

Board Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2012

Approved March 15, 2012

The February meeting of the Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Tania Hossain at 7:30 p.m. at the Packard Center in Annandale.

Present: Fred Costello, Charlie Dane, Roger Diedrich, Joe Gibson, Don Hinman, Charlie Hall, Tania Hossain, Cherie LeJeune, Jeff Parnes, Scott Schlegel, Tim Thompson, Flint Webb, and Ed Wyse.

Administrative and Organizational Topics – Tania Hossain

Federation Appointments—*Joe Gibson, 2nd Vice President*

Joe provided letters for the President's signature tonight that are addressed to the appointing authorities for these Federation representatives:

- Frank Crandall, reappointment to the Airports Advisory Committee.
- Jim Phelps, appointment to the Engineering Standards Review Committee.

Joe will provide a letter next week for the President to sign to recommend reappointment of Margaret Thaxton to the Community Action Advisory Board.

Joe will be preparing a letter to reappoint John Hanks to the Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee.

Flint asked the status of the reappointment of Ana Prados as representative to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee Technical Advisory Committee. Flint and Joe will coordinate this action post-meeting.

The Federation seeks volunteers to be its representative and alternate representative to the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee.

The Bulletin (newsletter)—*Fred Costello*—The deadline for articles for the next newsletter is March 2.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes—*Ed Wyse*—The board approved the minutes of the January 2012 board meeting.

Treasurer's Report—*Scott Schlegel*—Scott provided a handout report and briefed the board on key points. The board voted to receive and file the treasurer's report.

Packard Center Lease—*Scott Schlegel*—The Park Authority announced lease rate for the Packard Center per square foot is per annum instead of per month as we had thought earlier. It now appears to make sense to lease at the Packard Center directly from the Park Authority. Ed Wyse will represent the Federation at a meeting the Park Authority will hold for prospective tenants on February 22. Questions remain about pro rata rental cost of common areas, janitorial costs, and photocopier arrangements.

Old Business—None

New & Miscellaneous Business

Virginia Public Access Project

David Poole, Executive Director, Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP) spoke to the board about the VPAP mission, products, and outreach efforts. VPAP is a non-profit group that demonstrates how technology can improve public understanding of money's role in Virginia politics. David distributed VPAP's newsletter: *Disclose Virginia*, Winter/Spring 2012, and passed around a sign-up sheet for VPAP publications. We will distribute copies of the news letter at the next membership meeting. More information is on the VPAP website at vpap.org. Federation members and board are urged to send to Recording Secretary Ed Wyse their ideas on what additional information we should like from VPAP for our membership's benefit.

Board and Committee Reports

Budget—Carey Campbell and Charlie Hall—Charlie confirmed that the Federation in the past has not taken a position on the advertised property tax rate and will not do so this year. He outlined the process that the Federation will take to develop its budget position. Charlie will initiate the shell document for the position while committee chairs will provide their priorities. This year communication will primarily be via e-mail rather than the face-to-face meetings of last year. The schedule will be tight as the county releases its advertised budget on February 28 and the Federation board will address the budget on March 15. Charlie noted that this year voting eligibility will be reviewed and confirmed at the beginnings of both the board and membership meetings. Charlie welcomed the addition of Linda Boone to the committee.

Citizen Association Services—Don Hinman—Don noted that the February Membership meeting will feature Michelle Thompson, Fairfax County's Homeowner and Community Association Liaison. Also Don will report on relevant General Assembly activity.

Citizen of the Year (COY)—Jeff Parnes—The awardees have been selected. Speaker arrangements are firm. The invitations and other printed materials are at the printers. Jeff will host an invitation addressing event at his house on February 25. He is seeking volunteers to whom he promises to serve a tasty lunch and beverages.

Jeff distributed a printed list of tasks that remain and will follow with a "soft copy" distribution. Each task has a name assigned to it; however a few individuals are over tasked. Jeff asked the board to review the list and volunteer for appropriate tasks.

Jeff announced that PayPal will be an online option for payment. He will vet the public announcement with the officers soon. He will update the Federation web site. The Federation has recovered the cup from last year's winner and now will engrave it. There was a lengthy discussion on how to advertise the banquet; two planned channels are the *Fairfax Times* and the *Patch* websites.

Education—Leonard Bumbaca, Ed Saperstein, & Tim Thompson—Charlie Dane reported. At the FCPS public hearings on the superintendent's proposed budget in January, Ed Saperstein gave Federation board-approved testimony. Ed and Tim attended the January 18 stakeholders' meeting on the budget and three members attended the school board's recent retreat. Committee members are observing the board's six new members transition from external advocates to corporate directors. The committee's March meeting will focus on the budget.

Environment—Roger Diedrich and Flint Webb—The next Green Breakfast is scheduled March 10; the presentation will be Fairfax County Public Schools Get2 Green program with Elaine Tholen, Environmental Educator. The Friends of Accotink Creek meet next week in their continuing effort to organize. In response to a question, the current status of the draft *Agenda for a Sustainable and Competitive Fairfax County*, intended to be a multi-group endorsed document coordinated by the Fairfax Coalition for Smarter Growth (FCSG), is unknown.

Human Services—Cherie Lejeune—Cherie demonstrated the Mobile Neighbor application to the Mantua Citizens Association. Next month the Mantua Citizens Association meeting program will be the village movement, which links neighbors together to help one another remain in their homes as they grow older.

Land Use—Fred Costello—Terry Maynard of the board of the Reston Citizens Association sent a letter on February 14 to Chairman Bulova recommending obtaining an independent second opinion on the validity of the Wilbur Smith Associates' (WSA's) traffic and revenue (T&R) forecasts for the Dulles Toll Road. The assertion is that WSA has a history of producing studies that overestimate future toll road revenues by an average of 118% (more than a factor of two) and that due diligence requires a double-check of the estimates WSA provided for the Dulles Toll Road before committing to the Rail to Dulles Phase II project.

Legislation—Frank Anderson and Jason Ha—No report.

Membership—*Don Hinman*—The Bonnie Brae Civic Association is the newest paid up member. Various Federation board members have distributed our postcard advertisements at recent meetings of three different district councils.

Nomination—*Jeff Parnes*—The nomination committee will begin work immediately after the Citizen of the Year banquet. Jeff is looking for volunteers to serve on the committee.

Public Safety—*As'ad Hess-Linckost*—No report.

Resolutions and Policies and Procedures (P&P)—*Bill Hanks*—Tania reported that she is authoring a resolution regarding transparency in the setting of Fall Church water rates. Her plan is to coordinate this resolution with the board via e-mail and introduce it at the membership meeting on February 22.

Transportation—*Carey Campbell, Roger Hoskins, and Jeff Parnes*—Jeff has been appointed to the Citizens Advisory Committee to the Transportation Planning Board of the Metropolitan Council of Governments.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has embarked on the Super NoVa Transit and Transportation Demand Management Vision Plan study. (<http://www.supernovatransitvision.com/about.html>) The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT)-defined super region for this planning effort encompasses all of the localities comprising Northern Virginia and the localities extending from Northern Virginia to Caroline County on the south, Culpeper County on the west and Frederick County to the northwest. It also includes an effort in coordination with Maryland, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Baltimore, however, is in another planning region. The situation that the two planning regions' common boundary runs between Washington DC and Baltimore does not reflect reality and inhibits coordinated transportation planning.

A recent study compared the tolls on the Dulles Toll Road, the Inter-county Connector, and the Dulles Greenway and concluded that the Dulles Toll Road tolls should increase to be compatible with the others. Jeff disputes this conclusion, noting that the three roads were constructed at different times with separate financing arrangements. The Dulles Toll Road is the oldest and was financed in part with taxpayer funds, while the Dulles Greenway is privately-financed/owned and the ICC toll structure is intended to cover the full cost of its recent construction.

The Commonwealth is considering a grant of \$150M for Dulles Rail Phase II.

Website—*Jeff Parnes*—Tania reported a lead on an intern to help maintain the website; John Jennison has the contact!

District Council Reports

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

Braddock—*Art Wells*—Charlie Dane reported that the district council has been addressing the question of where to concentrate their efforts

Lee—*Don Hinman*—The Penn Daw Special Study Task Force split 4-4 on recommendations for a future vision for the land area west of North Kings Highway and surrounding commercial uses comprising the 11-acre Penn Daw Plaza. The Lee District Land Use Committee will tackle this issue at its next meeting.

Don regrets that he must resign as Lee representative as he's overbooked with volunteer responsibilities.

Providence—*Flint Webb*—The February 21 council meeting topic is the Falls Church water supply. This is the last scheduled meeting because no one is willing to run for the position of president of the council.

Springfield—*Mike Thompson*—Ed Wyse reported the council met January 31 to hear Supervisor Herrity's State of the District address. The next meeting will be in the spring; the program will be either the FBI's possible move to Springfield or Metro's construction of a police station and a police training facility in Springfield.

Sully—*Jeff Parnes*—January's meeting was on Public Safety with representatives from the Virginia State and Fairfax County police (Fair Oaks and Sully Stations) and the Fairfax Sheriff's Department. February's meeting (on the 22nd) will be on the FCPS budget with the Sully and at-large School Board representatives invited as well as FCPS staff. The March meeting will address the county's budget.

December saw the first SDC member organization apply for membership in both the Council and the Federation using the single application form that Sully uses.

There were no reports from the other district councils. Their representatives are Mason—John Birch and Mount Vernon—Karen Pohorylo.

Adjournment—The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Next Meetings

The next board meeting will be March 15 (this time the 3rd Thursday of the month), 7:30 p.m., in the Packard Center, Annandale.

The next membership meeting will be March 22 (this time the 4th Thursday of the month), 7:30 p.m., in the Packard Center, Annandale. The program will feature County Executive Tony Griffin to discuss Fairfax County's FY 2013 Budget.

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary