

Membership Meeting Minutes

Packard Center, 4022 Hummer Road, Annandale
Thursday, January 21, 2010

Approved February 18, 2010

The January 2010 Meeting of the Membership of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Jeff Parnes at 7:40 p.m. in the general meeting room of the Packard Center. Present were 14 participants and the presenter from the FCPS. (Attendance list is attached to file copy.)

Program: Fairfax County Public Schools' Fiscal Year 2011 Budget | Kristen Michael, Director, Budget Office, FCPS

Kristen described past efforts to reduce the spending of the Fairfax County Public Schools system, such as reorganizing from four areas to eight clusters while centralizing many support functions and reducing staff. She then described options under consideration to address shortfalls in the next several budget years and answered questions. Her presentation slides are to be posted on the Federation's web site (<http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/index.htm>) and are only slightly modified from presentation slides on the FCPS web site.

Bill Hanks noted that four of the supervisors have citizen budget committees and he opined that the county transfer to FCPS may be reduced by 3-10% based on a recommendation from the Braddock District citizens budget committee and the magnitude of increases in previous years. Several other members stated that this was not their understanding of current supervisor and public comments

Administrative Topics

Minutes—The membership approved the minutes of the December 17, 2009, membership meeting.

Treasurer's Report | —Scott Schlegel (absent)

Participants received a handout containing the balance sheet, income and expense sheet, transaction list, budget performance, and membership list as of the meeting date. The report is available at <http://www.fcfa.org/minutes-agenda/TreasurersReport100121.pdf>. The important relationship of membership and budget was stressed. President Parnes will approach district representatives about recruiting more associations to join. Participants received the report for file.

Officer and Board Vacancies and Appointments | Jeff Parnes

Human Services—Need Chair

Bulletin Editor—Carol is planning to step down after the June 2010 bulletin. Anyone interested in serving as Editor when she steps down please either contact her (FedBulletinEditor2009@fairfaxfederation.org) or Jeff (FedPres2009@fairfaxfederation.org).

The Federation Needs a Place to Hold Its Meetings in Fourth Quarter of 2010 | Jeff Parnes

The Federation is exploring new locations to hold its meetings and store its files when the Packard Center is not available. The January 2010 issue of The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area Fairfax VOTER reports that the Packard Center might be renovated during the fourth quarter of 2010 rather than being closed permanently. Any member who knows of a suitable location should contact our Second Vice President, Kahan Dhillon, at fed2ndvp2009@fairfaxfederation.org.

Old Business

Board of Supervisors (BOS) Chairmen's' Photos | John Jennison (absent)

Last Wednesday, the 13th, just prior to Chairman Bulova's New Year's fest, the County dedicated the chairmen's portrait gallery in the alcove in front of the conference rooms, with past president John Jennison, the driving force behind the portraits and current president, Jeff Parnes, the current president, speaking on the occasion. The county's announcement of the occasion is at <http://www.fcfa.org/PictureGallery/20100113ChairmanGallery>.

The Federation expresses its thanks to John Jennison for leading this project.

Greater Washington 2050 | Jeff

The Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors approved the signature product of the Greater Washington 2050 Coalition, Region Forward – COG’s Comprehensive Guide for Regional Planning and Measuring Progress in the 21st Century on January 13, 2010.

Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova was the chief spokesperson for this almost two-year effort in her presentation to the COG Board. There was lively and positive discussion on the report, including proposed local government action on the voluntary regional compact that is the immediate next step.

The report and compact will be sent to elected officials from COG’s 21 local governments requesting that each jurisdiction endorse or take other appropriate action to support Region Forward and the compact. COG is targeting March to complete the local endorsement process and will follow up shortly to seek counsel on strategies to secure endorsement from area local governments.

COG will also send the report and compact to key state and federal officials, requesting similar support, as well as to many leading regional organizations and stakeholders.

COG will shortly “open” its website to invite a wide-range of organizations, stakeholders, and individuals to voice their support for Region Forward. COG anticipates a further round of outreach to engage stakeholders and build awareness and support for Region Forward.

Printed copies will be available shortly. In the meantime, the final report is available on the website, www.greaterwashington2050.org.

Legislation Presentation | Jeff

Jeff was the third speaker at the public hearing on 10 Jan 2010:

Video of presentation by Jeff to Fairfax County’s General Assembly delegation of the Federation 2010 Legislative Program (9 Jan 10) may be viewed at <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/testimony/Testimony2010LegislationProgram100109.mov>

Written testimony to Fairfax County’s General Assembly delegation presenting the Federation 2010 Legislative Program (9 Jan 10) may be viewed at <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/testimony/Testimony2010LegislationProgram100109.pdf>

Recent Resolutions

- Resolution on Daytime Noise Limits (17 Dec 09): <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/resolutions/ResolutionDaytimeNoiseLimits20091217Approved.pdf>
- Resolution on Operation of Farm Wineries (17 Dec 09): <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/resolutions/ResolutionOperationofFarmWineries20091217Approved.pdf>

New Business

Education | Charlie

Charlie reported on the impact of a possible change in the Local Composite Index (LCI), namely that the budget submitted by the ex-Governor delays for one year the implementation of the most recent LCI computation, which indicated that Fairfax County ought to receive a much higher share of state funds than it has in previous years. Therefore delay in implementation means a significant loss of state funding for Fairfax County. Further, upon checking the Federation web site, Charlie noticed that the LCI statement, approved late last year by the Federation as part of the legislative package, had apparently not been included in the Legislative Package. Hence, he proposed the following Proposed Addition to the 2010 Legislative Package, which is based on the earlier approved item modified to oppose the one year delay.

Local Composite Index: Support fair and equitable state funding distribution formulas, including recalculation of the Local Composite Index (LCI) that accurately reflects both local ability to pay and the resource needs of local school divisions, and especially prohibit the one-year delay of the LCI recalculation proposed by the ex-Governor.

Rationale: A study of the LCI formula should consider all of the impacts and update the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission’s findings so as to provide a fairer distribution of funds to the State’s school

districts. While the State is responsible for funding elementary and secondary education, recalculation of the LCI on an annual basis (rather than the use of out-of-date information) would more closely reflect present circumstances in the localities. Furthermore, while the LCI has been recalculated every two years, the ex-Governor proposed delaying this year's scheduled recalculation. This may result in a loss of about \$60 million for Fairfax County Public Schools, unless the recalculation is made this year as scheduled.

The participants approved the proposed addition to the 2010 legislative package. Tania will work with Esther to add this item to the legislative program and transmit to the General Assembly delegates from Fairfax County the Federation's concern about the possible loss of funding from a delay in the recalculation and distribution of LCI funding to FCPS.

Board & Committee Reports

Association Services | Don Hinman

Don Hinman reported that he had recently been appointed to the Virginia Legislative Action Committee (VALAC) of the Community Associations Institute. Don serves as one of three community association volunteers on the Committee. Other members include managers and attorneys that work with community associations. VALAC will be tracking a number of pieces of legislation during the General Assembly session in Richmond and taking positions for or against proposed legislation.

VALAC is supporting a law proposed by David Bulova stating that self-managed associations may collect fees for resale disclosure packets at the time of delivery rather than requiring the association to wait until settlement of the home sale to receive payment. This legislation would clear up murky language from 2008 legislation. It is consistent with a position in the Federation's Legislative Package, although the Federation's position goes further, asking that all community associations (not just self-managed ones) be able to collect disclosure packet fees at the time of delivery, rather than having payment delayed until settlement.

Budget | Carey Campbell (absent) and Charlie Hall (absent)

Citizen of the Year | John Jennison (absent)

Nominations for the Citizen of the Year are open until 31 Jan 2010. Information is available at <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/coyl.htm>.

SAIC enjoyed its sponsorship of the Federation's Annual Awards Dinner in March 2009 and would like to renew its sponsorship in 2010. A communication from SAIC notes:

- Our interest in promoting community service and civic involvement in Fairfax has only grown since the official move of our headquarters to Tyson's Corner in September.
- Please keep SAIC informed as your process for selecting "Citizen of the Year" unfolds and as you set lead sponsorship levels for this year's event.

Bill Hanks reported a conversation with the president of the Fairfax County Professional Fire Fighters & Paramedics about their possible interest in becoming a major sponsor in future years.

Education | Charlie Dane

Charlie noted that Kirsten Michael, who had departed the meeting after her budget presentation, is the undisputed expert on the school board budget.

A discussion ensued on the proposal to close the Pimmitt Hills High School, one of three FCPS adult/alternative high schools. The diversity and special needs of the served students was described. Charlie reported that the Education Committee is working with the school department staffs on how the students would be shifted to other schools.

At its January 19 meeting, the Education Committee drafted its testimony. Charlie will testify to the school board on January 27.

Environment | Flint Webb

The Federation nominated Ana Prados for a second term as the Fairfax Federation's stakeholder on the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) Technical Advisory Committee. Joan Rohlf's, the Chief, Air Quality Planning, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, indicated that Ana's participation on MWAQC's Technical Advisory Committee has been very beneficial. MWAQC will make the official appointments in January.

An article by Ana Prados has been published in the October 2009 issue of the Air and Waste Management Association's EM Magazine.

The ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) proposed by the EPA is extremely strict. If EPA selects the more stringent proposed standard, no monitor in the country would attain the standard and if they chose the least stringent standard roughly 70% of the monitors would be in non-attainment. The secondary NAAQS goal is to protect welfare, more specifically to protect crop yields, and would cause even greater more non-attainment areas, particularly in farming communities.

Both Flint Webb and Roger Diedrich attended the Virginian Conservation Network lobby day. The focus will be on energy conservation this year. Mark Keam and Chap Peterson want to end the practice of reduced rates for large consumption of energy (electricity and natural gas) and are both carrying legislation to end the practice. Flint made sure that both Mark and Chap had copies of the Federation's Legislative Program.

Human Services | Position vacant

Land Use | Fred Costello

The Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force is at the "getting organized" stage.

Fred is working on a rational basis for proffers as they pertain to school construction.

Fred advocates mandating the inclusion of 3D computer models in Area Plans Reviews. These models provide the flexibility to be viewed from any perspective and permit virtual walk-throughs. They could easily generate the drawings that are now the only visualization tool that developers typically provide.

Fred reported a January 20 forum from the Cato Institute on the book *Gridlock: Why We're Stuck in Traffic and What to Do About It*, by Randall O'Toole. The presenters were:

- Randall O'Toole Senior Fellow, Cato Institute
- Anthony Downs, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institute
- Michael Replogle, Global Policy Director and Founder, Institute for Transportation and Development Policy

The forum is available for viewing at <http://www.cato.org/event.php?eventid=6666>.

Legislation | Tania Hossain—no report

Membership | Tania Hossain—no report

Bill Hanks noted that the Federation published the names of members in its bulletin during the years 1987 to 2002 and proposed that listings from copies of bulletins (that he had in hand) be used to develop a REINSTATE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM for approaches to 188+ previous association members that are not current members. The topic was deferred for consideration by the Board of Directors.

Public Safety | Gail Parker—absent

Resolutions | Bill Hanks—no report

Transportation | Roger Hoskin (absent) and Carey Campbell (absent)

Major changes are coming to Route 123 and Route 7. Drivers in Tyson's Corner should look for lane shifts and changing traffic patterns along the area's two busiest roads—Route 7 and Route 123—as construction of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project continues. Information at <http://www.dullesmetro.com/>

Website | Jeff Parnes

You are invited to visit the Fairfax Federation Forum: the federation's own discussion board at <http://fairfaxfederation.org/smf/index.php>. Please follow the link and register. If you have any questions, please get with Jeff at (Fedwebmaster2009@fairfaxfederation.org).

District Council Reports

Braddock | Art Wells

The main topic of the January 12 district council meeting was mowing of highway medians.

These activities are scheduled:

- January 23, Neighborhood Leadership Institute
- February 3, Braddock - George Mason Forum, including Fairfax City residents.
- February 17, Wakefield Chapel Northern Virginia Community College Forum

Dranesville—N/A

Hunter Mill—N/A

Lee | Don Hinman—no report

Mason | Roger Hoskins—absent

Mount Vernon | Karen Pohorylo—absent

Providence | Charles Hall—absent

Springfield | Mike Thompson—absent

Sully | Jeff Parnes

Topics of future district council meetings are parks on January 27 and school budget on February 24.

Closing Announcement—Arts Council of Fairfax County Members' Forum - Reception - Annual Meeting

On January 25 the Arts Council of Fairfax County invites member artists and representatives from member organizations to join us at their Annual Meeting and Reception. This is a special networking opportunity for the Fairfax arts community. Plan to come early for the members' forum and reception. This year's annual meeting will feature keynote speaker Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, as well as performances by member groups. The members' forum begins at 5:30 p.m. followed by a reception at 6:15 p.m. and the annual meeting and performances at 7:00 p.m. The location is the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA 20191; telephone: (703) 476-4500.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Next Meetings

The next board meeting is scheduled January 28, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

The next membership meeting is scheduled February 18, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.

Summary of Action Items from This Meeting

Action	Who
Propose to Second Vice President Kahan Dhillon suggested meeting locations when the Packard Center is not available	All
Incorporate the addendum (on LCI) that was approved in this meeting to the Legislative Package and ask Fairfax County's General Assembly delegates to oppose any delay in normal scheduled recalculation of the LCI or in distributing these funds to FCPS.	Tania and Esther

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary