

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Board Meeting of May 22, 2008
MINUTES

The meeting of the FCFCA Board was held at the Packard Center at 7:30 p.m. Minutes were taken by Esther Ferington. President Jeff Parnes presided. Board members present: Jeff Parnes, Roger Hoskin, Art Wells, Charles Dane, Sally Ormsby, Flint Webb, Carol Hawn, Don Hineman, Jim Davis, Jim Colby. Guest: Kahan Dhillon.

Business Meeting

a. Jeff Parnes reviewed the status of Federation Board meeting minutes for the year. The December minutes from the off-site (holiday dinner) meeting are still in draft form. The status of the January minutes needs to be resolved. Jeff will update the March minutes according to the notes received and then they will be final. Flint has updated the April minutes and they are now final as well.

b. Jim Colby introduced Kahan Dhillon, a businessman and civic leader from the Mount Vernon District whom Jim met at the School Board's Business and Community Advisory Council, who may be interested in the Recording Secretary or Corresponding Secretary positions. Kahan Dhillon also introduced himself and noted he has served on the Tysons Corner Task Force with Federation representative and past president John Jennison. Kahan is past president of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce and is president and founder of a REIT. President Jeff Parnes welcomed him and gave additional details about the Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary positions.

c. Approval of the Board meeting minutes for April, as written and amended by Flint Webb, was moved, seconded, and approved.

d. Jeff Parnes reported that Treasurer Scott Schlegel could not attend but had provided a handout of the proposed budget, which he distributed. Sally Ormsby requested a three-column comparison of the yearly totals for the various line items, to include the previous year, the current year, and the proposed amounts for next year, for the next Board meeting [as a reminder, the next Board meeting is in July.—EF].

e. Jeff Parnes reminded the Board that the next and final membership meeting for the 2007-08 year will be held outdoors as a picnic and will begin early at 7:00 p.m. The speaker will be Gerry Connolly, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, on the state of the county. Jeff Parnes noted that spouses, best friends, and other guests are welcome and encouraged. It was decided to plan for an attendance of about 35 people. Jeff or the webmaster will e-mail the membership to obtain an estimated headcount and we will adjust accordingly if necessary. Board members, as in past years, agreed to provide a number of the picnic materials. The individual contributions, including subsequent tweaks via e-mail, are as follows:

- Art Wells: sheet cake.
- Esther Ferington: paper goods (table cloths, napkins, plates, plastic ware)
- Charles Dane: picnic signs from last year, soft drinks
- Sally Ormsby: baked beans and lemon bars
- Flint Webb: green salad
- Don Hineman: fruit salad

- Jim Davis: ice and ice chest, side dish
- Carol Hawn: chips, dip, and pretzels
- Roger Hoskin: more salad (possibly pasta salad)
- Jeff Parnes: potato salad, or macaroni salad, or both. Will also bring banner
- Kahan Dillon, who attended the Board meeting, will make a contribution toward the main course, Popeye's chicken and hoagies (subs)

Jeff Parnes also reported that the picnic area at the pavilion has been reserved.

f. Jeff Parnes noted that during the year, he has asked the Board to respond to the membership, fee, and voting structure of the Montgomery County organization that parallels the Fairfax Federation. At the last meeting, it was asked that we also research the equivalent issues as regards the Arlington Federation. The Arlington rules were reviewed by e-mail and found not suitable for our needs. He asked Charles Dane to review a handout on how the Montgomery organization's rules might be adapted for the Federation. After an extended, line-by-line discussion, it was decided not to amend the Federation bylaws in emulation of the Montgomery County approach, but rather to let the bylaws stand. During the discussion, several other questions arose. There was a discussion of whether or not to post the names of all member associations, with or without personal names of representatives. There was also a discussion as to when an association's membership went into effect. President Jeff Parnes stated for the record that if an association applies and pays for membership at one membership meeting, its membership privileges, including the privilege of voting, take effect at the next meeting.

g. Charles Dane reported that he now has the Federation-related records recently donated by the son of the Federation's late past president Yves Maroni, who served in the later 1950s. Carol Hawn noted that the library system's archivists prefer to receive such files in their entirety without sorting or reorganization. Based on this recommendation, Charles Dane will donate the records as-is to the library system's Virginia Room.

h. President Jeff Parnes noted that William Lecos will be a speaker at the September membership meeting; the topic of his presentation will be announced closer to the time.

i. Jeff Parnes noted that the Federation will not have a formal presence at Celebrate Fairfax.

j. Jeff Parnes stated he will collect the Federation mugs from Carol and find out how many we have.

k. Carol Hawn asked for brief year-end write-ups from the committee chairs for the Bulletin by the following Monday, Memorial Day.

l. Education Committee Chair Charles Dane noted that the School Board would be voting the same night as the Federation Board meeting (May 22). The draft approved budget did not add any new all-day kindergarten programs or schools with FLES programs; a cost of living adjustment of about 2 percent is expected. The committee also recently met with the school system staff regarding efforts to address an academic achievement gap for some minority groups. He noted that the Education Committee is growing and will have up to 6 to 9 members.

m. President Jeff Parnes posed the question for all Board members of how to involve other residents, besides parents, in the schools. A discussion ensued, including holding community events at schools, encouraging employee participation as well as donations by local corporations, greater facilitation of small-scale volunteer programs in local schools, such as reading to children.

n. Charles Dane also noted that Deidre McLaughlin, the school system's financial officer, is leaving to take a position at the Kingsberry Center in Washington, DC. He also noted the School Board had made changes to the recommendations of the School Board Transportation Task Force which have disappointed some task force members; the Federation representatives will be reviewing these changes.

o. Flint Webb reported on a letter that has been circulating for signature on the topic of Dyke Marsh and other possible wetlands impacts in that area, both due to the opening of National Harbor and to the Corps of Engineers's proposed flood prevention projects. The letter commend the National Park Service for taking time to carefully study the issue. The Board voted for Flint [or Jeff?] to sign the letter for the Federation Board, as one of the many signatures.

p. In other environmental topics, Flint Webb asked if the Federation wished to take a position on environmental impacts of the HOT lanes, especially on storm water and streams. Board members also discussed the Accotink Trail paving in a location that will require more tree felling, rather than the original easement location.

q. Jim Davis also noted that the Leatherland application was recommended by the Planning Commission and has circulated the transcript of the unusual hearing to the Federation Land Use and Environmental chairs. It was agreed this is probably not a countywide issue unless there is a process issue of concern to the entire county. The chairs will confirm and report back; they will also check whether the Board of Supervisors has already taken action

r. Flint Webb put forward a draft resolution on vegetative buffer areas, coordinated with Land Use chair Jim Colby. Following some changes in wording, the resolution was approved for a vote by the membership at the next meeting (the picnic).

s. Charles Dane reported on membership. Our budget assumes 45 members. We have 48, this year, 4 of which have been credited for next year, based on joining late this fiscal year. Thus we would need an additional member to meet the budget goal of 45 dues-paying members for next year, and are likely to get one . He has met with Second Vice President Esther Ferington to set goals for increasing the membership instead of hitting that budget number, and they agree on a goal of increasing the membership by five to six new associations. They hope to do even better if possible, but agree this is a realistic goal. The figures of five or six new members compares with the fact that this year we added seven associations that had not previously been members, based on records going back as far as 2003. He distributed a map of associations by district, showing that in general, districts closer to the Packard Center, where most Federation meetings take place, have higher representations. He has drafted a renewal letter which Esther Ferington and Jeff Parnes will review, to urge associations to renew their membership. The Board discussed at length the steps required to convert this fall to an all-electronic newsletter, which has been agreed is the goal. Finally, Charles Dane noted that he and Jeff Parnes would be

giving a presentation about the Federation to the Providence District Council Tuesday, May 29.

t. President Jeff Parnes and Sally Ormsby will both look for the CD of Citizen of the Year images. In the meantime, Tania Hossein may have a second copy.

u. In the council reports, Don Hineman of the Lee District reported that the district was pleased to see an additional \$1.25 million in the county budget for the strike force on zoning violations such as illegal boarding houses, a 50 percent increase in funding. Art Wells reported that programs at Braddock have not changed since the membership meeting. Sally Ormsby reported that the next Providence meeting would feature a report from state legislators.

v. President Jeff Parnes noted that there would be no Federation Board meeting in June and so the next Board meeting will be in July. At that time, we will discuss next year's meetings and maybe consider ideas for symposia as well. One option immediately mentioned was Cool Communities, although that might not be work until March 2009.

Next Membership Meeting: June 19, 2008, starting at 7:00 pm (early). Picnic on the grounds at the pavilion. Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Gerry Connolly to give "State of the County" address.

Next Board Meeting

Thursday, July 24 (**Note** no Board meeting in June)

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.