

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Board Meeting of January 25, 2007
MINUTES

The meeting of the FCFCA Board was held at the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. Jeff Parnes presided in President John Jennison's absence. Board members present: Jeff Parnes, Bill Hanks, Art Wells, Sally Ormsby, Charlie Dane, Flint Webb, Judy Harbeck, Esther Ferington.

Business Meeting

- a. The December Board meeting was held at the Marco Polo Restaurant primarily for fellowship purposes. Minutes were not available for review at this meeting.
- b. The Treasurer's Report had already been presented by Scott Schlegel at the membership meeting a week earlier. Charles Dane noted that based on the report, he is concerned about the membership figures. Jeff Parnes said that he hopes to send out another dues renewal mailing, as this has been effective at this time of year in recent past years.
- c. Sally Ormsby confirmed that the previous auditor has produced a summary letter of the 2002 audit report, but that the original computer files have been damaged and cannot be recovered. Art Wells reported that the audit committee, consisting of Chuck Roper, Ken Anderson, and John Fee, is ready to proceed. He mentioned that it was most likely the audit would take place on a Saturday and that Jeff Parnes and Scott Schlegel would need to be available. Charles Dane noted that the only negative in the 2002 audit was that there was no annual budget; this was later corrected in a September addendum to the report, since a budget had been approved in May. Jeff Parnes agreed that there has been an approved budget every year from 2002 onward.
- d. Art Wells reported on the recent BRAC meeting at Fort Belvoir, which Flint Webb also attended, regarding the environmental impact statement (EIS). The purpose was to disseminate information, posted on numerous boards. Judy Harbeck reported the Mount Vernon Council has approved a resolution supporting the Federation's BRAC resolution.

The draft EIS is coming soon, in February. There is a public hearing in March 2007 and comments will be due before then. Jeff Parnes suggested the Federation could set up a committee just to do the BRAC comments. He also suggested that perhaps Mount Vernon could suggest a position initially. However, Judy Harbeck noted that now the biggest impact has moved to the Engineering Proving Grounds, BRAC is not as big an issue for Mount Vernon as it was; perhaps the Lee and Springfield District Councils would be the appropriate contacts. Jeff Parnes agreed to e-mail the Lee and Springfield representatives to determine what their preferences are in commenting for the BRAC hearing—whether they wish to take the lead or to participate with the Federation. He will also e-mail the appropriate Federation committee chairs, including the transportation chair.

Judy Harbeck also noted that according to the Mount Vernon Council meeting, the completion of the Fairfax County Parkway is now in serious jeopardy because of the new size and design requirements to accommodate BRAC. Less than half of the money needed is now on hand. In other news, the GSA will vacate its warehouses in Springfield.

Flint Webb noted that the TAC of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) will be reviewing the draft EIS as well, and said that the TAC will liase with the appropriate Federation committees, including the Environment Committee. Sally Ormsby asked whether the Council of Governments Transportation Planning Board is looking at the draft EIS and suggested asking this at the February 15 membership meeting. It was noted that shorter commutes for some employees may have a positive effect on air quality.

e. Bill Hanks asked whether a Nominating Committee has been appointed, as the bylaws require within 30 days after a president takes office (with specific membership requirements for the Nominating Commiteee). Jeff Parnes will check with John Jennison about this.

f. Charles Dane reviewed the draft testimony on the proposed Fairfax County Schools budget, which he had circulated via e-mail to the Board. On the budget, he noted that the target increase for the county transfer to the schools had been 3.5 percent, whereas the proposed school budget was for an increase of 4.6 percent, but that the difference did not appear to be grounds for contention so far. The testimony was approved with friendly amendments. He also reported on the dispute between the county and the federal Department of Education over the NCLB test for ESOL students.

g. Flint Webb reported on MWAQ's progress on the state implementation plan (SIP), which is behind schedule. The Environment Committee can comment on the SIP once it comes out. He also noted that the Mirant coal-fired power plant in Alexandria has sued the state of Virginia because the General Assembly decided that the plant cannot buy NOx (nitrogen oxide) credits to compensate for its excessive emissions.

Jeff Parnes asked whether the committee wished to address the issue of proposed locations for Dominion Power power lines. Flint Webb said the committee would look at this and report back. [Per subsequent news stories that this is now a moot point.—EF]

h. Judy Harbeck reported that the Mount Vernon Council has just received a substantial report from its special committee on affordable workforce housing. The report will be presented at the next Council meeting and is available at mvcca.org. The subcommittee's concern is whether the penny for affordable housing is going for workforce housing or only (or primarily) for housing for the very neediest.

i. Jeff Parnes reported that the Legislative, Education, and Environment Committee areas of the website are all updated and he requests feedback from the committee chairs. He still needs updated content for Transportation and Land Use. He asked whether to post resolutions in the subject-area committees, or in the Resolutions Committee, since he cannot do both because of the time required. It was felt best to have all approved resolutions in one place, labeled Resolutions. However, resolutions that are not yet approved can be in the individual committee areas.

Next Membership Meeting: February 15, 2007, Sunrise Valley Elementary School, Reston, 8:00 p.m. start time, special program on growth with Supervisor Cathy Hudgins and the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board. [Note: subsequently delayed due to inclement weather and rescheduled for March 15, 2007]

Next Board Meeting

Thursday, February 22.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.