

## Board Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2011

Approved May 26, 2011

The April meeting of the Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Tania Hossain at 7:30 p.m. at the Packard Center in Annandale.

Present: Fred Costello, Charles Dane, Esther Ferington, Joe Gibson (guest from the McLean Citizens Association), Bill Hanks, Roger Diedrich, Tania Hossain, Cherie LeJeune, Jeff Parnes, Art Wells, Flint Webb, and Ed Wyse

The focus of this meeting was review and approval of proposed revisions to the Federation's Policies and Procedures. Highlights of this portion of the meeting are described in New and Miscellaneous Business.

### Administrative Topics

#### **Calendar**—*Tania Hossain*

**Officers and Board Vacancies and Appointments**—*Don Hinman*—The board approved the appointment of Loretta Prencipe of Mason District as Federation Representative to the Citizens Corps Council. Some board members will leave their posts at the end of the membership year; recruitment of replacements has begun.

#### **The Bulletin (newsletter)**—*Fred Costello*

Information and articles for the April edition of *The Bulletin* are due to the editor by April 29.

#### **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes**—*Ed Wyse*

The board approved the minutes of the March 17, 2011, board meeting.

#### **Treasurer's Report**—*Scott Schlegel*

There have been no changes to the financial report since last week's membership meeting.

#### **Nominating Committee Membership**—*Jeff Parnes*

Committee members are (one past president) John Jennison, (two district representatives) Jeff Parnes and Art Wells, and (two representatives of member organizations) Charles Dane and Joe Gibson.

### Old Business

#### **Citizen of the Year Award and Banquet**—*Jeff Parnes*

The banquet will be held at the Tysons Corner Crown Plaza on Sunday, May 15. The board discussed RSVP status to date and how to reach other sources of potential attendees. Members of the board are strongly urged to attend, as this is the Federation's signature annual event. Jeff also called for volunteers this weekend. He distributed, explained, and accepted feedback on the draft program.

### New and Miscellaneous Business

#### **Annual Picnic**—*Tania*

Members should RSVP to Scott Schlegel their attendance plans and what items they plan to bring to this potluck.

#### **Policies and Procedures (P&P) Revision**—*Bill Hanks*

As background, Bill has chaired a special committee of three past presidents—himself, John Fee, and John Jennison—that over the past two years has drafted revisions to the Federation's Policies and Procedures document, last updated in 2003. Sitting presidents—Jeff Parnes and Tania Hossain—also participated in committee deliberations.

Bill chaired this portion of the meeting during which the board reviewed the document page by page. Board approved changes included:

- Adding supplements on web site administration and on the Citizen of the Year award and banquet.
- Adding a description of core duties for each of the ten standing committees.
- Restoring a grace period from July-December during which associations that are late in renewing membership may still exercise voting rights.
- Extending the period of initial membership for new members who pay dues during the January-June period to the end of June in the following year.

A "near-final revision" of the 2011 edition of Policies & Procedures will be emailed to board members prior to the May 26th Board Meeting.

The board commended the committee for its excellent work in writing the revised policies and procedures.

### **Board & Committee Reports**

**Education**—*Leonard Bumbaca, Ed Saperstein, & Tim Thompson (Charlie Dane reported.)*

Ed Saperstein is drafting testimony to be given to the school board on the budget, with four main recommendations:

- Compensation—a single amount monetary award to all employees that would be added to base salaries
- Full-Day Kindergarten—implement full-day kindergarten in all schools in 2011-12, even if funds must be diverted from other programs
- Class size—seek innovative ways to continue small class size electives, e.g., by adding more online instruction and college-style lecture hall-size classes for some highly enrolled high school subjects
- Discipline—support review of discipline procedures, seeking flexibility, common sense, and safety.

The board unanimously approved the proposed testimony to be identified by the Education Committee representative as board-approved positions.

On May 3-4, the school board will hold meetings with stakeholders. Charlie will participate on May 3 with these points to make. On budget, pursue the compensation and full-day kindergarten positions addressed above. On future issues, seek cost effective ways to learn foreign languages, seek to mitigate unforeseen consequences of implementing more rigorous standardized testing (for example, calibrate test scores to be equivalent between old and new tests), and review teacher workloads.

**Environment**—*Roger Diedrich and Flint Webb*

The Fairfax Committee of 100 meeting topic on April 21 was *Cleaning Up the Chesapeake Bay—Do We Really Mean It This Time?*, presented by Randy Bartlett, Deputy Director of Public Works and Environmental Services, Fairfax County. Mr. Bartlett explained what new regulations mean for Fairfax County; he considers the challenge daunting and expects the standards to continue to evolve. Mr. Bartlett pointed out that the 1 ½ penny (county tax per \$100 residential real estate assessment) for storm water will not be close to sufficient to meet the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) limits required for the Chesapeake Bay, let alone managing the county's storm water infrastructure.

May 5 is the date of the next Virginia Urban Forest Council NOVA Roundtable at Gainesville, 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Information and registration is available at [http://treesvirginia.org/joomla/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=50&Itemid=61](http://treesvirginia.org/joomla/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=50&Itemid=61).

50th Green Breakfast, May 14th at Brion's Grille, 10621 Braddock Rd. Fairfax, 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 am. Speaker: Marshall Cohen, Senior Director, State and Local Government Affairs, Nuclear Energy Institute. Topic: Electricity from Nuclear Energy – update on situation in Japan and current and future status in the US. It should be an interesting discussion of the environmental pros and cons of nuclear energy. More information is available at <http://virginia.sierraclub.org/greatfalls/calendar/e240.html>.

The Clean Air Partners' Annual Meeting and Awards Event will be held on Wednesday, May 18th at Nationals Park, located in Washington, DC. This year's theme is "The Air We Share: Working Together for Cleaner Air." A brief Board Meeting will be held from 5:00 to 5:45 pm, followed by an awards presentation and reception to recognize the winners of the annual poster contest and science fairs. There will also be plenty of time to enjoy a special behind-the-scenes tour of the ballpark. More information is at

[http://www.mwcog.org/calendar/detail.asp?EVENT\\_ID=7337&MONTH\\_CHOICE=5&DAY\\_CHOICE=18&YEAR\\_CHOICE=2011](http://www.mwcog.org/calendar/detail.asp?EVENT_ID=7337&MONTH_CHOICE=5&DAY_CHOICE=18&YEAR_CHOICE=2011).

On June 10 the Region Forward Coalition holds a Kickoff Meeting, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at George Mason University, Founders Hall, Room 125, 3351 Fairfax Drive, Arlington. More information is at <http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=d8cb4a53b2de6c5b569baa5fe&id=209d27b9b2&e=a441e8b6b6>. Roger Diedrich can't attend; the Federation would like to send another representative.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) has issued the draft Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) schedule for the coming 12 months. The schedule is available at <http://www.mwcog.org/uploads/committee-documents/bF5WXV9Z20110411152121.pdf>.

There are a number of bills in Congress dealing with environmental issues including a bill (HR 910) that would tie EPA's hands for regulating greenhouse gasses (GHGs), which would not only limit EPA's ability to control GHGs but also ozone depleting chemicals and other pollutants such as soot which also are also GHGs as well as having other environmental impacts. For the latest information on global warming see James Hansen's web site:

[http://www.columbia.edu/%7Ejeh1/mailings/2011/20110415\\_EnergyImbalancePaper.pdf](http://www.columbia.edu/%7Ejeh1/mailings/2011/20110415_EnergyImbalancePaper.pdf). James Hansen is at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

#### **Transportation—Carey Campbell, Roger Hoskins, and Jeff Parnes**

Jeff introduced a draft letter to be sent to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) on the Transaction 2040 plan. The Federation proposes additional funding to ensure sufficiently analysis and public input regarding long-range transportation plans before funds are committed to projects. The board unanimously approved the letter.

#### **District Council Reports**

**Braddock—**Art Wells (*Because the review of the policies and procedures document was the focal point of the meeting, the Braddock report was not given verbally; rather it is reported by inclusion in these minutes.*)

The council held its annual "Legislative Forum" on April 13. Participants included two supervisors, two members each from the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates, two candidates for Braddock District Supervisor and school board.

The George Mason University—Braddock District Forum will next meet on May 4, at 7:30 p.m. at the Sherwood Community Center on Old Lee Highway. On the agenda: updates on GMU's "Good Neighbor Program" and the GMU Western Bypass, a program in the Commonwealth's Six-Year Transportation Program with \$15 million assured for the project.

The Braddock District Supervisor's office is sponsoring an Environmental Leadership Institute on May 7, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Oaks Community Center, Burke.

#### **Sully—**Jeff Parnes

The boards of the Western Fairfax County Citizens Association and the Sully District Council of Citizens Associations will meet in May to discuss plans to merge the organizations effective January 2012.

**Adjournment**—The meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

#### **Next Meetings**

The next membership meeting will be May 19, the Federation's Annual Meeting (and Election of Officers) with the program featuring a "Report from Richmond" identifying major actions of the recently concluded

General Assembly session as reported by a bipartisan panel of Senators and Delegates. The next board meeting will be on May 26. Both meetings start at 7:30 p.m. in the Packard Center, Annandale.

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary