

Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 17, 2010

Approved March 24, 2010

The February 2011 Meeting of the Membership of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Tania Hossain at 7:35 p.m. in the Packard Center, Annandale. The attendance list is attached to file copy of the minutes.

Program: Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force—Robert Goudie

The Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force is chartered to conduct a multi-phase planning study to identify appropriate changes to the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan to help guide future development in the planned community of Reston. Phase I pertains to the areas adjoining the Dulles Airport Access and Toll Road (the Dulles Corridor). Each of the three Metro Stations planned for this area was assigned a subcommittee to develop the plans around the station. The subcommittees had four months to develop and deliver their report, without the benefit of either an existing conditions report or a transportation study. Robert Goudie, co-chair of the Reston Town Center station subcommittee, explained the subcommittee's recommendations as they have developed to date. His presentation was followed by a lively discussion on issues such as proposed densities, proposed residential/commercial mix, automobile transportation unknowns, bus requirements and funding unknowns, W&OD trail impacts, and whether air rights pylons should be installed during the initial construction. More information about the Reston Master Plan Special Study is available at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/reston/>.

President Hossain expressed the Federation's gratitude for the informative presentation and presented Mr. Goudie with a Federation coffee cup.

Administrative Topics

***The Bulletin* (newsletter)**—Newsletter articles are due to the editor by February 21. Committee chairs and Federation representatives to other organizations are urged to share information via *The Bulletin*.

Minutes—The membership approved the minutes of the January 20, 2011, membership meeting.

Treasurer's Report—Scott Schlegel

Scott presented the treasurer's report, which the membership voted to receive and file. Key points were that both membership and expenses have been lower than planned.

Membership—Kahan Dhillon

Don and Tania attended the Providence and Braddock district councils' meetings in January and February and made personal requests to the district chairs regarding the Federation's membership drive. Don will attend the Mason District Council meeting in March.

Old Business

2011 Citizen of the Year (COY) Award—Chair, Jeff Parnes

Please spread the word about the next Citizen of the Year Award. More information is available on our website at <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/coy1.htm>. SAIC will be a sponsor again this year; additional sponsors are sought.

New and Miscellaneous Business

2011 Advisory Citizen Reapportionment Committee—Tania Hossain

The Federation is represented on the Board of Supervisor's 2011 Advisory Citizen Reapportionment Committee and their work began on January 18, 2011. All members of the Federation are encouraged to send in their feedback to our representative Rob Jackson via email to rjackson@cox.net. Carey Campbell reported that he attended a meeting and found it fascinating. All county residents are encouraged to participate by providing feedback directly to the county. More information is available on the county's redistricting website <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/redistricting/submit-plans.htm>.

Vacancies on County Boards and Commissions

Second Vice President Don Hinman is recruiting for five Federation representatives to other organizations: Citizens Corps Council, Community Action Advisory Board, Engineering Standards Review Committee, Airports Advisory Committee, and the Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee. The county website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bacs/> enumerates all of the county's boards, authorities, and advisory committees. Don noted that people representing the Federation do not have to be from associations that are Federation members. Flint Webb expressed interest in serving on the Engineering Standards Review Board, and Hinman agreed to forward his nomination to the ESRB.

In addition to the general government-related boards, authorities, and advisory committees, the Federation has representation on three school board advisory committees and a school superintendent advisory committee.

Board & Committee Reports

Budget—Carey Campbell and Charlie Hall

The Board of Supervisors will advertise the county's tax rate at their February 22, 2011 meeting. The county executive will also be presenting the county's budget during this meeting. Per Charlie's email dated February 2, 2011, kindly take the moment to provide some feedback on the budget based on your focused area and other areas that you have noticed needs attention. Budget committee meetings have been set for Saturday, February 26 and Saturday, March 5, 2011. Please email the Budget Committee to RSVP for attendance by email to fedbudgetchr2010@fairfaxfederation.org. Please note that the committee may need additional meeting dates. Participation via email is highly recommended due to the short window of feedback time. The Federation will be testifying at the Board of Supervisor's Budget hearing on March 29 and is scheduled to be the 11th speaker.

Charlie would like to meet individually with committee chairs at his house for about two hours each to gain an appreciation of their budget views and promises this method of exchanging information will spare chairs from having to submit written input.

A suggestion was made that the Federation's budget committee coordinate with the several district budget committees.

Citizen Association Services—Don Hinman

Don seeks to instill awareness of two entities of significance for homeowner associations (HOA) and condominium associations: the Common Interest Community Board (CICB) and the Community Associations Institute (CAI).

Proposed CICB rule on filing complaints against Associations

Don repeated an announcement from the last membership meeting about a new rule proposed by Virginia's CICB. The new rule establishes a process for HOA or condo residents to file complaints against their association to the CICB. The Federation's February newsletter covered the topic. Don distributed a flyer on the topic (available at the Federation CASC website) and also passed around a copy of the proposed rule that can be accessed from the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website: <http://www.townhall.virginia.gov/L/viewstage.cfm?stageid=5362&display=documents>.

HOA and Condo Boards should pay attention to this proposed rule and to be ready to adopt certain complaint-handling procedures if the rule takes effect.

Virginia Legislative Action Committee of the Community Associations Institute (VALAC – CAI)

Don wants to inform residents of HOAs and condos aware of the VALAC – CAI. He distributed at the meeting a flyer (available at the committee's page on the Federation's website) which briefly explains the VALAC. The website address is www.cai-valac.org. Information about legislation important to associations can be found at the VALAC website, including a tracking chart used to track progress on Virginia General Assembly bills that the VALAC views as important to the well being of HOAs and condos. A recent example of the tracking chart was circulated to those present at the meeting to give attendees an idea of the specific laws that VALAC supports and opposes.

National Lobbying by CAI Saves Transfer Fees for Community Associations

Don distributed to attendees at the meeting a Washington Post article from February 11, 2011 that explained that the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) reversed a provision of a proposed rule that would have prohibited HOAs and Condos from collecting transfer fees when homes are sold in their communities. Many associations have authority for “deed-based transfer fees” in their governing documents. This FHFA rule would have stripped away that authority, thus eliminating an important source of revenue for HOAs and Condo Associations. The lost revenue would likely have to be made up by raising the regular association assessments. The rule would also have cut off access to most mortgage financing to people wanting to buy homes in communities with deed-based transfer fees, making sales of those homes very difficult. The reversal of this rule was due to national lobbying by the CAI. The full text of the article can be found at the Citizen Association Services page of the Federation’s website.

Education—Leonard Bumbaca, Ed Saperstein, & Tim Thompson

The committee’s next meeting will be March 8th, 7:30 p.m. (Subsequent to this meeting the location was announced: Room 5050, Gatehouse’s 5th Floor conference room, where the Federation met for its January membership meeting and where Superintendent Dale convenes the monthly Business and Community Advisory Council (BCAC) meetings).

Environment—Flint Webb

The Environmental Committee proposed a resolution in support of the county’s purchase of the Energy Resource Recovery Facility (also known as Waste-to-Energy Plant) in Lorton. Because the Board of Supervisors’ deadline for public comment on purchase is February 22 (and the purchase decision by contract must be made by the county by March 3), this resolution was not first cleared by the Federation board before being presented to the membership. To bring a policy position motion to the floor for consideration without prior board clearance, Federation bylaws (Article V, Section 7) require a two-thirds vote at the membership meeting. The motion for consideration failed to muster two-thirds and the resolution was not considered. Consequently the Federation takes no position on this issue.

The county staff’s frequently-asked-questions and answers regarding the purchase recommendation are found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/navbar/faqs/waste-to-energy-facility.htm>. Staff responses to questions raised by the community during recent informal public information meetings are available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trash/w-to-e-1-31-report.htm. The Federation has been an active participant during the public meetings.

Human Services—Cherie Tripp Lejeune (designate)—no report

Land Use—Fred Costello

In support of the Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force, Fred has been part of a large group developing an overview report called “The Vision.” The work has been hotly contested, although only over minor points. Traffic impact has not been analyzed, although road improvements have been proposed.

Legislation—Frank Anderson

Please complete the survey about your top priorities for legislation and send your feedback to Frank via email to fedlegislationchr2010@fairfaxfederation.org. The survey is also available in our February newsletter to help with circulation.

Policies and Procedures—Bill Hanks

The policies and procedure, last updated in 2003, support the bylaws by specifying how things are to be done. A two-year re-write is near completion and will be presented to the board in March for consideration by the board in April.

Public Safety—G. Gail Parker

New member Gabe Goldberg introduced himself: a graduate of the Citizens Police Academy and a member of the Mason Police District Citizens Advisory Council. He has requested a Federation seat on the (county police) Chief’s Council.

The public safety committee is monitoring the county's development of a plan for disaster recovery. This topic was presented in February's *The Bulletin*.

Resolutions—Bill Hanks—no report

Transportation—Carey Campbell, Roger Hoskins, and Jeff Parnes—no report

Website—Jeff Parnes

Please continue to give the webmasters Kosmo Tatalias and Jeff your feedback for website updates on committee pages by emailing them at fedwebmaster2010@fairfaxfederation.org. They plan to streamline the website by shift some content from the currently large first page to committee pages.

District Council Reports

Seven supervisor districts have councils of citizens associations; Dranesville & Hunter Mill districts do not.

Braddock—Art Wells

The February meeting featured presentations on five projects carried out by participants in the recent Neighborhood College. The March 9 meeting will address the budget. The Wakefield Chapel Parking Committee meets February 22. The next Leadership Institute will be held February 26. The Mason Bypass (a new road to enter George Mason University bypassing Ox & Braddock Roads intersection) committee meets March 29th.

Lee—Don Hinman

Lee District has created a Penn Daw Special Study Task Force. Several large commercial properties along North Kings Highway are being proposed for redevelopment after several major stores closed. The task force involves both the property owners and the residents of nearby communities; they seek mutually agreeable county plan revisions for the Penn Daw properties.

The next monthly meeting of the Lee District Association of Civic Associations (LDACO) will be on February 23 at 7:30 pm. The presentation will be on county zoning enforcement and code compliance.

Mason—Keith Taggart—no report

Mount Vernon—Karen Pohorylo—no report

Providence—Charlie Hall

The February 15 meeting featured election of officers and a presentation by school board member Patty Reed. The meeting prior to that focused on the budget with the Federation's Kosmo Tatalias speaking. Delegate Bulova is sponsoring a bill in the General Assembly to upgrade the gasoline tank farm.

Springfield—Mike Thompson—no report

Sully—Jeff Parnes—no report

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Next Meetings

In March the board meeting will occur before the membership meeting to facilitate development of budget recommendations.

- Board meeting is March 17, 2011, 7:30 p.m. at the Packard Center, Annandale.
- Membership meeting is March 24, 2011, 7:30 p.m. at the Packard Center, Annandale.

Minutes written by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary