

The Fairfax County FEDERATION of Citizens Associations

Established 1940

December 2007

THE BULLETIN

Volume 57, Number 4

General Membership Meeting



Thursday, December 13, 2007

7:30 p.m.

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

Please note this is the second Thursday of the month.

**"Keeping our Neighborhoods Safe, Attractive,
and Vital - with Emphasis on Overcrowding"**

Introductions: The Honorable Sharon Bulova

*Vice-Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and
Braddock District Supervisor*

Overview of the County Strike Force

*Deputy Chief David McKernan,
Fairfax County Fire and Rescue*

Community Building Project

Dave Ellis, County Executive's Office

Legal Issues and Implications

Elizabeth Teare, Assistant County Attorney

Zoning Issues and Implications

Mike Congleton, Senior Deputy Zoning Administrator

Braddock District Neighborhood Pilot Project

John Cook, Esq, King's Park Civic Association



Upcoming Membership Meeting

January 17, 2008 7:30 p.m.

Topic: Education in Fairfax County



Upcoming Federation Board Meeting

December 20, 2007

Marco Polo Restaurant, Vienna



President's Message

Of course, you know that what I write in this column is always my own and never the official policy or position of the Federation – simply chalk it up to the blathering of a doddering fool. That said . . .

Sometime in the fall we received a request from Dominion Power to speak before the Federation in support of the proposal to construct an additional high power line. It would serve the growing electrical needs of the booming Northern Virginia suburbs. Although the proposed line would not go through Fairfax County, Dominion Power contended that since it would serve county residents, it was of interest to our members.

After board discussion, we extended an offer to Dominion to speak at our November meeting. We also decided, for fairness sake, to invite a group opposing the power line, and asked Virginia's Commitment to speak at the same meeting. This was done without informing Dominion Power, as we thought who we invited speak before the Federation was solely our business.

About two days before the meeting, I tried to confirm the name of the Dominion Power representative, and was informed that they were short-staffed and unable to send a speaker to our meeting. Mind you, they were not aware of our invitation to Virginia's Commitment. I then informed them that we might have a speaker taking a position against the power line without their presence. Their short-handedness still prevented them from sending a speaker and we dropped them from the agenda.

At our November meeting (and I thank all the folks who sat through that long haul) we heard from Virginia's Commitment (see the draft minutes beginning on page two). Virginia's Commitment was keen to boast about speaking before the Federation, and although our meeting extended well past 11:00 p.m., I was already getting emails and phone calls from their speaker during the meeting wanting me to proof the blog they were posting explaining that Dominion Power had chickened out of speaking to the Federation because they had heard that Virginia's Commitment would also be speaking. As I explained above, and corrected their blog to reflect, that was plainly not true.

We have of course, re-extended the offer to Dominion Power to speak at our December meeting, and I still don't know if they're coming. But enough rumors have spread that we were asked questions such as "Did Dominion cancel BECAUSE they heard that Virginia's Commitment would be there?" and "If Dominion will be at the next Federation meeting, should we have someone to counter?" I personally believe even if Dominion Power speaks, our folks are intelligent enough that we don't need another opposition presentation, we've had one already.

All in all, the one thing I heard from Virginia's Commitment that

*(see **President's Message** - continued on page 3)*

Happy Holidays!

**Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Membership Meeting of November 15, 2007**

DRAFT MINUTES

(for approval at the December 13, 2007 membership meeting)

The meeting of FCFCA was held at the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. (Attendance list is attached to file copy.)

President Jeff Parnes explained that Dominion Power had asked to address the meeting regarding the company's proposed transmission line. (The line itself would not cross through Fairfax County, but it would supply some power here.) He agreed, and had also invited those opposed to the project. Dominion Power was unable to attend, but those providing the counterpoint were present. He then introduced David Jeffers. Mr. Jeffers is president of Indelium, Inc., a strategic communications firm, and executive director of Virginia's Commitment, an organization against the transmission line. Lana Westfall, who directs field operations and outreach for Virginia's Commitment, was also present.

Mr. Jeffers stated that the proposed line would include 15-story towers twice as high as any currently in Virginia. Objections to it include local concerns about the effect on the landscape and whether it is a "taking" from landowners, as well as energy production and environmental policy concerns put forward by his group. He said that Dominion Power has stated that unless the line is built, the "lights will go out," referring to blackouts at times of peak demand, by the summer of 2011. He said that the company's application for permission to build the line states that there will be a 500 megawatt shortfall at that time. He stated that the application also indicates that the line would have a capacity of 3250 megawatts, of which (initially) about 16 percent, or 512 megawatts, would go to northern Virginia. He also said that more than 8000 megawatts of capacity will be added to the regional grid through other planned projects prior to 2011. He said that because the power to be transmitted is from coal-burning plants in the Ohio Valley, the plan represents an older approach to energy that will be rendered out of date by the carbon regulations expected over the next five to seven years, as well as by other changes in the energy field. After his presentation, Barbara Kessinger, Jeff Brown, and a third person, all from the Prince William County Energy Coalition, shared their opposition to the transmission line.

President Jeff Parnes explained that we would not decide on the issue until we hear from Dominion Power. Mr. Jeffers asked for a resolution against the line, after we hear from Dominion. He also noted that there is a February 25 evidentiary hearing before the State Corporation Commission. For purposes of that hearing, the commission will only consider comments received by December 14.

Initial Business

- a. President Jeff Parnes asked for a moment of silence in honor of Sharon Hanks, the late wife of Federation Board member Bill Hanks, which was observed. He also reported that the Board has contributed \$100 to the memorial fund established in her name through the Lewinsville Presbyterian Church.
- b. The minutes for the October membership meeting were unanimously approved.
- c. Scott Schlegel presented the Treasurer's report, which was received.

Program

President Jeff Parnes asked Sally Ormsby, the chair of the Legislative Committee, to preside over the discussion of the Federation's proposed 2008 legislative package, which she had presented to the Federation Board at its most recent meeting. Approval of the program was moved and seconded, and a page-by-page review followed. All friendly amendments and minor corrections are reflected in the finished document, which will be made available on the Federation website, and are not noted here.

There was extended discussion of a proposed provision to support General Assembly action to allow a referendum on a town charter for Reston. The proposed charter is different from more typical town charters because it provides fewer powers and taxes than most Virginia towns have, and because Reston would in turn receive more county services; it has been called a "town light" model. Mike Corrigan of the Reston Citizens Association argued that Reston could serve as an experimental case for other localities in the county to follow if it is a success, making the matter relevant for consideration by the Federation. Marian Stillson as well as several others attending in support of this position, including Hank Blakeley and Colin Mills, discussed different reasons for supporting the change. Others present, including several members of the Federation Board, spoke against including the provision. President Jeff Parnes moved to form a subcommittee that will report back to the membership, at which point the provision could be considered for late inclusion in the legislative program. The motion was seconded and was approved 22 to 7. He then asked for volunteers. The subcommittee will consist of Gail Parker, Carey Campbell, Marian Stillson, Mike Corrigan, and Jeff Parnes.

Charles Dane moved to amend the proposed language on phased relocation of the oil tank firm near Mantua to add the language, "unless at some point the phased relocation results in a significant increase in tank truck traffic on Fairfax County roads." The motion was seconded. It failed on an 8-18 vote.

(see DRAFT MINUTES - continued on page 3)

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
4022 Hummer Road, Annandale VA 22003

www.fairfaxfederation.org

2007-2008 President: Jeffrey M. Parnes
Newsletter Editor: Carol A. Hawn

The Bulletin is the newsletter of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. It is usually published monthly, with the exception of July and August. The purpose is to provide information to member communities, federal, state, and local officials, and other interested persons in Fairfax County. Articles reflect the view of their author and may be reprinted with the use of the following citation: "The Bulletin of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations".

Please contact Carol Hawn at 703-266-6872 or cahawn@att.net with name and address changes, comments, or suggestions.

Federation Meeting Cancellation Policy

If either Fairfax County Government or Schools are closed after 12:00 noon the day of a Federation membership meeting, or if it is announced that Fairfax County Government or Schools will be closed the day after a scheduled Federation membership meeting due to inclement weather or other emergency, the Federation will not hold that event. This does not pertain to regularly scheduled closures. Membership meetings will not be rescheduled, although speakers may be asked to attend an upcoming meeting. We will make every attempt to post the cancellation on www.fairfaxfederation.org or you can call 703-266-6872 for more information.

(DRAFT MINUTES - continued from page 2)

Art Wells provided a quick BRAC update, in conjunction with the program's BRAC provision, that the normal federal legislation which will fund the base relocations has not yet passed, but that \$5 billion in BRAC funding has already been included in the congressional continuing resolution on the budget.

The legislative program, as amended, passed unanimously. Jeff Parnes then resumed the chair. A motion of thanks to Sally Ormsby was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Business Meeting

[Lettering of items continues from above]

d. Flint Webb noted that he and Sally Ormsby completed a final version of the green buildings resolution presented at the last membership meeting. At that meeting, the membership had approved the resolution in principle and referred final editing and approval to the Federation Board, which in turn had at its most recent meeting referred the final polishing to him and Sally in order to meet a pending deadline. He reported that the final resolution has now been submitted to the Planning Commission.

e. Charles Dane, chair of the Education and Youth Committee, gave an update on the projected fiscal year (FY) 2009 Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) budget shortfall. This shortfall had been projected as a maximum (worst case) of \$145 million, but at present, the analysis indicates it will be \$98 million. This figure takes into account the planned expansion of all-day kindergarten and foreign language instruction and the recent unexpected increase in the student population, amounting to 1600 students above school system projections. The School Board is now identifying possible cuts and program reductions to make up for this shortfall. The Education and Youth Committee will be recommending that the Superintendent avoid proposing a budget with a shortfall greater than \$45 million.

f. John Jennison reported that a Cool Schools resolution to the Board of Supervisors that had been submitted by one of the other co-sponsors of the Cool Counties concert recently passed 9 to 1. As the Federation representative to the county's Revitalization Committee, he reported there have been three meetings so far, as well as a bus tour of the nine areas within the county identified for revitalization; some of these include Merrifield, Annandale, and parts of Tysons Corner. He will write a short report on the committee's work for an upcoming Federation newsletter.

g. As the Federation representative to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC), Flint Webb noted that the state implementation plans (SIP) for the region to reduce PM 2.5 (particle) air pollution is expected to be provided for public review in January.

h. Esther Ferington reported on behalf of Art Wells, the Braddock District Council representative, who had to leave before the end of the meeting, that she and Charles Dane will present information on the Federation at the next Braddock District Council meeting on November 20. The Taste of Braddock will be held December 6; the next meeting of the joint Braddock-GMU committee will be January 9; and the Braddock District Council annual workshop will be February 13. She also reported, again for Art Wells, that Supervisor Sharon Bulova has agreed to introduce the panel of speakers on "safe, attractive

neighborhoods" at the Federation's next membership meeting on December 13, which Art Wells has been coordinating.

i. President Jeff Parnes announced that the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments is seeking a citizen volunteer to participate on its Advisory Committee on Transportation. Those who are interested should follow up with him directly.

j. John Jennison, chair of the Citizen of the Year Committee, reminded those present that the deadline for nominations for Citizen of the Year is January 16. Nomination forms may be found on the Federation website.

Next Membership Meeting: December 13, Ensuring Safe and Attractive Neighborhoods (speakers to include Supervisor Sharon Bulova)

Next Board Meeting: November 29 (5th Thursday, due to Thanksgiving). Note: The December 20 Board meeting will be at the Marco Polo Restaurant in Vienna.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Esther Ferington

Federation Acting Recording Secretary

(President's Message - continued from page 1)

bothered me the most (even more than their using the Federation as a tool in their blog) was they were more than adequately funded. I could almost believe they're a front organization for groups of land owners (not that I have anything against land owners), who don't want their "view shed" damaged. I'd almost bet dollars for donuts (and at 65 cents a donut, the bet's not as bad as it was when the expression was first bandied about with donuts a nickel each), that most of the involved landowners bought their property after the current power lines were already in place. It reminds me of folks who buy property near a highway and then fight like the dickens to ensure the highway isn't widened. I would assume that the logical place to build a taller power line, wider highway, larger water main, etc. is along the right of way of, or to replace, the current power line, highway, water main, etc.

I also believe that there will be increasing needs for power to be delivered to Northern Virginia, and that although environmentally-friendly sources make the most sense, there won't be enough of those or locally-generated power to meet all the needs. Will a third nuclear reactor at Lake Anna be built in this century? Can you imagine the outcry if they propose to build rows upon rows of wind turbines along the Blue Ridge Mountains - look at the outcry in Nantucket Sound when they proposed building turbines 8 or 20 miles off the shore of Cape Cod?

I would welcome Dominion's presentation at our December meeting, although I doubt that our membership would be able to take a position since the deadline for submission to the State Corporation Commission is the very next day.

So enjoy the holidays of the season, and when you turn on the power to your decorations and lights, give a thought to how we plan on powering them in the future.

Jeffrey Parnes, President
FedPres2007@FairfaxFederation.org

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

RESOLUTION

Comprehensive Plan Amendment Encouraging Green Building Practices

WHEREAS, increased land use density increases the demand for: energy, mitigation of stormwater runoff, and wastewater treatment facilities;

WHEREAS, green building standards minimize these demands;

WHEREAS, the County is responsible for regulating stormwater management facilities, requiring stormwater runoff mitigation, and providing wastewater treatment facilities;

WHEREAS, increased demand for energy requires greater need for power line rights-of-way and energy-producing facilities;

WHEREAS, increased demand for energy also contributes to ozone and particulate matter air pollution and the emission of climate-changing greenhouse gasses;

WHEREAS, Northern Virginia, including Fairfax County, is not in attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone or fine particulate pollution;

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has adopted the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050;

WHEREAS, more than 50 percent of the CO₂ emissions in the United States comes from energy used in residential, office and retail building for heating, cooling, lighting or other utilities;

WHEREAS, the Policy Plan of the Comprehensive Plan sets forth guiding policies and principles and the Area Plans provide specific guidance on specific land uses in the County;

WHEREAS, green building standards such as the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design® (LEED®) minimize the demand for energy production, wastewater treatment and stormwater runoff mitigation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (the Federation) commends the Environmental Committee of the Planning Commission for exploring ways to encourage use of green building techniques through the comprehensive planning process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Federation believes that the goal of the green building policy in the Comprehensive Plan should be that increased density should not cause an increased demand for energy, wastewater facilities or off-site stormwater mitigation measures.

Approved by Federation Membership on October 18, 2007.

In Memoriam

The Federation extends its deepest condolences to Past President and Resolutions Committee Chair William Hanks and his family on the passing of Bill's wife, Sharon on November 9, 2007. A Celebration of Life was held at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church on November 15, 2007.

Sharon was active with church youth programs and in the Chancel Choir, and enjoyed traveling and camping, sewing and needlework. A memorial fund has been established in her name at the Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, Post Office Box 538, McLean VA 22101.

Ad-Hoc Committee on Reston Town Charter

At the November Federation membership meeting, the question of whether to support a proposal by the Reston Citizens Association for a referendum on whether Reston should incorporate as a town was referred to an ad-hoc committee (see *draft minutes beginning on page two*).

The Committee has met, and their recommendation is as follows:

Recommend that a task force be convened within the current legislative session comprised of effected interests, including:

- General Assembly members,
- county government, and
- key referendum stakeholders

and co-chaired by a representative of each of the following:

- Reston Citizens Association
- County of Fairfax, and
- General Assembly

to address the mechanical issues of how the self governance of Reston should be implemented, identify and analyze the options, and make recommendations as to the governance of the proposed town of Reston.

For more information about the committee's deliberations and recommendation, see the Federation Legislation Committee webpage at www.fairfaxfederation.org/legislation1.htm.

Commission Seeks Input on County Mental Health Care Services

Consumers, their family members or significant others, and service providers are asked to take an anonymous survey to provide input on Fairfax County's mental health care services.

The survey gauges how well these services promote recovery from mental illness. It is being conducted by the Josiah H. Beeman Commission, which is composed of local, state and national mental health care experts and consumer advocates. Survey results will help the group advise the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on the future direction of mental health services in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. The short survey can be answered online from home or a county library at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/beemancommission. A paper copy is also available at all county libraries, most Community Services Board service sites, and consumer-operated drop-in centers. The survey ends on Wednesday, December 19, 2007.

The following drop-in centers will offer survey assistance at scheduled times:

Reston Drop-In Center, 1820 Michael Faraday Drive, 2nd Floor, Reston, 703-437-5101, TTY 711

Consumer Wellness Center of Falls Church, 6245 Leesburg Pike, Suite 420, Falls Church, 703-531-4653, TTY 711

Fairfax On Our Own, 9794-S Sacramento Drive, Alexandria, 703-531-6398, TTY 711.

Survey participants are not asked to identify themselves, where they receive services or what types of services they receive. A summary of survey results will be posted on Fairfax County's website.

For additional information about the survey or the commission, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/beemancommission, or call 703-324-7407, TTY 711. For recorded information on the availability of the consumer survey in other languages, please call 703-324-2400, TTY 711.

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

2007 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year Nomination

Purpose of the Award: The Fairfax County Citizen of the Year Award is sponsored by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations and *The Washington Post*. Both the Citizen of the Year Award and the Citation(s) of Merit recognize and honor those citizens whose voluntary contributions of time and talent have resulted in major accomplishments that have enhanced the quality of life for citizens of Fairfax County.

Eligibility:

- Nominee must be a current resident of Fairfax County.
- Elected officials and full-time County or Commonwealth employees are ineligible for consideration if their contributions are related to their elected or full-time positions.
- The Citizen of the Year is recognized for voluntary acts that are not related to employment.

Criteria:

- Contributions and accomplishments must have countywide rather than local significance.
- The nominee's achievements can be either:
 - General, such as multi-year community service with one or more organizations or activities with cumulative impact over the years of current importance or with positive implications for the future, or
 - Specific, including intense efforts as the major promoter of a single program or project completed in a finite period of time.

Nominee's Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Achievements

- a. Details of the service or activity, including specific results and achievements, community need, how the nominee served as a catalyst to involve others, etc.
- b. Significant position(s) of leadership, responsibility or authority the nominee has held, including dates.
- c. Why the nominee is worthy of being the Fairfax County Citizen of the Year.
- d. Other biographical or background material that would be useful to the Selection Committee. Copies of newspaper articles, letters of support, or similar material may be attached.

Nominator's Name:

Date:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Additional sheets may be attached and endorsements of the nominee by others can be included. Be sure to include as much detail as possible. There will be no further contact for information. Nominations **MUST** be received by **January 15, 2008** at Citizen of the Year Selection Committee, Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations, 4022 Hummer Road, Annandale VA 22003.

Fairfax County
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road
Annandale, VA 22003

Membership
Meeting

Thursday,
December 13, 2007

*(Please note this is the second
Thursday of the month.)*

7:30 p.m.

The Packard Center
4022 Hummer Road, Annandale

**Topic: "Keeping our
Neighborhoods Safe,
Attractive, and Vital -
with Emphasis on
Overcrowding"**

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Directions to the

Packard Center, located in Annandale Community Park

Take I-495 (Capital Beltway) to Little River Turnpike
(Route 236 - Exit 52B);
go east toward Annandale.

Turn left at the first stop light onto Hummer Road.

Go 200 yards to the entrance of Annandale Community Park on the left.

Keep right to the large parking lot.

Please use the left entrance into the Packard Center Building.

Wishing you and yours a Happy Holiday Season

www.fairfaxfederation.org