

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Membership Meeting of November 16, 2006
MINUTES

The meeting of FCFCA was held at the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. (Attendance list is attached to file copy.) President John Jennison reported on the previous month's dinner forum on immigration, co-sponsored with the Fairfax Committee of 100, and thanked Bill Hanks for coordinating the event. He also reported on the pro and con forum on the Marriage Amendment referendum, which the Federation also co-sponsored with the Fairfax Committee of 100. About one hundred attended. The speakers in favor were Mrs. Victoria Cobb and Delegate Bob Marshall. Those against were Doug Koelemay and Jim Dyke.

Because this evening's program concerned the Federation's legislative package, there was no outside speaker, and President John Jennison proceeded to the business portion of the meeting.

Business Meeting —

- a. President John Jennison reviewed the year's calendar. The December 14 membership meeting will be on Metro, with Supervisor Dana Kauffman, former chair of the WMATA Board. The January speaker will be from the school system. The February 15 meeting will be on the Council of Governments and growth issues. The March 29 meeting will be on the county budget with county executive Tony Griffin. The April 19 meeting will be on tourism in Fairfax, with a speaker from FxVA and a presentation on Fairfax 2007 (the celebration of the 400th Jamestown anniversary) by Sally Ormsby and Esther Ferington. May 17 will be the Report from Richmond on the legislative session and on June 21, Gerald Connolly, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, will speak on the state of the county.
- b. The minutes for the October 18 membership meeting were approved unanimously, as amended.
- c. The fiscal budget will be presented after the handoff between the previous and new Treasurers.
- d. President John Jennison introduced Sally Ormsby, chair of the Legislative Committee, who presented the proposed Federation legislative package for 2006-07. Bill Hanks moved the addition of a measure on legislative branch redistricting and asked that it be tabled until the end of the discussion. The package seeks power for the county (from the state) to "prohibit" dangerous weapons on county property; this was changed to "regulate" on an 11 to 9 vote.

Sally Ormsby also presented several of Fairfax County's legislative initiatives for the coming year, some of which were added to the Federation package after discussion. Bill Hanks's motion regarding redistricting was discussed and it was decided to investigate the issue with a view to including a proposal next year. We will also revisit adequate compensation for state and local elected officials for next year's legislative package. The priorities were approved unanimously. The entire package, as amended, then passed unanimously. President John Jennison thanked Sally Ormsby for her work.

- e. Charles Dane reported for the Education Committee that the new school administration building has been named Gatehouse Administrative Center One, rather than honoring any individual by name, as the Education Committee had hoped to do. He also reported that the school system is planning for pandemic flu and recognizes that such a flu would require school closures; it is investigating its practical capability of teaching at a distance.

- f. Tania Hossain reported for the Human Services Committee on the plans in progress for an emergency preparedness forum sponsored by the Federation. The forum will be part of the Federation's application for a homeland security grant and will include a workshop, perhaps with stations, on assembling emergency kits. The main focus will be outreach to seniors and information about sheltering in place, but citizens associations representatives are also encouraged to attend.

g. Flint Webb reported for the Environment Committee on the proposed state implementation plan (SIP) to meet the 8-hour ozone standard, which primarily involves consumer products and seems likely to be approved. The Environment Committee is working on a resolution on global climate change.

h. Steve DelBianco reported for the Land Use Committee on the proposed “shape factor” for approving house lots. This has been studied for two years by the Planning Commission staff, but is now on the fast track. It has received considerable media coverage. The staff reviewed 625 irregularly shaped lots approved in 2001 and 2002, of which the overwhelming majority were designed to maximize lot yield. The proposed rule is to require that the perimeter squared, divided by the area, be less than or equal to 35. This is similar to shape factors used in New England. This rule would have affected 8 percent of the 625 irregular lots in the study. Builders and developers object to the rule. He proposed supporting the rule. Of those present, 21 voted to support it, with no votes in opposition.

i. Roger Hoskins reported for the Transportation Committee that the Transportation Advisory Committee has not met yet and has not yet tackled transit-oriented development.

j. Tania Hossain reported that she had attended a meeting by the Tysonstunnel.org group, which is encouraging citizen activism in favor of a tunnel for the Metro line running through Tysons Corner. According to the group, there is still a year before the FTA funds the project, which allows time to work toward the tunnel alternative. Roger Hoskins agreed that the Transportation Committee will look at this one-year effort and report back.

k. Art Wells reported for Braddock District that the Taste of Braddock, showcasing fifteen local restaurants, will be December 7 at Supervisor Bulova’s office at the Kings Park Library. The Braddock district council has met three times on the expansion of George Mason University and a Braddock-GMU forum has now started. A separate group is working on the GMU sign issue. The council has also held meetings on the future of Braddock and a summary will be made available.

l. Art Wells also noted that the audit group for the Federation is being lined up and needs a copy of the previous audit. Sally Ormsby volunteered to check for a file copy.

m. **[Do we have the name for this person?]** Someone from the Mason district spoke on his work on identifying citizens associations throughout the district, mapping to find boundaries, and attempting to resuscitate old associations that may have become moribund.

n. Sally Ormsby reported that the Providence district meeting was postponed due to the election, but the next meeting will be on the schools.

o. Sally Ormsby also reported that the Citizen of the Year banquet will be March 11, meaning that the deadline for nominations should be no later than January 15. President John Jennison will be identifying a speaker.

Next Membership Meeting: December 14, 2006, Metro, Fairfax County Supervisor and WMATA Board member Dana Kauffman

Next Board Meeting: November 30, 2006.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.