

Board Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2011

Approved April 28, 2011

The March meeting of the Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Tania Hossain at 7:38 p.m. at the Packard Center in Annandale.

Present: Carey Campbell, Fred Costello, Charles Dane, Esther Ferington, Joe Gibson (guest from the McLean Citizens Association), Charles Hall, Bill Hanks, Tania Hossain, Gail Parker, Kosmo Tatalias, Tim Thompson, Art Wells, Flint Webb, Ed Wyse, and Mark Zetts (guest from the McLean Citizens Association).

Administrative Topics

Calendar—Tania Hossain

Tania reviewed the upcoming events calendar that was published in the agenda and is on the web site. She announced the picnic part of the June 16 meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.; the program will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The Bulletin (newsletter)—Fred Costello

Information and articles for the April edition of *The Bulletin* are due to the editor by March 21.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes—Ed Wyse

With two minor changes, the board approved the minutes of the February 24, 2011, board meeting.

Treasurer's Report—Scott Schlegel

The board voted to receive and file the treasurer's report.

The membership of the Raymondale Civic Association that was received late in the 2009-2010 membership year has been recategorized to apply to the 2010-2011 membership year. Dues from the Montebello Condominium Unit Owners Association were received twice; after coordination with the association its second payment has been applied for the 2011-2012 membership year.

Filling Vacant Federation Positions on County Boards, Authorities, Committees, and Commissions—Don Hinman

We are talking with one volunteer who is interested in filling positions to both the Community Action Advisory Board and the Citizen Corps Council.

The Federation still seeks a volunteer as representative to the Engineering Standards Review Committee.

Membership—Kahan Dhillon

Three associations renewed their memberships this month: the Mantua Citizens Association, the Civic Association of West Springfield Village (through 2011-2012), and the Broyhill Crest Citizens Association.

Tania has contacted twenty-two prospective members by phone; two have said they will join the Federation.

Membership in the Arts Council of Fairfax County—Tania Hossain

The Arts Council of Fairfax County has been working to reconstitute their internal structure. The Federation is a voting member and has submitted its vote by proxy to support the planned reorganization. Also, we expect the support that we pay for use of the Packard Center to increase by 5–10% soon.

Old Business

Citizen of the Year—*Jeff Parnes*

Jeff provided board members a detailed update via e-mail on March 17; highlights are extracted here. The banquet will be held at the Tysons Corner Crown Plaza, where it was held last year, on either Saturday, May 14, or Sunday, May 15. The board expressed its preference for May 15.

New and Miscellaneous Business—none

Board & Committee Reports

Budget—*Carey Campbell and Charlie Hall*

The primary purpose and activity of this meeting was review of the budget committee's draft budget resolution. Charlie Hall chaired this portion of the meeting after thanking other members of the Federation for their input and participation in the resolution writing process. The results of the review are to be documented in the revised draft budget resolution to be presented to the membership meeting on March 24; therefore detailed coverage of this discussion is not recorded in these minutes.

Citizen Association Services—*Don Hinman—no report*

Education—*Leonard Bumbaca, Ed Saperstein, & Tim Thompson*

March 11: Three committee members attended the first of three public hearings on the FCPS discipline policy. The school board asked the staff many questions to be answered by April 4.

March 15: Three committee members also attended the school board and Board of Supervisors joint meeting on the budget.

March 15: Two committee members participated in the Supervisor's Advisory Committee meeting at Finance Park.

Environment—*Flint Webb*

The native seedling sale sponsored by the Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District is underway. See the seedling sale web site <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.htm>. Orders are due by while supplies last until April 11th and seedlings can be picked up on Friday April 15th through Saturday April 16th.

March 15-27: Environmental Film Festival in the District of Columbia. For further information see <http://www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org/>. The film festival features 150 films at 60 venues.

April 4: Community Climate Conference at George Mason University from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. See www.NOVACAN.org.

Stream cleanup season has begun. See Alice Ferguson Foundation web site http://www.fergusonfoundation.org/trash_initiative/rc_sites.shtml. Stream cleanup events in Fairfax County have already started but most of the clean ups will be on April 9th.

April 19: Green Living Expo at Washington Lee High School, 1301 N. Stafford Street, Arlington 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Human Services—*Cherie Lejeune—no report*

Land Use—*Fred Costello*

The Reston Task Force has passed its Planning Principles.

Legislation—*Frank Anderson*

Frank is scheduling legislators to speak at the May Membership Meeting "Report from Richmond."

Public Safety—*G. Gail Parker*—no report

Resolutions and Policies and Procedures (P&P)—*Bill Hanks*

Bill introduced a draft updated Policies and Procedures directive for consideration at the next board meeting. (Actually Bill e-mailed the document to all board members on March 16.) The board voted to accept and file the document for consideration at the next meeting.

Transportation—*Carey Campbell, Roger Hoskins, and Jeff Parnes (information not disseminated in the meeting but reported by inclusion in these minutes)*

Alternatives for Improving Roadway Services

The Board of Supervisors has asked staff to conduct a study evaluating Alternatives for Improving Roadway Services in Fairfax County. Virginia is one of four states in which the construction, maintenance and operation of roads are a state function rather than a county function. Cities have always had local control, and Arlington and Henrico counties negotiated an arrangement in the 1930s for them to maintain control (the state assumed the responsibility during the depression, as many counties could no longer afford to do so). Recently several other counties have negotiated with VDOT to assume local control, although their arrangements do not provide them with the same level of funding as Arlington and Henrico counties receive.

Each jurisdiction that has either retained or assumed responsibility reports satisfaction with local control. Each also reports that they spend more for construction, maintenance, and operation than the funds provided by the state. In the report referenced above the county reported that as VDOT does not provide services by county, VDOT was unable to provide costs specifically attributed to Fairfax County, but could only provide information about the Northern Virginia district that includes Fairfax, Loudon and Prince William counties.

Assumption of these responsibilities therefore involves unknowns, as even the level of service provided by the state is unquantified. The Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) (which Jeff Parnes chairs), acting as a citizen's review board by the request of the Board of Supervisors, provided its comments to the Board. The review stressed first the uncertainties of funding and of the level of service we are currently receiving from the state and second the high levels of service and responsiveness that our residents expect from the county in all it does and would expect if the county took over the responsibility. The TAC recommended that the county explore a pilot program before it took over responsibility for the whole county.

Already at least one supervisor has publicly announced support for assumption of responsibility. This will be a matter for the board to decide, weighing the benefits of local control of operations, design and responsiveness to citizen concerns against the unknowns of both ongoing costs and one-time set up fees, service levels provided, and expected costs and budget constraints.

No impact to the 2012 budget is expected, but future years' budgets will see significant impacts if the board decides to go forward with local control.

Transportation Committee website updates.

The committee's page has links to:

- Mark Tipton, the FCFCA representative, Trails and Sidewalks Committee, on 16 March 2011 provided:
 - o The Transportation Projects Status Report for February regarding roads, sidewalks, trails, and bus shelters
 - o Fairfax County Park Authority presentation of current and planned trail improvements. Most of the trail projects are already funded from park bonds, federal funds, etc. and some are under construction. However, a few of the projects are not yet funded, or need neighborhood support to proceed.
- Dulles Corridor Rail Association (DCRA) President Patty Nicoson presented "Ten Things Every Business Needs to Know about Dulles Rail" to the Dulles Area Transportation (DATA) group on 16 March 2011.

- The Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) was briefed on the “Safe Route to School” program” by the Washington Area Bicyclist Association on 15 March 2011.
- The Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee on 1 March 2011 received these presentations:
 - o The I95 HOT Lanes proposal by VDOT
 - o Staff study on Alternatives for Improving Roadway Services
 - o The Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission, acting as a Citizens Review Committee, review of the Staff’s proposal on Alternatives for Improving Roadway Services
 - o Proposed Transportation Funding Policy Changes by FDOT.
- The Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee on 1 February 2011 received these presentations:
 - o VDOT and the Federal Highway Administration gave a joint presentation on the status of BRAC transportation Improvements
 - o BRAC Successes and Remaining Issues by VDOT
 - o Gina Arlotto, of the Washington Area Bicyclists Association, briefed on the Safe Routes to School program in Fairfax County.
- The Transportation Advisory Commission on 4 January 2011 received an update on the I-495 HOT Lanes Project.

Website—Jeff Parnes

Committee chairs were urged to add current information to their sections.

District Council Reports

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

Braddock—Art Wells—*(The following information was not disseminated in the meeting but is reported by inclusion in these minutes)*

The Braddock District Council’s (BDC) March 9 meeting featured two staff members from the Department of Management and Budget who presented an excellent briefing on the FY 2012 Advertised Budget.

Supervisor Cook is hosting town hall meetings on the FY 2012 Advertised Budget; the first was held March 14 at Robinson High School and the second will be held March 23, at the West Springfield High School, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The next meeting of the Braddock District Citizens Budget Advisory Committee will be March 22 at 7:30 p.m. at Braddock Hall. Guest speakers will be from the Department of Management and Budget, to include the Information Technology Division.

The annual Annandale Dialogue on Diversity will be held March 23, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Annandale High School cafeteria.

The next in the series of public meetings on the GMU bypass around the Route 123 and Braddock Road intersection will be held on March 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the Villa Elementary School.

The Monticello Park Master Planning meeting will be held April 4 at 7 p.m. at the Bonnie Brae Elementary School.

The theme of the BDC’s April 13 meeting will be its annual “Legislative Forum” featuring Northern Virginia members of the General Assembly who will discuss the highlights of the 2011 session. Location and time are Robinson High School Blue Cafeteria at 7:30 p.m.

An environmental leadership town hall meeting will be held on May 7 with time and location to be announced.

Lee—Don Hinman—no report

Mason—*Keith Taggart*—no report

Mount Vernon—*Karen Pohorylo*—no report

Providence—*Flint Webb*—no report

Two county budget officials attended the meeting of the Lee District Association of Civic Organizations (LDACO).

Springfield—*Mike Thompson*—no report

Sully—*Jeff Parnes*—no report

The February 23 meeting topic was Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) and featured presentations by Kathy Smith, Chairman and Sully District Member, Fairfax County School Board, and Kristen Michael, FCPS.

Adjournment—The meeting adjourned at 12:45 a.m.

Next Meetings

The March membership meeting will be March 24. In April the membership meeting will be on April 14; the board meeting on April 28. All meetings start at 7:30 p.m. in the Packard Center, Annandale.

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary