

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Board Meeting of January 26, 2006
MINUTES

The meeting of the FCFCA Board was held at the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. Those present included President John Jennison, Bill Hanks, Walt Sisson, Charles Dane, Sally Ormsby, Art Wells, Becky Cate, Judy Harbeck, Pat Rea, and Esther Ferington.

Business Meeting

- a. The Board approved the reappointments of Thomas (Vic) Mukai as the Federation representative to the Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee and Louis D'Allessandro as the Federation representative to the Community Action Advisory Board. It asked for a brief report or other feedback from Louis D'Allessandro.
- b. Sally Ormsby acted as the Recording Secretary at the December 29, 2005, special Board meeting and distributed the minutes by e-mail prior to this meeting. The Board approved the minutes unanimously.
- c. President John Jennison reviewed the calendar of upcoming meetings. He reminded the Board that he had asked Charles Dane to introduce Deputy Superintendent Brad Draeger at our last membership meeting. In the same way, he asked that Walt Sisson and Flint Webb, as co-chairs of the Environment Committee, introduce Supervisor Penny Gross at the next membership meeting, on the Chesapeake Bay.
- d. The newsletter (Bulletin) deadline is January 30. Esther Ferington, the Federation representative to the Fairfax 2007 committee, asked if the committee's call for articles for possible inclusion in a book could be included in shortened form. The question was referred to Carol Hawn and Esther Ferington will check with her. The announcement was then distributed in hard copy to those present to circulate to their organizations.
- e. Sally Ormsby said the dates of March 12 and 19 are still being held for the Citizen of the Year banquet, but a choice is needed soon so the invitations can be printed. President John Jennison announced that the selection committee, chaired by Carol Hawn, had selected Marlene Blum as Citizen of the Year, Bill and Jane Strauss for a Citation of Merit, and Lee Feiffer for a Special Gratitude Award.
- f. Charles Dane had previously circulated a draft of proposed testimony on the school budget for the February 3 School Board hearing. He noted that the Education Committee has had disagreement on the testimony and is also lacking information and clarification on topics that include salaries and training. He recommended that either no presentation be made at this time, or that the points of disagreement be deleted and the balance of the testimony be presented. After some discussion, it was agreed not to testify February 3, with a view toward testifying at a later stage in the process.
- g. President John Jennison has received the approved stream reclassification resolution from Sally Ormsby and will send it to the appropriate parties.
- h. Pat Rea noted that he is concerned that there are three databases of membership information being maintained by him, Jeff Parnes, and Carol Hawn. He hopes to confer

with them to see if there is a way to have a single unified database. President John Jennison noted that he currently notifies all three of each new membership.

i. Sally Ormsby had circulated a selected list of General Assembly bills by e-mail before the meeting; due to a technical glitch, some had not received it. She reviewed the list. The most extended discussion was on two bills under which Virginia would withdraw from participation in the No Child Left Behind program. Board members did not agree on whether the time had come for this step. President John Jennison asked the Education Committee to investigate the issue of withdrawal from NCLB in the “off season” after the FCPS budget is resolved. Other bills related to land use and comprehensive plans, land use and transportation planning, transportation funding, taxation (car tax reimbursement and local government taxing authority), and local government.

j. Art Wells reported for the Braddock District Council on a recent program with VDOT on snow removal. Funds are limited to \$7 million for the state this winter, which is low.

k. Judy Harbeck reported for the Mount Vernon Council on a recent BRAC presentation by the county development office. The council was disturbed to learn that private contractors working with the personnel being relocated to Fort Belvoir will be housed in office buildings located on Fort Belvoir—meaning that this construction will be done without the need for proffers and there will be no related contribution to county revenue from commercial real estate taxes. Contractors had been expected to occupy office space outside the fort and contribute to the county tax base and local retail activity accordingly.

l. Becky Cate reported for the Providence District Council on its past meeting with the Tysons Corner consulting group. There is a meeting January 31 at Oakton High School on Metro capacity in Vienna and an information session on the Metro West development on February 1 in the Mosby school cafeteria. The Planning Commission meeting is February 8. The next Providence meeting is on February 21 on the budget.

m. Under new business, Art Wells asked about the proposal by the Airports Authority to assume responsibility for the Dulles Toll Road and the rail to Dulles project. He hoped that the Transportation Committee will track this issue and develop a position on it. President John Jennison noted that he has been receiving requests for a presentation by the Dulles Rail Authority. Although the membership meeting slots are full for the rest of the year, he offered to schedule a presentation for the Board. The Board liked this idea.

n. Also under new business, Becky Cate asked whether holding electronic Board meetings, which was raised as a possibility in December, would require a change to the bylaws. She also requested more frequent inclusion of all Board members in other e-mail discussions. Board members were divided on this suggestion; those against it either receive too many e-mails already, or are not regularly at their computers, and do not like so many e-mails when they check in.

Next Membership Meeting:

February 16, 2006, “Chesapeake Bay,” the Honorable Penny Gross, Mason District Supervisor

Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, February 23, 2006

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.