

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 22, 2007 7:30 p.m.

Call to Order/Welcome - John Jennison

[Meeting was called to order at 7:45pm by John Jennison]

[The agenda was reviewed edits and discussions as reflected below]

March 22, Growth Program [has been moved from March 15th to March 22nd]

May 17, Report from Richmond - additional speaker discussion

Calendar Review: Mar. 11, Citizen of the Year Awards Banquet 6:30 reception, 7:30 Dinner

[Yeah Sally!]

Mar. 22, Growth & TPB w/ HM Sup. Cathy Hudgins-rescheduled

Mar. 29, Ffx. Co. Budget - (Tony Griffin-confirmed)

Apr. 19, Tourism, FFX marks the spot-& Jamestown 2007-Ferriington & Ormsby

May 17, Elections, Report From Richmond (Del. Shannon & Del. Callahan -invited)

June 21, State of the County w/ Chairman Connolly, Picnic

Approval of December 21, 2006 Board Meeting Minutes - Jeff Nolan

[Sally motioned the December 21, 2006 minutes be approved, Charles seconded the motion, minutes were amended as reflected below]

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting at Marco Polo Restaurant on 21 December 2006

Amended minutes approved at the February 22, 2007 meeting

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 P.M. by President John Jennison. Jeffrey Nolan, Second Vice President, was appointed secretary pro-tem. John reviewed the calendar, per the agenda.

Merrily Pierce said that there would be a joint meeting on a regional mobility plan at a location TBD in Reston on 15 February.

Tom Davis will be the speaker at the Citizen of the Year banquet. He approached John last year to request to speak to the Federation. Tom has always been at the banquet reception for as long as Merrily can remember.

The calendar for the year was then reviewed. Delegate Shannon will attend the 17 May meeting. The annual picnic will be on 21 June. The October and December minutes will be approved at the next meeting. The deadline for the newsletter is 29 December; Steve needs a volunteer.

Speaking of our local environment, three to eight people per year are dying due to PM-10 and SO₂, according to a special environmental assessment for the Mirant Power Plant in Alexandria. The letter from the Department of Energy (DoE) said that the plant must operate based upon the dispersion model (PM-2.5) in the special environmental impact assessment. The justification for continued operation of the plant is that it is needed to support emergency functions that don't have emergency backup power generation, i.e., it is a surge plant.

A summit for Climate Change (vice Global Warming) is being planned. The CO₂ Reduction in Emissions resolution drafted by Flint and John [amended to reflect: Walt] was passed at the last general membership meeting.

On the topic of membership, it appears that no one has received any of the 45 membership letters sent in October. Jeff Parnes will put the upcoming program agenda in the follow up mailing. Requests for membership forms may be sent to jeff@parnes.net.

The Citizens Corps Council reorganized for last year. The bylaws were completed at the end of August; they will be approved at the 13 January meeting, where they will also bring aboard the Federation member. Virginia is one of the better states; a \$5,000 grant is available to hold an emergency preparedness resource fair. Reston is concerned with pedestrian safety as many use the W&OD trail to bike to work. Reflective vests were recommended as one part of the solution to pedestrian/car and bicyclist/car public safety problems. The good news is that this is the fourth year in a row with a decline in public safety incidents.

At the Sully District meeting last night, the four delegates in attendance – Hugo, ~~Yupato~~ [amended to reflect: Caputo], Rust, and Plum – were split on ~~user/usage fees~~ [amended to reflect: new fees for transportation]. There is a Northern Virginia package to raise \$400-500M per year for Northern Virginia. Businesses are in favor of the package, which includes \$5K in fees on \$500K house sales, car and hotel taxes, \$100 fee for new driver licenses (if the applicant did not take driver education), and other newcomers' fees. However, it is not believed that the Assembly will pass a broad-based tax. \$1B is needed state-wide. Governor Kaine has promised \$500M in a one-time allotment to transportation districts that include Prince William, Loudon, Fairfax, Arlington, and cities/towns within these counties.

John offered to buy one round at the bar. Merrily then moved that the meeting be adjourned. This was seconded by Jeff Nolan. Hearing no discussion, the vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting at 9:53 P.M.

Meeting Attendees:

1. Charlie D.
2. Earl F.
3. Bill H. (arrived @ 9:06 P.M.)
4. John Jennison
5. Jeff Nolan
6. Jeff Parnes
7. Merrily Pierce
8. Scott S.
9. Flint W.

[End of minutes]

January 25, 2007 Board Meeting Minutes - Esther Ferington

Treasurer's Report & Budget - Scott Schlegel

Financial Review - Art Wells

[No report]

Federation 2007 Legislative Program - Sally Ormsby- Updates

[updates are highlighted in bold at the end of each bill description]

FEDERATION LEGISLATIVE REPORT

February 22, 2007

New 2007 initiatives

[NEW] **b. SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES.** Support prohibition of smoking in buildings open to the public except for those retail establishments that are exclusively devoted to the sale and use of tobacco products. (2007)

SB 1161 (Bell) - **Virginia Smoke Free Air Act; smoking in restaurants; civil penalties.** Moves the law restricting smoking in buildings and other enclosed areas from the title relating to local government (15.2) to the title relating to health (32.1) and prohibits smoking indoors in most buildings or enclosed areas frequented by the public. Exceptions are provided for (i) private homes, private residences, and private automobiles, and home-based businesses, unless used in conjunction with a licensed child care, adult day care, or health care facility; (ii) certain private functions held in public facilities; (iii) hotel or motel rooms not clearly designated as "nonsmoking" rooms that are offered for lease or rent to the public; (iv) specialty tobacco stores; and (v) tobacco manufacturers. Signs stating "Warning: Smoking Permitted" must be posted by the proprietor of any exempt building or area when smoking is allowed. **Passed Senate; left in House General Laws.**

[NEW] **c. PAYDAY LOANS - USURY.** Prohibit all lending institutions and businesses from charging prohibitively high interest rates and fees to people who must borrow money for short terms, especially those lower wage workers who have difficulty sustaining themselves and their families from payday to payday. (2007)

SB 1014 (Saslaw) - Requires the State Corporation Commission, by July 1, 2008, to certify and contract with one or more third parties to develop, implement, and maintain an Internet-accessible database, and requires payday lenders to query the database prior to making any loan to determine whether an applicant is eligible for the loan. **House substitute rejected by Senate on 2/22 [The intention for this bill is for lenders to communicate with each other].**

[NEW] **d. MINIMUM WAGE.** Support an increase in the minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour in annual increments of \$1.00 per hour until the minimum hourly wage of \$8.15 is achieved. From that point in time, index the minimum hourly wage to the CPI increase. (2007)

HB 1651 (Eisenberg) – **Left in House Commerce & Labor**. There is also a bill that proposes a single increase to \$6.50 per hour.

[NEW] e. **ELECTRIC RESTRUCTURING**. Support a review to consider amending the Virginia Electric Utility Restructuring Act (VEURA) that provides for deregulation of the electric utility industry to allow for continued state regulatory oversight of electricity rates by the State Corporation Commission (SCC). (2007)

[NEW] (4) **Water Quality Improvement Fund**. Support increased funding for the Water Quality Improvement Fund (WQIF), preferably with a dedicated source of revenue to ensure continued funding. (2007)

SB 1301 (Newman) - **Water Quality Improvement Fund; CSO funding for the City of Lynchburg and the City of Richmond**. Provides that the first \$7 million in each fiscal year appropriated to the Water Quality Improvement Fund from surplus revenues and any unreserved general fund balance would be deposited into a special fund to be used to help eliminate combined sewer overflow (CSO) in the City of Lynchburg and the City of Richmond. The total amount used for CSO in the City of Lynchburg and the City of Richmond from the Water Quality Improvement Fund would equal \$70 million, \$3.5 million for each city in each fiscal year for the next 10 fiscal years beginning July 1, 2007. **The bill is identical to HB 3102. Passed both Houses**

[NEW] f. **ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERABLE PRODUCTS**. Support legislation to amend the Virginia Public Procurement Act to encourage the purchase of environmentally preferable products by providing a preference similar to that now granted for recycled products. (2007)

No bill was introduced.

[NEW] b. **TAX DEDUCTION FOR ORGAN DONORS**. Support legislation to allow a state tax deduction to donors of organ transplants in the lesser amount of \$5,000 or the amount actually paid for expenses not covered by insurance that are directly related to the transplant operation. (2007)

HB 2220 (Amundson) - **Income tax; deduction for unreimbursed organ donation expenses**. Provides an income tax deduction for unimburshed expenses that are paid by an organ and tissue donor and that have not been taken as a medical deduction on the taxpayer's federal income tax return, effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2007. The amount of the deduction is the lesser of \$5,000 or the actual amount paid by the taxpayer. **Passed both Houses 2/21/07.**

[NEW] c. **LIVING WAGE**. Support, in concept, legislation to authorize Fairfax County to require County contractors to provide a living wage to employees. (2007)

No action.

[NEW] c. **EMINENT DOMAIN**. Support legislation that would prohibit the “taking” of private property for private development. (2007)

HJ 723 (Bell) – **Constitutional amendment (first resolution); taking of Private property** may not be taken under the power of eminent domain unless it is (i) taken for the possession, occupation, and enjoyment by the public at large, or by public agencies; (ii) to be used for the creation or functioning of a public service corporation or company, including but not limited to railroad companies that possesses the power of eminent domain; (iii) taken for public highways or other public transportation facilities; **private property for public uses**. Establishes limitations on takings of private property. or (iv) blighted and the taking eliminates a direct threat to public health or safety caused by the property. **Much action on Senate floor on 2/21 & 2/22. Same action for SB 781 (Cuccinelli).**

[NEW] a. **HOUSE OF DELEGATES COMMITTEES**. Strongly oppose the 2006 House Rule 18 that allowed subcommittees to act on bills without an open public process or a (recorded or unrecorded) vote and encourage House Leadership to rescind that rule to make subcommittee meetings open to public participation and formally record all votes. (2007)

HR 48 (Plum) would have rescinded this part of House Rule 18. It was defeated 38-58.

[NEW] b. **LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING**. Support review of the Virginia legislative redistricting process. (2007)

SJ 352 (Deeds) - **Constitutional amendment (first resolution); Virginia Redistricting Commission**. Establishes the Virginia Redistricting Commission to redraw Congressional and General Assembly district boundaries after each decennial census. Appointments to the 13-member Commission are to be made in the census year as follows: two each by the President pro tempore of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Delegates, minority leader in each house, and the state chairman of each of the two political parties receiving the most votes in the prior gubernatorial election. The 12 partisan members then select the

13th member by a majority vote, or, if they cannot agree on a selection, they certify the two names receiving the most votes to the Supreme Court, which will name the 13th member. **Passed by Senate (22-18); tabled in House P&E.**

[NEW] **g. BRAC IMPACTS.** Support the inclusion of sufficient funding in the Virginia 2006-2008 budget amendments to ensure necessary resources to address the enormous planning and transportation issues raised by the relocation of an estimated 22,000 defense workers to Fort Belvoir and 3,000 defense workers to USMC Quantico resulting from the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) recommendations signed by the President in 2005. (2007)

The following bills passed both Houses:

HB 1673 (Marshall) - Commission on Immigration. Creates the Virginia Commission on Immigration as an advisory commission in the executive branch to analyze the current impact of immigration on the Commonwealth and make recommendations on related policies in the areas of education, employment, and cooperative efforts with the federal government. The bill sets out the membership of the Commission and its powers and duties and defines immigration. The Commission expires on August 1, 2009.

HB 1678 (Cosgrove) - Sales tax exemption; energy-efficient products. Provides a sales tax exemption for purchases of certain energy-efficient products with a sales price of \$2,500 or less made during the first Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in October of each year. The bill also authorizes dealers to absorb the sales and use tax on all other items sold during the same time period and thereby relieve the purchasers of the obligation to pay such tax. Dealers who absorb such taxes are liable for payment of the same to the Tax Commissioner.

HB 2261 (Tom Rust) - Zoning violations; overcrowding. Provides for enhanced fines for any conviction resulting from a violation of provisions related to overcrowding of residential dwellings. These violations shall not be punishable by a jail term.

HB 2542 (Landes) - No Child Left Behind. Requires the Board of Education to request a waiver from those provisions of NCLB that are fiscally and programmatically burdensome to school divisions and are not instructionally sound or in the best interest of children.

HB 2618 (Fralin) - Classification of real property; energy-efficient buildings. Permits localities to tax certain energy-efficient buildings, not including the land on which they are located, at a lower tax rate than that imposed on the general class of real property by creating a separate classification for taxation purposes. An energy-efficient building is any building that exceeds the energy efficiency standards prescribed in the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code by 30 percent. Energy-efficient building certification shall be determined by any qualified licensed engineer or contractor who is not related to the taxpayer and who shall certify to the taxpayer that he or she has qualifications to provide the certification.

HJ 686 (Miller) - Study; Virginia Housing Commission; overcrowding of residential dwelling units and its impact on neighborhoods and localities; report. Directs the Virginia Housing Commission to study the impacts of and solutions for residential overcrowding.

SB 756 (Stosch) - Public-Private Partnership Advisory Commission. Establishes the Public-Private Partnership Advisory Commission to review and advise responsible public entities that are agencies or institutions of the Commonwealth on (i) comprehensive agreements for qualifying transportation facilities under the Public-Private Transportation Act of 1995 (§ 56-556 et seq.) and (ii) detailed proposals for qualifying projects under the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002 (§ 56-5575.1 et seq.). The bill also requires all responsible public entities to adopt guidelines to guide the selection of projects under the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act containing certain specified provisions.

SB 829 (Devolites Davis) - Traffic signal enforcement programs; civil penalty. Grants localities the authority to operate traffic signal enforcement systems. Localities may install photo-monitoring systems at no more than one intersection for every 10,000 residents at one time. Provisions within the bill limit the use and retention of images recorded and provide other parameters and limitations for localities.

SB 1074 (Ruff) - Clustering of single-family dwellings. Limits provisions that will require most localities, effective July 1, 2007, to set aside a certain percentage of undeveloped property for possible cluster development to those localities with a population over 40,000.

Board & Committee Reports & Resolutions

Bulletin/Newsletter - Carol Hawn Deadline is February ____, Who will help fold, stamp & mail?

[Deadline for newsletter is March 10. Tania has volunteered to help with the fold, stamp & mail]

Environment-Walt Sisson/Flint Webb-

[No report]

Resolutions- Bill Hanks

[No report]

Human Services- Tania Hossain & Bettina Lawton -Emergency Preparedness Forum/Workshop

[Tania reported that the Emergency Preparedness program will be hosted at the Little River Glen Senior Center. Program details and date and time are being worked out. Chairman Connolly (confirmed), Supervisors Bulova (confirmed), Smyth (confirmed), Gross (pending) and McConnell's (pending) offices will be sponsors of this program]

Land Use- Steve DelBianco

[No report]

Education & Youth-Charlie Dane-

[No report]

Legislation-Sally Ormsby-

[See 2007 Legislative Updates above]

Membership- Jeff Parnes -review of membership renewal letters

[No report]

Public Safety- Merrily Pierce -

[No report]

Transportation- Roger Hoskins

[Roger reports that the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) is deliberating parking ordinances. Board members discussed RPPD and CPD]

Website- Jeff Parnes & Tania Hossain

[Tania reported that she will be assisting Jeff with the website and will start with the COY page]

District Council Reports

Braddock- Art Wells **[no report]** Mason- Roger Hoskins **[no report]** Lee-Johnna Gagnon/MC **[no report]**

Mt. Vernon CCA-Greg Scoma **[no report]** Providence-Rebecca Cate **[Sally reported that the PDC hosted an informative program on the school budget and the Merrifield planning]**

Sully-Jeff Parnes **[no report]** Springfield-Mike Thompson **[no report]**

Dranesville- N/A

Hunter Mill- N/A

Old Business

Financial Review- Art Wells

[No report]

New Business and Miscellaneous Business

[Tania announced that the Fairfax County Commission For Women will be hosting a public forum on "Women in Media" on March 25 from 2-4pm at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax (Board Auditorium)]

Adjournment [Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm]

Board Meetings

March 8, 2007 - Note: 2nd Thursday of the month

April 26, 2007 -

May 24, 2007-

June 28, 2007-

[Respectfully submitted by Tania Hossain]