

Board Meeting Minutes

Packard Center, 4022 Hummer Road, Annandale
Thursday, April 22, 2010

Approved May 27, 2010

The April 2010 Meeting of the Board 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: Fred Costello, Charles Dane, Charles Hall, Bill Hanks, Gail Parker, Jeff Parnes, Scott Schlegel, Flint Webb, Art Wells, and Ed Wyse.

Calendar

Month	Membership	Board	Newsletter Deadline
May	20– Report from Richmond (Selected Fairfax County legislators)	27	Apr 30
Jun	17 – Picnic: State of Fairfax by Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Board of Supervisors (BOS), and Installation of Officers	24	May 28

Administrative Topics

Minutes - Ed Wyse - The board accepted the minutes of the March 18, 2010, board meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Scott Schlegel - Scott gave a verbal report and distributed a handout containing the balance sheet, income and expense sheet, transaction list, budget performance, and membership list as of the meeting date. There was a suggestion to ask SAIC now for their Citizen of the Year Banquet sponsorship donation; the decision was to wait until after the banquet. The long awaited replacement check for dues from Oak Hill still has not been received. A motion to receive and file the report was made, seconded, and adopted/approved unanimously.

Bulletin/Newsletter - Carol Hawn - Absent

Reported via agenda: Newsletter articles are due 30 April.

Officer and Board Vacancies and Appointments - Jeff Parnes

The Federation seeks representatives for Criminal Justice Advisory Board and Engineering Standards Review Committee. Nominations should be sent to President Jeff Parnes or 2nd Vice President Kahan Dhillion. Flint Webb volunteered to serve as representative to the Engineering Standards Review Committee if another candidate could not be found.

At the June meeting Tania Hossain will introduce David Mattoon, who has volunteered to serve as the Human Services chair.

Fred has volunteered to take over as Bulletin editor when Carol steps down after the June 2010 bulletin.

Nominations for Officer Positions – Chair, John Jennison; reporting Jeff Parnes

Nominations will be announced in April, elections will be held May 20, and installation of new officers will occur in June at our Annual Picnic.

Old Business

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

We need to drum up attendees! Only 27 reservations have been received so far! Board members were asked to “spread the net further” regarding invitations.

John sought a volunteer to walk thru banquet details with Heather at the Crown Plaza regarding items such as registration table, outside announcement board, dessert choice, final numbers and meal selections, display tables for sponsors, and bar location. Bill Hanks volunteered.

Carol is working on the Citizen of the Year Program.

The cup, formerly called The Washington Star Cup and The Washington Post Cup, will be called “The Fairfax Federation Citizen of the Year Cup.”

The first draft agenda is under revision so that the initial welcome and keynote will not be followed by awards and then dinner, but rather by dinner followed by awards. It is still not resolved who will make the presentations; we will ask the supervisors of the districts from which the winners hail, provided those supervisors are attending.

Tyson’s Corner Presentation—Charlie Hall

After the chair of the Tysons Corner Land Use Task Force briefed a membership meeting, representatives of the Greater Tyson’s Citizens Coalition and the MCA’s P&Z Committee asked to make a presentation to a spring Federation membership meeting. We invited them to the April meeting; unfortunately they could not attend that date.

These groups and the Fairfax County Planning Commission’s Tysons Corner Special Committee are proposing to alter the duration of the plan period proposed by the task force to focus in the first twenty years and to specifically concentrate development then near the four planned Metro stations. While this approach appears to have merit, there has been little time to study and discuss it. Consequently Charlie Hall and Fred Costello wrote a letter for the Federation to state its position: that the idea has merit but deserves some consideration before the Board of Supervisors decides how to proceed. Currently the planning commission’s markup meeting is scheduled for May 12. (Tysons schedule is at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/tysons_docs/tysonscommitteeschedule.pdf.) Unfortunately, that will be before the May Federation members meeting.

The Planning Commission’s Tysons Corner Committee is strongly for the staged planning approach, and we’ve been advised that the larger commission favors it, as well, but many options remain on the table. Especially since we stop short of a full endorsement, Charlie and Fred think the draft letter as written carries a clear sentiment that we want this approach examined closely before a final decision is made and such examination would be genuinely of value to the commission. At the very least, we could submit in writing in plenty of time as the Planning Commission works on a final planning document. The timing of the May membership meeting is ideal for a follow-up resolution/letter before the board decides. By that time, we should have a more solid indication of where the Planning Commission is going, and be able to submit a clearer recommendation for action to the membership. But Charlie thinks an early statement of values in our draft letter has real value now.

Discussion provided these points to be incorporated into the letter: (1) that the Federation applauds and supports the task force’s vision; (2) that we wish to insure that sufficient housing near the Metro stations is included in the first twenty years; (3) that we wish to insure commitment to plan for transportation, and (4) that the grid concept outside the Metro stations’ areas not be compromised by interim development. The motion to approve the letter with amendments was approved by a voice vote. Board members will take these actions: Charlie and Fred will revise the letter this weekend and send to Jeff; Jeff will post the draft letter to the Federation forum for a 24-hour review; and the motion will be voted electronically.

John Jennison reported (via agenda) that the April 2010 edition of the Planning Communicator Newsletter is now available online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/newsletters.htm>. The current issue presents an in-depth look at the Tysons Corner Plan as well as APR and land use updates.

New Business

Public Safety Resolution on Virginia Avenue Railroad Tunnel – Gail Parker

Gail introduced a resolution that expresses the Federation’s support of the Virginia Avenue Tunnel project and the National Gateway Initiative and that urges Virginia’s elected officials at all levels to influence funding for the Virginia Avenue Tunnel project. The Virginia Avenue Tunnel in the District of Columbia is a railroad choke point where the rail is reduced to a single track and where the clearance is too low to permit double-stacking of cargo. The chokepoint delays trains and limits the volume of material that can be carried by train versus other methods such as truck. This particular tunnel project, part of the larger initiative to upgrade cargo rail facilities in the mid-Atlantic, is currently unfunded. Gail’s subject matter expert is a CSX representative who works with the Council of Government’s Freight committee. She reports he is willing to get us a briefing (with a little notice) on the National Gateway Initiative, if we wish.

A motion to approve the resolution was made, seconded, and approved unanimously. Gail will edit the resolution with minor suggestions made in this meeting and submit it for publication in The Bulletin and consideration at the next membership meeting.

Board & Committee Reports

Association Services - Don Hinman—absent

Budget - Carey Campbell—absent—and Charlie Hall—present but did not report

Charles Dane reported. The BOS's mark-up adopted several Federation positions on the County Budget. The markup restored funding for the Middle School Resource Officers, the Mt Vernon swimming pool, some library hours, athletic field maintenance, and night time court and practice field lighting. The BOS also restored the previously proposed Connector route reductions and a significant number of the Fairfax County/Falls Church Community Service Board activities. In addition, the markup recommends that the "BOS and School Board work together to take advantage of historically low construction costs and interest rates by exploring ways to accelerate projects on the School CIP".

Education - Charlie Dane

The BOS's markup of the FY 2011 budget reduced the FCPS transfer request by \$16.3M. Therefore, to fund fully the Advertized Budget, the School Board will have to reduce the proposed \$61.3M reserve (established to address a projected FY2012 shortfall of at least \$100M), make significant reduction in the Advertized Budget, or undertake a combination of these actions. The Education Committee recognized that the fiscally prudent approach would be to keep the reserve, but also believes a \$16.3M reduction in programs would significantly impact the quality of education in Fairfax County. Charlie anticipates that the Education Committee will propose some reductions and support partial restoration of some programs while taking most of the \$16.3M from the reserve. In fact, the BOS's language in their budget markup anticipates that decision by the School Board.

Environment - Flint Webb

Flint attended the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on 13 April along with Ana Prados, the Federation's representative on the TAC, and submits the following report. Sunil Kumar presented the PowerPoint presentation that Flint handed out at the Fairfax Environmental Network (FEN) meeting yesterday. Flint learned:

- 1) The County has already stopped maintaining the monitors except for the Mount Vernon monitor and the Tapered Element Oscillating Microbalance (TEOM) monitor in Annandale. (The TEOM monitor is used for forecasting particulate matter compliance, and it can give you an instantaneous measurement that is not as accurate as the Federal Reference Method (FRM) monitors.)
- 2) The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is continuing to maintain the FRM PM monitor at Lee District Park and will eventually move take over the TEOM measurements when Fairfax County stops.
- 3) Slide 4 of Sunil's presentation shows the minimum number of monitors for metropolitan areas. Metropolitan areas of our size should have a minimum of 3 ozone monitors, 3 FRM monitors, and 2 TEOM monitors. Before the elimination of the Fairfax monitors we have 18 ozone monitors, 12 FRM monitors, and 3 TEOM monitors. After the elimination of the Fairfax County monitors there will remain 14 ozone, 10 FRM and 3 TEOM monitors.
- 4) The Lee District Park monitor is 2 miles from the Mount Vernon monitor and the Cub Run ozone monitor on the western edge of the county is 9 miles from the Sterling monitor.
- 5) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has cut back on their grants to states to maintain monitoring networks, but has increased the requirements for monitors by requiring new NO², SO² and lead monitors. The NO² monitors will need to be near major traffic corridors and the SO² monitors will need to be near sources of SO² (which probably means the Mirant Potomac River power plant).
- 6) Charles Turner stated that they will be collecting air toxics at the Lee District Park location. It is not mentioned on Sunil's slides but I think air toxics are a critical piece in understanding air quality health risks and may even be more important in the long run than criteria pollutants (the criteria pollutants are ozone (made in a reaction between photochemical reactive volatile organic compounds (VOC), and oxides of nitrogen (Kn^{ox})), NO², SO², PM (currently PM with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 microns or less (PM_{2.5})), CO, and lead).

What still disturbs Flint are:

1) The Mount Vernon monitor has consistently shown higher values than the Lee District Park monitor. On this point Charles Turner (Director, Air Quality Monitoring for DEQ) said, "Long term differences between Lee Park and Mount Vernon are not statistically significant." Looking at the design values on slide 7 of Sunil's presentation it looks like the design values were ~2 ppb (parts per billion) higher in 2003-2005 (~2%), 1 ppb higher in the 2004-2006 period (~1%), 3 ppb higher in 2005-2007 (~3%), and 1 ppb higher in 2006-2008 (~1%). For the 2002-2004 and 2007-2009 period they appear to be the same.

2) The Mount Vernon monitor has Northern Virginia's and the Region's highest design value (the measure used to determine whether the region is in attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). The current ozone NAAQS is 75 ppb and all but the Chantilly (or Cub Run) monitors have been reading over the NAAQS. U.S. EPA has proposed that they will be setting the new ozone NAAQS at between 60-70 ppb which will mean that all the monitors will be reading non-attainment. (In fact I understand that if they set the standard at 60 ppb there isn't a monitor in the USA that will be in attainment.)

3) The McLean FRM monitor has a design value of 12.7 ug/m³ (micrograms per cubic meter) - the third highest in the region, and the highest value in northern Virginia for the annual PM NAAQS. The Lee District Park FRM has been reading only just above 12 ug/m³. The annual average PM NAAQS is 15 ug/m³. However, the Lee District Park has been reading the highest for the 24-hour PM NAAQS at 31 ug/m³ (the highest value in the region is 32 ug/m³ and the NAAQS is 35 ug/m³). It is also important to point out that it was the 24-hour NAAQS that has not been in attainment most recently.

4) U.S. EPA has acknowledged that the region has demonstrated that they have "clean data" recently (meaning that the area has been meeting the NAAQS recently) but they still haven't acted on our PM State Implementation Plan that we submitted in 2007 and don't plan to be acting on it any time soon.

In summary, while I don't like that the highest reading ozone monitor will soon be going away; I understand the economic necessities and concede that the data is probably not significantly different than the Lee District Park monitor. I am glad that they will continue to be collecting both FRM and TEOM data in Fairfax County and concede that if only one FRM monitor can be kept, the Lee District Park monitor would be the one to keep. I am glad that DEQ will be collecting air toxics information at the Lee District Park.

The comment period will end April 30th. The DEQ web site address to find more information and to enter comments is <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/air/permitting/monitoring.htm>.

Ana adds:

1) Note that Lee District Park will have a total of three monitors, ozone, PM2.5 daily (FRM), and PM2.5 hourly (TEOM)

2) The part that I didn't like is that some of the folks at the meeting asked for "public support" for this. I argued that if they really want public support, it won't be easy and that they should come up with some dollar amounts for all the money they will presumably be saving.

3) The MDE folks (Maryland Department of the Environment), who are usually the good guys (at least compared to VA DEQ) were on DEQ's side, emphasizing how the DC metro area has so many more monitors than any other region in the southeast and how we've monitored so much more than other areas in the past, and how letting go of the monitors won't affect attainment or public health. I didn't ask this question because there was not time, but my response to that would have been: If these additional monitors are so useless, why were they put there in the first place by the county and DEQ? Obviously, at some point, someone thought they would be beneficial.

4) It is a shame that this monitoring will be discontinued but I do not think we can get DEQ or the County to put the monitors back in because they are legally not required to do so.

Human Services - position vacant

Land Use - Fred Costello—There is only one addition to the report given at last week's Membership meeting: Jeff and Fred attended the Dulles Area Transportation Association's presentation by Dr. Sam Staley, Director of Urban and Land Use Policy at the Reason Foundation. Staley favors locally controlled

road pricing to fund roads to accommodate the spider-web patterns of development, because families need spontaneous, point-to-point mobility that is available only with automobiles. Privately, Staley told Fred that hub-type cities arise because of their economic efficiency; however, hubs are bad for transportation. Linear cities are just as efficient but do not have the transportation problems.

Legislation - Tania Hossain—absent

Reported via the agenda: Tania is updating the Federation's Legislative Program with General Assembly activities.

Membership - Tania Hossain—absent

Public Safety – G. Gail Parker—no report

Resolutions - Bill Hanks—no report

Transportation - Roger Hoskin—absent—and Carey Campbell—absent

Jeff Parnes reported that he attended the April 19 I-66 Common Sense Approach forum at the Government Center. Congressman Wolfe strongly supports bus rapid transit (BRT) over a rail option for I-66 and BRT was the primary subject of the evening. State Senator Marsden pointed out that there is no funding for any option. The BRT information included suggestions to allow busses on shoulder lanes and to equipment them with Wi-Fi access.

Delegate LeMunyon proposed using electronic sign boards to report the status of parking at Metro facilities. Jeff Parnes pointed out that the highway and ramp layouts and sign and parking lot placements would deliver information to drivers too late for them to act on that information to improve their ability to find alternate parking.

Website - Jeff Parnes—no report

District Council Reports

Braddock - Art Wells

The Braddock District Council's April 13th meeting featured Supervisors Cook's discussion of recent Board of Supervisors actions and Fairfax County Government activities and a panel of General Assembly members from the area: three delegates and three senators. The panel discussed the issues taken up during the recently completed session, budget and transportation being the two main topics.

The issue of the Virginia Department of Transportation's responsibility for mowing the medians of major thoroughfares continues to be a major subject of BDC concern. The membership vote on several options resulted in the decision to pursue the changing of mowing laws and regulations by coordinating with our representatives in the General Assembly. A meeting will be held in May to organize this effort.

The Wakefield Chapel Transportation Safety Community will hold its next meeting on April 29, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Wakefield Forest Elementary School on Iva Lane.

The next George Mason/Braddock District/Fairfax City Forum will be May 5, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Fairfax City Hall. The agenda includes transportation issues, the Route 123/Braddock Road intersection, and the University Mall upgrade.

The Braddock District Community Engagement Initiative's second "Neighborhood College" held its fifth and sixth of seven scheduled 2 ½ hour sessions in the Burke Commons and Supervisors Cook's offices at the Kings Park Library on April 17 and 21. The seventh and final "graduation" session will be on April 28th at the Kings Park Library.

The next meeting of the Braddock District Council will be on May 11th at Braddock Hall in the Kings Park Library.

Hunter Mill - N/A

Lee - Don Hinman—absent

Mason - Roger Hoskin—absent

Mount Vernon - Karen Pohorylo—absent

Providence - Charles Hall—absent

Springfield - Mike Thompson—absent

Although Mike was not present, it was noted that he recently advocated for the government to subsidize telecommuters for their Internet connections, much as it subsidizes mass transit commuting expenses.

Sully - Jeff Parnes

The Sully District Council upcoming meeting topics are April, Human Services; May, report from Richmond; and June, Supervisor Frey's State of Sully.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Next Meetings

The next membership meeting is scheduled May 20, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.

The next board meeting is scheduled May 27, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Summary of Action Items from This Meeting

Action	Who
Walk thru Citizen of the Year banquet details with Heather at the Crown Plaza	Bill Hanks
Revise the letter on the Tysons Corner Land Use staged planning approach as discussed at this weekend and send to Jeff	Charlie Hall and Fred Costello
Post the draft letter (see prior item) to the Federation forum for a 24-hour review	Jeff Parnes
Vote electronically on the motion to approve the revised letter on the Tysons Corner Land Use staged planning approach	Board members
Edit the resolution with minor suggestions made in this meeting and submit it for publication in The Bulletin and consideration at the next membership meeting	Gail Parker

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary