

Membership Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 23, 2012

Approved March 22, 2012

The February 2012 meeting of the Membership 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. The attendance list is attached to the file copy of the minutes.

Program

Fairfax County Services for Homeowner Associations (HOA) and Condo Associations—Michelle Thompson, Fairfax County's Community Association Liaison—Michelle described the support her office provides to HOA's and condo associations and discussed current issues and problem-solving channels available for these organizations and their members.

Virginia Legislative Update for Homeowner Associations (HOA) and Condo Associations—Don Hinman—Don is Chair of the Federation's Citizen Association Services Committee and one of three community association volunteer leaders on the board of the Virginia Legislative Action Committee of the Community Association Institute. He is involved in representing the interests of HOA/Condo Associations in Richmond and provided an update on bills introduced during this session of the General Assembly that would affect HOA/Condo Associations, along with the status of the bills in the legislative process.

Both Michelle's and Don's presentation slides will be posted on the Citizen Association Services Committee page of the Federation's web site. Don and Tania thanked Michelle for sharing so much useful information for us and presented her with a Federation mug.

Administrative Topics

The Bulletin (Newsletter)—Fred Costello, Editor—Newsletter articles are due to the editor by February 29, 2012.

Minutes—Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary—The membership approved the minutes of the January 2012 meeting.

Treasurer's Report—Scott Schlegel, Treasurer—There has been no change since the prior month's report except that one additional membership check has been received but not yet deposited.

Membership—Don Hinman, 1st Vice President—Welcome to the newest paid up member: Bonnie Brae Civic Association.

Federation Appointments—Joe Gibson, 2nd Vice President—The board has approved two nominations; the Federation last week sent letters recommending these nominations to the appointing authorities for these Federation representatives:

- Frank Crandall, re-appointment to Airports Advisory Committee.
- Jim Phelps, initial appointment to the Engineering Standards Review Committee.

2011 Citizen of the Year (COY) Award and Banquet—Jeff Parnes, Chair—The selection committee has determined the winners:

- Citizen of the Year—Planning Commissioner Walter Alcorn
- Citation of Merit—Ellie Ashford of Annandale, Corazon Foley of Springfield, and Terry Maynard of Reston
- Special Gratitude Award—former Braddock District Planning Commissioner Suzanne Harsel

The banquet will be held Sunday, March 25, 2012, with cocktails starting at 5:30 p.m., at the Tysons Crowne Plaza. All are invited; please come. The cost is \$65 per ticket and may be obtained via the Federation website at <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/index.htm>.

Also, the Citizen of the Year Committee Chair, Jeff Parnes, could use volunteers to help with the things that just have to be done at the banquet. If you might be willing to help, contact Jeff at fedpastpres2012@fairfaxfederation.org.

Availability of Packard Center in Future—Ed Wyse, who yesterday attended a meeting of the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) and Packard Center tenants, reported. Currently the Arts Council of Fairfax County leases the Packard Center from the FCPA and sublets space to the Federation and others. The Federation leases space to store our files (1/3 of an office; 48 sq. ft.) and to hold our twice monthly meetings. The Federation also uses the Packard Center as its USPS address and has access to the Arts Council photocopier during and between our meetings. The Arts Council's lease expires April 30, 2012, at which time the Arts Council will relocate and the FCPA will lease directly to the current tenants. At this time tenants are jockeying to switch rooms and acquire additional space, including the conference room in which we hold our meetings.

- Our options are, for our file cabinets, to lease directly from the FCPA one small room of 73 sq. ft. at \$648 annually for combined rent and janitorial services, with escalation in future years, or to sublease from one of the other tenants, namely the Fairfax Choral Society (FCS), which offered this arrangement.
- There is only one option in the Packard Center for continued access to the conference room. This room will be leased to the Japanese Americans' Care Fund (JACF) who will retain the open venue and has indicated a willingness to allow the Federation access for its evening meetings.
- For photocopier support, the FCS is willing to make its photocopier available.
- Continue use of the USPS address appears possible with the FCPA to take the lead in coordinating arrangements with the USPS and tenants.

As initial contacts were made yesterday, we have not yet negotiated rates with the FCS and the JACF.

Old Business and New and Miscellaneous Business

Search for a New County Executive—Tania—In response to a question, Tania explained that the Federation has provided input in the selection of the next County Executive. The Federation distributed an online survey for membership to complete; Tania and Immediate Past President Jeff Parnes participated in two of the selection committee meetings; and Mike Thompson, Springfield District Council Representative, provided written input to Tania which she submitted to the county's selection process committee.

Water Rates Resolution—Tania

Tania announced that the next membership meeting will consider a resolution on the issue of City of Falls Church Water Utility rates. This entity provides water to much of McLean, Merrifield, and Tysons Corner. The resolution will call for transparency in the establishment of rates and a participatory role for Fairfax County in the setting of these rates because 92% of the City of Falls Church Water Utility's customers reside in Fairfax County. Tania is researching the issue and writing the initial draft of the resolution which she will refer to the Resolutions Chairman for final phrasing and introduction at the board meeting on March 15th.

Meeting with Chairman, Board of Supervisors—Tania

Tania is scheduled to meet with Chairman Bulova on March 29 to discuss future partnership of the Federation with community stakeholder groups, including the Board of Supervisors.

Board & Committee Reports

Budget—Carey Campbell and Charlie Hall—Development of our annual Budget Position will start soon. Welcome to new member of the committee, Linda Boone.

Citizen Association Services—Don Hinman—The committee provided tonight's program.

Education—Leonard Bumbaca, Ed Saperstein, & Tim Thompson—Members of the committee are engaged in lobbying our officials in Richmond on allowing school districts the authority to set school start dates. They have been coordinating with the Secretary of Education and plan to make a presentation to the Senate committee considering the bill.

Environment—Roger Diedrich & Flint Webb—The next Green Breakfast is scheduled March 10; 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The presentation will be Fairfax County Public Schools Get2 Green program with Elaine Tholen. The location is Brion's Grille: 10621 Braddock Rd., Fairfax.

The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District's 2012 Native Seedling Sale is underway with orders accepted until April 16. Details are available at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.htm>.

Human Services—Cherie Tripp Lejeune—no report.

Land Use—Fred Costello—Chairman Bulova sent the Federation a letter, dated February 10, in response to our letter and resolution regarding loopholes that allow high density infill projects to which neighbors object. In short, she forwarded a response from the Fairfax County Zoning Administrator that says that current PDH standards and an approval process that includes a public hearing provide sufficient protection against approval of undesirable infill projects.

Legislation—Frank Anderson—no report.

Public Safety—As'ad Hess-Linckost—No report.

Resolutions—Bill Hanks— No report.

Transportation—Carey Campbell and Jeff Parnes—No report.

Website—Jeff Parnes—Tania noted that the web site is evolutionary. Please report problems and suggestions to the webmaster: fedwebmaster2012@fairfaxfederation.org

District Council Reports

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

Braddock—Art Wells—no report.

Lee—Don Hinman—The Penn Daw Special Study Task Force split on recommendations for a future vision for development of the land area west of North Kings Highway and surrounding commercial uses comprising about 15 acres. A meeting to present and discuss the transportation analysis and market study will be held on Wednesday, February 29, 2012. The consultants will make a presentation and County staff and Supervisor McKay will answer questions. The Lee District Land Use Committee will tackle this issue at its March 5 meeting. More information is available at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/penndaw/penn_daw_ss.htm.

Mason—John Birch—Mason District Council efforts are focused on:

- Opposition to infill projects that are approved using the PDH zoning classification because of overload on area infrastructure, especially stormwater facilities.
- Participation in environmental projects such as clean ups.
- Fostering emergency planning in neighborhoods.

Mount Vernon—Karen Pohorylo—No report.

Providence—Flint Webb—The program of the February 21 meeting was the issue of City of Falls Church Water rate setting. The program for the March meeting will be the county budget. While a candidate for council president is yet to be found, there are volunteers willing to participate and hope that the council can survive, perhaps at a reduced level of activity.

Springfield—Mike Thompson—No report.

Sully—Jeff Parnes—No report.

Adjournment—The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Next Meetings

The next board meeting is on Thursday, March 15, 2012, (this time on the third Thursday of the month) 7:30 p.m., at the Packard Center, to formulate our draft position on the county budget.

The next membership meeting is Thursday, March 22, 2012 (this time on the fourth Thursday of the month), 7:30 p.m., at the Packard Center. We will host Fairfax County Executive Tony Griffin and our discussion will be to complete our resolution on the County's FY2013 Budget.

Minutes written by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary