

Membership Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2017

Approved May 17, 2018

The second April membership meeting of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order on April 26, 2018, by President Tim Thompson at 7:30 p.m. at the Dunn Loring Center, Dunn Loring.

Program: Report from Richmond

Senator Barbara Favola, Senate District 31 (encompassing portions of Arlington, Fairfax, and Loudoun counties) provided her views on the 2018 General Assembly session and answered our questions. Actually, it was more like a collegial discussion. Among Senator Favola's comments:

- The House dynamic is different this year now that the overwhelmingly Republican majority has declined to near parity. Likewise the fact that the legislators are now 20% female has had an impact on the overall outlook.
- Medicaid expansion passed the House with a significant number of supporting Republican votes. A decisive two Republicans in the Senate may embrace expansion, although that remains to be seen. Expansion makes economic sense.
- She was pleased to have passed a bipartisan truancy reform measure.
- She had introduced bipartisan solar energy bills – supported by both Dominion Energy and the Sierra Club – but they failed to advance, apparently too complex for some legislators to digest.
- Action on city/county tax authority equalization was deferred but will be studied.
- While dedicated funding for Metro was approved in the amount of \$154M annually, about 2/3's of the money is merely diverted from the current funding stream for Northern Virginia transportation projects. An effort to offset the diversion by \$30M by imposing several new taxes in Northern Virginia failed, with Delegate Hugo leading his caucus to oppose. Opposition is based upon a "no new taxes ever" mentality that avoids analysis of individual situations. In this case the tax would be only upon a region whose local politicians and business groups support it.
- Redistricting reform had much support but saw not much progress. The bill with that name that passed would have little effect. The governor proposed an amendment that would have improved the bill, but the amendment was defeated.
- (In response to a question) There is no appetite for a legislative pay increase, especially among legislators that represent districts with low average income.

- A move to prohibit the use of hand held communications devices while driving failed over concern that police would disproportionately target enforcement against minorities and the poor. Senator Surovell would be our best collaborator on this issue next issue next year.
- Minorities are suspicious of school resource officers (SRO). The senator would like to see different policies and training regarding SRO.

This was the first appearance of Senator Favola at a Fairfax Federation event. We were glad to have her. President Thompson presented the senator with a Federation mug as a remembrance of this event.

Citizen of Year Banquet

The banquet on April 15 was a joyous affair with almost 100 participants. A report was deferred as the committee chairman had forgotten to bring his laptop with the details.

Approval of the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Budget:

The initial proposed budget had been prepared by the Finance Committee and approved with changes by the Board. Tonight, the Chair of the Finance Committee, Treasurer Alejandro Mattiuzzo, briefed the budget. The membership directed two types of changes:

- PayPal charges for banquet ticket sales shall be shown as a new expense item rather than reporting as income only the post-PayPal amounts received from ticket sales.
- The amounts of several income/expense lines were adjusted.

The budget was approved by voice vote.

Nominating Committee

Today John Jennsion resigned as chairman of the Nominating Committee. President Thompson appointed Jeff Parnes as new chairman. The committee is charged to propose a slate of officers for the 2018-2019 membership year in time to be included in the announcement of the May 17 membership meeting.

Committee Reports

Citizen Association Services (Tim Thompson)

Don Hinman will represent the Federation at public hearings of the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors on Short-term Lease regulations.

Environment (Flint Webb)

Flint visited Buckingham County to learn more about the proposed pipelines.

Flint would like to arrange a South County meeting with Federation support on the topic of water quality. It is believed that some minority communities are purchasing bottled water because they do not trust the purity of tap water.

A community meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 30, 2018, to discuss options for the management of Lake Accotink. The Park Authority will join Braddock District Supervisor John Cook and Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay to gather public input in developing a vision for how Lake Accotink Park will serve the community for years to come. Members of the community are invited to Lake Braddock Secondary School, at 9200 Burke Lake Road in Burke, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. for discussion and to voice their opinions.

Legislation (Bill Barfield)

Of the 11 Federation Legislative Issues, bills addressing six made it out of committee onto to the House or Senate floor. Two were passed into legislation and two were postponed for consideration next year. Tim and Bill have attended many legislative committee meetings.

Public Safety (Pat Smaldore)

On April 28, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Fairfax County will participate in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Collection locations include county, city, and university police stations.

The program of the May 17 membership meeting, Restorative Justice and Alternate Accountability Program, will describe a multi-agency collaboration to reduce the number of youth entering the juvenile justice system. This should be an informative event.

Transportation (Jeff Parnes)

The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority is holding a number of events during the April 13 – May 20 public comment period on the Six-Year Transportation Plan. For a list of events, see <http://thenovaauthority.org/programming/fy2018-fy2023-six-year-program/participate/>.

Other (Pete Sitnik)

Frank Cihak, former Chair and then Co-chair of the Transportation Committee of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations passed away on April 19. He will be missed.

Adjournment: 9:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 17, 2018 | 7:30 p.m. | Mason Governmental Center.

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Secretary Pro-Tem