

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Membership Meeting of October 18, 2007
MINUTES

The meeting of FCFCA was held at the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. (Attendance list is attached to file copy.) President Jeff Parnes introduced Federation Board member Sally Ormsby, who introduced Kambiz Agazi, the Fairfax County Environmental Coordinator.

Program —

Mr. Agazi spoke on two subjects: the national "cool counties" initiative co-developed by Fairfax County, and the county's own programs related to energy conservation and reducing greenhouse-gas emissions. As an introduction, he noted that Fairfax County has become the first local government in the nation to acquire a plug-in hybrid vehicle—a Toyota Prius that was converted by a Toyota-certified third party to add the plug-in capability. The county's plug-in hybrid can drive for about twenty miles on electric power before requiring gasoline.

He explained that, beginning in 2005, a number of US mayors signed an agreement to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions in their cities to 7 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, in emulation of the Kyoto Accord. The national Sierra Club subsequently established the Cool Cities program to assist cities in reaching this goal. In June 2006, the Great Falls Sierra Club proposed that Fairfax County join the Cool Cities program. County staff reviewed the program and found that it was more oriented toward cities. Instead, the Board of Supervisors asked the staff to develop a county-focused program. The resulting Cool Counties program, announced earlier this year, is a national initiative put forward jointly by Fairfax County; King County, Washington; and the Sierra Club.

The steps of the Cool Counties program are "pledge, plan, and act," emphasizing a planning process that then leads to action steps. The program recognizes that counties may not have good data on greenhouse-gas emissions from 1990 and recommends instead starting at a year for which there is a reliable baseline and moving forward from that date. It also recognizes overlaps between air-quality planning under the Clean Air Act and planning for green-house gas reduction; these are not the same, but there is some overlap. Mr. Agazi also noted that about two-thirds of the nation's 3066 counties are rural, with populations below 50,000, and may have limited personnel for such initiatives. The Cool Counties program provides a basic county planning guide that includes checklists of policies and programs, divided into seven solution areas (energy efficiency, renewable energy, fleets/vehicles/equipment, land use, transportation, education and outreach, and water conservation). Not all items on the lists are applicable to all counties, depending on local conditions. He noted that water conservation is included because water treatment and waste-water treatment are very "electricity-hungry." Water conservation therefore conserves power as well. Mr. Agazi noted that the county staff is developing complementary programs at the more local level, with the working names of Cool Communities and Cool Schools.

Transitioning to Fairfax County's own initiatives, he noted that in 2004 the Board of Supervisors approved an environmental agenda for the county that put forward a 20-year vision. Each year, the county staff updates the Environmental Improvement Program, which is organized according to the themes in this vision statement. This year the issue of primary focus is "Climate Change" (last year was "Trees") and that tab at the end of the EIP shows the county programs related to that theme. Mr. Agazi gave several specific examples of how better energy conservation or emissions control has also produced a cost savings, such as the replacement of motors at Park Authority pools, the conversion to CFL light bulbs in some county facilities, and the use of methane from the I-66 landfill to heat a building in the West Ox campus. He also provided a handout listing other county efforts that support the Cool Counties initiative, including hybrid vehicles, green buildings, energy efficiency programs in county facilities, wind energy purchases, the waste-to-energy program at the I-95 landfill, ride sharing and telework, environmental considerations in the comprehensive plan, numerous transportation programs, and tree planting and preservation.

Business Meeting —

- a. The minutes for the September 20 membership meeting were approved unanimously.
- b. The Treasurers Report was presented by President Jeff Parnes, and was received.

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c. President Jeff Parnes encouraged those present to consider volunteering, or to suggest volunteers, for the remaining Board vacancies of Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. Those who would like to learn more about either position should contact him directly.

d. Art Wells reported there have been no major developments with the Base Realignment and Closure Committee (BRAC) shift of many jobs to Fort Belvoir and the Engineering Proving Grounds. Money to facilitate the BRAC transitions (nationwide) has not yet been approved by Congress.

e. Flint Webb, the Environmental Chair, presented a draft green buildings resolution. At the previous Board meeting, it was agreed not to include the pages with separate, detailed comments but to work with the resolution itself. Editing and review of the resolution is underway, but has been delayed. Given the need to complete the resolution soon, a motion was made expressing the membership's general approval of the resolution and forwarding it to the Board for final development and dissemination. The motion carried 26-0-0.

f. Esther Ferington, as Second Vice President, reported that Becky Cate, the Federation representative to the county's Trails and Sidewalks Committee, has let the Federation know that she cannot serve another term. Many at the meeting expressed regret and it was asked that these minutes reflect the Federation's appreciation for her work on the committee over the past several years. Esther Ferington reported that she and President Jeff Parnes were in the process of talking with someone who has been suggested for this role.

She also reported that the position of Federation representatives on the county's Criminal Justice Advisory Board and Airports Advisory Committee are both vacant and need to be filled. Both committees meet once a month in the evening. Those who may be interested, or who would like to suggest someone else, should contact Esther Ferington or President Jeff Parnes. In the case of the Airports Advisory Committee, it would be particularly helpful to have a volunteer from Mount Vernon or Lee District to help balance the geographic make-up of the committee.

The Federation's Education and Youth Committee, chaired by Charles Dane, is seeking a Federation representative for the FCPS Gifted and Talented Advisory Committee. Charles Dane described what would be involved in this role.

g. President Jeff Parnes reported he had recently attended a meeting of the FCPS Community Leadership Council.

h. Charles Dane noted that the next meeting of the Federation Education and Youth Committee will be the second Tuesday in November in the small room behind the receptionist's desk at the Packard Center; an FCPS representative will talk with the committee about cuts that may be needed for next year's budget. He reported that the FCPS school transportation task force has been meeting frequently and is expected to provide a report by January. The task force is looking at possible changes that might allow high schools to start later; it includes three subcommittees investigating different approaches. All of the FCPS advisory committees, which previously advised the School Board directly, may now report through the Superintendent. A new Assistant Superintendent for business and community relations has also just been appointed.

i. Flint Webb reported that the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC), for which he serves as Federation representative on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), is producing a fine particle (PM 2.5) emission budget on an expedited schedule, working toward a state implementation plan (SIP) to achieve the national ambient air quality standard. The TAC is also assisting another Council of Governments (COG) group in developing a greenhouse gas inventory for the region. The idea is to take the 2002 base-year figures for greenhouse-gas emissions and extrapolate the figures for the 2009

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attainment year based on expected population and economic growth. He also reported on the Accotink watershed plan.

j. Sally Ormsby, Chair of the Legislative Committee, reported that the Federation's proposed legislative program will be presented at the next Federation Board meeting for review, prior to presentation at the November 15 Federation membership meeting.

k. Charles Dane, as First Vice President, reported on membership and outreach efforts. Art Wells is coordinating a presentation by the Federation at the November Braddock District Council and Charles Dane has been in contact with two other district council representatives.

l. Art Wells reported that the Braddock District Council held an outdoor festival on October 6 called Finding Braddock Gold. There was an October 9 meeting on revitalization of trees and plants on Braddock Road, an October 12 workshop with the Celebrate Fairfax CEO on professional secrets of producing community events, and the October 24 District Council meeting on Looking Back at Braddock History, to include setting up a website with George Mason. The next joint meeting with George Mason will be on January 9. He reported that he is planning for the Federation's December 13 meeting on the county's strike force program and will be consulting with Supervisor Sharon Bulova on this. A program on the same topic in Braddock was well-attended.

m. Jeff Parnes reported that 10 of 15 political candidates appeared at the Sully District Council "candidates night" meeting and it was an active session. The next Sully District Council meeting will be on transportation issues and will include VDOT and FCDOT representatives.

n. John Birch from the Mason District noted that Supervisor Penny Gross recently held a meeting to explore developing community-level emergency planning. The hope is to develop a template that would help neighborhoods develop their own plans. John Birch will send an article on this to Carol Hawn for the Federation newsletter.

o. Sally Ormsby noted that the Providence District Council will hold election debates for its next meeting.

p. President Jeff Parnes reminded the group that next month's Federation membership meeting is, as usual, on the third Thursday, but December's membership meeting is on the second Thursday.

q. Bill Hanks, the Federation representative to Affordable Housing Opportunity Means Everyone (AHOME), reported that the Board of Supervisors has adopted the high-rise task force report regarding affordable housing in high-rise buildings. Affordable housing units will now make up 12 percent of the units in new high-rise housing construction. This resolves a long-standing issue from the time that high-rises were temporarily exempted in 1991. He will write an article on this milestone for the newsletter.

Next Membership Meeting: November 15, review of 2008 Federation Legislative Program

Next Board Meeting: October 25

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.