

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations  
Membership Meeting of November 15, 2007  
MINUTES  
Approved by Membership on December 13, 2007

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 explained that Dominion Power had asked to address the meeting regarding the company's proposed transmission line. (The line itself would not cross through Fairfax County, but it would supply some power here.) He agreed, and had also invited those opposed to the project. Dominion Power was unable to attend, but those providing the counterpoint were present. He then introduced David Jeffers. Mr. Jeffers is president of Indelium, Inc., a strategic communications firm, and executive director of Virginia's Commitment, an organization against the transmission line. Lana Westfall, who directs field operations and outreach for Virginia's Commitment, was also present.

Mr. Jeffers stated that the proposed line would include 15-story towers twice as high as any currently in Virginia. Objections to it include local concerns about the effect on the landscape and whether it is a "taking" from landowners, as well as energy production and environmental policy concerns put forward by his group. He said that Dominion Power has stated that unless the line is built, the "lights will go out," referring to blackouts at times of peak demand, by the summer of 2011. He said that the company's application for permission to build the line states that there will be a 500 megawatt shortfall at that time. He stated that the application also indicates that the line would have a capacity of 3250 megawatts, of which (initially) about 16 percent, or 512 megawatts, would go to northern Virginia. He also said that more than 8000 megawatts of capacity will be added to the regional grid through other planned projects prior to 2011. He said that because the power to be transmitted is from coal-burning plants in the Ohio Valley, the plan represents an older approach to energy that will be rendered out of date by the carbon regulations expected over the next five to seven years, as well as by other changes in the energy field. After his presentation, Barbara Kessinger, Jeff Brown, and a third person, all from the Prince William County Energy Coalition, shared their opposition to the transmission line.

President Jeff Parnes explained that we would not decide on the issue until we hear from Dominion Power. Mr. Jeffers asked for a resolution against the line, after we hear from Dominion. He also noted that there is a February 25 evidentiary hearing before the State Corporation Commission. For purposes of that hearing, the commission will only consider comments received by December 14.

Initial Business —

- a. President Jeff Parnes asked for a moment of silence in honor of Sharon Hanks, the late wife of Federation Board member Bill Hanks, which was observed. He also reported that the Board has contributed \$100 to the memorial fund established in her name through the Lewinsville Presbyterian Church.
- b. The minutes for the October membership meeting were unanimously approved.
- c. Scott Schlegel presented the Treasurer's report, which was received.

Program —

President Jeff Parnes asked Sally Ormsby, the chair of the Legislative Committee, to preside over the discussion of the Federation's proposed 2008 legislative package, which she had presented to the Federation Board at its most recent meeting. Approval of the program was moved and seconded, and a page-by-page review followed. All friendly amendments and minor corrections are reflected in the finished document, which will be made available on the Federation website, and are not noted here.

There was extended discussion of a proposed provision to support General Assembly action to allow a referendum on a town charter for Reston. The proposed charter is different from more typical town charters because it provides fewer powers and taxes than most Virginia towns have, and because Reston would in turn receive more county services; it has been called a "town light" model. Mike Corrigan of the Reston Citizens Association argued that Reston could serve as an experimental case for other localities in the county to follow if it is a success, making the matter relevant for consideration by the Federation. Marian Stillson as well as several others attending in support of this position, including Hank Blakeley and Colin Mills, discussed different reasons for supporting the change. Others present, including several members of the Federation Board, spoke against including the provision. President Jeff Parnes moved to form a subcommittee that will report back to the membership, at which point the provision could be considered for late inclusion in the legislative program. The motion was seconded and was approved 22 to 7. He then asked for volunteers. The subcommittee will consist of Gail Parker, Carey Campbell, Marian Stillson, Mike Corrigan, and Jeff Parnes.

Charles Dane moved to amend the proposed language on phased relocation of the oil tank firm near Mantua to add the language, "unless at some point the phased relocation results in a significant increase in tank truck traffic on Fairfax County roads." The motion was seconded. It failed on an 8-18 vote.

Art Wells provided a quick BRAC update, in conjunction with the program's BRAC provision, that the normal federal legislation which will fund the base relocations has not yet passed, but that \$5 billion in BRAC funding has already been included in the congressional continuing resolution on the budget.

The legislative program, as amended, passed unanimously. Jeff Parnes then resumed the chair. A motion of thanks to Sally Ormsby was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

#### Business Meeting —

[Lettering of items continues from above]

d. Flint Webb noted that he and Sally Ormsby completed a final version of the green buildings resolution presented at the last membership meeting. At that meeting, the membership had approved the resolution in principle and referred final editing and approval to the Federation Board, which in turn had at its most recent meeting referred the final polishing to him and Sally in order to meet a pending deadline. He reported that the final resolution has now been submitted to the Planning Commission.

e. Charles Dane, chair of the Education and Youth Committee, gave an update on the projected FY 2009 FCPS budget shortfall. This shortfall had been projected as a maximum (worst case) of \$145 million, but at present, the analysis indicates it will be \$98 million. This figure takes into account the planned expansion of all-day kindergarten and foreign language instruction and the recent unexpected increase in the student population, amounting to 1600 students above school system projections. The School Board is now identifying possible cuts and program reductions to make up for this shortfall. The Education and Youth Committee will be recommending that the Superintendent avoid proposing a budget with a shortfall greater than \$45 million.

f. John Jennison reported that a Cool Schools resolution to the Board of Supervisors that had been submitted by one of the other co-sponsors of the Cool Counties concert recently passed 9 to 1. As the Federation representative to the county's Revitalization Committee, he reported there have been three meetings so far, as well as a bus tour of the nine areas within the county identified for revitalization; some of these include Merrifield, Annandale, and parts of Tysons Corner. He will write a short report on the committee's work for the next Federation newsletter.

g. As the Federation representative to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC), Flint Webb noted that the state implementation

plans (SIP) for the region to reduce PM 2.5 (particle) air pollution is expected to be provided for public review in January.

h. Esther Ferington reported on behalf of Art Wells, the Braddock District Council representative, who had to leave before the end of the meeting, that she and Charles Dane will present information on the Federation at the next Braddock District Council meeting on November 20. The Taste of Braddock will be held December 6; the next meeting of the joint Braddock-GMU committee will be January 9; and the Braddock District Council annual workshop will be February 13. She also reported, again for Art Wells, that Supervisor Sharon Bulova has agreed to introduce the panel of speakers on "safe, attractive neighborhoods" at the Federation's next membership meeting on December 13, which Art Wells has been coordinating.

i. President Jeff Parnes announced that the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments is seeking a citizen volunteer to participate on its Advisory Committee on Transportation. Those who are interested should follow up with him directly.

j. John Jennison, chair of the Citizen of the Year Committee, reminded those present that the deadline for nominations for Citizen of the Year is January 16. Nomination forms may be found on the Federation website.

Next Membership Meeting: December 13, Ensuring Safe and Attractive Neighborhoods (speakers to include Supervisor Sharon Bulova)

Next Board Meeting: November 29 (5th Thursday, due to Thanksgiving). Note: The following Board meeting will be December 20 at the Marco Polo Restaurant in Vienna.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.