

## Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Approved October 15, 2009

The September 2009 Meeting of the Membership of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Jeff Parnes at 7:40 p.m. in the general meeting room of the Packard Center. Present were 18 participants and four representatives from Metro.

### ***Metro - Safety, Future of Metrorail and MetroBus: Route 1 Corridor and Transit to Tyson's Corner.***

Metro was the main program topic with four representatives presenting. The slides used in the presentation will be posted on the Federation's website. The Metro representatives and key points covered that are not in the slides follow:

#### **George Navarre, WMATA**

- Introduced the program, noted that all Metro studies are online at Metro's website, and offered to address neighborhood groups.

#### **Ann Murtha, Manger of Corporate Safety and Analysis:**

- Most injuries result from customers running to catch trains and buses, standing before vehicles are stopped, getting caught in escalators, getting hit by turnstiles when carrying bags, and trying to hold subway car doors open.
- Questions and discussion included the feasibility of national standards for subway components (don't exist; each independent system has its own configuration) and the degree of structural changes between the older subway cars and the newer.

#### **Tom Harrington, Director of Long Range Planning:**

- In the past Metro main focus was building a system; today the main focus is on operating a system.
- Metro's annual ridership growth is about 2-3% for MetroRail and 1-2% for MetroBus.
- The Dulles Corridor completion dates are early 2014 for Phase 1 and as early as 2016 for Phase 2.
- Metro coordinates with the 13 local bus companies, for example through a monthly meeting, and tries to avoid service duplication.
- Plans to increase capacity include the addition of 220 cars on the current system, addition of 128 cars for the Dulles Corridor, and replacement of older cars as they are removed from service.

#### **James Hamre, Director (acting) of Bus Planning:**

- In response to a suggestion that stations could be built at major highway intersections (example I-495 and Route 7) so that passengers could transfer from one highway to the other via the station, this is not practical due to space requirements and cost.
- In response to the question why the Farragut North station does not credit bus transfers, this technology is improving and should be in place at Farragut North soon, provided the board approves.
- In response to a question asking the criteria for Metro expansion, especially regarding BRAC, the criteria are funding by the local jurisdiction, inclusion in the land use plan, and public support as evidenced by the local government. The process is lengthy because of studies, engineering, and construction.

- Regarding bus use of natural gas, 300 buses in the 1500 fleet are natural gas equipped. Only two garages have the infrastructure (such as natural gas storage and higher clearance) to support such vehicles.
- Regarding consideration of dual power buses, these offer no cost advantage here but would require additional infrastructure. Some hybrid buses would offer more flexibility.

**Federation Calendar**

Month	Membership	Board
Sep	17 – Metro	24 - Legislation Package (Tania)
Oct	15 – Legislation Package (Tania)	22
Nov	19 – Tysons Plan	No meeting (note early Dec meeting)
Dec	17 – Storm Water	3
Jan 2010	21 - School Budget Presentation (Charlie)	28
Feb	18 – Open	No meeting (note early March meeting)
Mar	25 - County Budget Presentation (4th Thursday)	4 - Budget
Apr	15 – Report from Federation Appointees & Representatives (Kahan)	22
May	20– Report from Richmond (Selected Fairfax County legislators)	27
Jun	17 – Picnic: State of Fairfax by Sharon Bulova, BOS Chair and Installation of Officers	24

Ideas proposed for the program for the February 2010 membership meeting included an address by Congressman Gerry Connolly and the Greater Washington 2050 Plan. Other ideas are welcomed.

**Organizational Topics | Jeff Parnes**

**Officer and Committee Chair Vacancies:**

Human Services Committee: The chair is still vacant.

Environment—We seek a co-chair to share duties with the current chair.

Audit Committee—We seek third member. Interested persons should contact Bill Hanks

The Bulletin Editor—Carol has indicated that she will serve as editor until June 2010. If you are interested in serving as next The Bulletin editor, please contact either her ([FedBulletinEditor2009@fairfaxfederation.org](mailto:FedBulletinEditor2009@fairfaxfederation.org)) or Jeff ([FedPres2009@fairfaxfederation.org](mailto:FedPres2009@fairfaxfederation.org)).

Co-Recording Secretary—Patty Parker has resigned as Co-Recording Secretary due to sudden job relocation. If you are interested in service by completing her term, please contact Jeff ([FedPres2009@fairfaxfederation.org](mailto:FedPres2009@fairfaxfederation.org)).

**Administrative Topics | Jeff Parnes**

**The Federation Has New Lease for Packard Center Use 2009-2010:**

The Federation is exploring new locations to hold its meetings and store its files as the Packard Center may be closed due to cost of required physical facility upgrades,

Any member who knows of a suitable location should contact our second Vice President, Kahan Dhillon, at [fed2ndvp2009@fairfaxfederation.org](mailto:fed2ndvp2009@fairfaxfederation.org). The Braddock Library (although no county library bears this name, the reference was probably to either Kings Park or Burke Centre) and the Dunn Loring Center were mentioned as possible venues.

### **The Federation's Annual Report and Registration Form Filed for 2009:**

The document is available at <http://fairfaxfederation.org/pdf/090823FCFCACorporationRegistration.pdf>.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

The 18 June 2009 Membership Meetings Minutes, scribed by Esther Ferington, were approved.

### **Treasurer's Report | Scott**

Scott presented a paper-based treasurer's report containing a 9/15/2009 balance sheet, income and expenses report, budget overview, and transaction report. With several new checks received, the balance is about \$9500. The membership received and filed the treasurer's report.

The Hanley portrait has been paid and remains to be picked up. The Federation awaits the board of supervisors' decision on a presentation date.

### **Old Business**

#### **Extending Metro in Northern Virginia | Jeff Parnes**

This spring the board passed a Resolution in support of Congressman Connolly's proposal for extending Metro in Northern Virginia and informed federal and local officials of our position. The document is available at

<http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/committees/Transportation/FCFCAMetrorailLetter&Resolution090727.pdf>.

#### **Tyson's Corner Study | Information provided by John Jennison**

The latest edition of the Planning Commission Roundtable is now available online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/roundtable.pdf>.

The September 2009 program discusses the recently-authorized Tyson's Demonstration Project and how it might impact future planning for Tyson's Corner. Joining Planning Commission Chairman Peter Murphy are his guests: Aaron Georgelas, Partner with The Georgelas Group; Jim Zook, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning; and Ken Lawrence, Providence District Planning Commissioner.

The PC Roundtable is broadcast on Thursdays at 6:30 pm and Wednesdays at 10:30 pm on Fairfax Cable Channel 16 when the Planning Commission is not in session. The Roundtable can also be watched online at [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/pc\\_roundtable.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/pc_roundtable.htm).

### **New Business**

#### **Resolution on Fairfax County Draft Energy Policy | Roger Diedrich**

This resolution was recommended by the Federation Environment Committee and approved by the Federation Board on August 27, 2009 for discussion and adoption by the Federation membership at its September 17, 2009 meeting. The resolution is posted at

[www.fcfa.org/committees/Environment/ResolutionFairfaxCountyDraftEnergyPolicy090827Draft.pdf](http://www.fcfa.org/committees/Environment/ResolutionFairfaxCountyDraftEnergyPolicy090827Draft.pdf).

The resolution was approved with two changes: first, a spelling correction of the word “principal” and second, the final paragraph was revised to read: “THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the policy should also include measures that are non-governmental and promote Cool County and Cool Community for business and citizens.”

### **Resolution in support of naming a section of Accotink Stream Valley in honor of the late Sally Ormsby | Roger Diedrich)**

As requested at the August board meeting, Roger has prepared a resolution in support of naming a section of Accotink Stream Valley in honor of the late Sally Ormsby. The resolution is posted at [www.fcfa.org/resolutions/ResolutionSallyOrmsbyPark090827.pdf](http://www.fcfa.org/resolutions/ResolutionSallyOrmsbyPark090827.pdf). The resolution was approved.

## **Board & Committee Reports**

### **Association Services | Don Hinman**

Property owners associations must file annually. Don will add information about this requirement and process to the Federation web site.

There is concern that the watershed planning process is too lengthy to be carried out effectively by volunteer groups.

A live, call-in cable TV program entitled, “Community, Your Call ‘Managing Finances,’” was broadcast on the Fairfax County Government Channel 16 the night of the Federation meeting. This topic, which is of interest to condominium & homeowner association directors, managers and members, is also presented in the document at <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/pdf/Ch16ManagingFinances.pdf>.

### **Budget | Carey Campbell and Charlie Hall (absent)**

At their request, Kosmos Tatalias and Charlie Dane briefed the Braddock District Council’s Citizen Budget Advisory Committee on the county budget structure and how the Federation Budget Committee approached its review of the budget.

FY 2011 Budge Community Dialogues—Fairfax County is projecting a significant budget deficit for FY 2011 (begins July 1, 2010). Being in the midst of a multi-year, cyclical downturn requires that county decision makers continue to make expenditure and revenue adjustments. Our continuing challenge is to develop a budget with an appropriate level of services that are both sustainable and acceptable to the community. See <http://www.fcfa.org/pdf/FY2011CommunityDialoguesFlyer.pdf>.

Charlie reported that, of the \$100M carryover, the board of supervisors approved replacement of \$18M in the rainy day fund. The \$18M cannot be used in the next budget year for normal operations.

### **Education | Charlie Dane**

The number of positions being cut this year is 788 for the FCPS and about 315-320 for the remainder of the county government.

Several building leases are expiring. An announcement about new leasing decisions is expected about the first of October.

The FCPS expect a shortfall next budget year in the range of \$110M-\$190M.

Dr. Dale will participate in the November meeting of the Federation’s Education Committee.

Kristen Michael, Director of Budget Services, FCPS, will address the January meeting of the Federation membership.

Plans to increase class sizes are constrained in many schools because there is not enough physical space to do so.

The process for hiring school principals includes a discussion with the district's school board member and the three at-large school board members.

## **Environment | Flint Webb**

### **Attended Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA) Harmonizing Greenhouse Gas Assessment and Reporting Processes conference—Co-General Conference Chair—September 1 and 2**

Take home messages:

1. The emissions from Dominion's natural gas operations are within the error bar of the emissions from the electrical generation operations in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent tons – but are much harder to quantify.
2. Fence-line monitoring indicates that fugitive (emissions from leaks) emission factors appear to be under estimating actual fugitive emissions by a factor of over 10. But when one considers that these emissions account for a small fraction of the overall emissions this may not be a real issue.
3. Mass balance emission factors (which are the way the National GHG emissions are calculated) estimate lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions than are measured by stack continuous emission monitors by about 20%.

### **Attended the Fairfax Environmental Meeting September 9**

1. **Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Act is up for re-authorization:** Senator Cardin (MD) is sponsoring legislation. Congressman Gerry Connolly has a storm water bill. Obama administration has issued an executive order.
2. **HOT Lanes:**
  - a. Construction was stopped for a few days because the stream damage caused by 495 HOT lane construction. HOT lane construction is more protective than VDOT standards but is inadequate for protecting the streams. For pictures see: <http://www.accotink.org/HOT.htm>.
  - b. Fairfax Restoration Group to improve storm water controls.
  - c. I-95/I-395 HOT lane project stopped apparently due to funding issues. But have also been sued by Arlington.

### **Attended the Fairfax Environmental Quality Advisory Committee (EQAC) meeting September 9**

Fairfax County had been managing a number of air quality monitoring sites in the County using funds from Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) which in part came from the Federal Government. Because of funding issues the County handed over responsibilities for the monitors to DEQ directly. DEQ has continued to manage the monitors this year, thanks to stimulus funds, but plans on shutting down some if not all next year. They will first analyze the data to make sure the data are not distinct from data from other monitors. DEQ is also required to keep the monitor with the highest readings operating. The Mount Vernon monitor (one of the Fairfax monitors) has traditionally had the

highest ozone reading in the County so it will probably be taken over by the State. I suggested they look carefully at the Chantilly monitor because it may show the effect of the new runway at Dulles Airport. Which monitors DEQ plans on discontinuing will be identified in the Network plan which will come out around July next year. The Network Plan will go to public notice (but you have to let DEQ know you are interested to get a copy). To get on the mailing list for the Network Plan, Contact Charles Turner, Director, Office of Air Quality Monitoring, DEQ CLTurner@deq.virginia.gov.

**Attended Virginia Manufacturer Association's Virginia Industrial Environmental Conference representing the A&WMA as the Vice Chair of the South Atlantic States Section on September 17th**

The A&WMA was given an exhibitor's space in exchange for helping set up a panel on Environmental Management Systems.

Take Home Messages:

1. In mid- September, EPA announced that they will be revising the 8-hour ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) promulgated by the Bush Administration. (The ozone concentrations are measured hourly but the standard is based on a rolling 8-hour average of the hourly readings). EPA indicated that they will be re-opening both the primary standard (designed to protect human health) and the secondary standard (designed to protect the economy and natural resources). The scientific advisory board had recommended the 8-hour O<sub>3</sub> NAAQS in the 60-70 ppb (parts per billion) range for the primary standard and a season total ozone exposure standard for the secondary standard because of low crop yields caused by high concentrations over the summer growing season. But the Bush administration set the primary and secondary standard at 75 ppb. In the announcement yesterday EPA signaled that they would likely be setting the standards in accordance to the science advisory board's recommendations. If the NAAQS were to be set at 65 ppb there is only one monitor in the entire state that would meet the standard. EPA will be proposing a new NAAQS in December. With promulgation August 2010. The new State Implementation Plan (SIP) (the plan developed by the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) to meet the NAAQS) would be due December 2013.
2. EPA is also looking at revising the NO<sub>2</sub> (nitrogen dioxide) NAAQS but there is no indication yet what that will look like—just that it is likely to be more stringent than the current standard. Washington area is now in attainment of the current NO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. One concern with the new standard is that EPA is proposing to include road-side monitors which could be a problem for the County. The last time road-side monitors were used was with the old lead NAAQS, back when we were still using leaded gasoline.
3. EPA has also recently revised the lead (Pb) NAAQS. DEQ is pretty confident that the new NAAQS is not being exceeded in the state, but DEQ discontinued the monitors several years ago because for many years readings were consistently far below the previous standard. But EPA will be mandating that DEQ have at least some monitors. Virginia is likely to be designated "Unclassifiable" because of the lack of data.
4. EPA is overdue with their designations under the fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) or particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 microns or less NAAQS promulgated by the Bush administration. Contrary to the science advisory board recommendations the Bush administration set the 24-hour NAAQS at 35 micrograms/m<sup>3</sup> and kept the annual standard at 15 micrograms/m<sup>3</sup>. It appears that the Washington Metro area will be designated attainment for the 24-hour NAAQS. But in another move yesterday (September 16<sup>th</sup>) EPA announced that they will be following the recommendations of the science advisory board to lower the annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> NAAQS to the 12-15 micrograms/m<sup>3</sup> range. In Virginia there are a number of monitors that would fall in that range,

but DEQ was not ready to say what the effect would be if the EPA were to set the NAAQS at this level for the Washington Metro area.

5. Approximately 1/3 of the nitrogen load in the Chesapeake Bay is due to deposition from the air so it is likely that the water programs will require additional controls on air emission sources for NOx (oxides of nitrogen).
6. The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) standards for the Bay are being revised using stimulus funding. There is a lot of attention to cleaning up the Bay. It looks like the TMDLs may not be more stringent, but the Best Management Practices (BMPs) are less effective than previously thought so it will be harder to get to the TMDL.
7. DEQ has been revising the TMDLs for a number of streams in the state under a consent decree. But they have not made much progress developing the Implementation Plans and even less progress actually implementing the implementation plan.
8. Virginia is in the process of developing a Water Resource Plan which would set the procedures to follow in the event of a drought. Due to global warming it is expected that while the State is expected to get more rainfall, the models are also predicting longer droughts and more intense storm events.
9. ExxonMobil (E-M) is advocating a revenue neutral carbon tax rather than a cap and trade mechanism for controlling greenhouse gases (GHGs). The concept is that the tax would be applied at the point of the supplier and be passed on to consumers and then the revenue would be distributed back to the citizens on a per capita basis which would counter the regressive nature of the carbon tax. Industry that sequestered the carbon, in for instance making asphalt, would get tax credit. E-M thinks that this would be much easier to administer and would give a more predictable price signal which would help industry plan efficiently.
10. EPA is set to regulate GHGs under the existing Clean Air Act programs. They have proposed regulating GHGs from automobiles (as ordered by the Supreme Court) through the Endangerment Finding. Any regulated pollutant must be covered by the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program and by the Title V or Facility air quality permits. The PSD regulations require that all new sources over 50 tons per year must be regulated. The Title V regulations require that all sources with a potential to emit more than 100 tons per year must be regulated. EPA has stated that they intend to only regulate sources with over 25,000 tons per year of emissions. But the limit is arbitrary and likely to be overthrown in the Courts requiring that they regulate down to the traditional PSD and Title V thresholds. This is everyone's nightmare scenario and it is hoped that Congress will promulgate legislation that will clarify what EPA should do to regulate GHGs. All the proposed legislation does clarify that GHGs should not be regulated under PSD and Title V, but unfortunately the bills are not moving and Health Care has "sucked all the oxygen" out of the room.

## **Human Services | Position vacant**

### **Land Use | Fred Costello**

The Land Use Committee is working on three items of countywide importance.

- The County is considering assuming the responsibility for settlement ponds, in particular at the request of the Kingstowne development for its ponds. Questions: Will Kingstowne reimburse the county? How will the county react if other associations request the same transfer of responsibility?
- Some Federation member organizations estimate that the development of Tyson's Corner may absorb all of the County's infrastructure and bond capacity for the next 50 years so that no other development or re-development will be possible

□ According to the South County Federation and a Chronicle Newspapers article (<http://www.chroniclnewspapers.com/articles/2009/08/13/news/viewpoints/view01.txt>), the county appears to be in violation of its policy of transparency, as the County held secret meetings to open a new landfill in the Lorton area. Opening a new landfill violates a 2004 County policy. The proceedings of the secret meetings were discovered only after a Freedom of Information Act filing.

## **Legislation | Tania Hossain (absent)**

### **Membership | Charlie and Tania (absent)**

Transfer of the chairmanship from Charlie to Tania is pending. Charlie reports that 24 membership checks have been deposited, four more have recently been given to the treasurer, and associations report that another five checks will be received soon.

### **Public Safety | Gail Parker**

The Federation Public Safety Chair attended a Mount Vernon District Safety Meeting on September 8. The Fairfax County Police advised of conducting two vehicle inspection stops in South Fairfax County. During the exercise 95% of the trucks stopped had to be taken out of service due to safety issues. One commercial truck was sporting a safety sticker registered to an automobile.

Additional item: As a member and Virginia Vice Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to the Washington DC Metropolitan Area's Transportation Planning Board (TPB), the Public Safety Chair attended a TPB meeting on Sep 16, presented the CAC's report and notes that the TPB voted to support a public-private effort to expand freight capacity in the Washington DC train corridor. The private company proposed to fund \$390M of the effort and a Stimulus Fund grant request of \$160M is being supported. An estimated \$250M may be required in local funding from Maryland, the District, and Virginia combined. Thirteen projects in Maryland, the District, and Virginia have been identified as necessary to expand capacity and speed to enable the rail lines to accommodate the dramatic increase in freight expected as a result of the new water port in the Hampton Roads area. Without these improvements to expand capacity it will be necessary to truck the freight across Virginia to its destination and to drastically increase freight staging in the District and Virginia.

The Public Safety Committee recommends the Federation strongly support these initiatives as local funding will likely be required.

### **Resolutions | Bill Hanks**

Regarding the revision of Federation policy and procedures guidance, Bill reported that revisions by members Hanks and Fee are under review; total rewrite of Citizen of the Year attachment is pending input from John Jennison; and updating of web site management attachment is pending input from Jeff Parnes.

### **Transportation | Roger Hoskin (absent) and Carey Campbell (absent)**

Jeff attended The Alliance's 5th What You Need to Know about Transportation Seminar at Capital One in McLean on 9 September 2009. The seminar attracted over 200 attendees, including numerous state and local officials. Expert panelists and their topics were:

- Virginia Transportation Secretary, Pierce R. Homer -- What's Next on I-66 and Virginia's Transportation Funding Crisis Update
- WMATA Director of Long Range Planning, Tom Harrington -- Meeting Metro's Maintenance Challenge

- Virginia Railway Express CEO, Dale Zehner -- VRE to Gainesville and Haymarket
- VDOT Regional Transportation Director, Ronaldo Nicholson, P.E. -- I-95 Corridor Update
- VDOT Chief District Construction Engineer, John D. Lynch, P.E. -- Status of Major Stimulus and Other Key Transportation Projects
- WARD Legal Counsel, C. Lee Fifer -- Phase II Dulles Rail Commercial Tax District Update
- Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance President, Bob Chase -- Surface Transportation Inaccessibility Threatens Dulles Airport's Economic Potential

To view the presentations from the event held, visit the Alliance website at <http://www.nvta.org/content.asp?contentid=1887>.

### **Website | Jeff Parnes**

Committee chairs should work with Jeff and Kosmos to build out their areas of the web site.

### ***District Council Reports***

#### **Braddock | Art Wells**

As reported by the Budget Committee above, Kosmos and Charlie gave a good brief to the district's Budget Advisory Committee on the county budget and how to analyze it.

GMU and the Braddock district council will host a forum in October on local issues. The regular district council meeting will be held on the second Tuesday of October.

#### **Dranesville—N/A**

#### **Hunter Mill—N/A**

#### **Lee | Don Hinman**

The Springfield Mall revitalization plan has been approved by the Board of Supervisors.

#### **Mason | Roger Hoskins—No report**

#### **Mt. Vernon | Karen Pohorylo—Absent**

#### **Providence | Charles Hall**

Door-to-door solicitations are up; as are arrests for illegal soliciting.

#### **Springfield | Mike Thompson—Absent**

#### **Sully | Jeff Parnes**

On September 23 the Sully District Council (SDC) will be briefed on Fire and Rescue activities in the District.

The SDC will hold its candidates night on 28 October and has invited all 10 candidates for the House of Delegates.

### ***Closing Announcements:***

#### **The 39th annual International Children's Festival**

This festival, produced by the Arts Council of Fairfax County, is returning to Wolf Trap on September 19th and 20th. Buy Your Festival Tickets Early! New this year is a 20% Discount: \$8 for adults and \$4 for seniors & children (children 2 and under are free). Ticket information is available at <http://internationalchildrensfestival.org/tickets>.

#### **Fairfax Committee of 100's Next Program - Monday, September 21:**

Meet the author as he discusses his book: [The Fight for Fairfax: A Struggle for a Great American County](#). [The Fight for Fairfax](#) presents the story of a group of local citizens in Fairfax County, Virginia, and their efforts over the past half-century to invent a place that would be more than simply a Washington, D.C., suburb. Told from the group's point of view, the book chronicles their vision of Fairfax and the steps they took to bring it to life. The group faced many opponents, including populist politicians and anti-growth forces, and this book examines those clashes as part of the overall story. Reservations and more information are available at <http://www.fairfaxcommittee100.org/>.

### ***Adjournment***

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

### ***Next Meetings***

The next membership meeting is scheduled October 15, 2009, at 7:30 p.m.

The next board meeting is scheduled September 24, 2009, at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Co-Recording Secretary