Recommended Plan on November 8, 2018, which was then transmitted back to the counties for review. The Carroll County Board of County Commissioners approved the plan on November 27, 2018 while Frederick County conducted its review in 2019.

After a public hearing in February 2019, the County Council subsequently voted to reject the 2018 Recommended Plan and to consider revisions to the 2017 Recommended Plan. The Council adopted 26 amendments to the 2017 Plan and voted to adopt a final Monocacy Scenic River Management Plan on April 16, 2019.

Since Carroll and Frederick Counties have adopted separate Plans, the current Monocacy Scenic River Citizens Advisory Board has ended and each county is in the process of establishing its own board to oversee the river and its resources based on the needs and desires of that individual, separate county.

Frederick County has a much larger portion of the River that runs through it. Frederick County's development and land use needs are much different from Carroll County's and our environmental community is much more engaged in our development and land use processes. Frederick County basically has a different vision of how to protect and preserve the river and its many rich and diverse resources.

The County Executive has forwarded a bill to the Council for introduction and consideration, establishing a new county river board that will examine how to best

protect the river, its scenic qualities and its numerous resources.

As the bill reads now, the new Sustainable Monocacy Commission will have nine members all of whom must be Frederick County residents and registered voters. It will consist of 2 contiguous land owners, two non-contiguous land owners, a member of the agricultural community, two members having a scientific background or education, as well as a non-voting representative from Frederick City Board of Aldermen, and one from the County Council.

The role of the Commission will be to educate the public about the Monocacy River and to provide recommendations for policies that will improve the River's water quality and maintain its ecological health. The commission will be required to provide an annual report to the County Council and the County Executive.

The Sustainable Monocacy Commission will meet at least twice a year and at least once a year with Carroll County's River Board.

Charter Review Commission

The Council has appointed a citizens advisory board to review the Charter to make recommendations to the Council about potential changes, which in their opinion would make the Charter a more viable document. This board is moving through the time allotted and scheduled to bring forth any possible changes to the Council by the end of February. At that time, the Council will begin deliberations on whether or not to bring any of these recommendations forward to the voters in the form of a referendum to be voted on in the 2020 general election.

The Commission has set a deadline of December 1, 2019, for consideration of any potential Charter revisions.

Please check our website for additional information on this board. (<https://frederickcountymd.gov/7890/Charter-Review-Commission>)

Upcoming Council Items

- Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at 5:30 pm: County Council Legislative Day Meeting
- Saturday, December 7, 2019, at 10:00 am: Frederick County Delegation to Annapolis Public Hearing on the Frederick County Legislative Package
- Tuesday, December 10, 2019, at 5:30 pm: County Council Workshop
- Wednesday, December 11, 2019, at 6:00 pm: Charter Review Commission Meeting, Third Floor Meeting Room, Winchester Hall
- Tuesday, December 17, 2019, at 5:30 pm: County Council Legislative Day Meeting
- Thursday, December 19, 2019, at 6:00 pm: Charter Review Commission Meeting. Third Floor Meeting Room, Winchester Hall

FREDERICK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION VACANCY

There will be a vacancy on the Board of Education, and the County Executive has requested the Frederick County Council forward three potential nominations for her to review for appointment. The public notice below has been issued and placed in the Frederick News Post soliciting applicants who may be interested in this position to apply for consideration.

The names of all the final applicants will be made public. The Council will interview up to ten final applicants in a closed session, with the interviews recorded and replayed for the public (Channel 19-FCG TV and website). The Council will receive public comment at the Tuesday, December 17, 2019 meeting at 7:00 pm. The Council will then vote and forward the final nominations to the County Executive for consideration.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Re: Frederick County Board of Education Vacancy

The Frederick County Executive is soliciting letters of interest from individuals to fill a vacancy on the Frederick County Board of Education.

The appointed individual will fill an unexpired term that ends in December of 2020.

To be considered for the seat, individuals must be residents of and registered voters in Frederick County.

Interested persons will need to submit a letter of interest and resume to Administrative Officer Joyce Grossnickle, Office of the County Executive, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, MD 21701 (301-600-1102) or e-mail to fcgboards@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

Letters of interest should include current contact information home mailing address, phone number(s), and an e-mail address.

The Frederick County Council will conduct initial interviews of selected applicants. Applicants' names and interviews may be made public.

Deadline to submit required paperwork is 4:00 p.m. on Monday, December 2, 2019.

Frederick County Government does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, age, or disability in employment or the provision of services.

Contact Council Members

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