

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

Monthly Membership Meeting Agenda

Thursday, 16 October 2008 7:30 p.m.

The Packard Center, 4022 Hummer Road, Annandale

Call to Order/Welcome/Updates - Jeff Parnes, Federation President

Proposed Calendar:

Month	Membership	Board	Newsletter Deadline
Oct	16 - Greater Washington 2050 (Jeff)	23	5 Oct
Nov	13 - Cool Neighborhoods (Flint)(2 nd Thursday)	20 - Legislation Package () (3 rd Thursday)	2 Nov
Dec	18 - Legislation Package	Canceled	30 Nov
Jan 09	15 - School Budget Presentation (Charlie)	22	4 Jan
Feb	19 - Youth Partnerships	26- Budget Kosmo & Providence Assignee	1 Feb
Mar	26 - County Budget Presentation (4 th Thursday)	12 (2 nd Thursday)	8 Mar
Apr	16 - Report from Federation Appointees & Representatives (Esther)	23	5 Apr
May	21 - Report from Richmond (Selected Fairfax County legislators)	28	3 May
Jun	18 - Picnic - State of Fairfax by BOS Chair	25	1 Jun

Program: Greater Washington 2050 Coalition

Guest Speakers:

Sharon Bulova; Coalition Chair, Braddock District Supervisor

Sharon Bulova, first elected in November 1987, represents the Braddock District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Mrs. Bulova serves as the Board's Vice Chairman and chairs the Board's Budget Committee.

Mrs. Bulova has been a member, and past chairman, of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission since 1988. She is a founding member of the (VRE) Virginia Railway Express Operations Board since its inception in 1989. Under her leadership, commuter train service for Northern Virginia has advanced from a speculative proposal to a successful reality.

In the summer of 2004, Mrs. Bulova was appointed by Gov. Mark Warner to chair the Governor's Commission on Rail Enhancement for the 21st Century in the Commonwealth of Virginia, which recommended the creation of a State Rail Advisory Board. In the fall of 2005, she was elected the first chairman of that board, which makes recommendations to the Commonwealth Transportation Board to fund projects (both freight and passenger) that have a significant public benefit.

As a member and past chairman of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Mrs. Bulova champions regionalism to address our metropolitan area concerns. She is a member of the Council of Government (COG) Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee and is past chairman of COG's Metropolitan Development Process Committee.

Mrs. Bulova regularly engages her Braddock constituents in Community Dialogs and Task Forces. Some of these efforts have addressed: Transportation and Land Use; Preventing Gang Activity, Braddock Tomorrow (a community visioning series in 2006) and Revitalization of "mature" neighborhoods. Mrs. Bulova is a founder of the Braddock Nights Summer Concert Series and in 1995 founded Faith Communities in Action, a countywide network of faith communities that fosters a working relationship between faith communities and County government to better meet the human services needs of our constituents and congregations. A newly created Office of Interfaith/Community Outreach provides organizational structure for this effort.

Throughout 2008, Mrs. Bulova has served as chairman of Greater Washington 2050, a new regional initiative to improve the quality of life for Washington area residents in the next 50 years by fostering stronger regional cooperation and planning. The Greater Washington 2050 Initiative is led by COG and a coalition of public, business, civic and environmental stakeholders.

Paul DesJardin, Director of Community Planning and Services, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Approval of 18 Sep 2008 Membership Meetings Minutes: Esther

Treasurer's Report: Scott

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Old Business:

- **Board vacancies - Jeff**
 - **Elected positions:** Recording & Corresponding secretaries
 - **Committee Chairs:** Human Services, Legislation, and Public Safety;
- **The memorial service for Sally Ormsby** will be Saturday Oct. 18 at 11 am at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike
- **Draft resolution honoring Sally B. Ormsby** (Bill Hanks)
<http://www.fcfca.org/resolutions/ResolutionOrmsby0809Draft.pdf>
- **Draft resolution in support for the 2008 Parks and Park Facilities Bond Referendum** on the November 4, 2008 Ballot (Jim Colby)
<http://www.fcfca.org/resolutions/Resolution2008BondRev081001.pdf>
- **Bond release brochure** (Donald Hinman) <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/pdf/Bond-Release-Brochure-9-25-08.pdf>
- **Tyson's Land Use Task Force** (John Jennison)
<http://www.fcfca.org/committees/Landuse/TysonLandUseTaskForceReportOverviewColorOct08.pdf>

New Business:

Committee Reports:

Budget - Kosmo Tatalias	COY - John Jennison
Education & Youth - Charles Dane	Environment - Flint Webb
Human Services - Vacant	Land Use - Jim Colby
Legislation - Vacant	Membership - Charlie Dane
Public Safety - Vacant	Resolutions - Bill Hanks
Transportation - Roger Hoskins	Website - Kosmo Tatalias

Board, Authority, Commission, and County Council Reports:

Braddock - Art Wells	Mason - Roger Hoskins	Lee - Donald Hinman
Mt. Vernon - Jim Davis	Providence - Charlie Hall	Sully - Jeff Parnes
Springfield - Mike Thompson	Dranesville - N/A	Hunter Mill- N/A

Miscellaneous Business:

- **Citizen Corps Council meeting** is Thursday, October 23 at 7:30 p.m. in conference room 2/3 of the Government Center. (John Jennison)
- **The TPB is seeking applications for the 2009 TPB Citizens Advisory Committee** (Jeff Parnes).

Please visit the Citizens Advisory Committee website for more information about the CAC and to complete the application form: <http://www.mwcog.org/transportation/committee/cac>

The application form provides some background on the committee's purpose and activities, and asks applicants to respond to a few basic questions. Applications are due by November 30, 2008.

If you are interested in getting more extensively involved in regional transportation planning issues, I encourage you to apply. Additionally, if you know some folks who would be appropriate for this group, please pass on this announcement.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have about serving on the CAC. Thanks and keep in touch.

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- **Community Budget Dialogues on the 2010 Fairfax County Budget (Kosmo Tatalias)**

President Jeff Parnes urged that Federation members attend the County's sessions for input regarding the FY 2010 Budget. Little information was available about these sessions beforehand.

I attended the Sept 20 "Community Budget Dialogue" at the Chantilly Regional Library and hereby report on what transpired so that others who may attend future dialogues will know what to expect. It is very important that the Federation provide input at these sessions because of the 12% shortfall in the anticipated 2010 revenues. That's one-eighth of the pie!!

The Chantilly dialogue must have been the "A List" of the four such sessions scheduled to be held around the County that day, because it was attended by Supervisor Sharon Bulova, who is Chair of the BOS Budget Committee, and by Susan Datta, Director of the Department of Management and Budget. Supervisor Bulova was there as an observer and sampled all the discussion groups.

Ms. Datta gave a very brief overview of county services and the county budget, and Dean Tistadt, Chief Operating Officer of the FCPS Facilities & Transportation Services, did likewise for the FCPS. There was some Q&A after each presentation. After a 5 minute break, we formed four discussion groups (of about 8 or 9 citizens each, plus a Budget Office employee or two) and were asked to take 55 minutes to answer three questions, which are described below. One citizen per group served as discussion facilitator and outlined the conclusions reached on a flip chart. After the confabs, the facilitator presented the group's conclusions to the plenary audience.

A paraphrasing of the three questions (and suggested time allotment) for the discussion groups follows.

1. (30 minutes) Which services provided by Fairfax County do you think are:
 - a. critical - you oppose reductions that would change quality and level of service
 - b. important - you would support certain reductions
 - c. non-essential - you could do without.
2. (15 minutes) Based on your answers to question 1, what specific suggestions do you have for the development of the 2010 budget?
3. (10 minutes) What do you want County decision makers to consider before making their final decisions on the 2010 budget?

I did not take detailed notes, but the answers my group (and others) gave did not completely stick to the format requested. There was strong support in each group for Education, Public Safety, and Human Services. Some specifics were suggested for reductions and for greater efficiencies. I don't think anything was suggested as non-essential. Everyone was against the Dillon Rule, and every group suggested that the BOS consider the possibility of raising taxes at least some to avoid savaging services completely.

A handout <http://www.fcfa.org/committees/Budget/2010CountyBudgetFCPSHandout080922.pdf> was provided. Briefing materials had not yet been put online (and would have been useful to prepare for the meeting), but now they can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2010/dialogues/>. Only a handful of the slides in the County Budget Presentation posted on that web site were actually shown at the meeting. Some of the slides in the Reference Materials were available from the Budget Office employee meeting with the discussion group.

BTW, although you can provide budget comments online, you are limited to 1500 characters. For comparison, this message has about 4000. It happens that I sat next to Pat Wirth, who is President of the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) and who is following the FCPS Budget process. She had other PTSA members to attend the other 3 community dialogues being held that day, in order "to make sure that all were conducted in the same way" - and, I'm sure, to be strong advocates for the FCPS. When I mentioned the Federation, she said she had only recently heard about it, so I suggested that she might find it useful to get in touch with Dr. Dane, and she said someone had already mentioned his name. I have sent her e-mail in the hopes of speeding up their introduction.

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Adjournment

Upcoming Meetings:

Next Board Meeting - 23 October 2008

Next Membership Meeting - 13 November 2008