

Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Approved January 20, 2010

The November 2010 Meeting of the Membership of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Tania Hossain at 7:35 p.m. in Braddock Hall, Burke. The attendance list is attached to file copy of the minutes.

Program: Tyson's Corner Bicycle Master Plan

Jeffrey Hermann, Fairfax County Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner, and Charles Strunk, Fairfax County Bicycle Program Coordinator talked with participants regarding the county's bicycle program. Jeff and Charles explained and discussed the county's bicycle program and related issues; some of the points covered follow.

The county bicycle program was created by the Board of Supervisors four years ago; a mandate is to network the county by bicycle. Products include publishing the county-wide bicycle map in 2008, adding bike racks to Connector buses, and the recently published Tyson's Corner Bicycle Plan. (See <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/pdf/TysonCornerBicycleMasterPlan111118.pdf>) Development of a county-wide bicycle master plan will begin in the spring of 2011.

Other bicycle concepts covered included: considerations required for new developments, the goal of accommodating bicyclists ages "8 to 80," bicycle street lanes versus sidewalk use, bicycle lane standards, safety issues, related public education, connecting existing trails and building new ones, coordination among agencies, how the county gets citizen input on bicycle requirements, the difficulty connecting McLean pedestrians and bicyclists to Tyson's Corner, insuring safe routes to schools, autonomy of school principals regarding school bicycle policy, and ensuring bike lanes on the new beltway bridges built for the HOT lanes project.

President Hossain expressed the Federation's gratitude for this update on the bicycle program and presented Jeff and Charles with Federation mugs.

Administrative Topics

The Bulletin (newsletter)—Newsletter articles are due to the editor by December 1. Committee chairs and Federation representatives to other organizations are urged to share information via *The Bulletin*.

Minutes—The membership approved the minutes of the September 16 and October 21, 2010, membership meetings.

Treasurer's Report—Scott Schlegel

Scott presented the treasurer's report, which the membership voted to receive and file.

Old Business

2011 Citizen of the Year (COY) Award—Chair, Jeff Parnes

Please spread the word about the next Citizen of the Year Award. More information is available on our website at <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/coy1.htm>. Jeff will send announcements to *The Washington Post*, local newspapers, the planning commission, supervisors, and legislators.

New and Miscellaneous Business

Citizens Police Academy Fund Raising Effort

Fairfax County Police: Following up on a fundraising effort described at the October membership meeting by Gabe Goldberg, representative of the Walnut Hill Association, Esther Ferington made the same coupon books available on his behalf for a second and final time. As described in the October minutes, the project is conducted by graduates of the Fairfax County Citizens Police Academy and the funds raised will be used to supply a Police Department mobile canteen that supplies food and rest areas for police at major incident scenes where police may be on-site for many hours or days.

Redistricting of the Election Districts of the Board of Supervisors

The board of supervisors on November 16 approved the process and schedule for reapportionment of supervisor districts. Earlier Chairman Bulova stated that the Federation would be one of the countywide organizations included on the Advisory Citizen Committee to participate in the process with County staff. The Federation must choose its representative; those who wish to represent the Federation on this committee should contact President Tania Hossain.

Board & Committee Reports

Budget—Carey Campbell and Charlie Hall

Charlie Dane reported that by December he and Kosmo Tatalias will prepare a schedule for the Federation's budget committee activities.

Citizen Association Services—Don Hinman—no report

Education—Leonard Bumbaca, Ed Saperstein, & Tim Thompson

Tim reported that the Education Committee met with the FCPS Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Kevin North and Chief Financial Officer Susan Quinn to review plans for employee pay raises and funding of retirement accounts.

Environment—Flint Webb

The Federation's December 16 meeting program topic is water quality. The presenter will be George Lamb, member of the board of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. The NVSWD will provide informational brochures at the meeting.

Human Services—position vacant

Land Use—Fred Costello

In support of the Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force, Fred developed several analytical models related to traffic. The County has more sophisticated models, such as VISSIM, but the time required to look at one alternative road change is several months—far too long to be useful given the Task Force's schedule. Fred's models are simpler.

- His gridded-streets model shows that grids do not improve traffic flow significantly, except for the last 0.2 mile for a destination away from the artery.
- His model of mode shares shows that walking and bicycling are faster for distances less than ½ mile. A single-occupant private automobile is less costly than a bus for distances less than eight miles, if time is evaluated at \$20 per hour and the time to walk to and from the bus is included. The bus is cheaper for longer distances because the Metro bus fare structure does not depend on distance. Fred is still working on a model to estimate the percent of people who would prefer the bus, despite its higher cost.

Fred has compared the George Mason University (GMU) and Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) jobs and housing projections for the Reston area. These differ by as much as 32%. Fred's traffic model uses the higher GMU estimates and shows which intersections fail and how to make them acceptable.

Fred and the County finally agree on the land areas for the land along the Dulles Toll Road. They are still trying to resolve differences in the limits on the Floor-Area-Ratios as allowed by zoning and as described in the current Comprehensive Plan. It appears that the current Comprehensive Plan allows for sufficient office floor area but not sufficient residential floor area. Nevertheless, the developers want to be allowed to build more of the more profitable office space. Traffic will become a greater problem if insufficient residential space is built.

Legislation—Frank Anderson

The Federation's *Legislative Package* is undergoing proofreading. It will soon be posted on the Federation's web site.

Membership—Kahan Dhillon

Letters have been sent to former member organizations that have not renewed membership. Tania is following up by telephone.

Public Safety—G. Gail Parker

The committee provided safety tips for this month's *The Bulletin*. The Federation seeks additional members for this committee including a co-chair; Tania has a lead for co-chair.

Resolutions—Bill Hanks—no report

Transportation—Carey Campbell, Roger Hoskins, and Jeff Parnes

Mark Tipton, the Federation's representative on the county's Trails and Sidewalks Committee, requested recommendations from members.

Jeff, who is chair of the Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC), reported the TAC's November meeting featured a status update on the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, an update on the County's Study on Alternatives for Improving Roadway Services, and the Tysons Corner Bicycle Master Plan.

The TAC has been advising FCDOT staff and their consultants in their efforts to conduct the study that is exploring ways for the county to provide better transportation services, including taking it over from VDOT. In the 1930s the state took over full responsibility for road maintenance, development, and operation from the counties. Cities and both Arlington and Henrico counties maintained responsibility for their roads. The county has explored whether to assume the VDOT road multiple times over the past forty years, each time deciding to leave the situation as it stands.

The study itself has been renamed, it was previously titled "Transportation Funding and Improving Roadway Services Delivery Study," and now the more direct "Study on Alternatives for Improving Roadway Services".

Staff has found that it is hard to determine exactly what state costs are associated with servicing our county, as the state does certain services regionally (over, for say, Loudoun, Prince William, and Fairfax counties, without apportioning the costs per county). The advice the TAC has been providing is not intended to influence the study's results, but in the areas for the staff to explore, questions to answer, etc. Staff has also found that those counties with road responsibilities and cities expend more money to maintain their roads than the funds provided by the state.

The revised Transportation Committee webpage (<http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/transportation1.htm>) holds recent presentations (including those mentioned above) that may be of interest to Federation members.

Website—Jeff Parnes

Jeff will add the Tysons Corner Bicycle Master Plan to the web site along with other transportation presentations.

District Council Reports

Seven supervisor districts have councils of citizens associations; Dranesville and Hunter Mill districts do not.

Braddock - Art Wells

Future events of the Braddock District Council include:

- *December 2—Taste of Braddock at Braddock Hall*
- *First half of December—2nd meeting of district budget advisory committee*
- *First half of December—Woodson Bus Lot public meeting*

Lee—Don Hinman—no report

Mason—Keith Taggart

Tania reported that Mason District Council will hold a powwow at Mike's Pizza Place on December 9.

Mount Vernon—Karen Pohorylo—no report

Providence—Charles Hall—no report

Springfield—Mike Thompson—no report

Sully—Jeff Parnes

Topics of the November 17 meeting were a presentation on plans for the National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center and the Centreville Immigrant Foundation's plans to set up an immigrant assistance center.

The topic of the December 15 meeting is Watershed Management, to be presented by Joe Sanchirico, the project manager for the Sugarland Run/Horsepen Creek Watershed Plan.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Next Meetings

The next board meeting is scheduled December 2, 2010 at 7:30 p.m., at the Marco Polo Restaurant, 245 Maple Ave. West, Vienna. All members of the Federation are invited to join in the evening's festivities and the excellent Thursday night buffet. Please RSVP to President Tania Hossain by November 28.

The next membership meeting is scheduled December 16, 2010, at 7:30 p.m., at the Sully District Community Room in the Sully Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly.

Minutes written and published by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary