

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Approved March 18, 2010

The February 2010 Meeting of the Executive Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Jeff Parnes at 7:40 p.m. at the Packard Center in Annandale.

Present: Fred Costello, Charles Dane, Esther Ferington, Roger Hoskin, Gail Parker, Jeff Parnes, Scott Schlegel, Flint Webb, Art Wells, and Ed Wyse.

Calendar

Month	Membership	Board	Newsletter Deadline
Mar	25 - County Budget Presentation (4 th Thursday)	18 – Budget (3 rd Thursday)	Mar 12
Apr	15 – Report from Federation Appointees & Representatives (Kahan)	22	Apr 2
May	20– Report from Richmond (Selected Fairfax County legislators)	27	Apr 30
Jun	17 – Picnic: State of Fairfax by Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Board of Supervisors (BOS), and Installation of Officers	24	May 28

Administrative Topics

Meeting Plans

Jeff will obtain speakers for the March county budget presentation.

As reported below under Old Business, Tysons Corner Land Use, a presentation on that topic may replace the currently scheduled program in April or May.

Scott has reserved the use of the Annandale Community Park Picnic shelter for the June meeting.

Officer and Board Vacancies and Appointments | Jeff Parnes

Human Services—Need Chair; this vacancy has continued too long.

Bulletin—Carol is planning to step down after the June 2010 bulletin. If interested in serving as Editor when she steps down please either contact her (FedBulletinEditor2009@fairfaxfederation.org) or Jeff (FedPres2009@fairfaxfederation.org). (Two people have shown an interest in filling this position, but neither has yet committed.)

Bulletin/Newsletter | Carol (absent)

Newsletter articles are due March 12.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the Board Meeting of January 28, 2010, were approved.

The Federation Has Found a New Place to Hold Its Meetings for 2010 | Jeff

The Federation has reserved the use of Braddock Hall (9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke) as a backup location for the autumn 2010 meetings in case the Packard Building is unavailable. Hats off to Bill Hanks for taking the lead in making the reservations.

Treasurer's Report | Scott

Scott provided the treasurer's report that included a handout containing the balance sheet, income and expense sheet, transaction list, budget performance, and membership list as of the meeting date. Scott also reported the addition of The McLean Citizens Association as a new member; the 39th member. The board received the treasurer's report for file.

Old Business

Citizen of the Year (COY) Award & Banquet | John Jennison—absent, report submitted via agenda

Contract and Finances

John Jennison has submitted an RFP for the banquet for 125 attendees at Tyson's Crown Plaza for April 25 or May 2.

Scott distributed a COY Banquet break even analysis and led discussion of cost factors, risk, and pricing strategy. The price options under consideration are \$65 and \$70 per ticket, seeking a balance of affordability and fiscal responsibility. In either case it is essential to limit the offer of free meals for speakers and awardees to them and their immediate family members, that is, not to give free meals to members of an extended family. It is also important to sell enough tickets to approach the minimum of 125 meals for which we are contracting.

Sponsorship

SAIC has agreed to be head liner sponsor; the Federation is negotiating the level of donation. John has met with the fire fighters union about their sponsor interest. The Washington Post is only doing in-kind donations this year, for example, providing items that could be auctioned at meetings and speakers for events.

Speakers

The board discussed potential speakers; however that discussion will not be recorded in the minutes.

Nominations

Members were urged to redouble efforts to solicit nominations, which are due February 28, 2010. Jeff will send a reminder e-mail.

Tyson's Corner Land Use | Information from Bob Jordan via agenda

Bob Jordan reported that Clark Tyler made an interesting and informative presentation at last week's Federation membership meeting. However, in Bob's opinion, Clark glossed over some legitimate potential issues that may affect all of Fairfax County, not just Tysons Corner and the adjacent neighborhoods. As has been noted in the draft minutes of last week's meeting, the McLean Citizens Association (MCA) will hold an open forum on March 2 on the redevelopment of Tyson's at which two planning commissioners will speak. Bob has invited all of the Federation membership to attend.

Bob also recommends that the Federation invite representatives of the Greater Tysons Citizens Coalition (GTCC) and the MCA's Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Committee to the next Federation membership meeting. There are potentially significant issues with the proposed redevelopment that could affect the entire county, depending on how the comprehensive plan is revised. Examples are taxes and infrastructure costs. The Greater Tyson's Citizens Coalition and the MCA support the transit-oriented redevelopment of Tysons Corner, but find the devil in the details. Bob has informed Ted Alexander from the GTCC and Mark Zetts from the MCA P&Z committee on this offer. Bob would like to know if a presentation is feasible at the March 25 or April 15 meetings. The Federation is committed to the topic of county budget at its March meeting. Jeff Parnes will try to arrange a Tysons Corner presentation in April or May.

Signs to direct motorists to the VRE stations | Carey—absent

At our August board meeting 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. We await Carey's draft resolution for board vetting. In Cary's absence, this item was deferred.

Recent Actions

Letter to Governor (7 Feb 10) to Urge that the Local Composite Index be Recalculated This Year

<http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/letters/LettertoGovmcDonnellreLCI100207.pdf>

The next day the Governor did as we requested; our letter was one of many communications the Governor received on this issue.

Chairman's Photos

The Fairfax Chronicle ran an article regarding last month's portrait gallery dedication.

<http://www.fcfa.org/newspaper/BoardChairmenHonored-FairfaxChronicle1002.pdf>

New Business and Miscellaneous Business

Resolution on Advertised Property Tax Rate | Charlie

The Board of Supervisors (BOS) will set the advertised property tax rate on March 9th. The advertised rate sets an upper limit on the tax rate that the BOS will set later this year. Thus, the advertised tax rate may become limiting if the currently unknown factors in the budget picture develop poorly, such as reduced state support. If these factors develop poorly and the advertised rate is “too low” (which is defined differently by various stakeholders), the BOS would not have the option of considering raising property taxes to avoid service cuts.

Some stakeholders had already expressed their opinions.

- The Mount Vernon District Council approved a resolution that reads in part, "...requests the Fairfax county board of Supervisors to provide the necessary maximum Tax Rate guidance and to direct the County Executive to disclose in the FY2011 Advertized Budget Plan at a minimum those Funding Levels and Revenue Enhancements, including Tax Rates, necessary to maintain all current County and school service levels, including any additional costs related to growth, employee benefit and reasonable compensation increase, other rising costs or decline in state or federal funding, as well as any needed enhancement to services."
- At its February meeting, the Sully District Council passed a resolution on the advertised tax rate calling for it to be set “at a level that would replicate funding of the 2010 budget.”
- Mike Thompson of the Springfield District Council indicated an option to keep the tax rate where it is today, take fewer dollars and make the changes necessary in the budget to fit the income just as businesses and families are doing.

A resolution on the advertised property tax rate

(<http://www.fcfa.org/committees/Budget/Resolution2011AdvertisedTaxRateDraft100225V2.pdf>) was proposed and seconded and discussion ensued. A lengthy discussion revealed differences of opinion about the proper level.

Discussion points include:

- Rates in the past twenty years have varied from \$0.89 to \$1.24, generally inverse to property values to maintain relatively consistent average tax bills.
- A rate of \$1.09 or \$1.10 would yield approximately the same revenue as did the rate of \$1.04 last year and would impose the same average tax bill on property owners.
- Despite uncertainties, it appears that State revenue support to the county will decrease. Would Fairfax’s advertised rate affect the decisions of the Commonwealth’s legislature? Would a high rate be interpreted by the legislature that Fairfax County does not need Commonwealth support?
- Some favored the county maintaining services even if this necessitates raising property tax rates and tax bills; others felt that residents should not have to endure increased property taxes and therefore the county should make budget cuts.
- The County Executive has just released his budget recommendations and Federation has not yet taken a budget position; consequently at this time we do not know which services might be affected as a result of advertising a maximum tax rate.
- It was not clear whether the Federation traditionally takes a position on the advertised rate; the Federation will in the near future take a position on the actual tax rate.

The board tabled the resolution. The practical effect is that the Federation will not take position on the advertised property tax rate.

Empanelling a Nomination Committee | Jeff

Per Federation standard practices the nomination committee is chaired by the Past President (currently John Jennison) and has at least two additional members: one a committee chair and one a district representative. Volunteers should contact John or Jeff before they are appointed.

Nominations will be announced in April, elections will be held in May, and installation of new officers will occur in June at the Federation’s annual picnic.

Countywide Planning for the Arts | Esther

On February 10, 2010, county staff published a proposed policy plan amendment (S09-CW-1CP)

(<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/comprehensiveplan/amendments/s09-cw-1cp.pdf>) that proposes to add a new section on the visual and performing arts to the *Policy Plan: The Countywide Policy Element of the Comprehensive Plan for Fairfax County Virginia*, 2007 Edition. Although Area Plans include site-specific and area-wide

recommendations regarding support of the arts, there is no countywide Comprehensive Plan guidance. Staff developed the proposed amendment from a “straw man” developed by an inter-agency arts committee. Two public hearings are scheduled: at the Planning Commission on March 10 and at the Board of Supervisors on May 11.

The Federation is willing to participate in a review—and if warranted, advocacy—of the proposed amendment. The topic of arts does not clearly match to the Federation’s current committee structure, although it most closely relates to land use. Fred, with Esther assisting, will coordinate with the Arts Council whether the Federation has a role in review of the plan amendment.

Congratulations

The Board congratulated board member Carey Campbell on his recent wedding.

Board & Committee Reports

Association Services | Don Hinman—absent, report submitted electronically

Don continues to work with a resident of the Waverly subdivision (near Vienna) who is attempting to revive a dormant civic association. He is providing advice on initial steps including suggestions on incorporating, registering as a tax exempt entity, and then opening a checking account. He has provided examples of a constitution and bylaws of other civic associations. He requests Federation members to email him bylaws and other governing documents from your associations if you are willing to share them.

Budget | Carey Campbell (absent) and Charlie Hall (absent)—report by Charlie Dane

The Federation Budget Committee Kickoff Meeting was held February 24; hosted by Kosmo and attended by Tania, Carey, Charlie Dane, Charlie Hall, Fred, and Flint. At the meeting, the committee assigned to each member various sections of the budget for study and report to the entire committee. The Federation’s Budget Committee schedule is:

- March 8—Members report findings to Kosmo
- March 10—Meeting to review members’ input
- March 12—Submits draft resolution to Federation board
- March 18—Federation board meeting
- March 25—Federation membership meeting

It appears the budget committee has not yet invited speakers for the March Members meeting; therefore Jeff will assume this task.

Jeff is scheduled to be the 69th speaker at the Board of Supervisors April 7, 2010, budget public hearing.

Charlie Dane reported that the county FY2011 budget pie charts at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2011/advertised/where_it_comes_from.htm and http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2011/advertised/where_it_goes.htm expand to show more detail when you click upon the pie slice labels.

Education | Charlie Dane

Three members of the committee attended the recent FCPS budget forum designed to inform the public of the budget process, the impacts of possible funding reductions, and the importance of central office staff. One document distributed explained the budget increases between 1999 and 2010 – something that this committee has been requesting last summer. However, additional dollar information is still needed. Two members of the committee will be meeting with FCPS finance staff on February 26th and the full Education Committee will meet March 9th.

Education-related budget news: The governor proposes to cut state support of K-12 education by \$731M; a state Senate committee recommends a cut of \$235M. The county executive’s proposed budget cuts 300 non-school positions, of which 200 are currently vacant. If the Fairfax schools get the \$61M due if local composite index is applied, budget cuts would still eliminate 594 positions (fill rate not known), increase class size by one, eliminate freshmen sports, eliminate many assistant principal positions, and eliminate summer school except for those students needing a course to graduate. However, the school board requested an additional \$24.1M or \$81.9 above the FY2010 county transfer, which, if funded, would reduce the number of positions eliminated to about 204.

Environment | Flint Webb

Ana Prados provided a report from the February Metropolitan Air Quality Committee Technical Advisory Committee (MWAQC TAC)

EPA has promulgated the final National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). They set the hourly maximum standard at the upper range of what they proposed at 100 ppb (parts per billion) and kept the annual average unchanged at 53 ppb. The new standard will require new monitors and the new data will not be available for designations for 3 years after which time the area may be designated non-attainment for NO₂. If the area is designated non-attainment for NO₂ we will have 3 years to prepare a State Implementation Plan (SIP) which will outline a plan to reach attainment within the time designated. It should be noted that NO₂ along with NO_x (oxides of nitrogen) NO_x which is a precursor for ozone pollution and is therefore already being controlled because the area is non-attainment for ozone.

The other issue is that the Virginia legislature is working on a bill that would change the current exclusion from the purchase of NO_x emission credits by sources in ozone non-attainment areas to just excluding the purchase of NO_x credits in Northern Virginia (i.e. the Washington Area non-attainment area which includes Fairfax County). While this legislation would not affect Fairfax County, following is an explanation how allowing NO_x emission credits to be purchased by emission sources in Northern Virginia affects our air.

When one source of pollution reduces its emissions—for instance by putting on emission controls that are more stringent than the controls they are required—the additional emission reductions (those that are in "excess" of what is required) can be sold as emission credits. These emission credits can then be purchased by other sources so they can avoid putting on emission controls. The revenue for the emission credits can then offset the cost of putting on the controls, hence creating a market force for reducing emissions. The problem is when emission credits are created from outside a non-attainment area and are purchased by a source that is inside a non-attainment area.

Understanding this situation is aided by knowing how a State Implementation Plan (SIP) is developed. The SIP is the document that is sent to EPA that establishes a plan for non-attainment areas (areas that do not attain the NAAQS) to meet (or attain) the standard by the date required by the Clean Air Act. The way that the SIP is developed is that the planning board (in our case that is the MWAQC TAC) project the emissions that are coming from sources in our air shed and estimate the pollutant loading from outside our air shed and run complex photochemical air dispersion models to estimate the pollutant concentrations for the air shed. Then the planning board calculates what controls need to be placed on emission sources within the air shed that will enable the area to attain the NAAQS as required.

The problem with allowing sources within the air shed to purchase emission credits from outside the air shed is that there is no way to model these emissions to ensure the emissions will not prevent the area from attaining the NAAQS. If EPA determines that the SIP does not adequately model emissions that are likely to occur in the air shed they may not approve the SIP which could mean that our federal highway funds could be cut off which could stop highway construction in the area. But more importantly, if a source within the air shed buys emission credits from outside the area it will cause additional pollution within the area and hence worse air and worse health outcomes for residents in the County. If the emission credits were coming from within the air shed the situation is quite different and is much easier to control and plan.

Another issue is that the Mirant Potomac River power plant in Alexandria (within the air shed) is suing Virginia over the State's denial of their ability to purchase NO_x emission credits. What Mirant may be trying to do is use excess emission reductions that they have generated in their other power plants in Maryland to off-set emissions at the Potomac River plant. The other power plants are in the air shed so on paper this may not be a bad thing, except that there is no way for Virginia to enforce the emission reductions that take place in Maryland; so if the Maryland plants' emissions are not reduced, Virginia can not take action against the plants in Maryland. There is also no assurance that the Mirant plant won't buy emissions from elsewhere, outside the air shed, except by banning the purchase of emission credits period.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 27th: Audubon Society (and other groups) Advocacy Workshop. The event has two panels: one discussing climate change issues and one discussing how to get the word out and how to formulate an effective message.

Saturday, February 27th: Ansel Adams and the Sierra Club. View the film Ansel Adams: A Documentary and learn about his connection to the Sierra Club. Oakton Library 2pm -4pm. (I didn't go).

Tuesday, March 2nd: Virginia Conservation Network (VCN) is holding a Climate Change Press Conference to discuss the McEachin Climate Change bill. 10:30 am Senate Room #1 (Capital Building, Richmond, VA). I will not be able to attend due to business travel.

Monday, March 8th: Fairfax Network Meeting, Room 232 Fairfax Government Center, 1-3 pm. I will not be able to attend this either because of work obligations but Roger usually attends these meetings.

Thursday, March 11: VCN Uranium Mining Symposium, Richmond Center Stage, 600 East Grace Street, Rhythm Hall (1st floor). RSVP to dana@vcnva.org. Believe it or not there are those that think that Virginia should start mining uranium. The main issue is that it is very difficult (if not impossible) to control the runoff of radio nuclides in storm water so as a result most of the uranium mining takes place out in the west where there is much less rainfall.

Friday, March 12: Capital Hill Lobby day. Details TBD but the plan is to meet with Senators Warner and Webb to discuss climate change legislation. Senator Warner is generally considered supportive but Senator Webb is somewhat of a skeptic.

Human Services | Position vacant

Tania was scheduled to attend the Fairfax County Health Department sponsored Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) - A Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax - inaugural community coalition dinner meeting on Thursday, February 4, 2010, but was unable to attend. A Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax is a coalition of community leaders committed to assessing Fairfax County's most pressing health needs and developing a strategic plan that will improve the overall health of our community. The coalition will utilize the MAPP strategic process developed by the Centers for Disease Control and the National Association of County and City Health Officials to guide them through this effort. Further information is available at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/mapp/>.

Land Use | Fred Costello

The Land Use committee has contacted the Hunters Mill Defense League, the Western Fairfax County Citizens Association, and the Occoquan Watershed Coalition on a proposed change in the zoning ordinance concerning the setback for stables to see if it is possible to establish a consensus position on this proposed change.

Fred plans to attend a Council of Governments-hosted dialogue on HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant, March 1.

At the most recent Reston Task Force meeting two transportation corridors, Rosslyn-Ballston and I-270, were touted as successes of smart growth. Fred noted that presenters' definition of success is building the corridor. Fred would like to see the success of transportation projects gauged via post-construction assessments, say at 10-years, of the benefits accrued to the community.

Legislation | Tania Hossain—absent

Membership | Tania Hossain—absent, report via agenda

Tania has requested an updated Homeowner Association (HOA) list from the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs. The office used to maintain a current list of the presidents of all civic associations and HOA's throughout the county. In the summer of 1985, there were about 800 organizations listed. There are now about 1,800. In the past about 40% of the "current" presidents were out of office but could provide the names of a newer president for use in follow-up membership letters, while about 20% of the "current" presidents were dead ends.

Public Safety | Gail Parker

Gail will be a member of the Transportation Planning Board Citizens Advisory Committee again next year.

The Council of Governments emissions goal has been set to equal the 2005 level of emissions.

Resolutions | Bill Hanks—absent

Transportation | Roger Hoskin and Carey Campbell (absent)

In mid February 2010 the Fairfax County Department of Transportation prepared Project Summary Reports by district which can be found on the Sully District Council Presentations page (<http://www.sullydistrict.org/presentations/index.html>):

Both the Board of Supervisors' Transportation Committee and the Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) met on 16 February 2010. The following documents may be of interest and can be found on the Sully District Council Presentations page at <http://www.sullydistrict.org/presentations/index.html>:

- Transforming Tyson's: Overview of the Transportation Section of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment, 3rd Draft
- Tyson's Connector - Lunchtime Free Bus Service in Tyson's Corner: Update on Operations since Nov. 23, 2009
- Citizen's Task Force: Study of Financial, Legal & Legislative Issues Associated with Improving Roadway Service Delivery
- Northern Virginia Transportation Authority 2010 Legislative Program
- 2010 General Assembly Session Transportation Funding/Allocation Bills.

The Columbia Pike Transit Initiative has been resurrected; Roger is a member of the Community Outreach Committee. The Northern Virginia Streetcar Coalition (NVSC) has launched an initiative to connect streetcars in Alexandria and in Arlington and Fairfax Counties, which includes Columbia Pike.

Website | Jeff Parnes

Pictures of board members have been posted on the Federation's contact page. Those board or liaison members whose photographs were not taken or who wish to replace the portrait there now should send Jeff a file in JPG format that you'd like him to use.

District Council Reports

Braddock | Art Wells

Supervisor Cook has scheduled four town hall meetings in March: March 9 at Braddock Hall; March 15 at Robinson Secondary; March 20 at Ravensworth Elementary; and March 24 at Little Run Elementary. The first will be during the Braddock District Council (BDC) meeting and will feature county speakers on the FY 2011 county and school budgets.

The BDC Budget Advisory Committee will review the County Executive's advertised budget. The committee's comments will be submitted as an appendix to the committee's report that had been submitted earlier to Chairman Bulova.

Dranesville and Hunter Mill—N/A

Lee | Don Hinman—absent, no report

Mason | Roger Hoskins

Roger is working to revive the Mason District Council.

The Mason District will hold a special election on March 2 to fill its school board position.

Mount Vernon | Karen Pohorylo—absent

Providence | Charles Hall—absent

Springfield | Mike Thompson—absent

Sully | Jeff Parnes

The council's February 24 meeting topic was school budget with Kathy Smith, Chairman of FCPS.

The March meeting topic is county budget and the April meeting topic is human services.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Next Meetings

The next board meeting is scheduled March 18, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.

The next membership meeting is scheduled March 25, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.

Summary of Action Items from This Meeting

Action	Who
Jeff Parnes	Securing a presenter for the March membership meeting.
Jeff Parnes	Send a reminder e-mail about Citizen of Year nominations.
Jeff Parnes	Arrange a Tysons Corner presentation at the membership meeting in April or May
Fred, with Esther assisting	Coordinate with the Arts Council whether the Federation has a role in review of the plan amendment.
Those board or liaison members whose photographs are not on the website contacts page or who wish to replace the portrait there now	Send Jeff a file in JPG format that you'd like him to use

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary