

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Board Meeting of May 25, 2006
MINUTES

The meeting of the FCFCA Board was held at the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. Board members present: President John Jennison, Carol Hawn, Earl Flanagan, Sally Ormsby, Steve delBianco, Bill Hanks, Judith Hohrmaycht, Carey Campbell, and Esther Ferington; guest present: Mike Corrigan; guest speaker Patti Nicoson.

Business Meeting

a. The meeting began with a presentation on plans for a Metro line to Dulles by Patti Nicoson of the Dulles Rail Corridor Association. Patti Nicoson reported that the most recent plan is for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority to take over operation of and receipts from the Dulles toll road in return for paying Virginia's portion of the funding for the new Metro line. This includes the Virginia portion of the funding for the entire rail line to Dulles, which will no longer be built as two separate segments, but will now become a single construction project. There is currently an agreement between MWAA and Governor Kaine, although the details are being worked out, and the Speaker of the House has voiced objections. If the MWAA arrangement goes through, the full line will be completed through the last stop, which is in Ashburn in Loudon County. Major retail and residential developments have been planned around two Loudoun County stops. The project's overall cost has been an issue in getting approval from the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) for the federal portion of the funding. Current cost estimates vary greatly.

The idea of a tunnel through Tysons Corner (rather than an elevated line) is now widely supported, but it has run into some difficulties with the FTA's financial criteria. The Dulles Rail Corridor Association and others are now focused on this FTA decision. If it were not for this last issue of whether or not to build a tunnel, the MWAA would already have started acquiring land and relocating utility lines in preparation for construction. The project does not require much in the way of land purchases, as it relies primarily on easements, medians, and rights of way. An advisory board of engineers is now reviewing the tunnel proposal and its cost.

b. President John Jennison reported that he presented the Federation's position on the county budget at the Board of Supervisors (BOS) hearing in April and it was very well-received. He thanked Carol Hawn and Sally Ormsby for their work.

c. Committee chairs were reminded to submit "state of the Federation" reports on their committees' efforts this year for the upcoming newsletter issue within the next day or so.

d. President John Jennison and Carol Hawn led a discussion of planning for the next Federation membership meeting, scheduled for June 15, which will be an outdoor picnic at the Packard Center. Merrily Pierce will be asked to coordinate the picnic in conjunction with Sally Ormsby. Presentations are planned for National Night Out and for issues related to students with disabilities, as well as holding the election of next year's officers.

e. The Board minutes for March 9 were approved unanimously as amended. (There was no Board meeting in April.)

f. The Treasurer's Report will be submitted at the next membership meeting.

g. Earl Flanagan presented a proposed resolution on street parking restrictions for commercial and recreational vehicles. This had earlier been the subject of a Mount Vernon Council resolution and had been discussed by the Federation Board, which referred it to the Transportation Committee. Since that time, he, Roger Hoskins, and others have worked with the county staff on the topic. In addition to the resolution, he presented information on how such parking is regulated in Arlington, Alexandria, and Prince William. The matter is unlikely to come before the Board of Supervisors before September at the earliest, as it is currently with the Transportation Advisory Committee. Board members posed several questions, which he will resolve before the matter is brought to a vote.

h. Earl Flanagan also reported on the status of the planned changes at and around Fort Belvoir due to the BRAC decisions placing additional jobs at the fort. Chairman Connolly and Supervisors Hyland and Kaufmann are serving as the Fairfax County stakeholders in the BRAC process as established by Fort Belvoir. They have met with DoD and with the consultant on the project, Skidmore, Merrill, which is charged with planning what will go where. Another stakeholders meeting is scheduled for July; this will be a preliminary meeting before the final design is approved. Steve delBianco noted that the Oceana base at Virginia Beach faces a high risk of being closed, which means the attention of the state government is likely to be on Oceana rather than Fort Belvoir.

i. President John Jennison reviewed the calendar, which includes a political debate in the fall and an immigration forum that may be co-sponsored with the Chamber of Commerce. The Board also reviewed the complete schedule for next years' meetings prepared by Carol Hawn. It was agreed that the membership meeting in December 2006 will be moved to December 14 instead of December 21.

j. Carol Hawn reported for the Human Services Committee that four regional dialogues in the county have been set up as a follow-up to the homelessness summit.

k. Steve delBianco reported for the Land Use Committee that his testimony on the first round of ZOAs to the BOS was the only testimony on the subject. The supervisors posed questions to the staff based on this testimony and noted that they supported the Cochran decision (a court decision regarding a zoning variance case in Fairfax County). They also supported including objective criteria in the remaining ZOAs. The BOS voted in support of the first round of ZOAs without the modifications the Federation had proposed.

The membership had previously approved a Federation resolution on land use in regard to the ZOAs now being considered. Steve asked for a sense of the Federation Board on deleting the first point of the resolution, which has proved to be unnecessarily contentious, and tailoring the wording of the resolution to reflect the specific subjects of each successive set of ZOAs. The Board unanimously endorsed these modifications.

l. Sally Ormsby reported for the Legislative Committee that the General Assembly remains deadlocked on the budget and transportation. A particular concern is the funding match required from Maryland, Virginia, and the District in order to obtain substantial additional federal funding for Metro, under Congressman Tom Davis's legislation.

Maryland and the District have already approved this funding, so only the Virginia piece remains.

m. Earl Flanagan reported for the Transportation Committee that this was decision night at the Planning Commission on the proposed Transportation Plan update to the Policy Plan. The transportation plan is to go before the Board of Supervisors on June 5 unless the Board agrees to defer consideration of the plan, given the very limited time since the recent release of the plan. Earl presented a draft of a letter requesting such a deferral, to be signed by John Jennison as President and sent to the BOS. The Board supported sending this letter.

n. Carol Hawn reported for the Nominating Committee that she has not heard back from some current officers whom she has approached to find out whether they are interested in serving again. She asked the Board whether it would be appropriate for her to convene the Nominating Committee in the coming week to resolve the remaining questions about who is to fill each position. Board members strongly supported such a meeting. Esther Ferington noted that, following discussions with the Nominating Committee, she will stay on as Recording Secretary for the next term, but will only be responsible for the membership meeting minutes.

o. The following note has been added to the minutes at the request of Charles Dane: Readers are referred to the Federation's website for the Education Committee's testimony on May 17th on the Fairfax County Public School's '07 Budget.

Next Membership Meeting:

June 15, 2006, **Outdoor picnic** at Packard Center, speakers on National Night Out and students with disabilities, election of Federation officers

[N.B. Subsequent to this meeting, President John Jennison announced via e-mail that Chairman Gerry Connolly will be the speaker at the outdoor picnic.]

Next Board Meeting

Thursday, June 22, 2006

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.