

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations  
Board Meeting of April 22, 2004  
MINUTES

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

Business Meeting

- a. President Carol Hawn reported on preparations for the Citizen of the Year banquet on April 25.
- b. Treasurer Jeffrey Parnes presented the Treasurer's report (attached). Next month's report will reflect receipts from the Citizen of the Year banquet; expenses for the banquet will not be completely reflected until the following month's report.
- c. President Carol Hawn reviewed the status of the county budget. The tax rate is to be reduced by 3 cents. The state budget is still unresolved.
- d. Art Wells reported for the Nominating Committee that several current Federation officers have agreed to serve again, including Carol Hawn, Jeffrey Parnes, Esther Ferington, Jean Packard, and John Jennison. John Jennison, currently the second vice president, has agreed to stand for first vice president, which is the position associated with building membership. The final roster of names is due by May 6 to be mailed on a postcard before the next meeting.
- e. President Carol Hawn presented the Board with the draft renewal form for membership in the Federation, adapted with only small changes from the previous year's form. The Board reviewed and approved the changes. Renewal forms are set to be mailed out on May 6.
- f. President Carol Hawn also asked for lists of associations that belong to the district councils to make sure they have contacted to become members of the Federation if they are not already.
- g. President Carol Hawn reported on the initial list of speakers for next year. Cal Wagner of the Fairfax County government, who is the liaison to home owners and citizens associations, has been invited for the fourth Thursday of September (the initial Federation meeting of the 2004-2005 year will be on the fourth Thursday of September because the third is Rosh Hashanah). The October meeting may be the General Assembly update and 2005 legislative program review, pending further discussion of the schedule. Congressman Tom Davis has requested to speak to the Federation and has been scheduled for the November meeting, which will be after the election. Gerald Gordon of the county's Environmental Development Authority (EDA) was to speak in December, but the Board discussed the fact that he had last appeared in April 2003, relatively recently, and agreed to move his presentation to the spring.
- h. Flint Webb reported that after discussions with Rick Reo of the Sierra Club he has drafted a resolution from the Environment Committee on the health of Fairfax parklands. Flint will work with Bill Hanks, who is the chairman for Resolutions, to finalize the wording of the resolution for presentation to the Federation membership. The concern is

that the Fairfax County parks emphasis is overwhelmingly on recreation, with inadequate attention to environmental issues such as preservation of natural space and introduction of invasive species. The issue came to a head over the Ossian Park issue, in which natural space is to be converted to playing fields and a high-school parking, for the stated purpose of combating gang activity, but it extends to other parklands as well. There are 360 parks, some of them quite small, in Fairfax County. Proposals in the draft resolution include a citizen commission to review parks policy, a moratorium on any further plans or actions for any park until after the commission report, and consideration of a park ranger force. Suggestions at the Board meeting included inclusion of a specific date for the proposed commission's report and exploration of volunteerism options, including Friends of the Park, the Greenways model for streambed management and possible involvement by Americorps.

New Business:

- a. Jeffrey Parnes offered to assist Merrily Pearce in developing e-mail addresses for all Federation officers, using titles rather than personal names, and developing e-mail address lists such as for the Board as a group.

Next Membership Meeting:

Thursday, May 20, 2004 – Emergency Preparedness

Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, May 27, 2004; Carol Hawn will not be able to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Addendum:

Treasurer's Monthly Report