

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Minutes of Membership Meeting on December 19, 2002

Call to Order. Art Wells called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. in the Packard Center. Members attending are listed on the attached sign-in sheet.

Minutes for the Membership Meeting on November 21, 2002 The minutes were moved, seconded and approved as published after the correction of one typo.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Charles Dane distributed and reviewed his report. The balance is \$2,138.09 with an additional disbursement of \$62.49 not yet recorded. A motion was made to receive the treasurer's report.

Introduction of Tony Griffin, County Executive

County Executive, Tony Griffin addressed the program for the evening on "Emergency Preparedness – An Update" with the larger issue of coordination between the County and the region. The regional plan is to facilitate, coordinate and communicate but not to usurp the local jurisdiction where the emergency event occurs. The jurisdiction where the event occurs will be in charge of that event.

Introduction of Tom Manger, Chief of Police

Chief Manger gave a power-point presentation on the redesign of the police patrol areas. With the growth in Fairfax County to a population of 1M, it became time to redesign the police districts from 7 to 8. The new Sully district will be opened in March or April, 2003, the first since 1976 when Reston was added. This district will be carved out of the Fair Oaks District. The budget does not allow for any new personnel. It will reallocate existing personnel, create police service areas and deploy personnel based on workload.

They are also expanding the citizens' reporting unit. The citizens will have the ability to get on the web to report certain types of crimes that do not need a police officer to respond immediately. The types of events are defined on the web site. With 395 square miles to cover, they received 1.2M calls to the command center and had 280,000 police events this past year. Fair Oaks has the largest number of square miles in its District and the largest number of calls for service; therefore, the need to split into another district.

The Mount Vernon District and the Mason District are at capacity. The population growth in the Mount Vernon District is slowing but the Franconia District will take some of the Mason District area south of Route 236. Even though the Mason District is the smallest district and this will make it even smaller, there are proportionately more service calls in this District

Chief Manger expressed his gratitude to the community for their expressions of support since the sniper case. They used the sniper shooting as an illustrative case study of how the jurisdictions worked together during this episodic event in October, 2002.

Introduction of Doug Bass, Emergency Coordinator

Doug Bass is new to the County coming from North Carolina. His experience has been handling hurricanes. He defined his job as preparing for, responding to and recovering from an emergency whether man made, technological, weather or terrorism. The roots of emergency management are in the 1950's civil defense system.

Introduction of Edward Stinnette, Fire and Rescue Chief

The Fairfax county Fire and Rescue Department trains firefighters to provide a full complement of fire suppression, technical rescue, swift water rescue, hazardous materials and emergency medical services, including basic and advanced life support and emergency medical transportation.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department operates on three separate 24-hour rotating shifts. Each shift is led by a Deputy Fire Chief. The County is separated geographically into six battalions; each supervised by a Battalion Fire Chief.

Introduction of Stephen Church, Bioterrorism Coordinator

Stephen Church works for the Health Department. Since September 11, 2001, they have begun a more robust emergency preparation training. They have received \$650,000 in federal grant money to be used for three 7-passenger, four-wheel drive vehicles to move medications if necessary. The state has also received a federal grant that is funding positions like his.

Small pox has been eradicated in this country so if one case occurs it will be because someone has introduced it from the outside. If there is a need to move swiftly, the plan is to use the 24 high schools, 12-hour shifts, 8,000 to 12,000 nurses and volunteers and the calculation is that within 3 to 5 days, every person in Fairfax County could be vaccinated. They are currently surveying the County to see who needs to have the vaccination now. The eligibility for the first line of defense will be determined by January 16, 2003 and training of the public health nurses should be completed by January 24, 2003. In the spring, the fire and police should receive their vaccinations. There will be screening for eligibility, as each step of this plan has to be implemented.

Tony Griffin then thanked The Federation for support of the Public Safety Bond Referendum. They have located a site in the Fair Lakes area between Highway 29 and Highway 50 for the new emergency facility. The state owns this property and negotiations are in process to determine the feasibility of this site for the County.

A display of Emergency Preparedness materials and literature was arranged by Johna Gagnon, which complemented the overall theme of the meeting.

Committee Reports

Transportation – G. Smith The local papers reported on the region not being in compliance with the Clean Air Act. This will have a major impact on federal funding for the entire region. The Commonwealth Transportation Board has approved heavy rail to Dulles; however the Federal Transit Agency last August advised that there was a major problem as far as funding was concerned and there is considerable doubt that the Federal Government was going to approve it. G. Smith passed out a handout on Monorail that is a possible alternative that was not considered on rail to Dulles. We are in a major funding crunch and this is one of the issues that needs to be addressed by VDRPT. This precipitated a discussion of a seamless system for the Dulles Corridor.

Human Services– R. Steele –The Human Services Council has reviewed the budget of \$449M with cuts of \$16M and have asked that \$5M be restored so that cuts only equal \$11M. Tony Griffin has asked that before the BOS is lobbied that everyone wait until February 24 when he submits his 2004 budget projections which won't become final until April and it is his opinion that there will be plenty of time to lobby.

Education – C. Dane – The Education Committee met with the National Reading Panel to discuss the reading program. This was a very productive meeting. There is a meeting in January with Tom Brady to discuss facilities and the General Membership meeting on January 16 features school Superintendent Daniel Domenech. The person that the committee thought was going to take the School Board's Human Relations Committee nomination turns out not to be the case so a volunteer is still needed. C. Dane then passed out the Proposed Resolution on Virginia's Tax Commission which deals with the State not adequately supporting the State mandated Standards of Quality (SOQ). This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Web site – M. Pierce- The information on school closings, VDOT, County information is all linked at The Federation web site. The policy and procedures for the web site needs to be in place. M. Pierce indicated it would be good to have a General membership meeting sometime in the spring to discuss the issues surrounding the web site.

Legislative – S. Ormsby- The General Assembly has pre-filed bills. Some of those of interest to the Federation are:

- Senate Bill 704- Senator Kevin Miller proposes adding 4 ½% to the price of fuel and would be put into the Transportation Trust Fund for allocation according to the 1986 plan.
- House Bill 560 – Delegate Vincent Callahan proposes a joint resolution that would continue the Virginia, DC, Maryland joint legislative commission on interstate transportation.
- House Bill 1485 – Delegate Tom Ross proposes changing the basis for determining the allocation for highway funds but only for urban and secondary roads and does not include primary roads
- House Bill 1397 – Delegate Bob Hull proposes that the counties shall have all the powers of the city

Nominating - B Hanks nominated C. Hawn to fill her own vacancy as First Vice-President. The Bylaws require that an office be vacated when a person becomes a candidate for a partisan office. The nomination was moved and seconded. The vote to elect was unanimous.

Next Meetings:

January 16, 2003 Speaker: Superintendent of Schools, Daniel Domenech “FY 2004 Schools Budget”
February 20, 2003 Speaker: Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Kate Hanley “State of Fairfax County”

Adjournment. The membership meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Dolores Moseke, Recording Secretary.

Attachments:

Journal clipping from Transportation Committee
Proposed Resolution on Virginia’s Tax Commission from Education Committee
The handouts for emergency preparedness from Johna Gagnon