

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Board Meeting of July 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 discussed plans for the September newsletter. It will include the memorial to Peter Brintzer, lists of contacts for Federation officers, the June membership meeting draft minutes, and, if possible, updates from current Federation representatives on boards and commissions.

b. Minutes of the June 24 Board meeting were reviewed, revised, and approved.

c. President Carol Hawn reported on continuing efforts to increase the Federation's visibility. Notices of all Federation membership meetings will appear in the Fairfax Weekly section of the Washington Post starting this fall.

d. President Carol Hawn reported that the Citizen of the Year banquet is to be held earlier next year due to the press of other civic events and award ceremonies in the late spring. Likely dates discussed at the meeting were March 6 or 13; or April 3, 10, or 17. The nomination form will be included with Federation membership forms and in the Federation newsletter. She will follow up with Sally Ormsby about the date issue, and also plans to follow up with the Brintzer family regarding the additional award discussed at the last meeting.

e. Charles Dane reported that the school superintendent cannot come on January 20 as we had hoped. He will check with the superintendent about alternate dates, including February 24 or sometime in April. Patrick Rea suggested that a get-acquainted meeting with the new superintendent, with wide-ranging questions, might make an interesting change from a meeting based on the schools budget. In previous meetings we discussed possibly holding a membership meeting away from the Packard Center; it was suggested this could be that meeting.

f. Esther Ferington suggested a membership meeting to learn more about gangs and gang prevention efforts in the county. Others suggested Colin Campbell, Sharon Bulova, and Gerry Connolly as potential speakers. It was suggested this could be a panel discussion with more time for questions, rather than serial presentations. This also was suggested as a candidate for the meeting held away from the Packard Center.

g. President Carol Hawn reported that members of the Bond Referendum Citizens Committee had not all been appointed because the appointments had been deferred by several supervisors. It had been hoped the committee could get off to an earlier start this year, but the deferrals mean it cannot meet yet.

h. President Carol Hawn presented a draft of the letter to current Federation member associations that invites them to rejoin for next year. The group suggested several "selling points", whether for use in this letter or in outreach to nonmembers we hope will join. Among them: modest dues provide real bang for the buck; interaction with community

leaders; only organization to represent residents, not special interest groups; representatives on several school and county advisory committees; involved in issues such as Occoquan review, soccer field development. The format of the letter was also discussed, in terms of letterhead font, where and whether to list officers' names, and so on.

i. Patrick Rea and Jeffrey Nolan discussed the advantage of a web-based version of the newsletter. Subscribers would be sent e-mails reminding them to link to the site. This works well in the Mount Vernon district.

j. Charles Dane reported he is now serving on the steering committee for the Fairfax Scholarship Fund, as described in more detail in last month's Board minutes. As a result, he will need to free up his time as the chairman of the Federation's Education Committee.

k. Charles Dane also reported that an Education Committee was being scheduled. The committee is interested in comparing compensation costs between the county and school system for similar jobs, but is finding difficulty in doing so. He also noted that with the coming year, the county will have a new superintendent and a new school board.

l. The Board discussed possible speakers for the Citizen of the Year banquet, who must be chosen much earlier this year due to the earlier date of the banquet.

m. Jeffrey Nolan reported that the annual report of the Advisory Committee on Students with Disabilities has just been issued, on July 13. This is a status report that includes staff follow-up on last year's goals. The report showed significant progress. The committee, on which he is the Federation representative, has recommended additional reporting for next year. Special education for students with disabilities will also be a "strategic target" on the School Board's list.

Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, August 19, 2004.

Next Membership Meeting:

Thursday, September 23, 2004 (note this is the fourth Thursday of the month)

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.