

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Approved October 28, 2010

The September 2010 Meeting of the Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Tania Hossain at 7:55 p.m. at Braddock Hall in Burke. (The meeting started late following an unofficial discussion of organizational issues.)

Present: Fred Costello, Charles Dane, Don Hinman, Joe Gibson, Bill Hanks, Tania Hossain, Jeff Parnes, Art Wells, and Ed Wyse.

Organizational Topics - *Tania Hossain*

Chair of the Human Services Committee: We are in discussion with a candidate for this position.

Appointment of the Finance Committee: The Finance Committee must consist of the treasurer plus two other members of the board. Don Hinman and Ed Wyse volunteered for the assignment. The board approved this slate of candidates.

The Bulletin (newsletter) - *Fred Costello:* Newsletter articles are due by Oct. 1. The e-mail address is fedbulletineditor2010@fairfaxfederation.org.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes - *Ed Wyse:* With three minor corrections, the board approved the minutes of the August 26, 2010, board meeting.

Treasurer's Report - *Scott Schlegel (absent):* The draft budget was approved at the September 16, 2010, membership meeting. The draft budget is now the final budget.

Old Business

Citizen of the Year (COY) Award - *Jeff Parnes*

The nomination form is posted on the Federation's website. Please spread the word and encourage people to nominate a notable citizen in the community. The deadline for submission of nominations is January 31, 2011. The banquet is tentatively scheduled for late winter or early spring, probably April; but the date is dependant upon guest speaker availability.

Packard Center Renovation Update (via email from Jamel McKelvia, Membership Coordinator/Office Manager, Arts Council of Fairfax County): "The Packard Center will be under construction starting September 27, 2010 until mid November of 2010 (the exact date will be announced ASAP) for HVAC and other minor upgrades. While the Packard Center is under construction, it will be closed and unoccupied. This includes all room reservations and bookings. If your organization has a room reservation during this time (September-November), you will need to secure an alternate meeting space. When an exact date of re entry to the Packard Center is given to us, we will share it with you so that you may resume with scheduled bookings, and schedule future events and meetings through the Arts Council here at the Packard Center. Thank you for your patience and understanding." The Federation retains its Packard Center mailing address during the renovation; however the post office forwards this mail to President Hossain's home address.

Calendar

Don Hinman will coordinate Federation representatives reporting to the membership at the April membership meeting. Charlie Dane noted that two of the Federation's education-related

representatives have never been scheduled to report. Reports by selected representatives might be combined with a program on HOA governance; see the Association Services report below.

Jeff will seek a Sully District location for the December membership meeting.

New and Miscellaneous Business

Federation Letter regarding the Recent Spill at the Tank Farm - Tania Hossain

The Mantua Citizens' Association (MCA) has approached former President John Jennison to ask the Federation to send a letter regarding a recent spill at the Pickett Road Tank Farm. Discussion included questions about the incident and to whom the letter would be sent and what it would say. (Post-meeting research reveals there was discovered in Feb an in-ground spill of an estimated 14,000 gallons of diesel fuel and on August a tanker truck from the Pickett Road Tank Farm overturned and spilled more than 4,000 gallons of gasoline at the corner of Pickett Road and Main Street.) Art proposed the MCA should brief the Federation on their request. Tania two weeks earlier had requested the MCA provide a draft letter. Action is deferred until either a draft letter or a presentation is provided by the MCA

Federation testimony at the General Assembly Public Hearing on Redistricting Virginia - Tania Hossain: Tania will speak at the public hearing to be held by the Virginia House of Delegates Committee on Privileges and Elections --Redistricting Subcommittee in Northern Virginia on October 5 regarding the reapportionment of Virginia's U.S. House and General Assembly districts. This generated some discussion including an endorsement of the Iowa Plan, which could be implemented for the 2021 reapportionment. Tania asked members to send her their ideas.

Board & Committee Reports

Association Services—Don Hinman:

- **The County May Develop GIS Database on Associations.** County staff is considering the possibility of adding information about associations to the county's Geographic Information System (GIS). Databases on particular geographic features are called "layers" and the county currently has a "subdivision layer" which identifies the location of every residential subdivision. An "association layer" could be added which indicates which subdivisions have HOAs, condominium associations, or civic/citizens associations, and may include other characteristics. The Federation's Association Services Committee has offered to serve as a resource to county staff if they decide to proceed.
- **Proposed Meeting Topic on Homeowner Association (HOA) and Condominium Association Governance Issues.** The Association Services Committee (ASC) proposes that the topic for a future Federation membership meeting be governance issues of HOAs and condominium associations that could be similar to what Lee District is planning for their October 27, 2010, meeting (see Lee District report). Don Hinman, Association Services Committee chair, requests Federation member feedback on what specific issues and concerns people would like to see addressed in a future membership meeting. Please email Don your topic suggestions at: FedAssociationServicesChr2010@fairfaxfederation.org.

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

Kosmo Tatalias reported via email:

Fairfax County residents can provide input on the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget (which runs from July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012) to county leaders in a variety of ways. The input gathered from the public will be used as a key factor to help guide the development of criteria for making budget decisions. The County has changed the methods by which residents can have input to the FY 2012 budget priorities. Instead of their hosting the Community Dialog sessions as in the past two years, residents can themselves host a mini version of same with neighbors or other groups. Perhaps the Federation or the Federation Board can participate in this manner.

- **Two Community Forums in October** — An overview of the budget, a facilitated discussion with Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and School Board Chairman Kathy Smith, and small-group workshops. Registration is required and can be completed at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/survey/fy2012-community-forum-registration.htm or by calling 703-324-2391, TTY 711.
 - ** Tuesday, Oct. 5, 7-9 p.m., Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.
 - ** Saturday, Oct. 23, 2-4 p.m., Hayfield Secondary School cafeteria, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria.

- **Do-it-Yourself Budget Toolkit** — Available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/ beginning Monday, Oct. 4. Residents and community groups are encouraged to host their own meetings using the toolkit that includes:
 - ** A 15-minute video overview on the FY 2012 Budget.
 - ** Background information to guide the discussion.
 - ** Topic questions to be answered by the group.
 - ** An online form to provide feedback to the county.

- **Online Survey and Feedback Form** — Beginning Oct. 4, residents can complete a short budget survey and submit comments at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/. For further information on the budget, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget or call 703-324-3187, TTY 711.

In discussion the board considered hosting a Saturday budget meeting, but concluded that the Federation does not have the resources to do this in addition to its other valuable services, for which the Federation is most uniquely positioned to accomplish.

Education—*Leonard Bumbaca, Ed Saperstein, & Tim Thompson (all absent)*

Charlie Dane reported. The Education Committee met with Maribeth Luftglass, FCPS's Chief Information Technology Officer (ITO). She described the development of the combined county and FCPS's business management program. This new program will improve how financial and human resources activities are managed. The ITO also discussed progress in development of SASI, the student tracking system, which will enable the tracking of individual student progress throughout their period in FCPS schools. And, she reported on the implementation of e-Carte, a robust resource for teachers including best practice teaching methods and educational resources. Most of this program was developed by FCPS, which has received a patent for the program.

Education Calendar:

- On October 16 an education summit was held at Robinson High School. The title was "What Do Our Kids Need to be Successful after High School? What Does FCPS Need To Do?"
- On October 26, the Board of Supervisors and the School Board will hold a joint budget meeting.
- On January 6 – Superintendent releases his Proposed Budget for FY 2012
- On January 11, the Education Committee will hold its third meeting.
- On January 20, the school budget will be the program for the Federation membership meeting.
- During January 24-26, public hearings on the proposed budget.
- On February 5 will be the budget committee forum
- Beginning this fall, several school boundary studies will be conducted: southwest county, Annandale High School, and Lacy Elementary School.

The FCPS will receive \$21M from the federal Jobs Bill and Superintendent Dale is asking community input in how best to apply these funds. The general feeling is to hold these funds for use in the next fiscal year when stimulus funds (\$26M this year) will no longer be available.

There also is support on employee pay for a 1-step increase and a small cost-of-living adjustment, together expected to cost about \$58 million.

Environment - Flint Webb (absent) and Roger Diedrich (absent)

The Environment Committee is working on the Federation's December 16 program.

Human Services—*position vacant*

Land Use - Fred Costello

The board discussed options for the Land Use program for the February membership meeting.

Legislation — Frank Anderson (absent)

Frank could not attend. He will post the draft legislative package online for Federation committee and representatives' comments. Merrily Pierce of Hunter Mill District was cited as a source who can inform the Federation of General Assembly actions that affect the Federation's proposed Legislative Package.

Bill Hanks proposed two additions to the education portion of the legislative package: to commend the General Assembly for its 2010-2011 budget relief (postponement of retirement contributions and on time application of Local Composite Index formula) and to consider pegging the interest rate on the deferred retirement contributions to prevailing bond rates. Bill will send his proposals to Legislation Committee.

Membership—Kahan Dhillon (absent)

The low turnout for the September membership meeting was noted with chagrin. In Kahan's absence, no one knew the status of proposed letters to associations inviting them to join or renew Federation membership. There is urgency to their dispatch. Jeff offered to draft the basic letter and furnish the draft to Tania so that she might discuss them with Kahan.

Joe Gibson (representing the McLean Citizens Association) noted that a reason for citizens associations to join the Federation is to gain from sharing of information across the county. When associations tackle problems by themselves they blindly try to invent solutions that have already been invented and tried elsewhere. Information sharing facilitated by Federation membership informs of what approaches have been effective (or not) elsewhere, who to contact for advice, who in county government can assist; in short, how to get things done.

Federation Plans and Policy Update—Bill Hanks

Bill, John Jennison, and John Fee comprise a special committee to update the Federation's policies and procedures. Bill noted that input is pending from John Jennison on the Citizen of the Year banquet and from Jeff Parnes on webmaster duties.

Charlie Dane proposed the Plans and Policy Committee consider two new policies whose need became apparent during Audit Committee work. First, that no one should be empowered to sign a check payable to themselves and second, to provide an easier way (than board action) to approve non-budgeted expenses that are of low value.

Public Safety—G. Gail Parker (absent)—*no report*

Resolutions—Bill Hanks—*no report*

Transportation—Jeff Parnes (reporting) & Carey Campbell (absent)

The current engineering estimate for Phase 2 of Dulles Rail is \$2B higher than the prior, non-engineered estimate, increasing the difficulty of financing the phase. One way to reduce construction cost by about \$1B would be to build an above ground station at Dulles Airport vice the underground station that was proposed. With an above ground station, passengers would have to travel 1200 feet, rather than 600 feet, between the airport terminal and the subway station. Either way, the path would have people moving conveyers. The Washington Metropolitan Airport Authority (WMAA) is requesting comment though September 30.

Jeff made a motion that the Federation support the above ground option to make completion of the project more politically acceptable and to decrease pressure on Dulles Toll Road rates (which WMAA uses to fund the project.) Because of the time urgency, the action had to be approved by the board

instead of the membership and Jeff would post the comments on the WMAA online comment area. The board endorsed the motion.

Committee member Roger Hoskins serves on the Columbia Pike street car advisory board.

The Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance (NVTA) conducted a three-hour seminar and social on September 20 entitled *What You Need to Know about Transportation in Five Minutes or Less*.

Jeff reported that based on a suggestion by Springfield Supervisor Herry, and supported by the Fairfax Congressional delegation, Federal Highway Administrator Mendez agreed to allow the HOV access ramps on I-66 at Stringfellow Road and Monument Lane to be opened to all traffic during non-HOV hours.

VDOT is pursuing a grant for “smart” shoulder lanes on I-66 outside the beltway. This technology would allow the opening and closing of shoulder lanes in segments as traffic and crash situations dictate. Currently the entire length of the shoulder lane must be in either an opened or closed state.

The Virginia Railway Express (VRE) is exploring expansion of its Manassas line to Haymarket and its Fredericksburg line to Spotsylvania.

Website - Jeff Parnes

Jeff urges committee chairs to use their portions of the web site. He has added a link to the Mason District Council.

District Council Reports

Braddock—Art Wells

The Braddock District Council meets October 5. They will consider whether to change their meeting night from Tuesday to Wednesday.

Lee—Don Hinman—no report

Mason—Keith Taggart (absent)

The Federation is invited to the October 7 meeting; Tania Hossain will attend.

Mount Vernon—Karen Pohorylo (absent)--no report

Providence—Charles Hall (absent)

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova participated in the most recent council meeting.

Springfield—Mike Thompson (absent)--no report

Sully—Jeff Parnes

The last meeting was a candidates' forum; four of five candidates running for Congressional districts (or their representatives) participated.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Next Meetings

The next membership meeting is scheduled October 21, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., at Braddock Hall, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke.

The next board meeting is scheduled October 28, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the South County Government Center.

Summary of Action Items from This Meeting

Action	Who
Coordinate the April 2011 program	Don Hinman
Locate a Sully District meeting location for December's membership meeting	Jeff Parnes
Coordinate the February 2011 program	Don Hinman

Action	Who
Coordinate the December 2010 program	Flint Webb
Coordinate sending letters to associations regarding membership this year	Kahan Dhillon
Write the web site portion of the policies and procedures manual	Jeff Parnes
Write the Citizen of the Year portion of the policies and procedures manual	John Jennison
Write and submit the draft Legislative Package for posting on the Federation's web site	Frank Anderson
Send ideas to Tania regarding the Federation position on Federal and Commonwealth reapportionment	All
Review and comment on the draft Legislative Package (after it is posted to the Federation web site)	All

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary