

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 18, 2010

Approved April 22, 2010

The March 2010 Meeting of the Executive Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by Corresponding Secretary Esther Ferington at 7:40 p.m. at the Packard Center in Annandale.

Present: Fred Costello, Charles Dane, Esther Ferington, Charles Hall, Bill Hanks, Roger Hoskin, Tania Hossain, Gail Parker, Jeff Parnes, Scott Schlegel, Kosmo Tatalias, Flint Webb, Art Wells, and Ed Wyse.

### **Calendar**

| Month | Membership   | Board   | Newsletter Deadline |
|-------|--|---|---------------------|
| Mar   | 25 - County Budget Presentation<br>(4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday)  | 18 –<br>Budget<br>(3 <sup>rd</sup><br>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              |

### **Budget Resolutions | Charlie Hall**

The purpose of the meeting was for the board to review and decide on budget resolutions proposed by the budget committee. Charlie Hall led the effort, budget committee members and some other committee chairs wrote various portions (authors are identified below), and Kosmo Tatalias edited their efforts into one document. The budget committee came to the board meeting with a 15-page proposed resolutions document; an updated education supplement, several subject area analysis papers, and some budget summary sheets. The proposed resolutions document is organized by subject and each subject is structured with a background—which is for internal Federation use—and resolution(s)—which are to be sent to the Board of Supervisors.

The board reviewed each proposed resolution and either approved, approved with modifications, or requested additional development. One person, usually the author, was designated to make revisions where necessary. These minutes describe the disposition of each proposed resolution, but, in cases of amendment, report only general guidance rather than exact word changes.

The next step is for the Federation’s Budget Committee to make the revisions directed by the board, consolidate them, and present the proposed resolutions to the Federation’s membership meeting on March 25.

To begin the review process at this meeting, Charlie Hall and Kosmo described the budget committee’s efforts and organization and Kosmo presented an overview of the county’s advertised budget.

#### **Education Resolution—Charles Dane**

The proposed resolution on education as amended was passed by voice vote. The amendment is to specify the estimated cost of the proposed restoration of middle school police resource officers; this is one of the Federation’s top budget priorities.

#### **Human Resources Resolution—Tania**

The human resources staff has been planning for these lean budget days and has prepared by improving efficiency and increasing fees and using federal stimulus funds to bridge 2011 resource gaps. The proposed resolution on human resources, which supports the advertised budget, was passed unanimously by voice vote.

#### **Environment Resolution—Flint**

The proposed resolution supporting the advertised budget’s increase in the tax rate for stormwater management was passed by voice vote.

The proposed resolution on parks as amended was passed by voice vote. The amendments are to specify the estimated costs associated with each recommendation, to note that the Federation supports a 50% reduction in maintenance of athletic fields (aeration and seeding) for one year followed by fully restoration in 20102, and to make other changes for clarity.

### **Health Department Resolution—Flint**

The proposed resolution on the health department as amended was passed by voice vote. This resolution deals with support of air quality monitoring stations; the amendment is for clarity.

### **Transportation Resolution—Roger Diedrich**

In Roger Diedrich’s absence, Roger Hoskin and Flint reported this area. The board asked the budget committee (the lead is Flint) to amend the proposed resolution by citing estimated costs of recommendations, adding a position regarding the Fairfax Connector, and citing the security importance of public transportation. The budget committee will have a proposed resolution ready for the membership meeting on March 25.

### **Land Use Resolution—Fred Costello**

The proposed resolution on land use as amended was passed by voice vote. The amendment is to specify the estimated saving that we believe may be made in this area.

### **Public Safety Resolution—Charles Hall**

The proposed resolution on public as amended was passed by voice vote. The amendment is editing one paragraph for clarity

### **Libraries Resolution—Tania Hossian**

The proposed resolution on libraries as amended was passed by voice vote. The amendment moves the first “whereas” paragraph to be the third, removes the amount in the sentence in which the Federation would support a property tax increase for library support, reluctantly endorses increased fees, and removes listing types and amounts of increased fees. Library financial support is one of the Federation’s top priorities.

### **Pension Funds Resolution—Fred Costello**

The proposed resolution on pension funds as amended was passed by unanimous voice vote. The amendment is to add an evaluation of the cost savings of adjusting the benefits and retirement age provided by the defined-benefit plan.

### **Capital Improvement Plan Resolution—Kosmo Tatalias**

The proposed resolution on the capital improvement plan was passed by unanimous voice vote.

### **Revenues Resolution—Kosmo Tatalias**

The proposed resolution on revenues as amended was passed by unanimous voice vote. Amendments are to change the “whereas” statements to “resolution” statements; note that the Board of Supervisors’ advertised property tax rate is \$1.12; remove the claim of a prior “revenue neutral” position for the advertised rate, and propose a tax rate appropriate to support the extra costs and the savings of the Federation’s resolutions—the budget committee is to determine this rate; recommend that SACC fees (which are also described in the Education resolution) be lower for those students in “free and reduced” categories.

### **Budget Process Resolution—Charles Hall**

The proposed resolution on budget process as amended was passed by voice vote. The amendments—all in the background rather than the resolution—correct the reference to the Braddock District Citizens Budget Advisory Committee, have the proposed auditors identify “opportunities for more efficient use of resources,” and delete the last paragraph of examples.

### **Concluding Resolution—Kosmo**

The proposed concluding resolution as amended was passed by unanimous voice vote. The amendment is to specify the estimated additional costs from the Federation’s resolutions, the off setting savings recommended by the Federation, and the Federation’s suggested revenue sources to bridge the gap.

## **Administrative Topics | Jeff**

### **Officers & Board Vacancies & Appointments | Jeff**

**Human Services**—Tania has identified a potential chair and has invited this candidate to a future meeting.

**Bulletin**—Fred Costello has volunteered to take over as Bulletin editor when Carol steps down after the June 2010 bulletin.

### **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the Board Meeting of February 25, 2010, were approved.

### **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. The board received the treasurer's report for file.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

## **Additional Information Provided Via the Agenda and Written Reports**

*Because consideration of the budget resolutions were the main topic of the meeting, it was not possible to address the following agenda items; however members were informed via the agenda and these minutes. Only those committees and district representatives who had items in the agenda or submitted written reports are listed below.*

### **Old Business**

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

We are trying to reserve May 2 at the Crowne Plaza Tysons. We have received several outstanding nominations. The selection committee has had positive responses so far from: County Council of PTA's, Committee of 100, Fairfax County Alliance for Human Services, and League of Women Voters. We are waiting for others (as invited per policy and procedures in bylaws) to agree to serve. We are planning to hold a selection committee meeting Monday evening, March 22.

John has met with the firefighters union about their sponsorship interest.

The governor's scheduler requested a list of our membership. We provide a list of all organizations that have been members during the past five years.

#### **Tysons Corner Land Use | Jeff**

Bob Jordan recommends that the Federation invite representatives of the Greater Tysons Citizens Coalition (GTCC) and the MCA's Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Committee to a 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 Tysons 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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

## Board & Committee Reports

### Association Services | Don Hinman—absent

Thanks to Charlie Dane, Ed Wyse, and Flint Webb for supplying or arranging to get me examples of civic association governing documents. This has been helpful and is appreciated. Documents from additional Federation members will be even more helpful. Don is now assisting an additional civic association.

### Environment | Flint Webb (written report submitted for minutes)

Flint attended the **Northern Virginia Environmental Advocacy Workshop** at the Merrifield Garden Center on February 27. These information presentations were made.

- American Council of Energy Efficient Economy (ACEE), Max Neubauer, 202-507-4005, mneubauer@aceee.org. www.aceee.org. He could be a good speaker for the Federation. The Energy Efficient Resource Center sets goals for States to reduce their energy usage. It also conducts a manufacturers' assessment survey and has access to industry-specific expertise that provides free audits for companies.
- Green Buildings, Annett Osso, LEED AP, www.vgba.org. Architecture 2030 aims to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) by 83% by 2050. This requires revised building codes; which HR 2454 proposes. The Virginia Green Buildings Association has a directory of 60 energy auditors on their list and has a smart building directory of services
- Sustainable Health Care Management, Urban Ltd. SWadhwa@urban-Ltd.com, seema.wadhwa@Inova.org. <http://www.inova.org/about-inova/sustainability/index.jsp> Seema Wahwa presented Inova's efforts to make their operations more sustainable which included recycling surgical protective materials.
- The Message Panel included:
  - Karen Aberlof – Center for Climate Change Communication at George Mason  
This was a presentation of some community segment polling data that Flint had seen at the A&WMA conference in Baltimore updated to include new data. The survey data was separated into several groups according to how they felt on the climate change issues, but there were not a lot of demographic differences between the groups. The more recent data shows that skepticism about the need to act on climate change has increased since the original survey was conducted in 2008.
    - The Alarmed segment (18%) are the most engaged in the issue.
    - The Concerned segment (33%—the largest group) is convinced that global warming is a serious problem but while they support various national response, they are distinctly less involved in the issue.
    - The Cautious segment (19%) grew the most; they believe that global warming is a problem although they are less certain that it is happening. They don't view it as a personal threat and don't feel a sense of urgency to deal with it.
    - The Disengaged segment (12%—decreased since 2008); haven't thought much about the subject.
    - The Doubtful segment (11%) is evenly split between those that think global warming is happening, those that think it isn't, and those who don't know. Many in the group think that if it is happening it is caused by natural changes in the environment and that warming will not harm people for many decades.
    - The Dismissive segment (16%—doubled since 2008) strongly believe that warming is not happening and is not a threat to either people or nature and strongly believe it is not a problem that warrants a national response.
    - More people think that there is harm than previously. Less than half think that climate change is caused by human activity. 49% of the public does not believe there is a scientific consensus. Carbon regulation is supported by 71%.
  - Tony Iallanardo, lobbyist  
News coverage makes a difference. Talk jobs. Senator Webb is a Republican on this issue.
  - David Fahrenthold – Washington Post Environment writer  
Don't call before 10 a.m. Writers work until 7 p.m. so they usually aren't there early in the morning. They work on 1 or 2 stories per week. News industry decline has not affected energy and environment beat. Washington Post articles have “clickable” by lines. The focus of your correspondence with the press should be on what is new and different. Climate change issues were politicized in the last year.

- Michael O’Connell – Connector editor.  
Explain the impact on the readers when you approach the Connection with an idea. Conflict makes drama (and drama collects eyeballs). They like to use multiple sources for stories. Letters to the editor should be 200-300 words. The Connector holds Editorial staff briefings. The calendar section is a way to talk about upcoming events. They like to have people features – include pictures and identify the people in the pictures.

Roger attended the **Fairfax Environmental Network (FEN)** meeting on March 8, which provided updates on Federal Chesapeake Bay legislation, Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), and Bay Executive order:

- A Virginia court decision (*American Canoe Association v. United States*) requires that TMDL’s be set for the Bay by May 2011. This is on a fast track, starting with developing TMDL’s for the Bay itself and then working upstream to the streams that feed the Bay. Because Virginia is closer to the mouth of the Bay it looks like for the most part the limits for the Virginia portion of the Bay will be fairly easy to achieve. States will be required to develop plans with enforceable or binding measures; plans will need to show that the Bay will be cleaned up by 2025.
- There are several bills in Congress that will improve the tools available to EPA to clean up the Bay. Senator Carding and Congressman Cummings have introduced the Chesapeake Clean Water and Ecosystem Restoration Act (S 1816/HR 3852)—and Congressman Gerry Connolly was instrumental in preparing this legislation—that would:
  - A. Increase accountability by requiring States to submit biennial progress reports beginning in 2014. The reports will detail all pollution reduction measures the States agreed to implement, list measures that are not fully implemented and establish goals for the subsequent 2-year period.
  - B. Require EPA to impose sanctions on the States if they fail to submit a plan that will achieve the goals or fail to correct previous missed commitments.
  - C. Establish an interstate nutrient trading program by May 2012.
  - D. Make EPA responsible for developing new federal stormwater standards for development or redevelopment projects beginning 2013. The House and Senate bills differ in their details in this area.
  - E. Authorize \$1.5 billion to help local governments pay for their projects to reduce stormwater runoff.
  - F. Authorize \$625 million in other implementation, monitoring, and assistance grants, including not less than \$96 million targeted for technical assistance for agricultural producers.
  - G. Give citizens the authority to bring civil actions holding EPA accountable for failure to enforce the law.
- Executive Order 13508—President Obama issued the EO in May 2009. It recognizes the Chesapeake Bay as a national treasure and calls on the Federal Government to lead a renewed effort to restore and protect the Nation’s largest estuary and its watershed. The EO establishes a Federal Leadership Committee that will develop a strategy for overseeing and coordinate reporting, data management and other activities by all the agencies that are involved in Bay restoration. The Leadership Committee is chaired by EPA and includes representatives from the departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Homeland Security, Interior, Transportation, and others. The draft strategy to improve and protect the Chesapeake Bay was available for public review until January 8, 2010, and the final strategy will be completed by May 2010.

#### Climate Change

- Senator Murkowski has introduced an amendment that would remove EPA’s authority to regulate Greenhouse Gasses (GHGs).
- Renewable power: (1) The County’s contract with PEPCO to supply wind power expires the end of March, Wind power costs about \$0.02 more per kW-hr than the normal mix of sources. Renewable Energy Credits (REC) are available from Dominion Power. There was some discussion about what the RECs were and whether they really represent renewable power or just help fund the development of wind farms. (2) The County received \$10M in Stimulus funds for energy improvements.
- Climate Change Senate lobbying on March 12. The main speaking points were: we need a Comprehensive Clean Energy and Climate Legislation; an “Energy Only” Bill is not a substitute for a comprehensive climate bill; and the Cantwell-Collins CLEAR Act is a new approach that would reduce GHG emissions by auctioning carbon permits to producers and importers of fossil fuels with 75% of the revenues going to rebates to legal residents and 25% going to R&D of clean energy resources. The CLEAR Act targets GHG emissions to be 20% below 2005 levels by 2020 and 83% by 2050. The Clean Air Act may not be a perfect way to regulate GHG emissions but EPA should not have its hands tied as they address the issue as would be called for by Murkowski and Rockefeller efforts. The lobbyists met with Senator Webb’s aide. Senator Webb has proposed an “Energy Only” bill. His aide indicated that Senator Webb does not see that as the end solution but is

something that can be done sooner in a bi-partisan way. The lobbyists provided him with data about carbon sequestration technologies that shows that the technologies being developed are significantly less expensive than the existing technologies. The message was that the Clean Air Act is good at regulating new sources but climate change legislation is needed to address GHG emissions from existing sources.

- The Green Breakfast on March 13 had guest speaker Dr. Vicky Monroe, Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist. (She would be a good speaker for the Federation.) Vicky works for the Police Department. Her background includes studying bats in Australia and working on Isle Royal. She reported on deer management. 1100-1300 deer are taken per year in Fairfax County. The biological carrying capacity for white tailed deer is between 15-20 per square mile. Deer eat 5-7 lbs of plant materials per day. One acre of natural habitat can produce 200 lb of deer feed vegetation. 25.6 acres is required to support one deer. Deer overgrazing affects small rodent population and hence raptor populations. —“Hard to fight fear and ignorance when all you have is truth and facts”—Chronic Wasting Disease has reached Virginia within the last year. It will probably reach Fairfax County in 4-6 years. The County uses thermal imaging and flyovers for deer counts. 75% of the deer kills in Fairfax County are by bow hunters on private property. A wildlife web site is in the works

#### Upcoming Meetings and Announcements

- **Park Authority has job openings:** (1) Person to help coordinate volunteers for invasive species removal and (2) The Park Foundation is looking for a new Executive Director.
- The **Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP)** (web page [www.accotink.org/FLAP/FLAP.htm](http://www.accotink.org/FLAP/FLAP.htm)) has the mission to protect, restore and preserve the natural, historical, and cultural resources of Lake Accotink Park; promote education and recreation opportunities; promote the community use of the park facilities; and foster respect for the park.
- **Woody Plant Recovery from Record Snows**
  - 1) Jim McGlone (Urban Forester for Northern Virginia, Virginia Department of Forestry) handed out a paper about how to deal with tree damage cause by this year’s snowstorms
  - 2) Up-rooted trees: Fallen trees can be stood up again and staked until the soil dries and roots re-establish. White oak stakes should be used because they are rot resistant. Cotton fabric will do less damage to the trunk than guy wires and will rot before they girdle the tree.
  - 3) Broken trunks: This is mainly a problem with evergreens. With the exception of pines, most landscape evergreens can take heavy pruning. Pines can also be reduced to a large branch below the break but there is greater likelihood of disease. Do not paint the stumps.
  - 4) Broken branches: Branches broken between branch unions should be pruned. Do not paint stumps.
  - 5) Useful links:
    - a) US Forest Service, How to Prune Trees: [http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howtos/ht\\_prune/htprune.pdf](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/pubs/howtos/ht_prune/htprune.pdf)
    - b) International Society of Arboriculture: [http://www.treesaregood.com/treecare/pruning\\_young.aspx](http://www.treesaregood.com/treecare/pruning_young.aspx)
    - c) Hiring a Certified Arborist: [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/hiring\\_an\\_arborist\\_flier\\_final.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/hiring_an_arborist_flier_final.pdf)
    - d) Jim McGlone (703) 324-1489, [Jim.McGlone@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:Jim.McGlone@dof.virginia.gov).
- **2010 Native Tree & Shrub Seedling Sale** Two separate Tree and shrub Packages are available: (1) 6 Bear-root trees for \$10.95, includes 2 each of Northern Red Oak, Black Gum, and Yellow Poplar and (2) 10 Bare-root shrubs for \$15.95, includes two each of Arrowwood, Gray Dogwood, Red Chokeberry, Eastern Redbud, and Smooth Sumac. Order by Monday, April 12. Orders can be picked up Friday, 16 April or Saturday, 17 April. To see images of this year’s plants, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.htm).
- **Rain Gardens for Homeowners Workshop** Saturday, March 27, 2010, 9:30am – 12:30 pm including an optional rain garden tour at the park, Green Spring Gardens Park, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, VA 22312-1428. Workshop fee is \$20. Call 703-642-5173 to register. For further information see: <http://www.novaregion.org>, search for “rain garden”. Sponsored by Arlington County, Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, and Fairfax County Park Authority – Green Spring Gardens Park
- **Fairfax County Restoration Project (FCRP)**  
**Greening Fairfax County Series: Restoring Land Restoring Water**—If you live along the 495 Corridor and have been impacted by the Hotlanes Project, this seminar is a MUST. Saturday, March 27, 2010. Where: Braddock District Office, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA. Time: 1 pm – 4 pm. No charge – seating is limited; registration is required; see [www.fcrpp3.org](http://www.fcrpp3.org). Second session: **Chesterbrook Elementary Living**, Saturday, April 17, 9:30 am. See [www.fcrpp3.org](http://www.fcrpp3.org).

- **2010 Potomac Watershed Cleanups**—The annual Alice Ferguson stream cleanup will be on Saturdays from April 3<sup>rd</sup> to May 1. See the Alice Ferguson web site or Accotink Creek Watershed cleanups at <http://www.accotink.org/PotomacWatershedCleanuppre-event2010.htm>

**Land Use | Fred Costello**

The McLean Citizens Association’s (MCA) Mark Zetts made an excellent presentation of the Tysons Corner Land Use plan at the March 2 meeting of the MCA. Charlie Hall asked Fred to attend a meeting with three others in search of common ground. Walter Alcorn’s idea of planning only out to 2030, instead of to 2080, was readily accepted. Although some aspects of Walter’s idea are still being settled, his idea resolves many of the issues that arise from the uncertainties in long-range plans. Fred’s primary remaining concern is the imbalance between residential and commercial construction. No current plans in Tysons or Reston show a substantial number of residential units near the Metro stations.

The Reston Comprehensive Plan Special Study Task Force has accepted as the basis for the Reston planning principles those offered by a citizens group called Reston2020. The county’s Heidi Merkel is integrating written comments from the task force into the Reston2020 plan. Fred submitted his comments to Heidi and to Reston2020. Heidi’s integrated version will be discussed at the March 23 meeting.

Fred reviewed the proposed changes to the arts-related sections of the county’s Comprehensive Plan and is willing to represent the Federation in this area. He has sent his ideas to Jeff for review so Jeff can decide whether Fred would be a suitable representative of the sense of the Federation.

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

Mark Tipton provided a Planning and Design Divisions Transportation Projects Status Report for February regarding roads, sidewalks, trails, and bus shelters that may be of interest. The contact for sidewalk requests or maintenance is Chris Wells (FCDOT) 703-877-5772, [chris.wells@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:chris.wells@fairfaxcounty.gov). The contact for trail requests or trail maintenance on Park Authority land is Liz Cronauer (FCPA) 703-324-8629, [elizabeth.cronauer@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:elizabeth.cronauer@fairfaxcounty.gov)

Fairfax County held a snow summit on March 16 to review its response to the snow storms in February. Information is available here: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2010/county-snow-summit-2010.htm>

**District Council Reports**

**Braddock | Art Wells (provided written report for minutes)**

The Braddock District Council (BDC) March meeting featured presentations by county staff on the FY 2011 county and school budgets. Chairman Bulova and Supervisor Cook participated.

The BDC meeting will be April 13 as a legislative forum featuring local members of the General Assembly.

The next offering of the Neighborhood College begins March 24 at the Kings Park Library.

**Sully | Jeff Parnes (reported via agenda)**

The March meeting topic is county budget; the April meeting topic is human services; and the May topic is a report from Richmond.

**Next Meetings**

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

The next board meeting is scheduled April 22, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.

**Summary of Action Items from This Meeting**

| Action                    | Who   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Revise budget resolutions | Budget committee members and committee chairs who are listed in the Budget Resolutions section to perform additional research and writing |

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary