

**Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Membership Meeting of December 18, 2003
Approved by the Federation Membership 1/15/04**

MINUTES

The meeting of FCFCA was held at the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. (Attendance list is attached.) President Carol Hawn introduced Krystal Kearns, Potomac River Greenways Coalition.

Program — Ms. Kearns gave a presentation on Potomac River Greenways Coalition and watershed issues within Fairfax County, including many photographs taken in the county.

She defined the term watershed (land that drains to a waterway), explained its importance for recreation, drinking water, and the environment, and identified the key problem for Fairfax County watersheds as “impervious cover”— places where water runs off rather than soaking into the soil, such as parking lots, roads, and buildings. Runoff can create erosion which encroaches on residences, and causes sedimentation dangerous to aquatic habitats. Other contaminants such as nutrients, oil, other chemicals, and pathogens can also spread to the aquatic environment.

She showed a map of Fairfax County in which watershed quality was indicated; much of the county is considered in poor condition. The map was from the Stream Protection Strategy Baseline Study. For more on the study, she provided the link www.fairfaxcounty-watersheds.net.

Residents can take the following actions to help: wash cars less frequently or take them to commercial car washes; avoid overfertilizing; clean up pet waste; clean a stream; adopt a stream by cleaning it twice a year; become a stream monitor; get involved in watershed planning; join a “Friends of” group; earn a Master Watershed Steward certification.

Ms. Kearns is available to give similar presentations to local communities upon request.

Nomination and Election —President Carol Hawn recognized Nomination Chair Art Wells, who offered Esther Ferington’s name in nomination as the Recording Secretary. Delores Moseke, the previous Recording Secretary, could not continue due to a change in her job responsibilities. The motion was seconded and Esther Ferington was elected unanimously by a voice vote.

President Carol Hawn introduced The Honorable Kate Hanley, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Ms. Hanley’s term of office will expire at midnight on December 31, 2003, so this meeting was among her last appearances as chairman.

Program — Chairman Hanley commented on the fact that she had been delayed in arriving by stopped traffic on the Beltway, showing traffic remains one of the area’s top issues.

In her remarks, Chairman Hanley emphasized the value of citizens associations and of the Federation in helping to put a human face on the Fairfax County community. Citizens associations field local neighborly complaints about noise, fences, and so on, before the complaints reach the Supervisors. They and the Federation produce newsletters, Web sites, and other materials that she has read throughout her years in office. Chairman Hanley was once a citizen’s association president.

She also spoke about the importance of regional issues such as water, air, transportation, human services, and public safety, and asked Federation members to support Supervisors in their service

on regional boards and commissions. Finally, she urged the Federation and its members to “let the Board of Supervisors know when you think they are about to make the right decision.”

A question-and-answer session followed, which included many cordial comments on the occasion of the chairman’s retirement. Among the topics covered were:

- the prospects for rail to Dulles
- the prospects of the state legislature granting the county more local tax authority
- the difficulty in having a unified delegation, with many districts crossing the county line
- Metrorail funding and planning; the need to plan for Tyson’s Corner as a “core” area; the chairman’s disappointment in the failure of the sales tax referendum
- the question of full-time salaries for Supervisors; Chairman Hanley would not support this unless other jurisdictions made the change at the same time
- air quality and water quality
- human services, including the value of partnerships with nongovernmental groups; the importance of affordable housing; and the need for a regional approach
- gang activity in the county

On behalf of the Federation, President Carol Hawn presented Chairman Hanley with a certificate of appreciation and a cloisonné pin.

Business Meeting

- a. Art Wells moved that the Federation support Governor Warner’s proposal to increase the cigarette tax to 25 cents. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved by a voice vote.
- b. Flint Webb noted that the issue of air quality at the state level will be coming up; some 30 power plants are getting exemptions on mercury vapor emissions, which enter rainfall.
- c. George Smith noted that the defeated sales tax referendum would have generated only 10 to 15 percent of the needed transportation infrastructure funding. As a member of the Transportation Commission, he also noted that Ho Chang is picking up priorities from the 1991 Comprehensive Plan Action Agenda Superpriorities, including possible funding sources. He urged members to talk with their Supervisors about rail to Dulles.
- d. President Carol Hawn asked members to set aside the alternate dates of April 18 or 25 for the Citizen of the Year banquet. The Federation has sent congratulatory letters to those elected in November and the letters included Citizen of the Year nomination forms. President Hawn reminded Board members that the next Board meeting will be on January 8, 2004, at 7:30 p.m.

Next Membership Meeting:

Thursday, January 15, 2003 – Daniel Domenech, Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Addenda:

Citizen Watershed Presentation

Potomac River Greenways Coalition Master Watershed Stewardship Coalition

Announcement of Pope Creek Watershed Plan Issues Scoping Forum, January 13, 2004

Upcoming Events (compiled by Potomac River Greenways Coalition)
VA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation pamphlets