

Board Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2011

Approved January 26, 2012

The December meeting of the Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Tania Hossain at 7:00 p.m. at the Marco Polo Restaurant in Vienna.

Present: Leonard Bumbaca, Fred Costello, Charlie Dane, Joe Gibson, Bill Hanks, Don Hinman, Tania Hossain, Cherie Lejeune, Jeff Parnes, Flint Webb, and Ed Wyse.

Administrative and Organizational Topics – Tania Hossain

Officers and Board Vacancies and Appointments: Joe Gibson—The remaining unfilled Federation representative position is to the Engineering Standards Review Committee. Several candidates are under consideration.

The Bulletin (newsletter) – Fred Costello

The deadline for articles for the next newsletter is December 28.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – Ed Wyse

The board approved the minutes of the October meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Scott Schlegel

There was no treasurer's report. In Scott's absence, Tania reported the financial situation is unchanged since the last treasurer's report.

Old Business—None

New & Miscellaneous Business

Federation Dues Rate—Bill Hanks proposed a 50% reduction in dues for next year on the grounds that the dues used to finance the publication on paper and mailing of physical newsletters, both of activities are now accomplished online via e-mail and website posting. Discussion covered whether the current dues are a disincentive for prospective members, what inspires associations to join the Federation, what the Federation can do to improve its services and collaboration with associations, and whether the information sharing available from our web site should be online for all to read (status quo), restricted to member associations, or some hybrid arrangement. The discussion also covered improved processes to increase membership. Greater use of the Federation's interactive membership web section to provide information to members only was also discussed. No decisions were taken at this meeting.

Board and Committee Reports

Budget—*Carey Campbell and Charlie Hall*—Kosmo Tatalias will not be available to assist with development of this year's budget position. His leadership will be missed. Linda Boone has volunteered to help.

Citizen Association Services—*Don Hinman*—The CASC recently responded to a citizen concerned about possibly improper procedures being followed by his HOA Board. Don supplied him information how to file a complaint with the Common Interest Community Board (CICB) in Richmond. He also emphasized the importance, in preparation for filing a complaint with the CICB, of properly following internal HOA communication procedures and fully documenting those communications.

Don helped one group who asked him how a currently unrepresented area can form a civic association. Don told them it is easy and he recommends it is best to incorporate. Advice how-to-form a civic association is a good service for the Federation to provide and Don would like to place this advice on our website.

Citizen of the Year (COY)—*Jeff Parnes*—Solicitation of nominations began on December 1 and will close on January 31, 2012. Jeff reported the status of speaker selection. (This information is not

published in minutes.) Please share the Federation's COY press release with members of the community.

1. Because COY criteria includes not being reimbursed for the service for which considered, Jeff reported he had told an interested party that the \$15,000 a year stipend that planning commissioners receive make them ineligible. The board concurred.
2. The board discussed whether, at the COY banquet, to recognize other organizations' equivalent awardees. The board decided this would be okay.
3. Jeff asked whether the board would authorize use of an online payment system for COY banquet tickets and estimated the annual cost would be \$180. The board agreed this would be okay but some suggested that lower priced services are available. The intent is to minimize at-the-door payments and to only accept these by check or cash, not by credit card.
4. Jeff called for volunteers to join the COY committee.

Education—*Leonard Bumbaca, Ed Saperstein, & Tim Thompson*—Leonard reported that the elections have resulted in a large turnover in the school board and that the new members have campaigned on a platform of greater transparency. Members of the old and new boards are scheduled for a retreat this month to plan the transition; the Federation's Education Committee will participate. Kristen Michael, Director, Office of Budget, FCPS, will be the speaker for the Federation's January program on the school budget.

Environment—*Roger Diedrich and Flint Webb*—On December 5th Roger and Flint attended a reorganizing meeting of Friends of Accotink Creek (FACc)(<http://www.accotink.org/>). The FACc is going through a transition where they need to have new leadership, just as the importance of such groups is increasing. At the meeting there were a lot of plans discussed including holding a summit of similar groups to share lessons learned, which the Federation will be supporting as plans develop. Flint has taken on the task of drafting up bylaws for a more formal organization. He feels developing a more formal organizational structure will be key to helping the organization grow and be sustained. Flint encourages anyone in the basin participate.

Human Services—*Cherie Lejeune*—Tania asked Cherie to describe her recent community support projects. First, she arranged a Thanksgiving meal for 106 seniors after successfully soliciting support from Whole Foods. Next she has organized a "tea party" for 200 seniors later in December. Cherie says it's amazing what anyone can accomplish for the community; it's just a matter of trying. Cherie also described limited-access online bulletin boards that two communities have established for information sharing.

Land Use—*Fred Costello*—Fred introduced a letter he proposes the Federation membership approve for sending to the Board of Supervisors arguing against re-zoning for the purpose of circumventing lot-width requirements. Jeff proposed that Fred reformat into a resolution with a cover letter to present to the membership meeting. The board agreed to present this to-be-written resolution to the membership on December 15.

Legislation—*Frank Anderson and Jason Ha*—The Federation's 2012 Legislative Program will be distributed on Friday, December 9, 2011. Tania noted that Frank and Jason did a fine job in marshalling the Federation's annual Legislative Program, especially considering that this was the first complete budget position cycle for either of them.. They have decided to be more proactive next year in soliciting membership and committee input earlier in the schedule.

Membership—*Don Hinman*—Welcome to the Mantua Citizens Association as our newest member for the 2011-2012 year. The Mantua's annual schedule of board turnover and budgeting makes it difficult for them to pay on time in accord with the Federation's membership year.

The online membership application form is working well.

Tania reported that our member organizations represent about 37,000 homes out of about 300,000 home in the county that meet the criteria to be in a homeowners association or civic association , an overall 12% representation rate. (Note: The county has 100,000 housing units—commercial rentals—in addition to the HOA/CA eligible 300,000.)

Public Safety—*As'ad Hess-Linckost*—no report

Resolutions and Policies and Procedures (P&P)—*Bill Hanks*—no report

Transportation—*Carey Campbell, Roger Hoskins, and Jeff Parnes*—Jeff attended a meeting on December 5 concerning the proposed Columbia Pike Transit Initiative. Where the trolley will end in the Skyline area of Fairfax County will greatly affect the capital cost. The longest (and hence most expensive) option provides the most beneficial location for the terminus.

On December 7 Jeff attended a Dulles Corridor Information mtg – Various organizations including WMAA made presentations regarding development and transportation plans for the corridor including:

- a) County staff showing future Tysons Corner plans,
- b) Improvements to the Dulles Toll Road and expected toll increases
- c) Dulles Rail Construction
- d) I495 HOT lanes Construction
- e) etc.

VDOT is conducting an online survey for area commuters regarding the multi-modal I-66 study (I-66 inside the Beltway). (*Note: On December 12 this survey was observed as closed.*)

Jeff noted the recent letter in the Washington Post by the chairs of boards of supervisors of Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties, noting their disagreement with Commonwealth devolution of highway maintenance responsibilities if it is not supported by adequate funding.

Jeff reported the Governor's proposals to shift some tax revenue to transportation falls far short of the projected requirements. Currently transportation infrastructure spending in Northern Virginia falls short of the requirement by a half billion dollars. The Governor's plans call for increased incremental future funding, but nothing to address the large existing funding gap.

Website—*Jeff Parnes*— The webmasters are introducing a new format. Pages are reformatted as new content is added. Anyone who would care to join the Transportation Committee Mailing list to receive Committee updates should contact the webmasters or the committee chairs. Jeff is working in reverse chronological order adding captions with names to Citizen of the Year banquet photographs. The last three years are completed. He'd appreciate feedback from anyone who can name someone whom he failed to identify.

District Council Reports

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

Braddock—*Art Wells*—Braddock hosted a "Taste of Braddock" event.

Lee—*Don Hinman*—The annual Lee District banquet was held Wednesday December 8 at the Springfield Hilton. Two local historians who are volunteers at the Franconia Museum—*Don Hakenson* and *Carl Sell*—gave an excellent historical presentation on Civil War events in the area.

The Lee District Citizen of the Year is *Suzette Kern*, who has chaired the Lee District Budget Advisory Committee for several years. The Distinguished Public Service Professional Award went to *Lloyd Tucker*, a Regional Manager in the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, who is well known for his work with children and teens. The Distinguished Public Service Professional Award went to outgoing county executive *Tony Griffin*.

Mason—*John Birch*—*Don Hinman* reported a Beauregard Community Meeting will be held on the Beauregard Corridor Plan on December 12. The BRAC-133 Advisory Group meets December 14.

Providence—*Flint Webb*—*Flint Webb* was awarded Community Service Award by the Providence District Council. The district council's holiday party was December 7. *Tanya* attended representing the Federation.

Sully—Jeff Parnes—The December program is on the I-66 Alternative Traffic Management and the January Program is Public Safety Night. The November meeting was a report on Loudoun county transportation and development activities.

There were no reports from the other district councils. Their representatives are; Mount Vernon—Karen Pohorylo and Springfield—Mike Thompson.

Joe Gibson reported that the McLean Citizens Association (MCA) provided input on December 7 on Falls Church water rates. They also met with Walter Alcorn and Jay Donahue of the Fairfax County Planning Commission regarding how to pay for Tysons infrastructure. MCA proposes a cost sharing ratio of 75/25 developers/taxpayers.

Adjournment—The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Next Meetings

The next membership meeting will be December 15, 7:30 p.m., in the Packard Center, Annandale. The program topic is land use.

The next board meeting will be January 26, 7:30 p.m., in the Packard Center, Annandale.

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary