

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 27, 2009

Approved September 24, 2009

The August 2009 Meeting of the Executive Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Jeff Parnes at 7:30 p.m. in the general meeting room of the Packard Center.

Present: Carey Campbell, Fred Costello, Charles Dane, Roger Diedrich, Esther Ferington, Charles Hall, Carol Hawn, Tania Hossain, Gail Parker, Jeff Parnes, Scott Schlegel, Art Wells, and Ed Wyse.

Calendar

Month	Membership	Board	Newsletter Deadline
Sep	17 – Metro	24 - Legislation Package (Tania)	Aug 28
Oct	15 – Legislation Package (Tania)	22	Sep 25
Nov	19 – Tysons Plan	No meeting (note early Dec 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

Action item: Tania will check to see when the Board of Supervisors will consider the Tyson’s Plan. If it is prior to the November membership meeting, the federation may make the Tysons Plan the topic of the September membership meeting and defer the Metro topic for November.

Organizational Topics | Jeff Parnes

Board Vacancies and Appointments

- Human Services Committee: The chair is still vacant.
- Newsletter Editor: Carol has indicated that this will be her last year as editor. Members are asked to suggest her replacement.

¹ Provided a meeting room can be reserved

- Kosmo has agreed to assist Jeff in the task of maintaining the website, but has chosen to renounce all board positions and so will become a member of the budget committee rather than a co-chair.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- Board—28 Jan 09—Carol Hawn Secretary Pro Tem—still in progress
- Board—23 Apr 09—Roger Hoskin Secretary Pro Tem—In July the minutes were reviewed and minor changes proposed. The revised minutes are scheduled for approval at this meeting. The minutes before edit are available at <<<http://www.fcfa.org/minutes-agenda/200904MinutesBoardDraft.pdf>>>. We need the revised minutes so they can be reviewed prior to consideration for approval.
- Board—25 Jun 09—Ed Wyse Recording Secretary: The minutes were approved at this meeting.
- Membership—19 Feb 09—Ed Wyse Secretary Pro Tem: Minutes were approved in March; Ed will provide the final version.

Treasurer's Report | Scott

- The Federation's annual report and registration form for 2009 has been filed:
<<<http://fairfaxfederation.org/pdf/090823FCFCACorporationRegistration.pdf>>>
- Scott presented a revised FY 09/10 budget. Because Packard Center rent is increasing \$153, Scott identified offsets from other expenses. Jeff urged members to buy Federation mugs at the next meeting, which would increase income.
- Jeff urged members to perform copying in advance of arrival at the Packard Center because costs should be lower elsewhere. Action item: Scott will find out the rate that the Packard Center charges for photocopying and inform the board.
- Scott also presented the current balance sheet information for the period July 1 to August 26: income statement, budget performance, transactions, and membership income by association.
- Charlie Dane and Scott are to compare their records on membership income.

Old Business

Dues and Voting Structure for Associations with over 5000 Members | Charlie

In June Charlie noted that the Burke Centre Conservancy Home Owners Association (HOA) represents over 5800 homes and is not a member of the Federation. He thought its mega-size might 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

Charlie questions 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. He indicated that he would obtain statistics on the sizes of member and non-member associations in the county that are of larger size and report his findings tonight.

Since the June meeting Charlie explored association web sites, however many do not indicate the size of their association. Consequently, Charlie queried the district representatives for information about their large associations. To date, no responses have been received. Some large associations identified in this meeting are from Sully: Franklin Farms and Little Rocky Run, and from Springfield: Greenbrier (with 1800).

Carol suggested that an extra large association might take decisions based upon a handful of individual members attending one of its meetings, and that giving a large number of votes to the association would therefore give inordinate voting power to a handful of people. Esther noted that expanding the voting power of large associations would dilute the voting power of smaller members. Charlie noted that his interest was in fairness and that larger associations have not agitated for increased voting power. Jeff noted that the current voting scheme is incorporated in the Federation bylaws. The board decided not to consider any action unless and until an extra large association indicated that this perceived voting inequity was a factor in their not joining.

Status of Ongoing Review of the Implementing Policies and Procedures Document—Bill (absent)

Because Bill was absent there was little discussion, but the information below was provided in the agenda.

<<<http://www.fcfa.org/bylaws/Policies&Procedures030724.pdf>>>

The initial division of labor for the 3-member P&P Review Committee was:

- Jennison--first draft of complete rewrite of Supplement B
- Hanks & Fee-- possible modifications to everything preceding Supplement B

John Jennison 's intent is to have the P&P updated for the COY and have reference to a further, more flexible book for the more detailed instructions

John Fee is updating pages 1-18 to include "mission statements" for each committee.

The environmental committee's mission statement includes this language "(b) review proposals to establish, expand, or reduce environmental programs before the Congress or Virginia General Assembly." Similar language could be included in the community services committee, education committee, and public safety committee--in the event that the Federation wished to comment/advocate on national or commonwealth activities. The limitation on review of proposal by the legislative branch seems unduly restrictive inasmuch as executive agency programs may also interest the Federation. (That said; this may be far more than the Federation committee may be able to undertake, but why should this document prohibit such review if the Federation wants to do it?)

Thinning of Federation Files Storage - Jeff

The Board needs to review our remaining files for retention purposes: Action item: the President, Corresponding Secretary, and whoever else would like to participate will screen the paper files to determine what to retain, archive, or recycle.

Resolution on Support for a Transit Study – Carey & Roger (Absent)

At last month's board meeting the board passed a resolution in support of Congressman Connolly's bill calling for stimulus money to be used to study expanding transit (Metro) in No Va. The resolution was furnished to our elected and other officials in the county, state and federal governments by Esther and is

posted to the Federation's website

<<<http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/committees/Transportation/FCFCAMetrorailLetter&Resolution090727.pdf>>>. We will also publish the resolution in the newsletter.

Signs to Direct Motorists to the VRE stations – Carey

Stimulus money will be used to purchase 120 highway signs to direct motorists to the VRE stations. At the June board meeting Carey proposed resolving to support the additional installation of electronic signboards. Carey was asked to perform research (including current plans for the 120 signs and cost of options) and to draft a resolution for Federation consideration in support of 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.

Carey presented a draft resolution. Discussion at this meeting questioned how much electronic signs would contribute to the goals of increasing VRE ridership. Discussion included that 120 static signs are already approved and funded, whether stimulus money is still available, that the George Mason University electronic sign board has been controversial, how much value would electronic signs provide beyond static signs, and that electronic sign boards could also be used for non-VRE purposes such as Amber alerts and evacuation information. By a vote of 6 to 4 the board voted to pursue the strategy of a resolution that seeks to improve VRE ridership through a multi-faceted marketing campaign that would include electronic sign boards as one element.

Action item: Carey will quickly provide Carol a synopsis of this concept for incorporation into the newsletter and will post a draft resolution on the Federation forum for board vetting and consideration at the September membership meeting.

Board of Supervisors' Portraits

Action item: Scott will pick up Kate Hanley's portrait from Underground Framing

Action item: Tania will coordinate with the board chair's office on a date and time for the presentation of the portraits at the government center.

Fairfax Federation Forum | Jeff

In order to facilitate discussions and cut down on the emails that are sent to board-wide distribution, Jeff enabled the forum option on our website at

<<<http://fairfaxfederation.org/smf/index.php>>>

The board decided to continue the beta test (board members only) for several more months. A suggestion was made to vet meeting minutes on the forum; a question was raised whether the forum could handle attachments. If not, the forum might not be adequate for meeting minutes vetting.

Future of Packard Center and Implications for Federation

The Federation needs to find a new meeting room and location to store its files. Action item: Board members are to look for options.

New Business and Miscellaneous Business

The Federation Has Been Asked to Sign a New Lease—Scott/Charlie

Scott reported that the lease is straight forward and reflects what Susan Rosenbaum (Arts Council) discussed on the phone. The cost is \$15 monthly which covers the cost of floor space occupied by the Federation's four file cabinets. There is no charge for use of common space (use of the meeting room for Federation meetings). We have already made two rent payments.

The International Children's Festival, produced by the Arts Council of Fairfax County

The 39th annual International Children's Festival, produced by the Arts Council of Fairfax County (our landlord), is returning to Wolf Trap on September 19th and 20th. Board members are urged to buy your festival tickets early! New this year is a 20% discount for early purchase through September 12: \$8 for adults and \$4 for seniors & children (children 2 and under are free). Ticket information is available at <<<http://internationalchildrensfestival.org/tickets>>>

Board & Committee Reports

Association Services | Don Hinman (Absent)

Budget | Carey Campbell and Charlie Hall (absent)

- Braddock District Council has asked the Federation to brief their Citizen Budget Advisory Committee. Kosmo has agreed to represent the committee to explain the county budget structure and how the Federation Budget Committee attacked the beast.

- Suggested as newsworthy article that could be sent to all supervisors and other district councils: "Federation to help district council in budget examination"

Action item: Kosmo draft a "how to" document that could serve as the basis for assisting other district councils and send the document to Esther.

Action item: Tania provide Esther a list of media outlets that accept news information.

Action item: Esther convert Kosmo's document into a newsletter and distribute.

Education | Charlie Dane

- Charlie has learned that the Board of Supervisors has the authority to distribute money to the FCPS in seven categories to direct the manner in which funds are spent. The board has not used this control mechanism.

- The process for leasing space for school administrators is taking longer than planned.

- The school board's shortfall for FY 2011 is currently projected to \$150 million.

- The county's shortfall for FY 2011 is currently projected at \$315 million; of which \$80 million can be made up; leaving a projected real shortfall of \$235 million.

- The topics of future of meetings are:

Education Committee—September—Cluster Directors

Education Committee—November—Jack Dale will address school performance and budget

Membership—January 2010—Kristen Michael, Director of Budget Services, FCPS, will address the budget. (This is scheduled the same night as the school board meeting.)

Environment | Flint Webb—absent, represented by Roger Diedrich

- Roger Diedrich will help to find a permanent co-chair to work with Flint.
- Roger proposed a resolution that recommends the draft County Energy Policy be strengthened and its scope expanded. Some in the Sierra Club have found the linked 6-15 policy to be unacceptably weak.

<<http://www.fcfca.org/committees/Environmental/FCEnergyEECCC_Policy_090615Draft.pdf>>

This is a draft that will go to the Board's Environmental Committee (Committee of the Whole, chaired by Supervisor Gross), and upon approval (Sept 21) will go the Board for final approval.

Other documents linked here are the Sierra Club's suggested revised policy and their cover letter.

<<http://www.fcfca.org/committees/Environmental/FCEnergyEECCC_Policy_090615Draft_SierraClubRevisions.pdf>>

<<http://www.fcfca.org/committees/Environmental/090824SierraClubLetteronFCEnergyEECCC_Policy_090615Draft.pdf>>

After discussion, the board passed a motion (action item) for Roger to put a resolution on the Federation forum for board members' vetting and to send a copy to Carol Hawn for incorporation in the newsletter.

- The Chesapeake Bay license plate fund currently has \$32,000 available to fund relevant projects.
- Conversations with a Park Authority Board member indicates that the FCPA is planning to name a section of the Accotink Stream Valley Park in the vicinity of Prosperity Avenue after Sally Ormsby. The Federation supports this action.

Action item: Roger will draft a supporting resolution.

Human Services | Position vacant

Land Use | Fred Costello

Landfill policy has become an issue down in the Lorton area. Fred talked to Mike Grogan (MGrogan@wrginc.com) of the South County Citizens Federation. The County is considering adding a new landfill area in South County. Opening a new landfill contradicts a stated (2004) County policy. The idea of opening a new landfill was raised and developed in meetings of an unpublicized internal County committee composed of staff from the departments of Public Works, the Park Authority, Planning and Zoning, and Finance, without any input from the impacted community. Only via a Freedom of Information Act request did the community learn of the staff committee's intent. The two issues are (1) reversing the policy of no new landfills and (2) reversing the transparency policies of the County by secret meetings that impact South County citizens, without involving the citizens.

There is another aspect of the South County issue that Fred was uncertain how to express. ESI, an engineering company, proposed to the County to expand its private construction-debris landfill and continue its policy of enhancing the community. The County accepted the idea but, in its secret meetings, planned to do the same but under its own auspices, with a new landfill rather than ESI's, implying that the County can do the job cheaper because it does not make a profit. A report on the issue can be found at:

<<<http://www.chroniclenewspapers.com/articles/2009/08/13/news/viewpoints/view01.txt>>>

Legislation | Tania Hossain—

- Tania will submit articles for the newsletter.
- Action for all members: Send your ideas for legislative proposals to Tonia.

Membership | Charlie and Tania

Charlie has sent eight letters to associations that did not renew for the last year asking them to rejoin. On September 1 he will send letters to those of last year's members that have not yet renewed for the new membership year. As an exception he will make the first contact in mid-September with those associations who renewed late in the last year—to avoid asking them to contribute annual dues twice in a short period. Charlie will continue to handle membership duties until mid-September and then transition duties to Tania. In mid-November Tania will follow up with district representatives concerning associations that have not joined by that time.

Public Safety | Gail Parker

- Gail is looking for backups for public safety chair. She plans to ask the district representatives for leads. Also this is an item for the September or October newsletter.
- Fairfax County will host the World Fire and Police Games in 2015. If there is a role for the Federation, the Federation should become involved early. The board indicated that it would support such an involvement and asked Gail to pursue this item – Action: Gail

Resolutions | Bill Hanks—Absent

Kosmo provided the following suggestion for better handling of long resolutions like the Legislative Package and the County Budget, although it might take a change in the Bylaws:

- o Do the nitty-gritty and wordsmithing work at two (maybe even three) sessions of the Board, inviting the Membership to attend and comment too,
- o Even though they maybe could not vote (or put into the Bylaws that they can vote in special joint Board/Membership meetings), and present the result for an up-or-down vote only (except maybe for errors of fact) at the Membership meeting.
- o Those Members who care enough about the issues should attend the "working sessions". As it is now, too much time is spent rehashing the same issues at both the board meetings and the membership meetings for these long, complicated resolutions. The membership meeting is probably not the place to do it.

Bill appreciates Kosmo's idea as a constructive proposal for consideration, but disagrees; believing the current three step process of (1) committee initiation; (2) Board refinement, and (3) Membership Meeting finalization with three handlings is enough.

The discussion was noted; no action was taken.

Transportation | Roger Hoskin (absent) and Carey Campbell

The 4 August Fairfax County Times ran an article indicating Congressman Moran would like to delay implementation of BRAC (base realignment and closure) at Fort Belvoir due to unfunded BRAC transportation needs: << <http://fairfaxtimes.com/news/2009/aug/04/moran-asks-delay-fort-belvoir/>>>.

The newspaper also ran an editorial supporting the Congressman's position, "Put brakes on Belvoir move." <<<http://fairfaxtimes.com/news/2009/aug/04/put-brakes-belvoir-move/>>>.

Jeff asked if the Federation would like to support the Congressman's position.

Carey proposed instead a resolution calling for the Defense Department to fund an extension of the subway and light rail to Fort Belvoir. Excerpts of the resolution he proposed are quoted, "...U.S. House passed FY 2010 DOD budget of \$630 Billion, and U.S. Senate appropriations committee passed \$680 Billion."

The proposed resolution requested "...on Senate floor, or during reconciliation include \$2 Billion in FY 2010 DOD budget for extending Metrorail to Ft. Belvoir, and \$500 million for Light Rail."

Discussion revealed skepticism by many board members about including in the resolution a call for transportation projects beyond those already planned. Discussion also revealed that the Montebello Condominium Unit Owners Association (a MVCCA member) had prepared a resolution basically echoing Carey's position and the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations is preparing a resolution to support the call for delay of BRAC implementation.

Some of the points raised and discussed were posted to the Federation's forum prior to the meeting. <<<http://fairfaxfederation.org/smf/index.php?PHPSESSID=ca6b04f0f4a101dd8bd6557f5f314778&topic=7.msg11#new>>>

The board decided to defer independent action and instead consider supporting any resolutions that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations might propose.

Action item: Carey will work with the Mount Vernon groups and the MVCCA representative in the drafting of their resolutions.

Website | Jeff Parnes

Committee chairs should send their reports to both the webmaster and to the newsletter editor.

District Council Reports

Braddock | Art Wells

The following Braddock District Meetings are planned: 9 Sep: first meeting with new members and 10 Sep: budget committee

Dranesville—N/A

Hunter Mill—N/A

Lee | Don Hinman—Absent

Mason | Roger Hoskins—Absent

Mt. Vernon | Karen Pohorylo—Absent

Providence | Charles Hall—Absent

Springfield | Mike Thompson—Absent

Sully | Jeff Parnes

County public safety staff will address the Sully District Council in September. The large Sully Supervisor District is served by five fire and rescue stations

On the fourth Wednesday of October the Sully District Council will host a candidates' night. Ten candidates for House of Delegates are invited.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Next Meetings

The next membership meeting is scheduled September 17, 2009, at 7:30 p.m.

The next board meeting is scheduled September 24, 2009, at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Co-Recording Secretary