

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Board Meeting of January 27, 2005
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. Sally Ormsby shared a Division of Legislative Services newsletter, Virginia Legislative Issue Brief, which has come out much earlier than usual in the session.

- b. Sally Ormsby reported on a variety of bills on topics related to the Federation legislative program, including: the Natural Area Preservation Fund; equal charter power between counties and cities; equal taxing authority between counties and cities; proffers; school impact fees; Water Quality Improvement Fund; more transit funding from Transportation Trust Fund; long-term funding for the Chesapeake Bay and polluted Virginia waters; TDRs (transfer of development rights), but only in Arlington; possible gas tax increases in Northern Virginia; trading in pollutant credits between sewage treatment plants (Clean Smokestacks legislation); Clean Streams; amber lights on Neighborhood Watch cars; removal of \$950 million cap on car tax relief; citation in honor of Peter Brinitzer; local School Boards' sale of land to VDOT or the state of Virginia for transportation purposes; hands-free-only cell phones while driving; photo red light enforcement; study and recommendations to enforce JLARC study of transportation, construction, and maintenance funds; permission to build landfills within 500 feet rather than 5 miles of a water supply, and in nontidal wetlands; changing "undue hardship" requirement for zoning variances to "clearly demonstrable hardship."

Regarding the zoning variance issue, she noted that at this time there are more than 160 applications pending before the county's Board of Zoning Authority (BZA) pending resolution of this issue. The county had put through a zoning ordinance amendment to permit restoration of variance power to the Board, but now the state bill on the same subject has been put through anyway. There is further information on the BZA web site and hearings are planned. One of the issue is how much sideyard setbacks can be reduced; it may be by up to 50 percent of the normal requirement, but no less than 5 feet.

- c. Art Wells noted that two issues of special interest to the Federation are an amendment to cap real-estate taxes and how the surplus revenue is to be used.

- d. Art Wells and Sally Ormsby discussed the Metro Matters package and the need to find a dedicated revenue source for Metro. Sally said there are bills to raise some taxes, but a solution remains elusive. It was also reported that Supervisor Dana Kaufmann, incoming chair of the WMATA (Metro) board, had spoken to the Providence District Council a week earlier; he noted that the system had no excess capacity because it is a one-track system, was not built to grow, and is showing signs of aging.

- e. Sally Ormsby said she would e-mail members of the local delegation regarding equal powers and taxing authority issues and the Board concurred. The Federation's agreed-upon priorities would also support Governor Warner's plan to provide more money to the water-improvement fund, an educational infrastructure bill, increase of financial support

for transportation, and protection of local land use authority, all of which would be reiterated in this e-mail.

f. President Carol Hawn noted that the Federation needs a new Mason District representative.

g. Charles Dane presented a draft presentation from the Education Committee to the School Board supporting the full additional 3 percent of funding (to 9.7 percent instead of 6.8 percent above the previous year's budget). The presentation was discussed and approved as amended.

h. President Carol Hawn announced that the speaker for the February 17 membership meeting would be on the subject of gangs but the specific speaker was still to be announced. Chairman Connolly has confirmed for the May membership meeting.

i. Jeff Parnes gave an update on the Federation's financial status, noting the upcoming Citizen of the Year banquet and the recent payment of dues by a number of associations.

j. Esther Ferington reported on the first Fairfax 2007 meeting and asked the Board's approval to post a link to the Fairfax 2007 site on the Federation web site. The Board approved adding this link. Esther will check with the Fairfax 2007 committee for details.

k. President Carol Hawn noted that the county web site should have a link to the Federation web site and will check with Merrily Pearce on this.

l. Sally Ormsby confirmed that reservations have been made at the Fairview Park Marriott for the Citizen of the Year banquet for March 13. Art Wells is in charge of the committee selecting the honoree. John Jennison will be the Federation representative on the committee. The Federation has been in touch with the Washington Post, which is co-sponsoring the event as it has in the past. The selection committee will meet by February 7 or 8 to make their selection.

m. President Carol Hawn mentioned we have not heard back as yet regarding Jerry Kilgore's availability for a fall debate to be sponsored by the Federation and general plans for the debate were discussed.

Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, February 24, 2005.

Next Membership Meeting:

Thursday, February 17, 2005.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.