

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Board Meeting of December 1, 2005
DRAFT MINUTES

The meeting of the FCFCA Board was held at the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. Those present included President John Jennison, Bill Hanks, Walt Sisson, Charles Dane, Earl Flanagan, Sally Ormsby, Art Wells, Becky Cate, Judy Harbeck, and Esther Ferington.

Business Meeting

a. President John Jennison thanked the Mount Vernon Council for the great success of the BRAC meeting it co-sponsored with the Federation. As Federation President, he recently participated in selected the next recipients of the Lee District Les Dorson Awards. He mentioned that the Mantua association is adding a Senior Services Committee, and asked if this might be a good committee for the Federation to establish as well; this would require a bylaws change. He noted that the Federation testimony on its legislative program was well-received and was complimented by a majority of Supervisors.

b. President John Jennison then led a discussion of the BRAC meeting. Board members noted the extreme urgency of the 6-year timeframe and the lack of adequate resources. Earl Flanagan emphasized the need for an I-95/HOV interchange with the Fairfax County Parkway, now on the unfunded "long-term" VDOT list. Charles Dane was concerned the hospital siting will not be decided for 1 1/2 years, since this will dictate (and delay) many transportation decisions. Bill Hanks noted that since the federal 6-year highway plan has just been approved, it will be difficult to make changes there; the state plan may be easier to change. Judy Harbeck noted the meeting was valuable as a forum to press for further information and helped put faces with the names. Given the scale of the change, lack of prior planning, and limited time, Art Wells urged that Senators Warner and Allen and the region's congressional delegation be asked to work to extend the deadline beyond 2011.

This was also the Federation's first membership meeting away from the Packard Center in several years. The group agreed it was a real success and that off-site meetings should be held again as appropriate issues arise. There was turnout of up to 70 persons and good feeling in the community. Esther Ferington volunteered to make name signs for panel participants for future off-site meetings. The Board also discussed press coverage (two local stories) and handouts (panelists were asked to provide them, but most did not).

Judy Harbeck will work with Earl Flanagan and Pat Rea on a follow-up resolution about BRAC through the Mount Vernon Council.

c. The minutes of the October Board meeting were approved.

d. The Treasurer's Report was accepted and approved. President John Jennison will check on the status of the Washington Post contribution to last year's COY banquet.

e. The Board reviewed the near-term calendar. Deputy Superintendent Brad Draeger will speak on January 19, partly on the school budget but primarily on the impact of No Child Left Behind. Supervisor Penelope Gross will speak on the Chesapeake Bay in February. There will be no Board meeting on December 22.

f. Second Vice President Carey Campbell is responsible for reports from Federation representatives on boards, authorities, and commissions. He asked for a current list.

g. Charles Dane reported the Education Committee had met with the staff member responsible for grants programs. He has invited Rob Jackson to join the committee.

h. Walt Sisson reported that both he and his Environment co-chair Flint Webb have prepared articles for the newsletter. The recent Environmental Air Quality Advisory Council meeting included a resolution on stream reclassification. The next Green Breakfast, on January 7, will be on stream efforts.

i. Earl Flanagan said he and his Transportation co-chair Roger Hoskins have reviewed past Federation positions on Transportation, many of which got no traction. They are reviewing where the Federation can have some impact, and will get back to the Board on this. There may be an opportunity to testify in the state transportation town hall meetings in early January. Continuing the APR (area plan review) discussion from last month, Mount Vernon's transportation-related nominations to the APR are now being reviewed, but other areas did not have this opportunity. A resolution may ultimately be needed to return the entire APR to public comment. Hearings on transportation are coming up before the Planning Commission and Board and the Federation should testify.

Governor Warner's BRAC working group has produced a report stressing transportation improvements, with \$65 million need for transit and \$258 million total for transportation. It notes the need for zip-code information on employees of agencies moving to the base.

j. Sally Ormsby reported that the deadline for Citizen of the Year nominations is January 15. The Board should discuss the choice of speaker after the holidays. Sally also reported, for the Legislative Committee, that the resolution on eminent domain is on hold pending announcement of the county's position on December 5.

k. Charles Dane presented a memorandum, previously circulated by e-mail, on inclusion of Board members from the McLean district, which does not have a district council. There was discussion for and against. He will revisit this with Bill Hanks and come back to the Board.

l. Judy Harbeck presented two resolutions, previously circulated by e-mail, approved by the Mount Vernon Council, on Metro restrooms and types of vehicles parked on the streets. After discussion, both were referred to the Transportation Committee. Judy Harbeck requested clarification on how the Board deals with resolutions. Bill Hanks provided an explanation and the bylaws and policies and procedures documents.

m. Charles Dane asked that a survey requested by the Superintendent be added to the newsletter. Judy Harbeck asked whether this was the Superintendent's intent. Charles Dane agreed to check with the community relations office to clarify this.

n. Art Wells reported for the Braddock District Council that a transportation meeting was held and the annual Christmas party is forthcoming. Judy Harbeck of the Mount Vernon Council said that the co-sponsored BRAC meeting was very successful and also said she is concerned about the Board's process in reviewing resolutions. Becky Cate said the Providence District Council's community service awards and holiday party is coming up.

o. Bill Hanks reported that the committee allocating the first increase in affordable housing funds has met and will approve \$18 million in expenditures at its next meeting.

p. Esther Ferington raised a concern about use of the FedBoard e-mail address. She recommended asking all Board members not to use it in combination with a second address, since that can engage the entire Board in a lengthy e-mail discussion with a third party. Others agreed. The separate question came up of using FedBoard as the receiving address for public inquiries or comments; it was decided not to use it on the website for this purpose in the future and to direct comments instead to the President's address.

q. Charles Dane asked about the status of the Federation brochure.

Next Membership Meeting:

December 15, 2005, "Ask the Chairman," questions and answers with the Honorable Gerald Connolly, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

Next Board Meeting:

Thursday, January 26, 2005

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.