

Membership Meeting Minutes

Packard Center, 4022 Hummer Road, Annandale
Thursday, April 15, 2010

Approved May 20, 2010

The April 2010 Meeting of the Membership of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by Second Vice President Kahan Dhillon at 7:40 p.m. in the general meeting room of the Packard Center. The attendance list is attached to file copy.

Program: Report from Federation Appointees and Representatives

The Federation has representation on a number of task forces, boards, and commissions. The program of this meeting was devoted to reports from several of our representatives.

Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB) - Tania Hossain

Community Action Programs (CAPs) are public-private partnerships, locally managed and controlled by volunteer boards of directors, for the purpose of reducing poverty and promoting self-sufficiency of the poor. Three characteristics of CAP are that they are flexible, responsible, and unique in addressing the needs of those who have the least. The Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB) advocates for CAP to local, state and federal elected officials. In addition, the CAAB authorizes the distribution of funds from the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG).

Nationally CAPs serve approximately 9.3 million individuals a year, or about one of every three of the 34.5 million Americans living in poverty. In FY 2002 the Fairfax County CAP served 21,342 individuals. In general, clients are very poor; live in families with children; are working at the time they seek help or have recently been in the workforce; represent the ethnic makeup of the US poverty population; have few tangible assets; and lack education and employable skills.

CAAB's mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of low-income families and individuals: to help meet their basic needs, to eliminate barriers to self-sufficiency, and to provide economic and social opportunities. The CAAB advises the Board of Supervisors of the needs, concerns, and aspirations of low-income persons and recommends policy that promotes meaningful change.

The CAAB goals are to review and develop new policies as they relate to low-income residents and to oversee the disposition of (CSBG) funds to include researching and assessing community needs; facilitating public hearings for low-income families and individuals; allocating funds; and approving programs and contracts with community organizations serving low-income persons; and communicating with the Board of Supervisors and other County officials, other agencies and civic groups, the low-income community, and citizens of Fairfax County in support of our Board and its mission.

The CAAB is a tri-part board consisting of 30 members:

1/3 appointed by the County Board of Supervisors (10 members)

1/3 selected to represent the low-income communities (9 members) or appointed by the County Head Start program (1 member) to represent low-income persons

1/3 selected from organizations named by the Board of Supervisors to represent the private sector, e.g., business, civic, labor, and service organizations (10 members).

The CAAB will be authorizing the distribution of CSBG funds to the public-private partners it selected at its March meeting. The organizations were selected based on descriptors of service provided; the names of the organizations were not provided to the Board in order to promote a fair selection process.

Fairfax County Citizen Corps - Tania Hossain

The purpose of the Fairfax County Citizen Corps is to harness the power of every individual through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safe, stronger, and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds. We build on

community strengths and develop action plans to involve the whole community, including local businesses.

Working directly with the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue, Police and Health departments, the Fairfax County Citizen Corps Council brings together first responders and other community organizations crucial to emergency preparedness and the development of volunteer opportunities and training to meet community needs. In addition, the Council serves as an official Fairfax County advisory body to promote federal and state volunteer initiatives, enhance services, facilitate the exchange of information and training, and support partnerships.

The Core Programs of the Citizen Corps are the Volunteer in Police Service; Neighborhood Watch; Medical Reserve; Corps; Fire Corps; and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Fairfax County School Board's (FCSB) Human Relations Advisory Committee (HRAC) - Charles Dane

FCSB HRAC is composed of a representative appointed by each of the FCSB's ten members, representatives from each of the three associations of principals, one representative from the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) support staff council, and one from another FCSB advisory committee, plus a representative from each of the two teacher unions, and 12 other civic associations, including 6 ethnic groups, (also Federation, Council of PTAs, Chamber of Commerce, Human Rights Commission, League of Women Voters) and up to six members appointed by the Office of Equity and Compliance depending upon the annual charge. That's a total of 35 members. I have represented the Federation on this committee for over 6 years; for the past 2 years, I have been one of the two co-chairs.

In addition to the FCSB's advisory committee, each school is required by 1986 regulations to have a school-based human relations committee.

The FCSB gives each of its advisory committees an annual charge – for the last 2 years the board has accepted HRAC's recommendation for the annual charge

Last year HRAC's charge was to "Review successes and concerns at selected school-based human relations committees (HRCs), and to identify how to improve the distribution of what works at successful schools." The committee addressed the charge by dividing into three teams, each of whom visited 5 to 6 schools to talk with the school-based human relations committee, and a fourth team was established to look at the communication program throughout FCPS. Results of our visits showed that (1) the school climate at all schools visited was good, but human relations programs and activities at some schools were clearly better than others, (2) schools were addressing human relations issues through a variety of committees, and (3) those schools that had the required specifically designated human relations committees were composed almost entirely of school personnel. Several of the school committees requested HRAC direction on the expectations of the school-based human relations committees. Obviously, over time and to deal with changing circumstances school principals had been allowed to deal with many issues including human relations in their own way.

The communication team found a myriad of communication methods, most from the top down which are working well, and noted that bilingual parent liaisons performed an essential role in dealing with the changing ethnic makeup of FCPS and human relations concerns. However, there were few formal mechanisms for horizontal communications, and no mechanisms for the flow of ideas up

After the advisory committees provide a written report, they appear before the board at a working session to verbally summarize the important points and answer questions. The FCPS staff then prepares a response that is sent through the FCPS leadership team and Superintendent to the board, which returns the response to the staff and committee. Staff to HRAC is provided by the Office of Equity and Compliance (OEC) under the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources.

Because our advisory committee has been dissatisfied with some of the previous staff responses which often say the school is already addressing the recommendations or will consider them, AND because this year the committee was especially dissatisfied with the response, we pursued this issue with the FCSB chair and amazingly learned that the FCSB essentially receives and files the staff response rather than approving it. This was not only news to us but to the OEC staff who also had been assuming that their response had been approved.

So, the committee pushed back, first visiting with the FCSB chair, and then with her concurrence arranging to meet with the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources – with the understanding that if we could not collectively revise the staff response our committee would return to the school board with any remaining differences. Fortunately, we were able to modify the staff response, and we jointly transmitted a letter to the FCSB chair detailing the changes to the staff response.

This year HRAC's charge was to work with OEC to enhance the performance of school-based human relations committees, and continue to explore methods for obtaining feed back from the economically challenged and socially marginalized.

To accomplish the first part of this year's charge, HRAC formed a subcommittee to work with OEC, and relying upon our members' experiences from our school visits last year as well as from personal experiences, this subcommittee has (1) recommended the adoption of five standards of good human relations, (2) described preferred composition of school committees dealing with human relations issues, (3) required, in the absence of a HRC, a designated liaison, who is to be the primary human relations contact and a member of whatever committee(s) is assigned to perform the HRC function(s), and (4) require submission of yearly reports presenting their efforts to have a positive impact on human relations in their school. At least, I expect that will be our final recommendations, as these recommendations are contained in the final draft that I sent to OEC today, and will be approved at our meeting next Wednesday.

To accomplish the second part of the year's charge, HRAC held discussions with a Muslim Imam, a Korean pastor with others from his family outreach group, and a Hindu priest and several members of the Hindu community. The Director of the Center for Digital Media Innovation and Diversity at GMU visited with the committee, as did Supervisor Penny Gross who discussed Kaleidoscope. We had a presentation on Annandale Christian Community Action (ACCA) – one of the non-profits assigned areas that collectively provide food and other support services to the entire county, and heard from FCPS's homeless student coordinator (there are about 1,400 homeless students) and FCPS's director/coordinator of social services.

This second group had a myriad of recommendations which we narrowed to six based on importance and do-ability in this tight budget situation: (1) create a warm welcoming environment for all families with five specific actions that can be taken, (2) select and train diversity-sensitive staff using existing videos and self certification, (3) provide information/meeting areas for parents in schools, (4) reach communities where they are, (5) enhance computer and cell phone capabilities, especially with loaner computers at libraries and use of volunteers to staff resource areas at schools, and (6) increase visibility of board members and leadership team.

***National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)
- G. Gail Parker***

TPB is a federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization charged with developing a fiscally constrained long range transportation plan and six year transportation improvement program for the region. Members of the TPB include representatives of local governments, state transportation agencies, state and D.C. legislatures, and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), which runs the Metro System. The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is a group of 15 people from throughout the Washington metropolitan region who represent diverse viewpoints on long-term transportation policy. The mission of the CAC is 1.) to promote public involvement in transportation planning for the region and 2.) to provide independent, region-oriented citizen advice to the TPB on transportation plans and issues. On May 26 the TPB will conduct a Forum on Regional Transportation Priorities, from noon to 3:30 p.m., at the Hyatt Regency Washington.

Note: The TPB CAC is composed of five members from each of D.C. Maryland, and Virginia. At the TPB CAC, Ms. Parker represents Virginia rather the Federation. She is also the Federation's Public Safety Chair.

Program: Tysons Corner Land Use

Earlier this year the McLean Citizens Association (MCA) requested to present its view of Tysons Corner Land Use planning at a Federation meeting. We invited them to address this meeting; however due to conflicting commitments they were unable to do so. Fred Costello briefly described the MCA concerns;

the primary is their belief that the Tysons Corner Land Use Task Force's plan would worsen traffic considerably before offsetting new transportation infrastructure would be built.

Administrative Topics

Minutes - Ed Wyse - The membership approved the minutes of the February 18 and March 25, 2010, membership meetings.

Treasurer's Report - Scott Schlegel - Scott gave a verbal report and distributed a handout containing the balance sheet, income and expense sheet, transaction list, budget performance, and membership list as of the meeting date. A motion to receive and file the report was made, seconded, and adopted/approved unanimously. Scott noted that, because of the Citizen of Year Banquet, a period of numerous financial transactions has begun.

Officer and Board Vacancies and Appointments - Jeff Parnes

Due to a death and a resignation, respectively, the Federation seeks volunteers to serve as representatives to the Criminal Justice Advisory Board and Engineering Standards Review Committee. Nominations should be sent to President Jeff Parnes or 2nd Vice President Kahan Dhillion.

Tania Hossain will introduce the newly selected Human Services chair, David Mattoon, at the June meeting.

Nominations for Officer Positions - Jeff Parnes

The Federation is currently seeking individuals to serve as officers for the 2010 - 2011 year. The positions to be filled are President, First Vice President (membership), Second Vice President (appointments), Corresponding and Recording Secretaries, and Treasurer. These positions make up about one-third of the Board, which carries out the bylaws and implementation of the policies and procedures to best achieve the organization's purpose to promote the interests of citizens associations in Fairfax County, and to further the common good and general welfare of the citizens of Fairfax County. Anyone who is interested in running for any of the above Federation Officer positions, or would like more information should contact John Jennison, Nominations Committee Chair, at fedpastpres2009@fairfaxfederation.org. The Federation will hold its election of officers at its May 20, 2010, membership meeting. The newly-elected officers will be installed at the June 18 picnic meeting for a one-year term.

Old Business

Citizen of the Year Banquet - Chair, John Jennison; reporting tonight, Jeff Parnes

Invitations to the May 2 banquet have been mailed to 180 people, including members of the Board of Supervisors, school board, and Tysons Corner Land Use Task Force; incumbent politicians, friends identified by this year's winners, and prior winners (although we are struggling to find addresses for some of the prior winners). The membership is urged to share the online invitation on the Federation's web site with anyone they believe may be interested in attending. Charlie Dane had additional printed invitations on hand for any member to take home from this meeting to distribute.

The Citizen of the Year Award Cup has been beautifully refurbished and engraved at a most reasonable price by Eric Margry, whose studio is at the Torpedo Factory (www.familycrestring.com). We thank him for the excellent restoration.

With the event rapidly approaching, we seek volunteers to help with preparations, such as making place names and planning seating arrangements. Contact John Jennison at fedpastpres2009@fairfaxfederation.org. Final preparations will be the main topic of the Federation's April 22 board meeting.

We are delighted that Governor McDonnell will be the keynote speaker and believe that this will be the first time a sitting governor has participated in a Fairfax Citizen of the Year ceremony.

New Business

Inova Fairfax Hospital - Robert Lazaro, Community Affairs Executive

Mr. Lazaro introduced himself and offered to give a presentation on the Inova Fairfax Hospital at a future Federation meeting.

The Barbara Varon Volunteer Award - Jeff Parnes

Jeff distributed the relevant brochure and announced that nominations are open for the Barbara Varon Volunteer Award, to be awarded by the Board of Supervisors to a county resident volunteer who demonstrates appreciation for diversity, patriotism, a positive effect on the community, and encourages others to do the same. See the county's website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oep/varonaward.htm>.

County-wide Parking Policy - Brenda Seidman

Ms. Seidman announced her intent to study parking policy across the county to include a comparison with similar jurisdictions elsewhere. She believes the current parking policies were made in a piecemeal fashion and that a comprehensive policy could be better devised. She will coordinate with the Land Use Committee.

Board & Committee Reports

Association Services - Don Hinman

Don thanked those who have provided him with examples of civic association governing documents. He has shared these with people who are trying to set up new civic associations and they report the documents have been helpful.

In response to a question, Don clarified that the General Assembly has decided to continue the practice of "managed" home owner associations (HOA) not being allowed to charge for disclosure packets until property settlement but has this session amended the law to allow "self-managed" HOA to charge when a packet is delivered.

Budget - Carey Campbell—absent—and Charlie Hall—absent

Charles Dane reported receiving positive feedback on the Federation's budget resolution from Edson Tennyson, an At Large Member of the Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission, and Jane Strauss, Member (and Budget Chair) of the Fairfax County School Board.

Education - Charlie Dane—no report

Environment - Flint Webb—absent

Human Services - position vacant

Land Use - Fred Costello

Fred presented a brief summary of the work of the Federation to the Fox Mill Estates Homeowners Association so the attendees would see how the Federation works for the homeowners. Fred emphasized that the residential parking issues and traffic associated with Reston redevelopment should be of special interest to Fox Mill Estates.

The Land Use Committee will be using the reports by Brenda Seidman, who will help the committee by being our expert on parking in residential areas.

On Saturday, the Reston Task Force will have its third "listening session" to hear what the Reston residents want to do with the planned METRO station at Reston Parkway. We have already had such sessions for the stations at Wiehle and at Herndon/Monroe. The Task Force has chosen education and culture for the theme of the Wiehle station and nature for Herndon/Monroe. We will have one more meeting on the Reston Town Center station. On Friday, a subgroup will meet to devise a process for integrating all we have learned and putting it into the Comprehensive Plan. To date, all of the creative work is being done by citizen groups that are not part of the Task Force. Fred has been participating in one of these citizen groups.

As in Tysons, traffic limits Reston development, with the politicians and planners saying that everyone must walk, ride bicycles, or use a yet-to-be-devised pervasive public transit system that has no funding plan. Fred considers the hoped-for mode shares unrealistic.

Also as in Tysons, all proposed Reston development near the stations consists of office space, with almost no residential space. As yet, nobody knows how the office workers will get to work.

Fred has been participating heavily in Tysons planning, especially with regard to Walter Alcorn's proposal to limit the planning horizon to 20 years, with only rough plans for years 21 to 50.

Legislation - Tania Hossain

Tania is updating the legislative agenda with the actions taken by the General Assembly and will be updating the Federation prior to the May membership meeting.

Membership - Tania Hossain—no report

Public Safety – G. Gail Parker

Gail will prepare a resolution for Federation consideration regarding double stacking/double tracking in the D.C. area.

Resolutions - Bill Hanks—no report

Transportation - Roger Hoskin—absent—and Carey Campbell—absent

Website - Jeff Parnes

Three people described an inability to access the Federation's web site. Jeff advised them to adjust their anti-virus software settings. If this does not solve the problem, they should call him.

District Council Reports

Braddock - Art Wells

The Braddock District Council's April 13th meeting featured Supervisors Cook's discussion of recent Board of Supervisors actions and Fairfax County Government activities and a panel of General Assembly members from the area: three delegates and three senators. The panel discussed the issues taken up during the recently completed session, budget and transportation being the two main topics.

The issue of the Virginia Department of Transportation's responsibility for mowing the medians of major thoroughfares continues to be a major subject of BDC concern. A plan of action is under development.

The Wakefield Chapel Transportation Safety Community will hold its next meeting on April 29, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Wakefield Forest Elementary School on Iva Lane.

The next George Mason/Braddock District/Fairfax City Forum will be May 5, 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Fairfax City Hall.

The Braddock District Community Engagement Initiative's second "Neighborhood College" held its fourth of seven scheduled 2 ½ hour sessions in Supervisors Cook's offices at the Kings Park Library on April 14. It featured presentations by members of the West Springfield District Police Station, the Department of Family Services, and the Department of Systems Management for Human Services.

Hunter Mill - N/A

Lee - Don Hinman

The Lee District Association of Civic Associations meets on Wednesday, April 28, 7:30 p.m., at the Franconia Government Center: The program will feature the 2010 Virginia Legislative Report from Delegates Scott Surovell, Mark Sickles, and Vivian Watts and Senators George Barker and Toddy Puller.

On Saturday, April 24, at 10 a.m. at the Lee District Park, the Park Authority will have a ground breaking for the spray park, fully-accessible tree house, and family recreation area.

The following items have recently been made available at the Lee District web page (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/lee/>)

- Lee District citizen budget advisory group report.
- Announcement that the County has purchased the long-vacant Circuit City site on Old Keene Mill Road in central Springfield. The site will become a surface commuter parking lot, and in the long term possibly a parking garage.
- Schedule for Lee Nights free summer concert series, which begins on Wednesday, June 2 and runs through Wednesday, August 25.

Mason - Roger Hoskin—absent

Tania reported that the Mason District Council is in the process of resurrection. Twenty-seven associations were represented the start up meeting.

Mount Vernon - Karen Pohorylo—absent

Providence - Charles Hall—absent

Springfield - Mike Thompson—absent

Sully - Jeff Parnes

The Sully District Council meeting on April 28 will receive a Human Services presentation. The May meeting will be the report from Richmond; at the June meeting Supervisor Frey will present the State of Sully.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Next Meetings

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

The next membership meeting is scheduled May 20, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary