

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Board Meeting of March 9, 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, Patrick Rea, Flint Webb, Carey Campbell, Judith H'Ormaycht, Carol Hawn, Earl Flanagan, Judy Harbeck, Steve DelBianco, Sally Ormsby, Art Wells, Merrily Pierce, Charles Dane, and Esther Ferington.

Business Meeting

a. President John Jennison reported that Mantua had held a very successful seminar related to senior services in the county. He asked the Board to formally establish a Senior Services Committee and stated that several volunteers have come forward to serve on it. There was a discussion on the technical matter of how to handle this under the bylaws. Sally Ormsby moved to establish an Ad Hoc Senior Services Committee through May 16, the deadline for seniors to chose whether or not to participate in the new Medicare drug benefit without incurring a later permanent penalty, should they subsequently chose to enroll. Esther Ferington seconded the motion. Earl Flanagan proposed as an amendment that the Ad Hoc Senior Services Committee should be a subcommittee of the Human Services Committee, but this was not resolved. The motion passed unanimously.

b. The minutes for the Board meeting of January 26, 2006, were unanimously approved.

c. The Treasurer's Report was received.

d. President John Jennison reviewed the calendar. The traditional Report from Richmond meeting on the General Assembly session currently has one speaker, Senator Dick Saslaw. Steve DelBianco said he would try to get a second speaker from the House Republicans. It was agreed to try the pavilion (at the Packard Center) for an outdoor meeting on June 15. The next newsletter deadline is March 12, 2006.

e. Approximately 100 reservations have been received so far for the Citizen of the Year banquet, including reservations from many Board members; the deadline is next Monday. The program is being printed. John Jennison has the Federation banner. Merrily Pierce will arrange for a photographer. Carol Hawn will help at the registration table.

f. Charles Dane reported that the Education and Youth Committee is meeting next Monday and will get to the budget at that time. They generally support Sally Ormsby's draft as discussed at this evening's meeting, but may suggest changes from the floor at the membership meeting due to the timing.

g. Flint Webb, co-chair of the Environment Committee, praised Supervisor Penny Gross's presentation on the Chesapeake Bay at the last meeting. The COG Technical Advisory Committee of the larger air quality committee has taken its first cut at control measures to meet the 8-hour ozone standard and is now looking at 2.5 particle standards. Local government and transportation subcommittees have been formed. It was mentioned later, but is included here for simplicity, that Flint Webb will confer with Earl Flanagan off-line to better understand the relationship between Fairfax County and the Council of Governments.

h. Carol Hawn reported for the Human Services Committee on the homelessness summit scheduled for April 7 by the Planning Committee to End Homelessness; invitations are limited but available. The goal is to have 250 attendees at most. The tax “penny” for affordable housing has now been spent for the first year; the last \$9 million was for a Lake Anne property. This year, 846 units of affordable housing were preserved. The hypothermia program using local churches had anticipated 20 to 30 persons per church this winter and instead there were 70 to 80 persons per church. A point-in-time study showed 2044 homeless in Fairfax County.

i. Sally Ormsby reported for the Legislative Committee on several pieces of legislation related to the Federation’s legislative package. The Clean Smokestacks bill was enacted. One of the two energy bills was left in committee. The bill requiring VDOT be involved in land use approvals has passed. The governor’s land use and roads bill failed, but another version passed, stating that localities can consider adequacy of transportation infrastructure when considering rezoning. Clean-fuel vehicles on HOV lanes will be grandfathered (new vehicles purchase after 7/1/06 will not be given special HOV status). A study of transit needs on the Route One corridor has passed. Another bill that passed will now allow the provider of a cash proffer to make more improvements than those paid for by the proffer if other funds are provided.

j. Patrick Rea reported on a brief meeting held just before this Board meeting, and attended by President John Jennison, Carol Hawn, Esther Ferington, and himself, on logistics for increasing membership. The plan is to send out another mailing to 20 non-member associations per district. Meanwhile, Carol Hawn will work on updating the Federation’s membership database.

k. Merrily Pierce reported for the Public Safety Committee that the Citizen Corps quarterly meeting is scheduled for the next week. Urban grant funding has been obtained for 100 Neighborhood Watch captains to participate in CERT training (there are 500 Neighborhood Watches in the county). If they in turn become trainers, they may inspire local CERT teams to form and train. She will supply Carol Hawn with 2 to 3 sentences for the newsletter on the grant.

l. Earl Flanagan reported for the Transportation Committee that the staff has completed its recommendations for revising the Transportation element of the Comprehensive Plan. The Planning Commission will review the plan in May and the Board of Supervisors in June. The Transportation Committee plans to develop its comments in April. He will supply Carol Hawn with a short write-up on this for the newsletter to get the word out to Federation members. There will also be an e-mail to each District Council Representative on this, with their comments to go to Earl.

m. Charles Dane suggested that the Federation send a letter to the Board of Supervisors recommending a delay in this process, given the considerable amount of time spent on developing the plan and the limited time now available to review and respond to it. Earl Flanagan will draft a letter for John Jennison’s signature.

n. Art Wells reported for Braddock District that the council had had two well-attended outreach meetings on the APR (Area Plan Review) and its next meeting will be on the county budget. Judy Harbeck reported that the Mount Vernon Council was meeting the same night as this meeting; one of its scheduled topics was the need to follow the correct procedures in transferring school properties. An e-mail was received prior to the meeting

from Mike Thompson for the Springfield District, whose council's recent meeting covered Fort Belvoir and BRAC, immigration, and Iraq. It was reported that the Providence Council's next meeting would also be on the county budget. Carol Hawn reported from Sully that their organization's next meeting would be with the DMV. Sully will also be discussing the budget. Additionally, a new church that will be the second largest in the county is in the process of being approved in the district.

o. Steve DelBianco introduced a resolution on the first set of Zoning Ordinance Amendments. The changes have been broken up into groups and the first of three ZOAs will be heard on March 23 at a public hearing and on May 1 before the Board of Supervisors. Some friendly amendments were made. The resolution was approved with 12 votes in favor, 1 against, and 1 abstaining.

p. Earl Flanagan suggested that, in the interests of time, the Transportation Committee resolution on a proposed county policy restricting which vehicles could be parked on residential streets could be dealt with at the next Board meeting.

q. Sally Ormsby presented a proposed resolution on the county budget. This document was discussed in detail, with friendly amendments. There was a tie vote, four to four, on the issue of eliminating the County vehicle delcal (and \$25 fee), and the Board agreed to leave this decision to a vote by the membership at the March 30 membership meeting.

Next Membership Meeting:

March 30, 2006, Fairfax County Budget, with County Executive Tony Griffin

Next Board Meeting (tentative?):

Thursday, April 20, 2006

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.