

Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 24, 2010

Approved April 14, 2010

The March 2011 meeting of the Membership of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Tania Hossain at 7:38 p.m. in the Packard Center, Annandale. The attendance list is attached to file copy of the minutes.

The two program items literally consumed the entire evening, with only a few other topics being addressed briefly. Reports from the Transportation Committee, the Webmaster, and the Braddock and Sully District Representatives were not given orally at the meeting but are published in the minutes.

Program 1: County's FY12 Advertised Budget—Anthony Griffin, County Executive, Fairfax County

Mr. Griffin talked to the membership in a conversational setting for over an hour, explaining his view of the budget and answering questions. Information on the county's advertised FY 2012 budget is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/. President Hossain expressed the Federation's gratitude for the informative presentation and presented Mr. Griffin with a Federation coffee cup.

Program 2: Federation's Budget Resolution—Charlie Hall

Charlie Hall chaired this section of the meeting to review, amend, and adopt the Federation's Budget Resolution. The starting position was the draft budget resolution that was approved by the Federation's board on March 17. The results from this meeting will be documented fully in the budget resolution that Charlie will usher through publication and so will not be recorded in detail in these minutes.

Highlights of the budget resolution include:

- Praise for the Fairfax County government for steering prudently through a time of extended fiscal challenge.
- As the economy recovers, in future years some prior cuts in services should be restored.
- The current public budget process needs improvement: a more transparent discussion of long-term budget issues and better means for public input, including a county-wide citizens' budget committee and a lengthier budget approval period.
- A recommended residential property tax rate of \$1.075 per \$100 assessed value. This rate is \$0.015 less than the \$1.09 rate proposed in the advertised budget and \$0.01 greater than a "revenue neutral" rate of \$1.065.
- The Federation recommends funding:
 - An increase in the school transfer with a message to the school board that the Board of Supervisors expects the additional funds will be used to support implementation of both full day kindergartens at all schools beginning in the 2011-2012 school year and online testing for SOL.
 - A reserve that would be available for use should the human services funding expected from the Federal and Commonwealth government transfers be less than forecast.

Administrative Topics

Minutes—The membership approved the minutes of the February 17, 2011, membership meeting.

Treasurer's Report—Scott Schlegel

The treasurer's report was distributed to board members via e-mail prior to the meeting. Due to the focus of the meeting on the county's budget, the report was not reviewed.

Vacancies on County Boards and Commissions—Don Hinman

Second Vice President Don Hinman is recruiting for three Federation representatives to other organizations: Citizens Corps Council, Community Action Advisory Board, and the Engineering Standards Review Committee. Don noted that people representing the Federation do not have to be from associations that are Federation members. Don distributed a handout which is Attachment #1 to these minutes.

Old Business

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

The Citizen of the Year Award awardees have been chosen and the banquet will be held on May 15, 2011 at the Tysons Crowne Plaza at 6 pm. More information is available at Attachment 3 to these minutes and on our website at <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/coy1.htm>.

The online registration form for the banquet is available now at <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/COY/COYrsvp.htm>. Remember that the banquet is the one event the Federation sponsors that celebrates Fairfax and involves the Federation with the movers and shakers of the County.

The Federation thanks SAIC for its support of the Citizen of the Year program.

New and Miscellaneous Business

Announcement of Federation Representatives Who Will Speak at the April 14 Membership Meeting

Second Vice President Don Hinman announced the speakers for the April 14 membership meeting and solicited questions that members would like the representatives to address. Please send your questions to Don at fed2ndvp2010@fairfaxfederation.org. The speakers are:

- Latisha Elcock, Advanced Academic Programs Advisory Committee (AAPAC)
- Thomas V. "Vic" Mukai, Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee (ITPAC)
- Mark Tipton, Trails and Sidewalks Committee
- Rob Jackson, Redistricting Advisory Committee

More information is in the handout that Don distributed which is Attachment #2 to these minutes.

Board & Committee Reports

Because the County budget topic consumed the meeting time, no board or committee reports were given in the meeting. The transportation report is provided by these minutes.

Budget—Carey Campbell and Charlie Hall

Citizen Association Services—Don Hinman

Education—Leonard Bumbaca, Ed Saperstein, & Tim Thompson

Environment—Flint Webb

Human Services—Cherie Tripp Lejeune

Land Use—Fred Costello

Legislation—Frank Anderson

Policies and Procedures—Bill Hanks

Public Safety—G. Gail Parker

Resolutions—Bill Hanks—no report

Transportation—Carey Campbell, Roger Hoskins, and Jeff Parnes (information not given in meeting but disseminated by Jeff through these minutes)

Alternatives for Improving Roadway Services:

The Board of Supervisors has asked staff to conduct a study evaluating Alternatives for Improving Roadway Services in Fairfax County. Virginia is one of four states in which the construction, maintenance and operation of roads are a state function rather than a county function. Cities have always had local control, and Arlington and Henrico counties negotiated an arrangement in the 1930s for them to maintain control (the state assumed the responsibility during the Great Depression, as many counties could no longer afford to do so). Recently several other counties have negotiated with VDOT to assume local control, although their arrangements do not provide them with the same level of funding as Arlington and Henrico counties receive.

Each jurisdiction that has either retained or assumed responsibility reports satisfaction with local control. Each also reports that they spend more for construction, maintenance and operation than the funds provided by the state. In the report referenced above the county reported that as VDOT does not provide services by county, VDOT was unable to provide costs specifically attributed to Fairfax County, but could only provide information about the Northern Virginia district that includes Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties.

Assumption of these responsibilities therefore involves unknowns, as even the level of service provided by the state is unquantifiable. The Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC), (which Jeff Parnes chairs) acting as a citizen's review board by the request of the Board of Supervisors, provided its comments to the Board. The review stressed the uncertainty of funding, of the level of service we are receiving by the state, of the level of service that our residents, used to a high-level of responsiveness from the county in all it does, would expect if the county took over the responsibility. The TAC recommended that the county explore a pilot program before it took over responsibility for the whole county.

Already at least one supervisor has publicly announced support for assumption of responsibility. This will be a matter for the board to decide, weighing the benefits of local control of operations, design and responsiveness to citizen concerns against the unknowns of both ongoing costs and one-time set up fees, service levels provided and expected and budget constraints.

No impact to the 2012 budget is expected, but future years' budgets will see significant impacts if the board decides to go forward with local control.

Transportation Committee web site updates. The committee's page has links to:

- The 4th Circuit of the US court of Appeals reached a decision on 23 March 2011, upholding the lower Court in dismissing all of the claims brought by Chris Walker challenging the Dulles Rail Project. That brings to an end the last of the lawsuits challenging one or another aspect of the Dulles Rail Project. The Circuit characterized Walker's claims as being "generalized grievances" which did not present a true controversy that the Court could resolve but instead raised policy issues not appropriate for the Court. The only claim that the Court addressed directly was one that alleged that MWAA had violated Virginia's Freedom of Information statute. The Court affirmed the lower Court's conclusion that the Airports Authority, as an independent political body, was not subject to Virginia's FOIA statute.
- The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) met on 16 March to consider funding constraints on Phase 2 of the Dulles Rail project. They discussed:
 - Independent Advisory Panel Presentation Phase 2 Dulles Alternatives
 - Contract Packaging Options for Phase 2 of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project.
 - Recommendation on Alternative Airport Alignments at Dulles International.
- Mark Tipton, the FCFCA representative, Trails and Sidewalks Committee, on 16 March 2011 provided:
 - Transportation Projects Status Report for February regarding roads, sidewalks, trails, and bus shelters
 - FC Park Authority presentation of current and planned trail improvements. Most of the trail projects are already funded from park bonds, federal funds, etc. and some are under construction. However, a few of the projects are not yet funded, or need neighborhood support to proceed.
- Dulles Corridor Rail Association (DCRA) President Patty Nicoson presented Ten Things Every Business Needs to Know about Dulles Rail to DATA on 16 March 2011
- The Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) was briefed on the Safe Route to School Program by the Washington Area Bicyclist Association on 15 March 2011
- The Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee on 1 March 2011 received these presentations:
 - The I95 HOT Lanes proposal by VDOT
 - Staff study on Alternatives for Improving Roadway Services

- The Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission, acting as a Citizens Review Committee, review of the Staff's proposal on Alternatives for Improving Roadway Services
- Proposed Transportation Funding Policy Changes by FDOT
- The Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee on 1 February 2011 received these presentations:
 - VDOT and the Federal Highway Administration gave a joint presentation on the status of BRAC transportation Improvements
 - BRAC Successes and Remaining Issues by VDOT
 - Gina Arlotto, of the Washington Area Bicyclists Association, briefed on the Safe Routes to School program in Fairfax County
- The Transportation Advisory Commission on 4 January 2011 received an update on the I-495 HOT Lanes Project.

Website—Jeff Parnes (*information not given in meeting but disseminated through these minutes*)

The online forms on the web site are working; please feel free to use them for:

- Membership renewal: <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/memberappl.htm>
- COY Dinner RSVP: <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/COY/COYrsvp.htm>

Providence District Council has revised its page.

Budget and Transportation Committee pages are updated.

The Citizen of the Year pages are updated for this and previous years.

District Council Reports

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

Because the County budget topic consumed the meeting time, no district council reports were given in the meeting; the Braddock and Sully reports are provided by these minutes.

Braddock - Art Wells (*information not given in meeting but disseminated through these minutes*)

The Braddock District Council's (BDC) March 9 meeting featured two staff members from the Department of Management and Budget who presented an excellent briefing on the FY 2012 Advertised Budget.

Supervisor Cook hosted town hall meetings on the FY 2012 Advertised Budget on March 14 and 23.

The Braddock District Citizens Budget Advisory Committee met March 22 with guest speakers from the Department of Management and Budget, to include the Information Technology Division.

The annual Annandale Dialogue on Diversity was held March 23.

The next in the series of public meetings on the GMU bypass around the Route 123 and Braddock Road intersection will be held on March 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the Villa Elementary School.

The Monticello Park Master Planning meeting will be held April 4 at 7 p.m. at the Bonnie Brae Elementary School.

The theme of the BDC's April 13 meeting will be its annual "Legislative Forum" featuring Northern Virginia members of the General Assembly who will discuss the highlights of the 2011 session. Location and time are Robinson High School Blue Cafeteria at 7:30 p.m.

An environmental leadership town hall meeting will be held on May 7 with time and location to be announced.

Lee—Don Hinman—no report

Mason—Keith Taggart—no report

Mount Vernon—Karen Pohorylo—no report

Providence—Flint Webb—no report

Springfield—Mike Thompson—no report

Sully—Jeff Parnes (*information not given in meeting but disseminated through these minutes*)

The Sully District Council met March 23. Reports were received from:

- County office of Management and Budget on FY 2012 budget
- Sully representative on Fairfax County Redistricting committee

These land use cases were addressed:

- INOVA Hospital
- About the Distributed Antenna System concept

Topics of future meetings are:

- April – Fairfax County Housing and Community Development Agency
- May – Report from Richmond, all eight State Senators and Delegates representing Sully have been invited, responses received from three as of now
- June – State of Sully by Sully Supervisor Mike Frey

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:18 a.m.

Next Meetings

The next membership meeting is April 14, 2011 when we will hear from our appointed representatives to various boards and commissions. Board members will meet on April 28, 2011. Both meetings start at 7:30 p.m. in the Packard Center, Annandale.

Minutes written by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary

Attachment #1

Would you like to serve on a Fairfax County Board or Commission?

The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
is looking for people to represent the Federation on the following:

Community Action Advisory Board

- Advise the County Board and the Director of Family Services on the needs, concerns and aspirations of low-income persons, and recommends policies that promote meaningful change. Provide oversight for state and federal Community Service Block Grant funds, which support community-based initiatives identified through the county's Consolidated Community Funding Pool competitive grant process. Meets first Tuesday of the month.
<http://fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/caab/>
http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bacs/fairfax_board.asp?lookup=23341

Engineering Standards Review Committee

- Provide technical and engineering advisory services to the Board. Review input data for the annual update of the Public Facilities Manual. Meets first Thursday of the month.
http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bacs/fairfax_board.asp?lookup=26518

Airports Advisory Committee

- Advise the Board on all airport and aircraft operations affecting Fairfax County. Examine the feasibility of establishing a countywide aircraft noise complaint center. Meets second Tuesday.
http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bacs/fairfax_board.asp?lookup=23354

****To express your interest in representing the Federation, or to ask questions, please contact
Don Hinman, Federation 2nd Vice President at: fed2ndvp2010@fairfaxfederation.org. ****

The complete list of the county's **Boards, Authorities, Committees, and Commissions (BACs)** is found at the following website: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bacs/>. The Federation has representation on eight of these. Besides the BACs with vacancies listed above, the 5 others are: (1) *Citizen Corps Council*, (2) *Criminal Justice Advisory Board*, (3) *Community Revitalization and Reinvestment Advisory Group*, (4) *Engineering Standards Review Board*, and (5) *Trails and Sidewalks Committee*.

The complete list of **School Board** advisory committees is found at the following website: <http://www.fcps.edu/schlbld/advisory.htm>. The Federation has representation on three of these (*Advanced Academic Programs*, *Human Relations*, and *Students with Disabilities*), as well as the **Superintendent's Business and Community Advisory Committee**:
<http://www.fcps.edu/supt/bcac/index.htm>.

The Federation also has a seat on the board of the nonprofit organization *AHOME (Affordable Housing Opportunity Means Everyone - <http://www.nova-ahome.org/>)* and on the *Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee-Technical Advisory Committee*, which serves the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/default.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=97

Attachment #2

April 14 Membership Meeting Features Federation Representatives

Four Federation representatives will speak at the April 14 membership meeting. Do you have questions you want answered? Please inform Don Hinman, Federation 2nd VP Don Hinman,

The April 14 membership meeting will feature presentations by four of our representatives, including one school-related committee, two permanent county committees and one temporary committee (redistricting):

(1) The Advanced Academic Programs Advisory Committee (AAPAC) advises the FCPS School Board on the needs of advanced learners and the programs that have been created to meet those needs. Membership includes citizen, teacher, and principal representatives, a student representative, and the Coordinator of Advanced Academic Programs.
<http://www.fcps.edu/DIS/gt/aapac.html>

Federation representative: Latisha Elcock

(2) The Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee (ITPAC) provides advice to help County government keep pace with emerging information technology trends to support and promote: (a) county goals and priorities; (b) public access to services and information; and (c) government innovation and effectiveness. ITPAC also reviews County IT program strategy and annual investment plans.
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/itpac/>

Federation representative: Thomas V. "Vic" Mukai

(3) The Trails and Sidewalks Committee's vision is to ensure that residents and others can easily and safely travel between and through major commercial, residential, and natural areas using non-motorized transportation. The committee evaluates existing facilities for trails, sidewalks and bicycle routes, and assists the county in producing maps of these facilities, and plans new facilities. Committee members also evaluate subdivision plans and site plans for trail facilities. Staffs that assist the committee are from the County Department of Planning and Zoning, the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, the Department of Transportation and the Park Authority. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/trails/>

Federation representative: Mark Tipton

(4) The Redistricting Advisory Committee was appointed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) to recommend new boundaries for supervisor districts. The BOS will hold a public hearing on the recommended redistricting proposals on April 12, and currently plans to adopt a redistricting plan at its April 26 meeting. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/redistricting/>

Federation representative: Rob Jackson

Attachment #3

Citizen of the Year Committee Report for 24 March 2011 Fairfax Federation Membership Meeting:

Attending the banquet supports the Federation, celebrates those who we honor for their service to the community and is an evening of good cheer and fellowship. As Federation representatives, we ask that you make every effort to attend.

Honorees selected:

Citizen of the Year: Known throughout Fairfax County as a real "firecracker," **Mollie Loeffler** is renowned for her energy, enthusiasm for creating community and taking action. Selected for her leadership in re-establishing her community association, Mollie won two \$5000 grants from the Fairfax County Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program for both her community and a local county park. Mollie's work then led to a bigger platform and she spearheaded the reconstituting of the long dormant Mason District Council. Under her leadership, the Mason District Council has tackled major zoning issues such as overcrowding and littering by creating a network of resources that include citizens associations and the county working on solutions to common problems facing the community. "Mollie's positive and energetic civic leadership is exemplary work of what we can accomplish when we empower ourselves to act on behalf of our communities," said Tania Hossain, Federation president.

Citation of Merit: Honored for his long history of support for education in Fairfax County, **Charlie Dane**, of Annandale, serves on FCPS School Board Human Relations Advisory Committee and the FCPS Superintendent's Business and Community Advisory Council.

Special Gratitude Awards:

Bill Lecos, as past president and CEO of the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Tysons Land Use Task Force, played a central role in the citizen-based effort to re-plan Tysons Corner. Thanks largely to Bill's leadership; the Board of Supervisors had the opportunity to approve a visionary Comprehensive Plan amendment that enabled historic investments in Tysons' transportation infrastructure while spurring development of new, green housing stock. Bill ensured that this re-planning effort helped business in the County and had the support of the business community. Bill has been involved in public affairs in our region for two decades, as President of the Restaurant Association, Senior Vice President of Policy at the Washington Board of Trade, and President and CEO of the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce. Bill played a central role building broad-based support for transportation and land use policies that would improve quality of life for Fairfax residents.

Anthony H. Griffin, as Fairfax County Executive, provided Fairfax County with solid leadership, good fiscal stewardship and the ability to motivate and inspire the county workforce. He has distinguished Fairfax County as a world-class center of commerce and trade and the technology hub of the East Coast. Fairfax County is a wonderful place to live, work and play and Griffin's leadership has ensured that the quality of life remains high, despite the new challenges of the 21st century. His tenure has encompassed projects both large and small that will have a significant impact on Fairfax County and the region for years to come including: Tysons Corner Redevelopment, Dulles Rail, McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center, Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, Code of Ethics Update, Lorton Land Reuse Plan and the Chesapeake Bay preservation ordinance.

Banquet Preparations:

Date and Location: May 15, 2011, for the dinner at the Tysons Corner Crown Plaza, where we held the event last year.

Publicity: Jeff and Esther have sent the press release <http://www.fcfa.org/COY/COY2010PressRelease110318.pdf> to media, news, and web contacts of which they were aware or previously identified by John Jennison. We ask that you publicize this event and extend an invitation to all to attend to your community.

Speaker Selection: The selection process continues.

Banquet Tasks: Jeff has created a Google doc identifying all activities required for successful completion of the banquet, and he and many volunteers (we could always use more) have claimed the various tasks that they will be doing. Carol Hawn has started on the program, and Jeff is working on the invitation.

Banquet Reservations: <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/COY/COYrsvp.htm> , an online form, is available for folks to register for the banquet. Remember that the banquet is the one event the Federation sponsors that celebrates Fairfax and involves the Federation with the movers and shakers of the County.