

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
November 29, 2007 Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Approved at January 24, 2008 Board Meeting
Special Note: Action Items are underlined

The meeting was convened at 7:40 pm by president Jeff Parnes

Other members present: Charles Dane, Esther Ferington, Carol Hawn, Tania Hossain, Scott Schlegel, Flint Webb, Art Wells, Jim Colby, who was appointed as Land Use Committee Chair during the meeting, and Sally Ormsby at 7:55 and Bill Hanks at 8:10.

Absent: Merrily Pierce, Roger Hoskins, and District Council Reps with the exception of Jeff Parnes and Art Wells.

Members and Jim Colby introduced themselves.

Program Schedule was reviewed –

December – Art Wells said the speakers for the December general meeting on “Overcrowding in Neighborhoods” were lined up and that Braddock District Supervisor, Sharon Bulova, would introduce the program and speakers. Parnes stated that he would not be able to attend, and confirmed that Dane planned to attend and would preside.

April – The probability of members of our Congressional delegation being available for this meeting was questioned and later in the meeting the following alternative was presented. Thus later in the meeting, when reporting on her efforts to obtain reports from the Federation’s representatives to various county committees, Ferington noted that Lou D’Alessandro of the Citizen Action Advisory Board (CAAB), which is involved in the allocation of federal grants related to human services, had offered to give a presentation on the CAAB’s activities at a general meeting. This led to a consensus that the April meeting be used for presentations from four or five Federation representatives to county committees. Suggestions included the FCPS School Board’s Transportation Task Force, Jim Davis (our representative on the Engineering Standards Review Committee), and Vic Mukai (our representative on the Information Technology Policy) Advisory Committee, in addition to the CAAB presentation. Ferington will make arrangements for the April mtg.

May – Later in the meeting, suggestions were floated on which delegates to invite for the Report from Richmond meeting. It was concluded that we would invite representatives Mark Sickles and Tom Rust with an alternate being Margi Vanderhye and Senators Ken Cuccinelli and Richard Saslaw with the alternate being George Barker.

Approval of Minutes

September – The status of these minutes was raised; the board agreed that they had been approved with the caveat that the changes previously submitted by Dane be incorporated. Since these changes apparently had not been made, Dane was asked to resubmit his changes to Ferington.

October – The question was raised as to whether changes submitted to Webb had been made. For example, Hawn noted that statements under the Board Reports/Bulletin attributed to Dane were made by Hanks. Webb, secretary *pro tem* for these minutes recognized that the changes submitted by Dane and perhaps others had not been included. Then, the following additional changes were suggested by Hawn and Parnes:

(1) VII District Councils, Sully, para 2 – revise to read “Discussed the possibility of a WFCCA/Sully District Council merger”, and delete subpara. a–c, (2) VII District Councils, Lee – change Lee Hilder to Jane Hilder. [At this time, Hawn also noted the reasons for waiting until after the first of the year to re–contact Lee District], (3) Action Items, #9 – delete bracketed portion, (4) Action Items, #11 – delete “revise” and insert “obtain information to update”, and (5) Action Items, #12 – correct spelling typos. With these changes and those previously submitted by Dane the minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report

Schlegel distributed his Treasurer’s report, noting a current balance of \$8,559.46 with substantial outstanding Bulletin expenses. The report also noted that membership renewal checks had been received from 25 associations. Dane noted that he had two more checks, and thought the total was 29 members. [Subsequently it was determined that the difference was that two additional associations had submitted their applications by e–mail but their checks had not yet been received.] The report included a \$1,000 check to hold the COY reservation at the Best Western in Falls Church. This item was further discussed under Old Business. The Treasurer’s report was received for filing.

Under the topic of other speakers – Parnes reported that Gerry Gordon’s office had offered to have him speak at a general meeting. He is Director of the County’s Economic Development Authority, and has spoken to the Federation before. E–mail comments were shared with the board with the agenda, and further discussion concluded with the possibility of scheduling him in 2008–09

Old Business

Citizen of the Year – Jennison’s report on COY was printed as part of the agenda. A question was raised as to whether the Best Western in Falls Church had a meeting room large enough for the banquet. It was decided that Parnes and Ormsby would stop by this facility after the meeting to further assess its capacity before providing the \$1,000 deposit check. The board members approved the \$60 per person price for the COY, down from \$65 in 2007. Advertising in newspapers was considered to be too expensive, but it was agreed to submit meeting announcements to regional papers.

2008 Legislative Program – Parnes reported that he had presented the Federation’s legislative program at the Board of Supervisors’ public hearing, and that there were no questions and only limited testimony from others.

Reston Town Status – Parnes mentioned the first meeting of the Ad–Hoc Committee on Reston referendum would be December 6, and asked Jim Colby to join the committee because the subject includes issues of land use.

Dues Structure – The Board agreed to defer the discussion of a change in the Federation’s dues structure to the Board meeting in December.

New Business – Committee Reports

Bulletin – Hawn said that she hoped to keep the next issue to 4 pages including the Green Building Resolution. Parnes said that his introduction would include an announcement of the December general meeting

Education – Dane reported that the Education Committee received a briefing on the FCPS budget situation by the Assistant Superintendent of Finance, and given the opportunity to comment on budget issues earlier than previously. The letter to the FCPS Superintendent was included in the agenda attachments. Dane also noted the budget items in the agenda, and added that the FCPS shortfall may have increased by \$20M because of an adjustment in the local composite index (LCI). He also said a letter asking questions about FCPS residency requirements and enforcement had been sent to the FCPS Superintendent. Since a response had not yet been received he doubted that the Committee would ask the Board to add this as a second topic to the January meeting as had been previously considered by the Board.

Environment – Webb said that the emission estimates in the PM2.5 (particular matter with an aerodynamic diameter less than 2.5 micrometers [micrometers]) in the State Implementation Plan (SIP) that is going through review were based on projections that do not take into consideration BRAC even though this will effect the distribution of jobs and residences, which will have an effect on the emissions for automobiles in the region and local air quality. Further–more, while there was some discussion of ammonia (principally from catalytic converters) in the SIP, there was no ammonia budget because apparently there is not much that can presently be done to reduce ammonia emissions (without causing much greater increases in reactive volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions.

Webb, in response to a question by Ferington, explained that COG develops the plan for the metro area, and each State submits its portion of the plan [maybe they each submit the same plan it is just that that the Federal EPA evaluates whether the SIP is complete, or not, based on State specific considerations like whether the measures claimed in the SIP have been enacted by the State]. Public hearings on the SIP are scheduled for January [29th]. Webb also stated that Virginia Air Pollution Control Board scheduled a public hearing on the Mirant plant, but the Board did not show up. [However, DEQ heard testimony from many citizens and public officials, and the next Air Board hearing is in Alexandria on January 25th to hear comments from the public on a new proposed State Operating permit with the two stack merger option which Mirant and DEQ have been favoring. The last day to file written comments on the permit is January 29th].

Human Services – Hossain suggested holding an out-of–sequence forum on Childhood Challenges, including obesity, emotional issues, and the school mediation program. The forum would be oriented to a family audience. The Board supported this concept, and Hossain will develop a planning document.

Land Use – Parnes re–introduced Jim Colby, who had expressed an interest in serving as the Federation’s Land Use Chair. Parnes requested the Board’s approval of his appointment of Colby as the Federation’s Land Use Chair. Moved by Dane, seconded by Ferinton, approved unanimously. Colby, whose background was presented in the agenda, inquired about the

committee process and how other committee members are recruited. In response to the process, Parnes clarified that the committee deals with issues that may be assigned by the Board, but more frequently considers issues that the committee develops and brings to the Board, usually in the form of resolutions. Dane emphasized the importance of having a final “Therefore” statement that directs the action (testimony before xyz or letter to xyz) to be taken upon adoption of the resolution. With regard to other committee members, Parnes said that we have had two potential Land Use Chairs, who have declined the Chair, but said that they would serve on the committee. Jeff will notify these persons that a Land Use Chair has been appointed and will be contacting them about committee meetings. A request for committee members will be included in the Bulletin, and District Council Reps are asked to solicit members in their districts [see Wells request under District Council reports].

Wells requested that Colby receive a copy of the By-Laws, and the Policies and Procedures, which Hanks was able to retrieve and provide during our meeting.

Legislation – Ormsby reminded Jeff of the need to reserve a speaker’s slot to present the Federation’s 2008 Legislative Program to the Northern Virginia delegation on Saturday, January 5. Carol will prepare the covers for the Program.

Membership – Dane reported that he had received applications from 29 associations. [This compares with 18 at this time last year]. He noted that there were 32 member associations by the end of last year. He advised that he had contacted those Board members whom he expected would have their associations renew this year. He had followed up with four organizations in the Braddock District. He was contacting District Council Reps to ascertain how best to solicit additional members from their districts. For Mt. Vernon and Springfield, the advice was to wait for the January change in District Council Leadership. He had previously e-mailed Parnes and asked him to contact Steve Delbianco, Vice President of McLean Citizens Associations about increasing individual association membership from the umbrella organization. Parnes reported that he had already done so.

Ferington made an impassioned plea for someone to fill the Federation’s position on the Criminal Justice Advisory Board. She suggested that someone from Neighborhood Watch might be appropriate. Ormsby volunteered to contact a Camelot Association member.

Public Safety – Chair not present and no report

Resolutions – Hanks had no comments.

Transportation – Chair not present. Parnes, who is also on the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), had no comments.

Website – Parnes made arrangements to provide further training for our Co-webmaster because there seems to be some differences with the computer set-up at Parnes house.

New Business – District Councils

Braddock – Wells mentioned that Sharon Bulova, who attended the Federation’s presentation at BDC, would like to include in her newsletter a pitch for additional Federation committee

members. The Board recommended that Wells ask her to emphasize the Land Use, Environment, and Human Services committees. Dane said he would check with Merrily about her interest in having additional committee members. [Subsequent to our meeting, Dane e-mailed Wells that Webb in an earlier letter to renewing members had mentioned his special interest of the Environment Committee Chair for specialists in water quality, parks and natural spaces, and waste management.]

Wells reported on BDC's Beautification of Braddock Road project and assistance with a memorial for Mary Reed, a Virginia Tech student killed last spring. He informed the Board of the Taste of Braddock on December 6 from 5:30-7. All are invited and should bring canned goods or new children's books and toys.

Wells thought highly of the presentation given by Ferington and Dane to the BDC, and recommended that it be posted on the Federation's website. Dane professed that at least one more trial presentation was warranted before posting. Wells also gave further specifics on the plans for the Federation's December meeting noting that presenters would be giving an overview of the County Strike Force would discuss legal issues, safety issues, and zoning issues/implications, and that John Cook, president of Kings Parks Civic Association would discuss neighborhood revitalization efforts.

Providence – Ormsby said that the PDC November meeting had a presentation on Tysons land use replanning effort. Webb said that he understood that there were two scenarios for land use and two for transit, and that these would be overlaid on each other. Estimates of wait time, proposal for free circulator buses, and non-motorized transportation options presumably will be in the final plan. Ormsby noted that the Tysons plan of 1994 included the highest density that could be accommodated with the planned infrastructure, and that the current proposed density is four times greater.

PDC's holiday party is on December 11, at which time the PDC's Annual Community Service Award will be presented.

Sully – Parnes reported that the recent SDC meeting had a presentation from the County Police Department, discussing the Fair Oaks and Sully Police Stations and that the police were working with security at the Fair Oaks Mall, and that the Fair Oaks Station was scheduled to be renovated.

Hunter Mill – Hawn said that Kenneth Plum was concerned about the fall-off in citizen participation.

Other Business

District Council Reps – Parnes discussed the need for active participation by District Council reps. Some assignments were made; some of which will not take place until after the new year.

Arts Council Membership – Having previously discussed payment to the Arts Council for use of the meeting rooms, copier, and storage room, the Board considered a contribution to the Arts Council. Ormsby moved approval to join the Arts Council if its membership fee were \$100 or less, seconded by Hanks, and carried, unanimously. [Dane later checked the Arts Council's

membership application. The fee for organizations with a budget less than \$10,000 is \$75 and for those between \$10,000 and \$24,999 the fee is \$100, and according to Scott's treasurer's report our budget is \$14,924.]

Wells advised the Board that he was pursuing the establishment of an audit committee.

Meeting unanimously adjourned at 9:40 pm

Charles Dane
Secretary *pro tem*