

Membership Meeting Minutes

Packard Center, 4022 Hummer Road, Annandale
Thursday, February 18, 2010

Approved April 15, 2010

The February 2010 Meeting of the Membership of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by First Vice President Tania Hossain at 7:35 p.m. in the general meeting room of the Packard Center. Attendance list is attached to file copy.

Program: Fairfax County Park Authority Budget | William G. Boule, Chair of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board

Mr. Boule described the scope of Fairfax parks: 417 parks covering 23,000 acres—10% of the county's land area, 300 miles of maintained trails, and annually hosting 19 million visits and serving a quarter million athletes.

Mr. Boule addressed a pending anticipated budget reduction of 15% which follows a 31% reduction over the previous two years. Measures to implement a 15% funding reduction would probably result in layoff of more than 50 staff, reduction in use of outdoor lighting, reduction in use of portable toilets, fewer hours of operation of many facilities, and a reduction of activities classified as environmental stewardship. Mr. Boule urged the homeowners and civic associations and their members to lobby for adequate park funding.

In the event that funding cuts do occur, Mr. Boule would prefer to defund positions instead of eliminating the positions.

When asked about a possible merger of the Department of Recreation and the Park Authority, Mr. Boule stated that a task force is studying the issue; however the Park Authority is not represented on the task force. He described the Department of Recreation's mission as primarily scheduling the use of facilities.

In response to another question, Mr. Boule advised that Fairfax County provides 70% of the funding for the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. He had no position whether that contribution could be reduced.

Cindy Messinger, Deputy Director, Fairfax County Park Authority, also participated in the meeting.

Program: The future of Tyson's Corner | Clark Tyler, Tysons Land Use Task Force Chair

John Jennison, former Federation President and current member of the Tysons Task Force, introduced Mr. Clark.

(This section of the minutes was written by Fred Costello, Chairman of the Land Use Committee, and edited by the Recording Secretary. The table and schedule of future meetings below were not presented in the meeting.)

Clark Tyler is a semi-retired businessman and former government official. Active in civic affairs, Mr. Tyler has served since 2006 as Chairman of the Tysons Land Use Task Force: a group of local residents, business people, property owners, and other stakeholders charged to make recommendations to the Fairfax Board of Supervisors on the new Tysons Corner Comprehensive Plan, specifically what should Tysons become and how do we get there?

The Chairman's major task was obtaining a consensus and commitment from 30 competing interests and over 50 land owners in the Tysons area. He participated in 450 meetings to learn the concerns of residents and employees in the Tysons area. He held 45 three-hour workshops at which people of different interests were assigned to small groups that developed ideas and positions, then the small groups presented to all attendees. He synthesized the results into objectives and developed the all-important implementation plan.

One goal was to obtain a balance between residences and jobs. At present, there are 18,500 residences but 112,600 jobs; therefore, most employees must drive daily into Tysons. The 18,500 residences are all high-priced, whereas 20% of all housing should be affordable/workforce housing. In an expanded Tysons, highway needs would exceed what is possible to implement if the current automobile-based transportation model was employed. Public transit is necessary. At present there are 40 million square feet of parking space, which serves 46 million square feet of developed space. The accompanying table, taken from the third draft of the Tysons Comprehensive Plan, shows the differences between recommendations of the Task Force and the other planners. The Task Force wants a greater resident/worker balance, with the population living in Tysons and providing a large share of the Tysons work force.

Comparison of Development Potential and Projected Timeframes

	Population	Employment	Development Potential (Square Feet) ¹	Anticipated Build-Out Time Frame (GMU High)
Existing Development	18,500	112,600	46 million	2010
Current Plan (3 Stations) ²	36,300	141,000	73 million	2023 (~ 13 years)
Modified Current Plan (4 Stations) ³	39,700	145,000	76 million	2025 (~ 15 years)
20 Year Horizon Alternative ⁴	44,400	166,700	84 million	2030 (~ 20 years)
Consultant Recommendation ⁵	85,000	188,000	114 million	2050 (~ 40 years)
Staff Recommendation (40 Year Horizon) ⁶	96,600	190,500	116 million	2050 (~ 40 years)
Task Force Recommendation ⁷	191,200	210,700	175 million	2080 (~ 70 years)

The tendency of planners has been to focus on individual developments, whereas Tysons requires an integrated plan. In planning for Tysons, planners must convert from their current suburban mentality to an urban mentality and apply urban—not suburban—planning standards.

The integrated model has to consider the total infrastructure: roads, utilities, schools and other community services, etc. Consideration has to be given for affordable housing, workforce housing, parks, open space, storm water handling, pocket parks, etc. Clark said that as much open space should be provided as could be extracted from the developers. He did not have any recommendation concerning the percent of land area that should be open space. He did state that in urban settings “pocket parks” are more feasible than large parks.

The traffic modeling (done by Cambridge Systematics) is not reliable because too many assumptions had to be made. Planning to address traffic from a Level of Services viewpoint encourages road expansions, whereas public transit should be encouraged. A National Academy of Sciences study showed that doubling density itself would reduce vehicle miles traveled by 25%. In Arlington (Ballston), 17% of people do not have automobiles. The goal of Traffic Demand Management (TDM) is to reduce traffic. For example, TDM encourages people to walk and ride bicycles to work. Unfortunately, the present Tysons has noncontiguous sidewalks and no bicycle paths.

Although Metro Rail is important, a circulator bus and shuttle buses are necessary to make Metro Rail successful. The circulator bus should be funded by the land owners so that it is free to the users. To be effective, it must also be frequent and visible. Proffers, which are essential due to the Dillon Rule, should support the circulator-bus roadway costs.

In answer to the question when the Planning Commission and Task Force consensus plan will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Clark predicted April or May.

The next meetings on the Tysons plan are:

- February 24, 5:30 pm, Conference Rooms 4/5: Staff presentation of Draft Zoning Ordinance Amendment to PC Committee
- February 24, 7:00 pm, Conference Rooms 4/5: Tysons Land Use Task Force comments on Draft Plan Amendment at PC Committee Meeting
- March 3, 7:00 pm, BOS Conference Room: PC Committee meeting on Tysons Partnership

Administrative Topics

Minutes—The membership approved the minutes of the January 21, 2010, membership meeting.

Treasurer's Report | Scott Schlegel

Participants received a handout containing the balance sheet, income and expense sheet, transaction list, budget performance, and membership list as of the meeting date. Participants received the report for file. Scott reported that he is building a list of non-member associations, and asked members to send him contact information.

Officer and Board Vacancies and Appointments | Jeff Parnes—absent

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 Has Found a New Place to Hold Its Meetings for 2010 | Information from Jeff Parnes—absent

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 Center is unavailable. Thanks to Bill Hanks for taking the lead in making the reservations.

Old Business

Application of Local Composite Index

The Federation sent a letter to the governor to urge that the Local Composite Index (LCI) be recalculated this year according to the normal two-year schedule, rather than being delayed by a year as proposed in the budget submitted by the former governor. An LCI recalculation delay would have resulted in Fairfax County schools receiving 61 million dollars less. The Federation's letter may be read at <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/letters/LettertoGovmcDonnellreLCI100207.pdf>. Since we sent the letter, the governor has agreed to apply the LCI for the coming budget year.

New Business

2010-2011 Officer Nominations Committee | John Jennison

The Nominations committee is looking for representatives from member organizations to serve on the committee. Please send John an email if interested at (FedPastPres2009@fairfaxfederation.org).

Board & Committee Reports

Association Services | Don Hinman

Don reported that Ann Newman is trying to establish a civic association for the Waverly neighborhood in the Vienna area. He is assembling information on this topic. Don provided a handout (and request for information); an extract of which follows.

Will you share information about your civic/citizens association to help guide another community in establishing one?

Any advice you have for a group trying to revive a long dormant association would be welcome. Here are a few specific questions:

1. Is your association incorporated? If yes, how does that help you as an organization?
2. Do you have a constitution, bylaws, or other association guiding documents that you could share with others? (If yes, please e-mail files or provide a link to a web site.)
3. May we contact you or another member of your association for follow-up questions? (Please provide your contact information.)

Don Hinman, Chair, Association Services Committee, Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
FedAssociationServicesChr2009@fairfaxfederation.org and hinmandon@gmail.com and 703-765-5939
2991 Huntington Grove Square, Alexandria VA 22306

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

The county executive is to issue his budget on February 23; the Federation Budget Committee Kickoff Meeting will be Wednesday, February 24, at 7:30 p.m. Jeff is scheduled to be the 69th speaker at the Board of Supervisors April 7, 2010, budget public hearing.

Citizen of the Year Award and Banquet | John Jennison

Nominations are open until February 28, 2010. See <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/coyl.htm>. The banquet will be held April 25 or May 2.

Douglas Koelemay of SAIC indicated his company enjoyed its 2009 sponsorship and would like to renew its sponsorship in 2010. The Washington Post is only doing in-kind donations this year, such as providing items that could be auctioned at meetings, speakers at events.

Education | Charlie Dane

In his budget the supervisor has asked for \$58 million more than the county provided last year. The school board revised this request to ask for \$81 million more.

The governor now supports recalculation of the local composite index. If the General Assembly approves, this provides \$61 million that Fairfax County had expected not to receive.

Today the governor proposed the state reduce K-12 funding by \$730 million; Fairfax County's share would be about \$60-65 million. If the General Assembly agrees to this reduction, it may concurrently remove the standards of quality requirements for school districts; however this could be constitutionally challenged.

By law the budget process requires the Board of Supervisors to advertise a property tax rate for the coming year that cannot be exceeded when the board later establishes the actual tax rate. Anticipating possible cuts in State funding, Charlie asked if the Federation ought to recommend that the Board set an advertised rate high enough that would permit the county to later set a high enough property tax rate to offset the worse case of state funding cuts. In informal discussion, participants decided that the budget process has too many changing variables to make such a recommendation that this time and that our board should decide later.

Charlie reported that a bill has been introduced in the General Assembly to allow counties to impose meals tax without holding a referendum.

Environment | Flint Webb

Other Organizations' Environmentally Focused Meetings

The upcoming [Greening Fairfax seminar](#) might of interest to the Federation membership. The sponsor, the Fairfax County Restoration Project (www.fcrpp3.org), is a new environmental public-private partnership. Its leader, Amy Gould, is doing an impressive job of bringing players together and would probably be a valuable partner for the Federation. She has focused on habitat restoration in the wake of the HOT lanes project and on nudging Dominion Power toward encouraging native species in their easements.

What: Greening Fairfax County Series: Restoring Land/Restoring Water Conference

When: Sat, March 27, 1pm – 3pm **Where:** 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, Virginia

Location: Braddock District Office, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, Virginia

Comment: Continuing of outreach to homeowners associations, civic associations, condominium associations, individual homeowners and others who have been impacted by the 495 HOTLANES project and those interested in converting to low impact development.

The [Virginia Conservation Network](#) held a light breakfast and roundtable this morning in Richmond moderated by the Ambassador of Norway to the United States on [An Arctic Imperative: Local Implications for Current Climate Science and Diplomacy](#).

The [Sierra Club](#) is meeting Senator Webb's Falls Church office on February 19 to urge his support for the [Clean Air Act](#) and is soliciting citizens to attend that meeting. Although the senator will be overseas, participants will meet his staff and demonstrate outside by the highway.

The February [Fairfax Environmental Network](#) meeting was cancelled for snow. The next meeting will be March 8.

Challenge to EPA's Greenhouse Gases Endangerment Finding

Virginia's attorney general Ken Cuccinelli filed a petition on February 16, joining Texas in challenging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) December 7 ruling that it would regulate greenhouse gases as it would air pollutants under the Clean Air Act. The U.S. Supreme Court declared in 2007 that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are pollutants that the U.S. EPA could regulate if it found these gases endanger public health. The Attorney General said he has asked the U.S. EPA to delay final consideration of that finding so "newly available information" can be reviewed and said that he would seek a legal challenge of the U.S. EPA's endangerment finding. The Sierra Club criticized the challenge, calling it a waste of taxpayers' money.

Cool County Initiatives

Roger reported that Fairfax County was behind other local jurisdictions in following through on the Cool County initiatives. He contended that the task had been entrusted to county staff without sufficient oversight; citizen oversight is needed. The Environment Committee will address this need.

Human Services | Position vacant

Land Use | Fred Costello

Reston Task Force meetings were cancelled due to snow. Meetings resume next week with the first to feature a presentation on transportation.

The Federation was asked if it was undertaking any serious examination of corruption and incompetence in parts of the Fairfax County government. Informal discussion yielded an answer of no, as looking for corruption and incompetence is outside our charter. The Federation does actively identify problems with government and proposes ways to improve governance.

Bob Jordan, the representative of the McLean Citizens Association (MCA) reported that two Fairfax County planning commissioners, Jay Donahue and Walter Alcorn (Mr. Alcorn chairs the Planning Commission's Tyson's Corner Committee) will speak at the MCA's winter meeting on March 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Drive, McLean. The topic will be a presentation and discussion about the final plan for Tysons Corner that is being considered by the Fairfax County Planning Commission for recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. The meeting is open and all members of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations are cordially invited. Bob also reported that the proposed "Transforming Tysons" draft plan amendment can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/tysonscorner/>.

Legislation | Tania Hossain—no report

Membership | Tania Hossain

Tania has requested from the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs an updated listing of community/homeowner associations.

Public Safety | Gail Parker—absent

The Federation seeks a co-chair to share duties with Gail.

Resolutions | Bill Hanks—absent

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

Both the Board of Supervisors' Transportation Committee and the Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) met on February 16. The following documents may be of interest and can be found on the Sully District Council Presentations page: <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

Website | Jeff Parnes

Kosmo Tatalais is assisting with webmaster duties.

District Council Reports

Tania will be attending district council meetings.

Braddock | Art Wells

On February 3, the Braddock District Council (BDC) - George Mason University Forum, including Fairfax City residents, met at the Fairfax City Hall to discuss continuing items of interest.

On February 10, Supervisor Cook forwarded to the Chairman, Board of Supervisors, the Braddock District Citizens' Budget Advisory Committee report. He recommended that it be distributed to the County Executive and that the Office of Public Affairs publicize it.

On February 15, there was an excellent response to Supervisor Cook's call for volunteers to help shovel out school walks, entrances, and bus stops.

On February 16, the BDC sponsored an extended meeting featuring an "Information Forum," the theme of which was the "Dos and Don'ts: Ins and Outs of Community Associations." The meeting was divided into three segments and accompanied by several handouts, including the Fairfax County Community Association Manual.

- Basic Primer of Homeowner and Civic Associations, conducted by Michelle Thompson, Consumer Protection Agency, and Bridget Merz, Department of Zoning.
- Legal, Financial, and Fiduciary Responsibilities of Association Directors, Officers, and Members, conducted by Attorney Michael Gartner and Supervisor Cook.
- Discussion of four Homeowner Association/Civic Association case studies

On February 17, the Braddock District – Northern Virginia Community College Forum met at Sprague Hall to discuss continuing issues, including the traffic on Wakefield Chapel Road.

On March 9, the BDC monthly meeting will feature county speakers on the FY 2011 county and school budgets.

Hunter Mill—N/A

Lee | Don Hinman—no report

Mason | Roger Hoskin—absent

Mount Vernon | Karen Pohorylo—absent

Providence | Charles Hall—absent

Springfield | Mike Thompson—absent

Sully | Jeff Parnes—absent

The Sully District Council meetings on January 27 featured a parks report. The school budget is the topic of the meeting on February 24.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Next Meetings

The next board meeting is scheduled February 25, 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
Contact John Jennison to participate on the nominations committee	Those interested in serving
Address the county response to the Cool County Initiatives	Environmental Committee
Attend district council meetings	Tania Hossain

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary