



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Approved August 27, 2009

The June 2009 Meeting of the Executive Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Jeff Parnes at 7:36 p.m. in the general meeting room of the Packard Center.

Present: Carey Campbell, Fred Costello, Charles Dane, Kahan Dhillon, Esther Ferington, Carol Hawn, Roger Hoskin, Karen Pohorylo, Gail Parker, Patty Parker, Jeff Parnes, Scott Schlegel, Art Wells, and Ed Wyse.

President Parnes welcomed the 2009-2010 Board and its new members: Patty, Kahan, and Ed.

Proposed Calendar:

The board tentatively approved this calendar, pending room reservations on December 3 and acceptance of invitations by proposed topic presenters.

Month	Membership	Board	Newsletter Deadline
Jul 2009	No Summer Membership Meetings	No meeting	NA
Aug	No Summer Membership Meetings	27	NA
Sep	17 – Metro	24 - Legislation Package (Tania)	Aug 28
Oct	15 – Legislation Package (Tania)	22	Sep 25
Nov	19 – Tysons Plan	No meeting (note Dec 3 meeting)	Oct 23
Dec	17 – Storm Water	3 ¹	Nov 27
Jan 2010	21 - School Budget Presentation (Charlie)	28	TBD (will be around Christmas 2009)
Feb	18 – Open	No meeting (note early March meeting)	Jan 29
Mar	25 - County Budget Presentation (4th Thursday)	4 - Budget	Mar 12
Apr	15 – Report from Federation Appointees & Representatives (Kahan)	22	Apr 2
May	20– Report from Richmond (Selected Fairfax County legislators)	27	Apr 23
Jun	17 – Picnic: State of Fairfax by Sharon Bulova, BOS Chair and Installation of Officers	24	May 28

Organizational Topics | Jeff Parnes

- Minutes for board meetings—The recording secretaries agreed to write board meeting minutes, replacing the former arrangement whereby board members wrote minutes on a rotating basis.

¹ Provided a meeting room can be reserved

- E-mail addresses—Federation e-mail address now contain the year 2009, rather than 2008. The format is *PositionTitle2009@fairfaxfederation.org*.
- Voting by Recording Secretaries—The Recording Secretary is a voting member of the board. This year two people fill this position as Co-Recording Secretaries. Each recording secretary has a full vote.
- Board Vacancies and Appointments—The committee chair of Human Services remains vacant.
- Committee reports in board meetings—Committee reports at board meetings should not repeat information given at the preceding membership meeting. Only new or changed information is to be reported.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes:

- 28 Jan 09- Carol Hawn secretary pro tem – still in progress
- 23 Apr 09 – Roger Hoskin secretary pro tem. Minutes were reviewed and minor changes proposed. The revised minutes will be considered for approval at the next board meeting. The minutes before edit are available at <http://www.fcfca.org/minutes-agenda/200904MinutesBoardDraft.pdf>.
- We are missing approved minutes for all 09 meetings except the Jan membership meeting.

Treasurer's Report | Scott

- The treasurer's report was posted on the web site for the May membership meeting at <http://www.fcfca.org/minutes-agenda/TreasurersReport090517.pdf> and was approved at that meeting. Updated documents, with transactions occurring since May 17, were provided on paper to participants at the June 25 board meeting. A report of the financial status as of June 30, 2009, is to be posted to the Federation's web site when available.
- There has been some confusion about the Federation's tax-exempt status. A tax-exempt claim was rejected once, but a recent letter from the IRS confirmed the tax-exempt status continues in effect.. Scott will check to ensure that our tax filing has been accepted. It was previously rejected reportedly because our tax exempt status had expired.

Old Business

- **COY Banquet** –John has promised to write a lessons learned document. Scott reported these lessons:
 - Planning for 2009 banquet was based on 2008 expenses, but 2008 expenses had been extraordinarily low.
 - We ought to charge more to cover typically expected expenses. The 2009 rate was \$60.
 - A 2009 expense that was not factored into planning was the framing of supervisors' pictures. (Some of this expense was covered by donations.)
- **Status of ongoing review of the Implementing Policies and Procedures document**—There was no report due to the absence of Bill Hanks. The currently effective policies and procedures are described in the document at <http://www.fcfca.org/bylaws/Policies&Procedures030724.pdf>.

- John Jennison has “volunteered” to do a total RE-WRITE of pages 18-28 (Citizen of the Year).
- John Fee and Bill Hanks will update pages 1-18 to include “mission statements” for each committee.
- John Fee and Bill propose to produce a BEGINNING DRAFT describing each committee and then forward that draft to the current committee chairs for improvements.

• **Thinning of Federation storage** | Jeff—The Board needs to review our remaining files for retention purposes. Task: After each board meeting the President and Corresponding Secretary (and whoever else would like to join us) will go through one file cabinet drawer to determine what to retain, archive, or recycle.

• **Resolution on support for a transit study** | Fred

- At last month’s board meeting Fred was asked to craft a resolution on support for a transit study to be presented to the membership, but after repeated and conflicting e-mail discussions no consensus could be reached.
- The board collaborated to finalize an agreed resolution. Co-Recording Secretary Ed Wyse will produce a “clean” written version and coordinate with Fred, Esther, and Patty. The recording secretary’s version is attached <<www.fcfa.org/committees/Transportation/Resolution-MetrorailanditsAlternatives20090627ApprovedDraft.pdf>> along with House of Representative bill 1635 <<www.fcfa.org/pdf/HR1635intro20090319.pdf>> that the resolution supports.

• **Federation Business Cards** (Repeat from last month) | Jeff—There is no procedure to obtain business cards from the federation. Jeff prints his own cards using the Federation banner from our home page. Examples are at <http://www.fcfa.org/pdf/FairfaxFederationBusinessCard.pdf> and <http://www.fcfa.org/pdf/FairfaxFederationBusinessCard2.pdf>.

• **Bulletin/Newsletter** | Carol Hawn

- Due dates for bulletin input have been incorporated into the draft schedule.
- Due to other obligations, Carol has indicated that this may be her last year as editor and that she could be—on short notice—unavailable this year to produce these documents. We need to consider who can back her up in the immediate future and assume this duty fully in the future.

New Business and Miscellaneous Business

• **Superintendent's meeting with community members** to obtain input on building leases | Charlie—The school board seeks to lease additional office space in order to provide space for staff affected by expiring leases, to consolidate some functions, and to return two former school buildings—now being used as offices—to use as school buildings. The school superintendent has practiced outreach and transparency in the process so that stakeholders know the school board’s needs and approach to solving the space problem. Tonight (June 25) the board of supervisors decides whether to authorize the school superintendent permission to lease office space.

• **Dues and voting structure** for associations with over 5000 members | Charlie—The Burke Centre Conservancy Home Owners Association (HOA) represents over 5800 homes and is not a member of the Federation. Its mega-size may not be consistent with the current dues and voting rights scheme of the Federation, which is:

Membership Strength	Annual Dues	Votes in Federation Deliberations
< 100	\$20	1
100 – 1000	\$40	2
> 1000	\$60	3

Money is thought not to be an issue, because greater fees would be inconsequential to mega-sized HOA and would provide limited additional revenue to the Federation. The issue is whether an extra large HOA should have greater voting rights and whether enhanced voting power would help entice mega-sized HOA to join the Federation.

Charlie will obtain statistics on the sizes of member and non-member associations in the county that are of larger size and report findings.

• **Citizen Budget Advisory Committee** | Charlie—The Federation recommends, and Sharon Bulova concurs, that Citizen Budget Advisory Committee(s) can aid in making citizen priorities known to the board of supervisors. Past experience, however, shows two pitfalls. First, that new members face a learning curve during which their contributions are minimal and second, that some volunteers use this committee primarily to advance their own special interests. Consequently board members are encouraged to advise their district supervisor of the need to consider the pitfalls in selecting members for the citizen budget advisory committee(s) and that the Federation is willing to participate.

• **Fairfax Federation Forum** | Jeff

• In order to facilitate discussions and cut down on the number of emails that are sent to the board-wide distribution, Jeff has enabled a forum option on our website at <http://fairfaxfederation.org/smf/index.php>.

• Board members will experiment using the forum for a trial period before we consider expanding the forum for use by the general membership

• **Future of Packard Center and Implications for Federation**—Carol reported that the Park Authority owns the Packard Center while the Arts Council handles sub-leasing. The building is out-of-code in many areas, hence the park authority may terminate leases in about a year, to vacate either for a period of renovation or for permanent abandonment. It is not clear where renovation funds could be obtained. Regardless, the Federation needs to find a new meeting room and location to store its files, which currently occupy three or four four-drawer file cabinets. (In addition, past Bulletins are archived at the City of Fairfax Library.)

Kahan, who is also on the Arts Council board, will keep the Federation board apprised of the Arts Council positions on this matter. Members are asked to identify possible meeting locations in the central part of the county and to provide their leads to Kahan.

• **Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Signage**—Carey reported that stimulus money will be used to purchase 120 highway signs to direct motorists to the VRE stations. He proposes the federation support installing electronic sign boards along highways leading to the stations that can announce real time VRE

information such as arrival time of next train and delays. The president asked Carey to research the matter in more detail (such as current plans for the 120 signs and cost of options) and to draft a resolution for Federation consideration.

Board & Committee Reports

- Citizen Association Services | Don Hinman—Absent but Fred Costello reported that the Kingstowne Residential Owners Corporation (KROC) Board of Trustees (BOT) has requested the transfer of responsibility for maintaining KROC’s storm water facilities to the county. Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay, the county staff, and KROC BOT are holding discussions about this request.
- Budget | Carey Campbell and Charlie Hall—No report
- Education | Charlie Dane—A “Smart Services” Committee composed of three county general services representatives and three school board representatives are examining support areas that could be consolidated. Send your ideas for cost saving consolidations to Charlie.
- Environment | Flint Webb—Absent
- Human Services | Position vacant
- Land Use | Fred Costello—At the June 18 meeting entitled The New Urban Economic Model – the Transformation of Fairfax County and attended by 450 people, Gerry Gordon, President of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, acknowledged the Federation from the podium.
- Legislation | Tania Hossain—Absent

Action for all members: Send your ideas for legislative proposals to Tonia.

- Membership | Tania—Absent. Charlie will continue to handle membership duties until September, and then transition to Tania. The Membership committee seeks to recruit more associations and organizations into the Federation.
- Public Safety | Gail Parker—No report
- Resolutions | Bill Hanks—Absent
- Transportation | Roger Hoskin and Carey Campbell—No report other than the resolution passed at this meeting.
- Website | Jeff Parnes
 - Board members should register for and use the forum as described under New Business.
 - Committee chairs should update committee pages, being sure to describe accomplishments.

District Council Reports

Braddock | Art Wells—The district council will hold its picnic on July 2.

Dranesville—N/A

Hunter Mill—N/A

Lee | Don Hinman—Absent

Mason | Roger Hoskins—No report.

Mt. Vernon | Karen Pohorylo:

- The district council met yesterday. The key issue was a resolution on the proposed BPOL tax. How the suggested tax rates were established appears to be a mystery. The council has tabled further action pending research by Supervisor Hyland.
- Karen also reported that the district council recently became aware of the range of services offered by Metro to outreach to the disabled community to inform of its services for them. See the Metro web site at www.MetroOpensDoors.com and follow the Accessibility tab.

Providence | Charles Hall—Absent

Springfield | Mike Thompson—Absent

Sully | Jeff Parnes—The district council has recommended against allowing the sale of individual cans and bottles of beer at gasoline stations.

Adjournment—The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Next Meetings:

- The next board meeting is scheduled on August 27, 2009, at 7:30 p.m.
- The next membership meeting is scheduled on September 17, 2009, at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Co-Recording Secretary