

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Membership Meeting of November 18, 2004
MINUTES

The meeting of FCFCA was held at the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. (Attendance list is attached.)

President Carol Hawn introduced Congressman Tom Davis of the 11th District, who was recently re-elected to a sixth term. Congressman Davis had to return to the House floor for a vote, but was able to comment on current Congressional topics of interest and to take several questions.

Program — Congressman Davis said that the House was then working on the 13 required appropriations bills, of which 4 had already passed and 9 remained to be passed, which would be done in a single omnibus package. Collectively, these 13 bills account for 37 percent of the federal budget.

The vote scheduled for the evening of the membership meeting was to raise the debt ceiling.

He said that the 9/11 Commission intelligence reform bill, which at the time of the meeting had not come to a vote in the House, would likely pass either in an early December 2004 session or in the spring of 2005. In the latter case, the earliest it could realistically be taken up would be March or April.

He noted that the House rules had been amended so that if the leader or committee chairs are indicted, they will not automatically be required to take a leave of absence from their positions. He also noted, in regard to the Senate, that Arlen Specter will be the Judicial Committee Chair. He said that it's likely 2 or 3 vacancies on the Supreme Court will arise in the next four years.

In addition, he noted that while the election of 2004 created the largest Senate and House Republican majorities in years, the margin is still narrow.

Finally, he mentioned that a major postal reform bill on which he has been working did not pass in this Congress, and that he intends to try again in the new Congress. Without passage of the bill, postage will rise substantially. He said the postal reform bill has many aspects. Most notably, the Postal Service now pays the entire pension (both postal and military) for retired postal employees with past military service. The military segment of these pensions adds up to \$10 billion. Under the bill, this cost would be paid by the military side, and not the Postal Service. In any case, postal retirees will continue to receive their full pensions.

Congressman Davis then answered a number of questions on topics that included reducing or controlling the federal deficit; Social Security privatization; the 9/11 Commission reforms, including the creation of a National Intelligence Director; healthcare costs; a national healthcare system; funding for Metrorail beyond the Metro Matters package; a national id. card; homeland security; the No Child Left Behind Act; entitlement programs; and the minimum wage.

Business Meeting —

- a. Sally Ormsby led a review and discussion of the proposed 2005 Federation legislative package, as approved by the Board and circulated in the Federation newsletter. This included some friendly amendments that were incorporated during the meeting.

- b. Flint Webb proposed an amendment to raise Department of Environmental Quality permit fees to fund DEQ enforcement operations (language attached). The amendment passed 15 to

11 with 2 abstaining. It was then unanimously amended to include the word “state,” to reflect the intended sense of the language.

c. Approval of the legislative package, as amended, was moved, second, and passed 25 to 3.

d. John Jennison moved a vote of appreciation and thanks to Sally Ormsby. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. President Carol Hawn also commended the work of the Education Committee on the education section of the package.

e. President Carol Hawn said that the newly approved legislative package will be sent to the Board of Supervisors and that she will testify on the priorities within the package before the Board and before the Northern Virginia delegation.

f. The minutes for the September 23 meeting were unanimously approved as written.

g. Charles Dane reported for the Education Committee that the committee was arranging a meeting with Dean Tisdadt, the director of facilities and operations for the school system, to discuss the planned sale of school property and consolidation of administration buildings.

h. Flint Webb reported for the Environmental Committee that the Chesapeake Bay Plan will be a subject of the next legislative session. Wastewater treatment plant upgrades are needed and there is a die-out zone in the Bay that is probably due to nitrogen. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is suing the EPA over poor oversight of the NPDS permit program. He also reported on the Clean Smokestack initiative to reduce Nox and mercury emissions.

i. President Carol Hawn shared a resolution from the Nonmotorized Trails Committee (attached), provided by Becky Cate.

j. Art Wells reported from Braddock District Council that the Council had met with Cal Wagner (who recently spoke to the Federation) and is organizing a workshop on associations. He also reported the news that the Hunter Mill District Council has disbanded.

l. Norman Neiss reported from the Providence District Council that the council met with a School Board member on the proposal to buy or build new school administration buildings, requiring disposal of other buildings in current use.

h. President Carol Hawn reported from the Sully District Council that the council is working on revising its bylaws.

i. Sally Ormsby reported that three possible dates have been reserved for the Citizen of the Year Banquet: in order of priority, March 13, March 6, and a date in early April. The dates are earlier this year to avoid conflicting with civic events later in the spring. Art Webb, who will chair the awards committee, urged all present to encourage nominations. The need to select a speaker for the banquet was also discussed.

j. Bill Hanks reported that the Affordable Housing Preservation Taskforce continues its work and specific proposals are likely early next year.

Next Membership Meeting: December 16, 2004, Jeffrey Steers, Northern Virginia Regional Office, Department of Environmental Quality. Next Board meeting: December 2, 2004.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.