

The Fairfax County
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations *Established 1940*

November 2009

THE BULLETIN

Volume 59, Number 3

Federation Membership Meeting



Thursday, November 19, 2009

7:30 p.m.

Packard Center Main Conference Room
4022 Hummer Road, Annandale

Topic: Greater Washington 2050 Plan

Guest Speaker: John A. Mataya
AICP, LEED AP / Regional Planner
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



2009 - 2010 Membership Meetings

Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. (unless noted)

As of now, the Federation will hold its monthly membership meetings in the Packard Center Main Conference Room; this could change on a three-month notice.

December 17, 2009

Storm Water Management in Fairfax County

January 21, 2010

Fairfax County Public Schools Fiscal Year 2011 Budget

February 18, 2010

Tyson's Corner

March 25, 2010 (fourth Thursday)

Fairfax County Fiscal Year 2011 Budget

April 15, 2010

Reports from Federation Appointees and Representatives

May 20, 2010

Report from Richmond

June 17, 2010 (picnic, beginning at 7:00 p.m.)

"The State of Fairfax County"

Please note that, while the dates listed above are firm; topics are subject to change, but should be accurate in that month's Bulletin.



2009 - 2010 Federation Board Meetings

Packard Center Main Conference Room
7:30 p.m.

December 3, 2009 January 29, 2010 March 4, 2010

April 22, 2010 May 27, 2010 June 24, 2010

President's Message

After a long night last month, the Federation passed its 2010 Legislation Package, which we will distribute shortly to the Delegates and State Senators representing Fairfax County in Richmond next year. It was quite an accomplishment for us to have finalized this two months earlier than we have in the past, with the aim of making our positions known early enough in the process that our legislators can use them as they introduce and sponsor bills.

This month, we've invited back a representative from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) to present the draft Greater Washington 2050 Compact. I have personally participated in the drafting of this compact, representing the Federation in the discussions. The membership of the coalition is comprised of elected officials from many of local governments, federal, state and local government planning staff, and finally, representatives of non-government agencies – some speaking for business interests, others for charitable and non-profit community interest groups, and finally, citizen groups like the Federation.

The Federation was one of the first organizations to invite COG to brief us on the compact, and their return allows us to review what this disparate group of individuals, representing both inside and outside the beltway viewpoints, determined as a common working plan for the development of the Greater Washington community over the next forty years. After the presentation, we will develop a set of comments on the draft document for submission to COG. They will then release the compact to participating governments and interested non-government agencies for ratification. I hope when the Federation sees the final document we will be able endorse it.

At our December meeting, we will have a discussion on Storm Water Management, an item that usually isn't foremost on most people's minds, but is a major determinate of the quality of water that flows into the Chesapeake Bay. I hope you'll be able to join us for these informative presentations as we try to understand both where we're headed, and what we can do to help steer to a better landing.

Have a happy Thanksgiving!

Enjoy,

Jeffrey Parnes, President
FedPres2009@FairfaxFederation.org
703-424-2956

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Membership Meeting of October 15, 2009

DRAFT MINUTES

(for approval at the November 19, 2009 membership meeting)

The October 15 membership meeting of FCFCA was held at the Packard Center at 7:00 p.m. President Jeff Parnes introduced the main topic of the evening: membership review and approval of the Federation's proposed legislative package for 2010. He noted that the package represents the Federation's positions on issues at the state and, in a few cases, the federal level. Based on feedback from state legislators at the "Report from Richmond" meeting last spring, the Federation Board decided to prepare the package one to two months earlier this year, in October, so that legislators would receive it at a point when they have more time to consider it. He noted that the new Federation Legislative Chair, Tania Hossain, had also begun work on the package, including soliciting comments and suggestions, two months earlier, in midsummer. It is based on our past positions, but updated to the present. The priority items in the package were reviewed by the Federation Board prior to this meeting and the Federation committee chairs commented on their sections of the package by e-mail. He turned the gavel over to Tania Hossain for the legislative package portion of the meeting.

Program

- a. Legislative Chair Tania Hossain moved approval of the legislative package. No second was needed (although one was provided) since she is a chair. Discussion of the package was as follows.
- b. Janet Oleszek suggested rearranging the format of the package to combine the Priorities section, which is the basis of the testimony and cover letter, with the remainder of the document, which includes lower priority positions. Given the timing, there was discussion of considering this change for next year rather than this year. Don Hinman suggested, as an alternative, providing a table of contents that would show the pages where topics were addressed (some are addressed both in Priorities, for top priority positions, and in the later part of the document, for lower priority positions).
- c. Also on formatting, Charles Dane requested that each position have a year of origin (most already do); where no year is available, he suggested noting "(continued)" instead. This was accepted as a friendly amendment for this year's package.
- d. Priorities section. Changes to the Priorities section were as follows:

1. Priorities: Conservation. Rationale section. Tania Hossain reported that she had received a friendly amendment from Fred Costello suggesting that we update the 2004-06 figure provided in the rationale to a more recent number, if available. She will research this.
2. Priorities: Education. Item a (Funding for K-12 Mandates). Janet Oleszek requested adding language to call for changes to the Local Composite Index (LCI) formula, which determines the funding for state mandates. No draft language was available. Bill Hanks moved that Tania Hossain, Janet Oleszek, and Charles Dane review the LCI issue offline; if all three unanimously agree on new language on adjusting the LCI formula, the language will be added here without further review by the membership. Flint Webb seconded

the motion. The motion carried on a voice vote.

3. Priorities: Energy. Item a (Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Production). Rationale section. Change "providing advice" to "providing consumer educational advice"
4. Priorities: Energy. Item b (Renewable Portfolio Standard). Rationale section.
 - Change "renewable are clean" to "renewable sources are clean"
 - Change "conventional sources are risky," to "conventional sources may be risky,"
5. Priorities: Energy. Item c (Purchase of Energy Saving Products).
 - Change "provide capital costs" to "provide low rate loans for capital costs"
 - Rationale section. Change "makes it" to "make it"
 - Rationale section. Delete entire sentence beginning "Utility companies have historically"
6. Priorities: Governance. Item b (Planning). Change "land use, transportation," to "land use and transportation plans,"
7. Priorities: Infrastructure. Item a (State Support for School Construction), section 1. Change "by local governing body" to "by the local governing body"
8. Priorities: Infrastructure. Item d (Metro Funding). Rationale section.
 - Delete the word "Passed:"
 - Change "Congressman Tom Davis" to "then Congressman Tom Davis"
9. Priorities: Tax Structure. Item a (Local and State Tax Policies). Rationale section. Question: is it correct that, for counties, only the tax on cigarettes was increased in

(see **DRAFT MINUTES** - continued on page 3)

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

4022 Hummer Road, Annandale VA 22003

www.fairfaxfederation.org

2009-2010 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. 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@verizon.net with newsletter 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)

2004? Or were counties also provided with the option of a transient occupancy (hotel) tax?

10. Priorities: Taxation Authority. Item a (Local Taxing Authority). Rationale section.

-- Question re final sentence: was the transient occupancy tax increased in 2004, as stated here?

-- Change "dedicated by the revenue to tourism" to "dedicated a portion of the revenue to tourism" (a portion, not all)

11. Priorities: Taxation Authority. Item b (Additional Local Taxes). Rationale section.

-- Change "no benefit" to "now benefit"

-- Change "government budgeted initiatives" to "government funded services"

e. Changes to the "Other Legislative Issues" section were as follows:

1. Citizen Interests. Item a (Virginia Freedom of Information Act). Removed because this was successfully accomplished with passage of the act.

2. Citizen Interests. Item b (Smoking in Public Places). Removed because this was successfully accomplished. President Jeff Parnes asked that the success of this position be noted in the minutes and suggested that his cover letter and testimony can mention all such successfully passed positions, with the exception of the Virginia FOIA (item 1 above) since it was achieved some years ago. NOTE: removal of any lettered items means that subsequent items will be re-lettered.

3. Citizen Interests. Item c (Minimum Wage). (Format Note: these minutes refer to the original item letters per the draft document, not any re-lettering that will be reflected in final version.)

-- To eliminate dated language in the original position, change entire position to read "Support a minimum wage indexed to the CPI increase."

-- Rationale section. Change rationale in its entirety to read as follows: "The federal minimum wage is now \$7.25 an hour. That minimum wage is not adequate for Fairfax County."

4. Citizen Interests. Item g (Check-off to Support Organ Registry). Removed because this was successfully accomplished. Note this achievement in president's cover letter and testimony.

5. Citizen Interests. New item (Car Title Loans). Tania Hossain will draft language to add this section to the package. Car title loans, in which a car title is the collateral, are a new or newly popular form of predatory lending in which interest rates are extremely high and cars can be repossessed if only one payment is missed. The Federation wishes to take a position against this practice.

6. Citizen Interests. New item (Restoring Rights of Felons). Tania Hossain will draft language to add this section to the package. In Virginia, voting rights may be restored to felons after three or five years, depending on the level of the offense; Virginia is one of two states, however, in which this restoration requires an application and approval by the governor's office for

each case. The Federation wishes to support automatic restoration of rights after the specified number of years, as in most other states.

7. Community Associations and Services. Item a (Commercial Vehicles in Neighborhoods). Removed because this was successfully accomplished. Note this achievement in president's cover letter and testimony.

8. Community Associations and Services. Item b (Association Officers, Directors, Trustees). It was noted that this had already been changed to include the phrasing "imposes obligations other than those in an association's governing documents." The year should change to "(continued from 2001; revised 2010)"

9. Community Associations and Services. Item c (Delayed Payment to Associations for Delivery of Resale Disclosure Packet). It was noted that this language had also been updated for this draft. The year should change to "(continued from 2009; revised 2010)".

10. Education. Item e (Public School Calendar).

-- Section 1. Change "Support legislation" to "Support new legislation" (this change is in conjunction with the change to Section 2)

-- Section 2. Change "Support including in the current law the following important reasons" so that it reads instead, " Alternatively, revise current law to include the following important reasons"

11. Education. Item f (Reform of State and Federal Accountability Systems).

-- Section 1. Removed.

-- Retain former Section 2 as the entire position, which no longer requires numbered sections.

12. Education. Item g (Alternative Assessments). Removed because this was successfully accomplished. Note this achievement in president's cover letter and testimony.

13. Education. Item i (Salary Competing Factor). Change "identified" to "identified"

14. Environment. Item a (Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act). Section 1. Change "weakens the Act" to "weakens the Act and call for the Clean Water Act to explicitly give the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the authority to regulate non-point-source pollution."

15. Environment. Item c (Petroleum Tank Farms). Change "to a more appropriate location that minimizes" to "so as to minimize". A vote was called and the change passed unanimously. Also, delete phrase "from unknown year" for consistency with style throughout document.

16. Human Services. Item b (Human Trafficking). Removed because this was successfully accomplished. Note this achievement in president's cover letter and testimony.

17. Human Services. (Libraries). Change "state aid libraries" to "state aid to libraries"

18. Legislative Process. Item a (House of Delegates

(see *DRAFT MINUTES - continued on page 4*)

(DRAFT MINUTES - continued from page 3)

Subcommittees). Rationale. Delete current language, which is dated, except for "The practice of public votes on bills should be made part of the Laws of Virginia." Note: There was discussion of crafting new language, offline, regarding the practice of scheduling very early votes with insufficient prior notice. I am not certain whether this was for this year's package or for next year.
-- EF

19. Legislative Process. Item b (Legislative Redistricting). Change position to read: "Support Virginia legislative redistricting by a nonpartisan group subject to approval by the legislature, on the Iowa model."

20. Northern Virginia Regional Issues. Regional Planning. Change "strengthening" to "strengthen"

21. Public Safety. Item c (Firearms). Change "including sales at gun shows" to "including private sales at gun shows"

22. Taxation and Finance. Item d (Personal Property Tax). Rationale section. Delete the word "soon"

23. Transportation. Item a (SAFETEA-LU and Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA)).

-- Change SAFETEA_LU in position to SAFETEA-LU

-- Change "loss federal" to "loss of federal"

24. Transportation. Item b (Stop for Pedestrians).

-- Change "crosswalks" to "marked crosswalks"

-- Rationale section. Change "denoted crosswalks" to "marked crosswalks"

-- Rationale section. Change "very unsafe" to "unsafe"

25. Transportation. New item (Overweight Truck Penalties). Bob Jordan will draft language to add this position, based on a recent position taken by the McLean Citizens Association. The Federation favors increased fees for overweight trucks.

f. It was agreed that, in addition to the changes above, small edits, typo corrections, and other wordsmithing would be entrusted to the Legislative Chair without further review.

g. Late in the review of the package, Tania Hossain had to leave to attend another meeting and Jeff Parnes resumed the chair. Upon completion of the discussion above, the motion to approve the legislative package, as amended, passed unanimously on a voice vote. The chair thanked Tania Hossain and all those who had contributed suggestions to the legislative package.

h. It was moved and seconded that the calendar not be included in the version of the membership minutes reproduced in the Bulletin, since the Bulletin already lists the calendar and this would be a duplication. This is only an issue when the minutes include the calendar, which this month's minutes do not.

i. In reference to the Federation Web site, Charles Dane noted that he is still listed as the Membership Chair. Also, Janet Oleszek noted she is not receiving e-mails addressed to the Federation Board.

j. The membership minutes for the September 17 meeting were unanimously approved.

k. The Treasurers Report was received and filed.

l. The remaining officer and chair vacancies were reviewed.

m. The need to find a new meeting location was reviewed.

n. It was agreed to move the Greater Washington 2050 program to November 19 and the Tysons Corner Task Force program to February 18 – in other words, the topics for the two membership meetings have been swapped.

o. Bill Hanks, as chair of the Audit Committee, moved approval of the audit report, which was distributed. The report was unanimously approved.

p. The start of Budget Challenge Dialogues for the next fiscal year was noted.

q. Charles Dane, as Chair of the Education Committee, reported that Superintendent Dale would attend the November meeting of the committee. He also thanked all those who had submitted budget suggestions in response to his recent request.

r. President Jeff Parnes noted that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors has agreed to a Federation request for participation by Bill Hanks as a Federation representative to the citizens committee on the issue of Fairfax County becoming a city, when such a committee or task force is formed.

s. Art Wells submitted notes on Braddock District for the record, because of the lateness of the hour. Let the record reflect that there was a George Mason / Braddock District forum on October 7 on topics including the 123 and Braddock Road intersection, construction projects at GMU, the University Mall renovation, and off-campus parking. The Braddock Budget Committee met on October 8 and plans to meet again in mid-November; its goal is to submit a report and recommendations by early January. The Braddock District Council met on October 13 as well. Supervisor John Cook's Community Engagement Initiative, which will promote voluntarism and civic engagement, will be held October 21 at the Lake Braddock Secondary School cafeteria.

Next Membership Meeting: November 19, 2009. [Note as of 10/23: topic has now changed to Greater Washington 2050]

Next Board Meeting: October 22, 2009.

Meeting adjourned.

Adopted Legislative Program is Online

The Federation's 2010 Legislative Program, adopted at the October 15, 2009 membership meeting, is available on our website: www.fairfaxfederation.org. The Federation thanks everyone that assisted in bringing it to fruition. The program will be presented to the Northern Virginia delegation to the General Assembly at their public hearing on Saturday, January 9, 2010. If you have any questions, please contact Tania Hossain, Legislative Committee Chair, at fedlegislationchr2009@fairfaxfederation.org.

*Wishing you a Happy
Thanksgiving*

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

2009 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. 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 18, 2010** 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,
November 19, 2009

7:30 p.m.

The Packard Center
4022 Hummer Road, Annandale
(see directions, below)

Topic:

Great Washington 2050 Plan

Guest Speaker:

*John A. Mataya, AICP, LEED AP,
Regional Planner
Metropolitan Washington Council of
Governments*

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Directions to the

Packard Center

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; ring the doorbell for entrance.

www.fairfaxfederation.org

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