

MINUTES

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association

Board Meeting of July 26, 2007

Revised and Approved at the August 30, 2007 Board Meeting

Meeting Attendees: Carol Hawn, Jeff Parnes, Scott Schlegel, Esther Ferington, Art Wells, Charles Dane, and Bill Felmlee

President Jeff Parnes opened the meeting and commenced with a review of the schedule for the upcoming fiscal year. See website for latest meeting and activity schedule including newsletter dates.

Issues Discussed:

- It was recommended that we invite Congressmen Moran, Davis, and Wolf to present a Report from the Hill.
- **Board Vacancies**
 - Jeff Parnes will check with several possible replacements. If you would like to recommend a nominee for the Board please forward that name to Jeff so he may contact the person to gauge their interest.
 - Steve Delbianco is now the First Vice President of MCA and he is a possible First Vice President for the Federation.
- **Citizen Of The Year (COY) Banquet:**
 - A possible venue change was recommended due to the cost of the Marriott. Based on receipts and expenditures it was noted that without the contributions from the Washington Post and others, the Federation would have lost money on the banquet. Given that the COY banquet is the primary fund raiser for the Federation, it is important that revenue exceeds expenses.
 - Jeff asked members to look into possible venues and provide him any suggestions. It was stated that any new proposed venue be geographically centrally located in Fairfax County.
 - Carol Hawn suggested the Waterford at Fair Oaks Mall. She said it can accommodate 150 people.
 - Bill Felmlee, Lakeview Community Association suggested the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department.
 - The preferred day is Sunday night mid or early March 2008
- The question was raised on whether we need two monthly meetings?

- Charlie Dane was in favor of holding monthly meeting because it provides an opportunity to vet important issues.
 - A perception is that the general membership meeting simply ratified the Board meetings, yielding no additional benefit. It is also believed that attendance may suffer because of this perception.
 - Art Wells believes that attendance is directly related to the attractiveness of the speakers and information available.
- The Board then discussed the benefit of establishing a Council of Federations.
 - Jeff agreed to investigate any interest by other counties in establishing such an organization.
- **Committee Membership:**
 - It was suggested that we establish a listing of the members on each committee. It was believed that every committee chair has a membership list of their committee. Carol stated that that is not true.
 - Jeff recommends creating a mailing list for each committee because he felt it was important for the Federation to have such a list.
 - Jeff asked each committee chair to send him a list names before the next meeting.
 - Charlie stated that there is a downside to this. There are a lot of committees who are a committee of one person.
 - Jeff agreed to create a mailing address list titled Federation Representative Appointee.
 - Carol also said it would be nice to have regular committee reports for the newsletter.
- **Budget:**
 - Scott Schlegel presented several budget alternatives for the upcoming fiscal year for Board review. It was noted that maintaining the status quo would result in a deficit without Washington Post support for COY banquet, and that measures needed to be taken to either increased revenues or reduce expenses. Some of the alternatives discussed included raising membership dues, actively soliciting new and old members, increasing banquet fees, and changing banquet venue to help reduce the cost.
 - Carol suggested we reduce membership dues to those who accept electronic newsletters. Carol will add a notice in next hard copy newsletter that all future newsletters will be electronic unless requested otherwise. Carol and Art also suggested that we reduce the size of the President's message.
 - Jeff recommended that all future bulletins be electronic and that all elected officials to receive electronic copies of the bulletin.
 - Charlie stated that he was against increasing dues because he felt it would negatively impact membership. He prefers trying to increase membership instead.

He felt an increase in dues would result in a reduction in current membership. Membership has been declining significantly over the past 3 years.

- Carol stated she also prefers to increase membership versus increasing dues.
- Jeff agreed to send a letter to all district reps to get Association contacts. Carol will call Supervisors to get that information as well.
- After further discussion, it was agreed that membership dues and banquet fees would remain unchanged and that the Federation would make a concerted effort to retain existing members and increase new memberships by 50%.

- **Budget Motions:**

- Submit all expense receipts within 60 days of expense.
- No publicity brochure this year.
- Any future debates will require a co-sponsor.

- **Other Issues:**

- Jeff agreed to pick up the mail and scan in membership forms and send to Carol and Scott for action.
- Charlie mentioned that the School Board believes High School students should start later. Arlington has gone to that system. This would require an entire re-engineering of the bus system/schedule and then evaluating the impact.
- Charlie stated that the School Board is in the process of establishing a Transportation Task Force of 70 members and a facilitator. Most of the 70 members will be various representatives from the school system and county. Only 12 positions were allotted for community groups, including 3 allotted to the Federation. No positions for the League of Women Voters. Two positions were for SLEEP. Two for after-school business employers and two for after-school organizations, i.e., BSA, GSA. Charlie stated that he has asked former members and members of the education committee to see if they would be interested in being a member. He stated that three responded favorably: Mary Anne Lecos, Jan Auerbach, and Judy Harbeck. Charlie stated that he would prefer someone with young children be selected for the task force. First meeting is scheduled for September. If Charlie doesn't receive any further recommendations, he will appoint the above three mentioned individuals.
- It was mentioned that John Jennison requested appointment to the Tysons Land Use Task Force. Carol stated that the Board of Supervisors has already appointed John as the Task Force Representative.
- Approval of March 8 Board Minutes: Minutes were corrected and approved.

- **Action:** We need to ask Merrily Pierce if funds were ever received for the June 7th Emergency Preparedness Forum.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Scott presented the Treasurer's report. The report was accepted. Carol mentioned that she will provide Scott her outstanding receipts by next meeting.
- The resolution by Merrily Pierce requesting the Board of Supervisors proclaim the month of September as "Fairfax Prepares Month" was discussed, amended and approved.

Committee Reports:

Education (Charles Dane): The current education budget for FY09 is estimated to result in a deficit of \$80M. But, based on the County's projected transfer to FCPS the estimate would result in a deficit of \$116M. School Board will meet next Monday to discuss the budget as well as later start times and all day Monday classes for students

Website (Jeff Parnes): Tania to meet with Jeff at 1:00 on Saturday on Web Transfer. Jeff will continue to maintain independent rights to post updates to website, such as agendas and minutes. Jeff mentioned that he placed the COY pictures for the past several years on the Website. Jeff asked for help in identifying some of the people in the pictures. Please review 2005 COY pictures and provide names to Jeff. He will also add pictures from the June 7th seminar and the Council of Government function at Hunter Mill. K Jeff mentioned that he is planning on adding an electronic membership form that automatically calculates dues. Carol suggested we update our bulletin board at the Packard Center. Carol nominated Esther; she accepted.

District Council Reports:

Braddock District: Art mentioned that the Braddock District-George Mason University group will hold its quarterly meeting in September. Workshops on safety and immigration were held as well as their year end wrap-up picnic.

Sully District: Jeff discussed the Land Use meeting. Only five people attended the meeting. At the September 26th meeting, there will be a candidates' night where all Sully representatives/candidates will be invited to attend.

Financial Review: Art mentioned that the audit team will meet again in September.

Action: Scott to provide receipts for all expenses since taking office in October.

Miscellaneous:

- Carol mentioned that she recently went through the Federation's storeroom at the Packard Center and began cleaning up the files. She stated that George Mason

University will archive the Federation files if desired. The files must be paper. It was mentioned that others want use of the Federation's room at the Packard Center, and we need to clean up our space.

- Jeff will be on vacation the month of August. Charlie agreed to pick up the membership forms during the month of August, and forward

Next board meeting is scheduled for August 30th.

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Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.