

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES
Thursday, November 20, 2008
Approved 22 January 2009

The November 2008 Meeting of the Executive Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Jeff Parnes at 7:45 p.m. in the general meeting room of the Packard Center.

Present: Carey Campbell, Charlie Dane, Esther Ferington, Bill Hanks, Carol Hawn, Don Hinman, John Jennison, Gail Parker, Jeff Parnes, Scott Schlegel, Kosmo Tatalias, Art Wells.

President Jeff Parnes appointed Don Hinman to serve as Acting Secretary for the November Board Meeting.

President Jeff Parnes reviewed the currently planned topics for the Federation General Membership meetings for the next seven months. After some discussion, the following topics and dates were confirmed:

Thursday, December 18: Federation legislation package for presentation to January caucus of members of the legislature from Northern Virginia, arranged by Charlie Dane.

Thursday, January 15: FY 2010 School budget presentation, arranged by Charlie Dane.

Thursday, February 15: Youth Partnership Program

Thursday, March 19: Presentation of FY 2010 County budget, arranged by Kosmo Tatalias.

Thursday, April 16: Reports from Federation Appointees and Representatives, arranged by Esther Ferington.

Thursday, May 21: The annual "Report from Richmond" from a bipartisan selection of Fairfax County's state legislators, arranged by Jeff Parnes.

Thursday, June 18: Annual Federation Picnic with County Board Chair's "State of the County" presentation, arranged by Jeff Parnes.

President Jeff Parnes reviewed Board vacancies for Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Chairs for the following committees: Human Services, Legislation, and Public Safety.

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Copies of the Minutes of the Board meeting of October 23, 2008 were distributed and reviewed. Revisions were suggested. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Bill Hanks. The motion was seconded by Esther Ferington, and carried unanimously.

Treasurer Scott Schlegel distributed and reviewed the Treasurer's Report of Federation Finances. A motion to receive and file was made and carried unanimously.

President Jeff Parnes announced that he had been contacted by the Local President of the Service Employees International Union, about meeting to discuss areas of common interest. Consensus was reached that President Parnes would first meet personally with the President, and he would then be in a position to judge whether further contact between the Union and the Federation would be worthwhile.

President Parnes asked whether the Federation's website should provide links to County Supervisor newsletters, pointing out that the Federation's main point of contact in each supervisory district is the District Council, not the Supervisor. Consensus was reached that the Federation website would maintain links to newsletters of District Councils and also to newsletters that were published jointly by District Councils and Supervisors, but not to newsletters published only by Supervisors. President Parnes also requested that each District representative review the Federation website link to their District and to recommend any needed changes.

John Jennison reviewed planning for the Citizen of the Year celebration. The tentative date is March 15. He has reviewed costs and menus at two locations and will consider a third site. Possible speakers include Congressman Tom Davis, Senator John Warner, and Marc Fisher of the Washington Post.

John Jennison reviewed planning for a Federation-sponsored debate among the candidates for the Chair of the Board of Supervisors. The date is set for Tuesday, January 27, 6:30-9:00 p.m. Televising the debate would cost \$1200. Suggestions for cosponsors of the debate included the Committee of 100, the League of Women Voters, Fairfax League of Conservation Voters and both major political parties.

John Jennison reviewed the request from the Chamber of Commerce to join it and the Coalition for Smarter Growth in requesting that we jointly take advantage of an offer from the Urban Land Institute (ULI) to engage the services of a Technical Assistance Panel that would analyze the Tyson's Corner Land Use Task Force, focusing on the process and the results. Consensus was reached to authorize John Jennison to work with the Federation partners to submit a RFP on November 21, the day after this Federation Board meeting.

There was brief discussion of the possibility of merging the Citizen Committee on Land Use and Transportation, in which the late Sally Ormsby had a leading role, with the Federation's Land Use Committee. Consensus was reached to postpone the discussion for a future Board meeting.

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Kosmo Tatalias announced that Charlie Hall had volunteered to serve on the Budget Committee, and called for additional volunteers. Carey Campbell stated that he would also serve on the Budget Committee.

There was a thorough discussion of the Federation's proposed legislative package. The packet for 2008, adopted at the November 2007 Federation meeting, had been posted at the Federation website as the basis for preparing the 2009 proposal. The Board reviewed the comments and suggestions of those present at the meeting and those sent in by several people. The Legislative Committee will revise the package for presentation to the December 18 General Membership meeting.

John Jennison provided an update on the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project and handed out a November 2008 newsletter. He also noted that a county resident had prepared a good, concise summary of the projected FCPS budget and said that he would distribute it electronically.

Charlie Dane reported on the Fairfax County Public School Board's proposal to purchase a building in Merrifield. The Board of Supervisors rejected the School Board's earlier proposal. The School Board plans again to seek approval after an upcoming attempt to negotiate a lower price and to plan for additional revenue from leasing part of the space.

Art Wells report on Braddock District issues included an invitation for all to attend the Taste of Braddock on December 4, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Kings Park Library.

Jeff Parnes reported that the Area Plan Review process is underway in Sully District and that 12 amendments had been submitted.

Carey Campbell reported on Solar and High-Speed Rail initiatives for Virginia. He handed out a flyer which summarizes an initiative to bring solar tax credits back to Virginia. Residential and business solar tax credits remain in effect in Maryland and D.C., but they expired in Virginia and have not been renewed. There was consensus that the Board may consider advocating a study of a high speed rail network for Virginia.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 22.

The Board adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Hinman
Acting Secretary