

The Fairfax County **FEDERATION** of Citizens Associations Established 1940

November 2005

THE BULLETIN

Volume 55 Number 3

Federation Membership Meeting



Thursday, November 17, 2005

7:30 p.m.

**Walt Whitman Middle School
2500 Parker's Lane, Alexandria**

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN LOCATION

(DIRECTIONS ON BACK PAGE)

Topic:

***Impact of the Base Realignment and
Closure (BRAC) on Fairfax County***

***Co-sponsor, The Mount Vernon Council
of Citizens Associations***

Guest Speakers:

***The Honorable Jim Moran
Congressman, Eighth District***

***The Honorable Gerald Hyland
Mount Vernon District Supervisor***

Dean Tisdadt

Fairfax County Public Schools

Jan Vaughn

Virginia Department of Transportation

Representative from Fort Belvoir



Upcoming Membership Meeting

December 15, 2005 7:30 p.m.

**Packard Center Main Conference Room
4022 Hummer Road, Annandale**

Federation Board Meeting

December 1, 2005 7:30 p.m.

President's Message

On **November 17th** we're taking the **membership meeting on the road!** The Federation will co-sponsor with the **Mount Vernon County Council** a program on **BRAC**, Base Realignment and Closure. **Congressman Jim Moran and Supervisor Gerry Hyland** are our featured speakers with a program on the effects of the **BRAC** on the county **schools and transportation infrastructure.**

In addition to our featured speakers, **Dean Tisdadt**, Fairfax County Public Schools, and **Jan Vaughn**, Virginia Department of Transportation, will also take part in the discussion. **The meeting will be held at Walt Whitman Middle School**, please see the back page for directions. The **BRAC** meeting promises to be informative as the county plans its response to the employment transition.

At the **October 20th membership meeting** the annual **2006 Legislative Program** was approved. Thanks to **Sally Ormsby**, Legislative Committee Chair, for her excellent work on presenting the program to the board and membership for our considered review. The Legislative Program was presented in the last newsletter and has been posted on our website. In addition, the membership approved a resolution supporting the **school bond** for school renovation and construction. Thanks to **Charlie Dane** and the Education Committee for its presentation. The school bond resolution is on the website as well. On **November 8th**, voters in Fairfax County overwhelmingly approved the bond.

There will be more to come, so continue to check the website for our **December membership** program and look for our announcements. The newsletters currently provide our main source of contact to membership. We are soon going more electronic, and look for everyone's assistance in this process. See you the 17th!

John Jennison, President

President@FairfaxFederation.org

(703) 591-5586

**FAIRFAX COUNTY FEDERATION OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS
2005 - 2006 BOARD OF DIRECTORS and RELATED POSITIONS (11/01/05)**

Officers

President	John Jennison	(703) 591-5586	FedPres@fairfaxfederation.org
First Vice President	Patrick Rea	(703) 799-4799	Fed1stVP@fairfaxfederation.org
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Treasurer	Jeffrey Parnes	(703) 904-0131	FedTreas@fairfaxfederation.org
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Corresponding Secretary	Judith H'Ormaycht	(703) 801-0316	FedCorSec@fairfaxfederation.org
Past President	Carol Hawn	(703) 266-6872	FedPastPres@fairfaxfederation.org

Committee Chairs

Education	Charles Dane	(703) 323-7847	FedEducationChr@fairfaxfederation.org
Environment	Flint Webb	(703) 560-5203	FedEnvironment@fairfaxfederation.org
	Walter Sisson	(703) 560-2469	FedEnvironment@fairfaxfederation.org
Human Services	Carol Hawn	(703) 266-6872	FedHumServcsChr@fairfaxfederation.org
Land Use	Steve DelBianco	(703) 992-6857	FedLandUseChr@fairfaxfederation.org
Legislation	Sally Ormsby	(703) 273-2048	FedLegislationChr@fairfaxfederation.org
Public Safety	Merrily Pierce	(703) 848-1924	FedPublicSafetyChr@fairfaxfederation.org
Resolutions	Bill Hanks	(703) 385-3753	FedResolutionsChr@fairfaxfederation.org
Transportation	Earl Flanagan	(703) 780-4709	FedTransportationChr@fairfaxfederation.org
	Roger Hoskin	(703) 750-1941	FedTransportationChr@fairfaxfederation.org

District Representatives

Braddock	Art Wells	(703) 323-7367	FedBraddockRep@fairfaxfederation.org
Lee	Johna Gagnon	(703) 960-2840	FedLeeRep@fairfaxfederation.org
Mason	Roger Hoskins	(703) 750-1941	FedMasonRep@fairfaxfederation.org
Mount Vernon	Judy Harbeck	(703) 780-1883	FedMtVernonRep@fairfaxfederation.org
Providence	Rebecca Cate	(703) 698-0932	FedProvidenceRep@fairfaxfederation.org
Springfield	Mike Thompson	(703) 440-9447	FedSpringfieldRep@fairfaxfederation.org
Sully	Jeffrey Parnes	(703) 904-0131	FedSullyRep@fairfaxfederation.org

Related Positions

Bulletin	Carol Hawn	(703) 266-6872	FedBulletinEditor@fairfaxfederation.org
Website	Jeffrey Parnes	(703) 904-0131	FedWebmaster@fairfaxfederation.org

Assessing the Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment regarding Setbacks, Fences and Walls, Lot Width, and Building Height

Current law allows property owners to seek a variance to minimum yard width, lot setbacks, and maximum fence height, subject to review by the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). Last year, the Supreme Court of Virginia re-affirmed that current law allows variances only if strict adherence to the Zoning Ordinance would restrict all reasonable use of the property.

The Board of Supervisors subsequently determined the County should have more flexibility in granting variances, or "modifications", to zoning requirements. County Staff then combined over a dozen potential modifications into a single proposal (see www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/projects/minyard/summarytable.pdf).

To explain these modifications and gather comments, staff conducted six public work sessions in September and October. As you might imagine, comments range from "no modifications!" to "hurry, so I can build that new addition!"

Criteria and Standards for granting relief from the Zoning Ordinance

Before presenting any elements of the ZOA to the Board of Supervisors, Staff should include *specific criteria and objective standards* that limit the granting of relief from the Zoning Ordinance. As a starting point for discussion, here are six general standards for relief:

1. Va. Code § 15-2-2309 should continue to govern the issuance of any relief, whether the County is granting relief as a variance, modification, special permit, or special exception.

Va. Code § 15-2-2309 requires the following findings prior to issuing a variance:

(a) That the strict application of the ordinance would produce undue hardship;

- (b) That the hardship is not shared generally by other properties in the same zoning district and the same vicinity;
- (c) That the authorization of the variance will not be of substantial detriment to adjacent property and that the character of the district will not be changed by the granting of the variance; and
- (d) That the condition or situation of the property concerned is not of so general or recurring a nature as to make reasonably practicable the formulation of a general regulation to be adopted as an amendment to the ordinance.
- Relief should be granted only where there is no reasonable alternative to the relief sought.
 - Relief should not be granted if the resulting total impervious surface coverage would exceed 25% of the lot area.
 - Relief should not be granted if the result allows an increase of allowable dwelling units (yield), even if the resulting density were within allowable density limits.
 - Relief should be limited such that multiple relief applications cannot be used to effectively re-zone an area.
 - Relief should not be granted unless the applicant demonstrates that the relief sought is consistent with any applicable homeowner association covenants.

Please share your thoughts on this proposal. As the new chair of the Federation's Land Use Committee, I welcome the participation of anyone interested in working on this vital topic.

Steve DelBianco, Federation Land Use Chair
FedLandUseChr@FairfaxFederation.org

**Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Membership Meeting of October 20, 2005
DRAFT MINUTES**

(for membership approval at the November 17, 2005 meeting)

The meeting of FCFCA was held at the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. (Attendance list is attached to the original minutes.) First Vice-President Patrick Rea presided. There was no guest speaker this month to allow time for review of the proposed legislative program.

Business Meeting —

a. The minutes for the September 15 meeting were approved unanimously as written.

b. Bill Hanks gave a report on AHOME (Affordable Housing Opportunity Means Everyone). AHOME was founded in 1985 by the Federation, the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors, the Northern Virginia Business and Industry Association, and the Chamber of Commerce. Bill Hanks has represented the Federation on the AHOME Board since 1993 and has served as part-time AHOME Executive Director since 1999. AHOME has successfully advocated for an affordable dwelling unit ordinance both locally and statewide, among other policy positions. It just held its first annual awards breakfast, marking a new level of fundraising. Fairfax Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerald Connolly received the individual award and McGuire Woods received the institutional award.

c. Charles Dane presented a resolution in support of the upcoming school bond referendum. The resolution was approved unanimously as written.

d. Sally Ormsby reviewed the proposed 2006 Federation legislative program, previously distributed through the Federation Bulletin. A proposal to amend transportation-related sections in the Infrastructure section was circulated, but there was no proponent present to put it forward. Following a request at the last Board meeting, Sally Ormsby also presented a draft amendment addressing eminent domain. It was decided not to add this to the legislative program, and the topic was deferred to the Board for possible consideration. The legislative program with a couple of technical corrections was unanimously approved. Patrick Rea thanked Sally Ormsby for her efforts.

Sally Ormsby noted that there will be a Board of Supervisors meeting on November 21, at which President John Jennison or Patrick Rea can testify regarding the Federation program. Carol Hawn will prepare the legislative program packets.

e. Charles Dane noted there are two new members of the Education Committee, Laura Mead and Bettina Lawton. This year, the committee has asked Jeff Parnes to update its part of the website, which has been done. It will try to have a report for each newsletter from one of its representatives on other bodies. The committee will meet with Pam Tobey in November regarding school support for grants. The Federation membership meeting in January will be with Deputy Superintendent Brad Draeger, who will discuss the budget and impact of No Child Left Behind.

f. Mary Anne Lecoc of the Education Committee is in a group advising a consultant assessing whether the school schedule can be revised so that high schools start later than 7:10 or 7:20 a.m. She reported that this issue has been reviewed in the past, but due to technical advances, this consultant has been able to make more use of modeling software. The consultant's work is proceeding quickly.

g. Sally Ormsby reported that Merrily Pierce, who could not be present, will stay on as chair of the Citizens Corps through the calendar year. She recommends the County Executive's presentation on emergency preparedness. Jeff Parnes noted there is a link to this report on the Federation website as well as a link to the emergency information from the county.

h. Patrick Rea reported that the membership letters are ready and will be

mailed.

i. Flint Webb reported that the Environmental Committee met October 11 to discuss stream reclassification before the recent Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) meeting. Citizens are invited to participate in an October 26 workshop at the Council of Governments board room organized by the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, which is seeking input on new and innovative ways to restrict air pollution. The next Green Breakfast will be on the county's Tree Action Plan and will be on November 12. The Environmental Committee will prepare an article on ambient air standards for the next newsletter.

Walt Sisson, the new Environmental co-chair, said he appreciates the opportunity to serve. He reported that the committee's next meeting on October 25 will be with Supervisor Lynda Smith and Jimmie Jenkins, Director of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES), to discuss stream reclassification in a smaller group setting.

j. Jeff Parnes reviewed the Treasurer's Report, which was approved unanimously.

k. Jeff Parnes reported on recent changes to the website. There are now e-mail aliases for all officers, district council representatives, and committee chairs on the Contact Us page. He encouraged committee chairs to contact him to create e-mail lists for use within their individual committees; the committees can then be addressed using a single e-mail alias. He has also asked committee chairs and district council representatives to let him know of desired changes to their web pages within the site.

The membership meeting agenda is being posted online prior to the meeting. There will be a repository of PDFs of the Federation Bulletin and the Board is discussing the possibility of scanning archival copies of past Bulletins. In addition, there will be a way for associations to join the Federation online. He also plans to develop an opt-in mailing list for Federation members to receive Federation-related e-mails.

l. It was announced that Earl Flanagan has agreed to serve as the Federation's Transportation chair.

m. Judy Harbeck reported from the Mount Vernon District Council on the upcoming Federation membership meeting co-sponsored with the Council. The topic is the impact of the BRAC changes at Fort Belvoir. The meeting will be November 17 at 7:30 at Walt Whitman Middle School (near the Sherwood Hall library and INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital). Guest speakers will include Supervisor Gerald Hyland and representatives from Fairfax County Public Schools and the county transportation office. A map is available on the Federation website and will be in the November newsletter.

n. Roger Hoskin reported the Mason District Council has just held a lively candidates night.

o. Carol Hawn reported that she has two printers' bids for the brochure. Consideration of the bids was deferred to the Board meeting. She will send the separate, previously approved design invoice from Wolf Run Studios to Jeff Parnes for payment.

p. Sally Ormsby reported that March 9 and 16 have been reserved as alternate dates for the Citizen of the Year banquet, pending the chosen speaker's schedule. Carol Hawn has updated the nomination form for this year and will supply it to Jeff Parnes for posting on the website.

Next Membership Meeting: NOTE special location (Walt Whitman Middle School in the Mount Vernon District). November 17, 2005, the impact of BRAC; see item "m" above for details.

Next Board Meeting: October 27, 2005.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Fairfax County
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road
Annandale, VA 22003

Membership
Meeting

Thursday,
November 17, 2005
7:30 p.m.

***Walt Whitman Middle
School***

*2500 Parker's Lane
Alexandria*

**Please Note Location
Change**

Directions to
Walt Whitman Middle School
2500 Parker's Lane
Alexandria

***From I-495 South (Capital Beltway),
merge onto Richmond Highway
(Route 1 South toward Fort Belvoir).***

***Please note you need to follow the
detour signs, as this interchange is
undergoing reconstruction.***

***After approximately 4 miles, turn left at
light onto Sherwood Hall Lane
(VA-626). Go approximately .2 mile,
turn right onto Parker's Lane. Walt
Whitman Middle School is on the left,
after the library parking lot.***

Citizen of the Year Nominations

Nominations are being accepted for the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations/Washington Post Citizen of the Year Award. A nomination form is enclosed in this newsletter. If you know an individual whose contributions and accomplishments have benefited the residents of Fairfax County, we invite you to nominate them for this prestigious commendation. The deadline for nominations will be January 15, 2006. If you have questions, or for more information, please contact Carol Hawn, Award Selection Committee Chair, at (703) 266-6872 or via email at cahawn@att.net. You can also visit our web site at www.fairfaxfederation.org. The annual Awards Banquet will be held in March, 2006.

www.fairfaxfederation.org