

Board Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2017

Approved June 15, 2017

The May meeting of the Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Tim Thompson at 7:40 p.m. at the Dunn Loring Center, Dunn Loring.

Present:

<u>Person</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>District Council</u>	<u>Standing or Special Committee</u>
Bill Barfield	2 nd Vice President		Legislation
John Birch		Mason	
Daniela Cockayne			Public Safety
Dennis Hayes			Library
Pete Sitnik		Mount Vernon	Legislation
Pat Smaldore			Public Safety
Tim Thompson	President		
Flint Webb		Providence	Environment
Ed Wyse	1 st Vice President	Springfield	

Administrative and Organizational Topics – Tim Thompson

Committees Linked to Liaison Positions: Tim announced a matching of committees to liaison positions. Committee chairs are to coordinate with liaisons their semi-annual reports to the Federation.

<u>Liaison Position</u>	<u>Committee</u>
Airports Advisory Committee	Transportation
Citizen Corps Council	Public Safety
Community Action Advisory Board	Human Services
Community Revitalization and Reinvestment Advisory Group	President
Criminal Justice Advisory Board	Public Safety
Engineering Standards Review Committee	Environment
Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee	President
Fairfax County Public Schools Budget Task Force	Education
School Board Advisory Committee on Students with Disabilities	Education
School Board Advanced Academic Programs Advisory Committee	Education
School Board Human Relations Advisory Committee	Education
Trails and Sidewalks Committee	Transportation

Calendar: Tim—The transition meeting (for 2017-2018 officers and district council representatives) will be held June 15 at the Mason Governmental Center. *(Previously it had been scheduled June 22 at the Dunn Loring Center.)*

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: The recording secretary was not present and the previous minutes were not available. Minutes were not approved.

Library Committee Extended: The library committee is a special (temporary) committee rather than a standing (permanent) committee. By a unanimous voice vote the board extended the life of the library committee to June 30, 2018.

Picnic RSVP: Some members reported difficulty using the online RSVP. Tim urged members to RSVP either online or by email to Fed1stVP2017@FairfaxFederation.org. We'll notify the webmaster.

Old Business

Schedule for Legislative Package: Bill Barfield—This topic had been covered before but was revisited. The concept is to be one month ahead of last year's schedule and present the legislative issues document to the legislators at our October membership meeting. To do this, in September the board meeting will be scheduled two weeks prior to the membership meeting.

June | design survey questions & renew Survey Monkey license

July 25 | release survey

August 11 | close survey

August 12-25 | Legislative Committee compiles results & sends results to other committees' chairs

Sep 7 | committee chairs provide their input to the Legislative Committee

Sep 14 | Legislative Committee presents to board & board approves

Sep 15 – Sep 19 | Legislative Committee edits board-decisions & forwards to membership

Sep 28 | Membership approves final package

Sep 29 – Oct 14 | Legislative Committee edits membership-decisions & produces final document

Oct 19 | Federation presents to legislators at membership meeting

New & Miscellaneous Business

Mini-cell towers & peripherals: Flint asked whether the Federation should take a position on this zoning policy issue. Discussion revealed that the proposed policy has been through most of the review process and is soon going for Board of Supervisors decision. While no one present knew the issue in detail, the opinion was that mini-cell towers would not be disruptive to our homeowners. The Federation will take no action.

Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) between Friends Groups and Library/Fairfax County: The county has proposed updating the MOU's between Friends of the Library groups and the library/supported library branches. The library board's proposed MOU has not yet been revealed; however a ten-slide presentation on this subject shown at the last Trustee's meeting is causing angst for many. It appears to show controls over how much money the Friends groups can accumulate and may even specify some direct transfers of funds to the county general account. The library system will reveal its MOU at a meeting on May 30. Dennis Hays has

drafted an MOU that he recommends the Friends groups bring to the meeting as a counter-point. Dennis makes two points: (1) 501 (c) 3 organizations are regulated by federal and state law and not the county and (2) MOU's should not specify transfers of money from Friends to county general fund. The Friends of the Parks groups have already been approached on this issue and have the same suspicious as the library friends groups.. Friends of the library and parks have formed an umbrella organization – Federation of Friends – that will meet June 8, the date of the FCFCA picnic. The Federation will take no position at this time but urges its Library Committee to be vigilant.

Role in Affordable Housing Policy Arena: At the January membership meeting a member delegate raised the issue whether the Federation should be participating in the setting of affordable housing policy. The board directed Bill Barfield to study an report. Tonight he reported there are a plethora of organizations committed to the various aspects of affordable housing; the Federation has no representation on any of them. The board discussed whether the Federation was a stakeholder in this topic. The board decided the Federation didn't want to be permanently aligned with any of these groups. That said, the county is planning to write a strategic plan for affordable housing. The plan development plan calls for community engagement and the Federation ought to bring its voice to the planning. Tim will engage with senior county staff about the appropriateness and process for the Federation to become involved in this way. Bill will inquire, with Clayton Medford, chief of staff for Chairman Bulova, to discuss any need or opportunity for Federation participation in Affordable Housing issues.

Tentative programs for Fall 2017: These topics were proposed for autumn membership meetings' programs.

- Sep – arbitration or redistricting (OneVirginia2021) (*note: the legislative package will be decided at this meeting*)
- Oct – Legislative Issues presentation to legislators
- Nov – public safety

District Council and Committee Reports

No board or committee reports were presented orally, however several reports were submitted in writing and are attached.

Adjournment—The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Next Meetings

The next membership meeting will be the picnic, June 8 at 7:30 p.m., Mason District Park.

The transition meeting will be June 15, 7:30 p.m., in the Mason Governmental Center.

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Secretary Pro Tem

Attachments

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Environment Committee Report –May 2017 – Flint Webb

- **People’s Climate Change March:** Flint participated in the People’s Climate March, April 29th. There was an estimated 200,000 people attending the march. For more information see: <https://peoplesclimate.org/>. The March marked the 100-day milestone of the Trump administration. As reported by the New York Times (https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/05/02/climate/environmental-rules-reversed-trump-100-days.html?_r=0), in the first 100 days of the Trump administration they:
 - Approved the Dakota pipeline
 - Revoked rule to prevent coal mining companies from dumping debris into local streams (and ultimately into our water supply)
 - Canceled requirement for reporting methane emissions,
 - Approved the Keystone XL pipeline,
 - Revoked update to public land use planning process,
 - Lifted freeze on new coal leases on public lands,
 - Rejected ban on potentially harmful insecticide,
 - Overturned ban on hunting of predators in Alaska wildlife refuges, and
 - Withdrew guidance for federal agencies to include greenhouse gas emissions in environmental reviews.
- **Citizens’ Climate Lobby:** The Citizen’s Climate Lobby collected comments from the people who attended the People’s Climate March and on Sunday, May 7th, Flint helped match them up with their representative. There were people from all across the Country from Alaska to Florida.
- **Trash Day of Action:** Flint participated on the Trash Day of Action May 8, protesting in front of the International Bottled Water Association (IBWA) calling for them to stop opposing the bottle deposit bills. This is the first of what we hope will be a number of protests. For more information see <http://www.accotink.org/2017/BattleoftheBottle2017.htm>.
- **87th Green Breakfast:** May 13, 8:30 – 10:00 AM, Brion’s Grille, 10621 Braddock Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032. Plant NOVA Natives: Alan Ford, Virginia Native Plant Society Potowmack Chapter, and Corey Miles, Northern Virginia Regional Commission will talk about the Plant NOVA Natives Initiative. Plant NOVA Natives is the joint campaign of a grand coalition of non-profit, governmental, and private groups, all working to reverse the decline of native plants and wildlife in Northern Virginia. Its goal is to encourage residents as well as public and commercial entities to install native plants as the first step toward creating wildlife habitat and functioning ecosystems on their own properties. Some key goals of the campaign are:
 - To modify weed ordinances to encourage native plants in landscaping,
 - Increasing the availability of native plants at nurseries,
 - Inform the public on the benefits of using native plants,Part of the campaign is to spread the word to homeowner organizations. For more information see <http://www.plantnovanatives.org/>.
- **Screening of The Anthropologist:** Flint attended the screening of The Anthropologist at Angelica on May 16. The screening was very well attended with only a dozen or so vacant seats. The movie chronicled the travels of the

typical American teenager, Katie Crate, as she travels with her mother, GMU professor, and Fairfax County Resident, Dr. Susie Crate, to visit native peoples throughout the world being affected climate change. In the process we learn about the resilience of the human species and learn about the impacts of climate change from people who live close to the land. After the film Dr. Susie Crate answered questions and asked about what the changes audience has noticed that could be a result of climate change. For more information see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Anthropologist_\(film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Anthropologist_(film)).

- **Fairfax Committee of 100:** June 18th the Fairfax Committee of 100 meeting was about climate change. The speaker was Timothy DelSole, climate scientist and full professor in the Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Earth Sciences at George Mason University. Dr. DelSole presented the case proving that 1) the climate is changing, and that it is due to human activity. Dr. DelSole also discussed the impacts of climate change for Virginia including:
 - Sea level rise both from glacial melting and thermal expansion of the oceans as they warm,
 - **Ocean acidification which will impact the shellfish industry, and**
 - **Changes in the rainfall patterns (both from more intense storms and increased droughts).**
- **Solarize Campaign Information Sessions:** Fairfax County is participating in the SolarizeNOVA campaign. The campaign involves:
 - A free preliminary assessment of the suitability of solar for your house,
 - A free site visit which will involve an on-site verification of the applicability of solar for your property and an energy audit of your residence,
 - Assuming that everything is good you will receive a bid from the two pre-approved solar installers that are part of the SolarizeNOVA program.

At the meeting there were a number of questions addressed including dealing with HOAs. Both installation vendors expressed their experience dealing with HOAs but generally they have not been an impediment pointing out 1) that contrary to the popular myth, solar energy increases property values, 2) there is a State law that requires that HOAs allow homeowners to install solar unless it is specifically banned in the HOA's founding documents. For more information see <http://solarizenova.org/>.

- **Friends Groups Memo of Understandings:** On May 22nd Kathy Kaplan brought up an issue that the County is proposing new MOUs with the library friend groups that are giving the control of the funds gathered by independent 501(c)(3) groups to the County. The County has been trying to do the same thing with the park friends groups so I put the library folks in touch with the Federation of Friends informal group what has been dealing with the issue from the perspective of the park friends groups. The next meeting of the Federation Friends is June 8, 7-9 pm at Green Springs Gardens. See <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/friends/> for more information.

Upcoming Events:

- **Going big on solar! *Options for commercial, government, and nonprofit customers:*** Thursday, May 25; 7 PM, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, 4301 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA. The gold rush is on in Virginia! Businesses, universities, nonprofits, and local governments are taking advantage of low solar prices and innovative financing models to access clean, renewable electricity from the sun. Solar installations in Virginia increased ten-fold in the past year, with most of the new demand coming from large customers. Sierra Club and business leaders have partnered to create this program that explains how commercial customers, local governments, and non-profits can save money and meet sustainability goals with onsite or offsite solar arrays. Speakers will discuss current options for purchasing solar, including onsite (rooftop, parking lots) and offsite (solar farms), using financial models such as low-cost loans, utility-sponsored programs, and power purchase agreements. Sponsored by: Sierra Club/Virginia Chapter, Mount Vernon Group, Great Falls Group, Clean Energy for Fairfax Now, and the Ready for 100 Campaign.
- **2017 Back to the Bay:** June 10th 8 am to dusk at Mason Neck State Park. Join the Alliance in celebrating Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week with the inaugural ***Back to the Bay*** on Saturday, June 10, 2017, at Mason Neck State Park in Northern Virginia. This event will be held annually the second Saturday of June. ***Back to the Bay*** was created to raise public awareness of the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's rivers and streams and to engage the community and local businesses. This special day is also meant to teach families, students and educators about Bay restoration activities, as they enjoy live entertainment, local food and beverages, and outdoor family-friendly activities. For more information see <https://www.allianceforthebay.org/events/2017-back-to-the-bay/>.
- **Citizens' Climate Lobby Conference and Lobby Day:** The Citizens' Climate Lobby will hold their 8th Annual Citizens' Climate International Conference & Lobby Day, June 11-13, 2017. This is an opportunity to meet climate change activists from across the country and to discuss the issue to your representatives on Capitol Hill. The registration deadline is May 26th. For more information see <http://citizensclimatelobby.org/2017-ccl-conference/>.
- **Smithsonian Folklife Festival Sustainability:** June 29-July 4 and July 6-9, 2017, National Mall between 7th and 12th streets (adjacent to the Smithsonian Castle). This year the subjects are:
 - ***Circus Arts:*** Exploring the history of circuses
 - ***On the Move:*** Focusing on human migration and what immigrants have contributed to the American experience, and
 - ***50 years/50 objects:*** Marking the 50th anniversary of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival.

As one of the premier events on our National Mall, the Smithsonian Folklife Festival attracts up to 1 million visitors a year. They need of volunteers to help run the compost and recycling program for the 2017 Festival. Over the past three years, the Festival has achieved stunning diversion rates of more than 90% and recycled or composted over 100 tons. As the largest public event on the National Mall to demonstrate such eco-friendly practices, our program serves as an

example for not just public events on the Mall, but events all over the country. The program was awarded the Sustainability Excellence Award from the American Alliance of Museums in 2017. Volunteers tend Resource Recovery Stations positioned throughout the Festival grounds. They guide the public in placing their waste into the proper containers (material categories are landfill, recycling, and compostable organics), and are responsible for pulling bags when full and replacing liners at the stations. Volunteers are provided with information to share with the public about the Smithsonian's recycling/composting effort and why it is important. Volunteers hours 10 am – 6pm (days) & 5:30 – 9pm (evenings). **To complete an online application, please visit <http://www.festival.si.edu/volunteer>.** When you register through the online application, be sure to sign up to volunteer for either Sustainability Volunteer or Evening Sustainability Volunteer. For more information about the Festival, go to <http://www.festival.si.edu/>. **For more information, contact** Michelle Banks, Volunteer Coordinator banks@si.edu.

Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) Report

- The MVCCA Board meeting was held on May 9, 2017 at the Mount Vernon Government Center. The agenda included: Adopting & writing of an Education funding resolution. Streamlining and updating of the Membership form and process was discussed and was assigned for completion. Upcoming election of officers was discussed and the Nomination Committee reported the names of the officers to be on the ballot.
- The General Council Meeting way held May 24, 2017 at the Mount Vernon Government Center. A resolution in support of adaptive changes in the allocation of Education Funding was discussed and passed. Officer elections were held and the slate of officers as presented by the nomination committee was unanimously elected. The new and updated Membership form and progress was introduced and opened for addition and amendment.

Supervisor Dan Stork reported on his efforts to advance the issues that the MVCCA had asked him to address in the South Flow Alliance on aviation noise management and the progress made over the last month on the demolition of a fire damaged hotel. He also updated the council on the continued struggles of some residents due to the damage of the foundation of their homes.

- Upcoming MVCCA Meetings, details, and more information about these items and all things related to the MVCCA can be found at our Web page: (<http://www.mvcca.org/>).

Providence District Council Report – Flint Webb

- The PDC held their meeting on May 10th. In the business portion of the meeting Officers were elected:
 - **Jeff Agnew – President**
 - **Erika Yalowitz – Vice President**
 - **Flint Webb – Membership Chair**
 - **Marie Gerritz – Recording Secretary**
 - **Richard Dana Opp III - Treasurer**
- **I-66 Project Briefing:** The subject will be the proposed changes to the I-66 outside the beltway plans being proposed by the selected public-private partner. On November 3rd, 2016 Governor McAuliffe signed the 50-year design-build-operation contract with Express Mobility Partners (EMP). After they were awarded the contract EMP proposed some concept changes to the design. VDOT is in the process of reviewing the concept changes now. The construction costs of the project are expected to be \$2.3 billion (about twice the construction costs for the I-495 HOT lane project). One significant change that was discussed at the PDC meeting is that contract will allow large trucks to use the HOT lanes in off-peak periods. Construction is planned to begin in the Fall with initial tolling in July 2022. Public meetings on the design changes will be held June 12, 14 and 15th. For more information see <http://outside.transform66.org/default.asp>.
- **Dunn Loring Community Meeting with VDOT:** On May 15th, the Dunn Loring Improvement Association set up their own meeting with VDOT and EMP. The issues were very similar but they dealt with specific issues from the specifics involved with buyouts and specifics on intersections and bridges. It was pointed out that the addition of allowing large commercial trucks (18-wheelers) in the HOT lanes was a very big change that was made after the previous batch of public hearings including increased noise of trucks on elevated ramps, the increased risks of trucks on fly-over ramps possibly carrying hazardous materials such as gasoline from the Picket Road tank farm.
- **GerryRIGGED: A Film Viewing & Discussion of Fair Redistricting:** Flint attended the screening of GerryRIGGED ON Wednesday, May 17th, Oakton Library. The film discusses the history of Gerrymandering and the approaches being used to eliminate it focusing on Virginia. Brian Cannon, Executive Director of OneVirginia2021, lead the discussion of the film and issue! Sponsored by Kiwanis Club and OneVirginia2021.

Upcoming Events:

- **PDC Picnic:** The PDC will be holding their annual picnic on Wednesday, June 14th starting at 6:30 pm at the Dunn Loring Green on the Washington and Old Dominion bike path in front of 8000 North Park Street, Dunn Loring, VA 22027.