

Membership Meeting Minutes

Packard Center, 4022 Hummer Road, Annandale
Thursday, March 25, 2010

Approved April 15, 2010

The March 2010 Meeting of the Membership of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by First Vice President Tania Hossain at 7:35 p.m. in the general meeting room of the Packard Center. The attendance list is attached to file copy.

Program: The Fairfax Fiscal Year 2011 Advertised Budget | Joe Mondoro, Assistant Director, Department of Management and Budget

Mr. Mondoro gave a detailed overview of the advertised budget and answered questions about the decisions made in reaching the various budget positions. He used the 37-slide presentation that the County Executive used to brief the Board of Supervisors on February 23.

(http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2011/advertised/cex_slide_presentation_fy2011_advertised.pdf)

Some key points that are not necessarily evident in the slides included:

- Fairfax County presently does not know precisely what the Commonwealth's budget means for the county. The Virginia budget is structured by program; each program has to be dissected to determine the effects on various local governments.
- The March 8, 2008, presentation to the Board of Supervisors on the budget describes the growth of the budget from FY 2001 to FY 2008 in such areas as schools, public safety, human health, new programs, and post-9/11 security upgrades.
(http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/advertised/fy2009/budget_workshop/fy2001_fy2008.pdf)
- The Land Development staff is handling fewer permits than in prior years, but other factors have tended to increase workload, such as greater complexity of projects, environmental considerations, and support of code enforcement and participation in the county strike team. In response to a request, Joe said he would determine if there are records, such as time sheet codes, that expose how much effort has been devoted to the office's various responsibilities over recent years.
- Juvenile incarcerations are down, saving money and indicating that prevention efforts have been successful and cost-effective. Adult detentions are down slightly. In the past the Commonwealth has provided funding for prisoners incarcerated locally beyond one year. Beginning in 2011 the state funding in support of local incarcerations will not begin until a prisoner has complete two years of incarceration, thus increasing county funding responsibility.

Old Business

Citizen of the Year Banquet | Chair, John Jennison; reporting tonight, Jeff Parnes

Governor McDonnell will be the keynote speaker at the Citizen of the Year Banquet, which will be held May 2 at the Crowne Plaza Tysons Corner Hotel. SAIC has partnered with the Federation as the primary sponsor. Formal invitations will be distributed in mid-April. Anyone who wishes to attend and has not received an invitation by April 20 should contact the Citizen of the Year Committee Chair at fedcoychr@fairfaxfederation.org.

The selection committee has named the 2009 Citizen of the Year: Meriwether Lewis Clark Tyler. Citations of Merit Honorees are Harrison A. (Harry) Glasgow, James B. (Jim) Southworth, and Drew Tener. Information about their contributions to the county is available in the Federation's Special Bulletin Number 1, March 2010.

New Business

Resolutions Package, Fairfax County Advertised Fiscal Year 2011 Budget and FY 2011-2015 Capital Improvement Program | Charles Hall

Background: The Budget Committee under the leadership of Chair Charles Hall and augmented by other committee chairs presented a draft resolutions package to the Federation Board on March 18. The board approved the resolutions package with some changes directed and asked the budget committee to research several areas before finishing the resolutions. The committee prepared the revised resolutions package and presented it at this meeting.

The Federation thanked the hard working members of the Budget Committee and other Federation committees who assisted in preparing this package: Charles Hall (the chair and budget process), Kosmo Tatalias (the consolidator and editor, capital improvement plan, revenue, and concluding resolution), Charles Dane (education and Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board), Fred Costello (land use and pension funds), Flint Webb (environment, health department, and transportation), Roger Diedrich (transportation), and Tania Hossain (library and human services). Many people have assisted; we apologize to anyone whose name may be omitted.

President Parnes passed the gavel to Budget Committee Chair Charles Hall for this portion of the meeting. Charles led the membership through a review of the 19-page resolution package, assisted by section authors who summarized their sections. The membership asked questions and proposed amendments. Friendly amendments (those acceptable to the author) were accepted without vote because the entire package was to be voted as a unit. Other amendment suggestions, if moved and seconded, were voted. Participants voted based on the size of the association represented. By Federation bylaws, associations with 1 to 100 members are authorized one representative (vote); with 101 to 1000 members, 2 votes; and over 1000 members, 3 votes.

Key points from the discussion follow:

- Kosmo described the background and overview sections. The package is divided into sections, most by budget area. Most sections have two parts: background material and resolution. The background material is for internal Federation use; only the resolutions will be sent to the elected officials in a smaller document. Both versions will be posted on the Federation web site.
- Charles Dane described the Education and the County Support for FCPS Programs sections. There was discussion why the Federation's budget committee proposed a restoration of county transfer to be 0.5% less than last year compared to the 1% less in the advertised budget. An amendment to recommend the full 1% restoration, but only if additional funds were available, failed to pass by a vote of 9-13.
- Charles Dane introduced a new section, not previously reviewed by the board, recommending restoration of \$1.735 million for the Falls Church Community Services Board. This subject does not fit into the current section structure and was added as a new section.
- Tania Hossain described Human Services; the Federation agrees with the advertised budget.
- Flint, who had written the Environment and Health Department sections, was not present. The Stormwater, Parks, and Health Department resolutions were reviewed with minor grammatical changes made to the Parks resolution.
- Flint and Roger, who had written the Transportation section, were not present. The membership made a technical correction, to change the amount of requested increase to support Fund 100 (to restore funds previously received from the Dulles Corridor Grant for bus service) from \$4.5 million to \$3.9 million. The members also asked the budget committee to identify the bus lines involved.
- Fred Costello described the Land Use section. The savings proposed from reduction of the Land Development Services was changed from "approximately" \$10 million to "up to" \$10 million.
- Charles Hall had written the Public Safety section, which was accepted as written with one addition. Kahan Dhillion proposed to restore \$250,000 for juvenile probation officers for the BETA program, a recommendation also made by the Mount Vernon District Council.
- Tania described the Library resolution. The text will be amended to show that the Federation proposes the restoration of 65 positions out of 81 proposed for elimination.
- Fred described the Pension section.

- Kosmo described the Capital Improvement Program section. In the affordable housing paragraph, it was not yet determined what the Executive would propose regarding the \$10 million proposed in the Housing Blueprint for a new program. It was agreed that the County Executive's budget proposal for this item must be determined and that if funding was proposed by the County Executive, the Federation would not recommend finding money for it. An amendment was proposed that if funds for this item are not in the budget, the Federation would recommend adding the \$10 million. This amendment failed by a vote of 5 for and 9 against. A second amendment was proposed that if the funds are not in the budget, the Federation would recommend adding the \$10 million should funds be available. This amendment passed by a vote of 10 for and 8 against.
- In the Concluding resolution, the membership voted to recommend a residential property tax rate of \$1.10 per \$100 of assessed value, by a vote of 12 for and 9 against.
- The budget process resolution received friendly amendments that standardized its structure and clarified its meaning.

At the end of the resolution package review and revision process, the membership voted to adopt the resolution package by a vote of 17 for and 6 against.

The next steps for the Federation's resolution package are:

1. Section editors will provide revised copy to Kosmo
2. Kosmo will send the final package to Jeff Parnes
3. Jeff will post on the Federation's web site
4. Carol Hawn will format the package
5. Jeff will send it to the Board of Supervisors and other elected officials
6. Jeff will testify before the Board of Supervisors

Board & Committee Reports

The 2011 advertised budget presentation and the review of the Federation's budget resolution package consumed the entire meeting; therefore there were no verbal board or committee reports. The two reports below were submitted in writing for publication in the minutes.

Association Services | Don Hinman

Don thanks Charlie Dane, Ed Wyse, and Flint Webb for supplying or arranging to get him examples of civic association governing documents. This has been helpful and is appreciated. Documents from additional Federation members will be even more helpful. Don is now assisting an additional civic association in its formation.

Braddock District Council (BDC) | Art Wells

On March 9, the BDC monthly meeting featured presentations by members of the county's Department of Management and Budget who discussed the highlights of the FY 2011 county and school advertised budgets. This meeting was the first of four town hall meetings on the budget scheduled in Braddock District. Chairman Bulova, Supervisor Cook, and Park Authority Director John Dargle, Jr. participated.

The first session of the Braddock District Community Engagement Initiative's second "Neighborhood College" was held on March 24th with additional sessions scheduled March 31 and April 7, 14, 17, 21, and 28 at Supervisor Cook's office at Kings Park Library.

The Braddock District Council meeting on April 13th will be a legislative forum featuring Northern Virginia members of the General Assembly.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 p.m.

Next Meetings

The next membership meeting is scheduled April 15, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.

The next board meeting is scheduled April 22, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary