

Board Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2012

Approved May 24, 2012

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: Leonard Bumbaca, Charlie Dane, Roger Diedrich, Joe Gibson, Jason Ha, Bill Hanks, Tania Hossain, Cherie Lejeune, Jeff Parnes, Scott Schlegel, Chris Soule, Flint Webb, Art Wells, and Ed Wyse.

Administrative and Organizational Topics – Tania Hossain

Federation Appointments: Joe Gibson, 2nd Vice *President*—Tania Hossain has completed the prerequisites for service with the Fairfax Partnership for Youth and will begin services as the Federation's representative to that organization in June.

The Bulletin (newsletter): Fred Costello, Editor—The deadline for articles for the next newsletter is April 27.

Audit Committee: Tania Hossain, President—Tania appointed the audit committee members: Bill Hanks (chair), Charlie Dane, and Linda Boone.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: Ed Wyse—The board approved the minutes of the March 2012 meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Scott Schlegel—Scott provided a verbal report with handout. The board voted to receive and file the treasurer's report.

Use of Packard Center In the Future: With the Arts Council ending its lease of the Packard Center, Scott noted that the Federation will not lease directly from the new landlord (the Park Authority) effective May 1, but instead will rent our current meeting room from the Japanese Americans' Care Fund (JACF) at a cost of \$20 per hour. He is awaiting the rental forms from JACF. Our plan is to rent the current meeting room for membership meetings only; board meetings will be held in governmental and library facilities.

We will procure Packard Center photocopy support from the Fairfax Choral Society. Ed reported that we are working with other tenants regarding how mail addressed to us at 4022 Hummer Road will be passed to us.

Citizen of the Year (COY): *Jeff Parnes*

The governor has sent recognition to the awardees and copies of the certificates are on our website.

The SAIC donation in support of the award and banquet was received today. SAIC will continue their support next year.

Jeff has signed the contract with the Tysons Crowne Plaza to hold the event April 7, 2013, for the same price and same services, except that the bar will remain open until 15 minutes after the start of coffee serving.

Photographs from the event are now on the Federation website. Jeff asks for help in identifying those people for whom we don't have names on the photo captions. Also related to the website, the webmaster has hidden the nomination form to prevent hackers from submitting bogus nominations.

Stamps and stationary are left over that will be used next year.

Bill Hanks noted that the primary determinant for banquet turnout is not the guest speaker, but rather the awardees.

Membership: Don Hinman—The two lists of members (one kept by the 1st Vice President/President and one by the Treasurer always seem to be out of sync because the applications arrive online and the payment by post. It was decided to change procedures so that the 1stVP/President list indicates newly

joined members with an annotation indicating payment pending and the Treasurer list will add these new members promptly with a zero payment indicator until payment is received.

Webmaster Report: *Jeff Parnes*—Jeff has updated the website so that all committee and district council pages have the new format. Jeff has linked to all active district council websites (Sully, Mount Vernon, Mason, Braddock, and Providence). Where there is no district council (Hunter Mill and Dranesville), Jeff has linked our website to aggregate associations and municipalities in those districts. For district councils, without an active website (Lee and Springfield), Jeff has posted that fact.

The Federation’s budget as presented by Tania is now online.

Calendar: Tania recommended switching the traditionally scheduled dates of the membership meeting (3rd Thursday of the month) and the board meeting (4th Thursday of the month). Discussion addressed how this would change the timing of resolution processing and whether member delegates would be confused by the change. Reference to the Fed’s Policy and Procedures indicated that the traditional meeting dates are published in our guidance document. Tania withdrew the recommendation.

Old Business—None

New & Miscellaneous Business

Nominating Committee: Jeff Parnes—The nominating committee submitted the following slate of candidates to stand for election at the May membership meeting.

Efforts are underway to find one or more candidates for the 2nd Vice President position.

At the May membership meeting the floor will be open for nominations for 2nd Vice President as well as for other positions.

Members of the Nominations Committee are Jeff Parnes (chair), Joe Gibson, Don Hinman, Flint Webb, Chris Soule, and Charlie Dane.

Position	Nominee
President	Tania Hossain (incumbent)
First Vice President	Rob Jackson
Second Vice President	no nomination made
Recording Secretary	Ed Wyse (incumbent)
Corresponding Secretary	Fred Costello (incumbent)
Treasurer	Scott Schlegel (incumbent)

Evolution of Fairfax: Chairman Sharon Bulova, in partnership with the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce and our Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations, is sponsoring the Evolution of Fairfax, a free three-part series on where we are, where we are going, and where we want to be. On June 13, 20, and 27 at George Mason University, panels will examine our shared past, our present state, and our exciting future. Tania encouraged members of the board to participate.

Proposal to Halve the Membership Dues: Bill Hanks proposed to reduce the membership dues by 50%. The purpose was to encourage more associations to join. Bill also noted that the Federation has few expenses other than the banquet which is funded by ticket sales and corporate sponsorship. The annual loss at current membership levels would be about \$500. Other points of view were that annual dues (\$60/\$40/\$20 depending upon association size) are not too high and that reducing revenue would hinder our doing activities that we ought to undertake and would be risky. During discussion the possibility of halving dues for new members only during their first year of membership was proposed. This was thought to be to complicate to explain and to administer. The proposal failed by a vote of 1 for; 8 against; and 2 abstaining.

Determining Association Size for Dues and Voting: The bylaws (Article III, Section 3) specify that the amount of dues and number of voting delegates for an association are determined by a formula based on the number of housing units represented. Civic associations, in which membership is voluntary, usually experience membership rates far below 100% of housing units. Joe Gibson contents that the bylaws, as written, indicate civic associations only can claim to represent their actual members. Others felt that civic associations represent all the housing units within each association’s geographic boundaries. This issue was referred to the resolutions committee to recommend whether the policy for civic association representation should based on the number of members or on the number of housing units in the catchment area, whether the bylaws should be amended, and, if so, how.

Employment as a Limiting Criterion in Awardees Selection: Charlie Dane noted that the Federation's Policies and Procedures (Supplement B, (2)(a)(v)(cc) reads "that elected officials and those whose contributions are related to their employment are ineligible for consideration." He questioned the situation of those in county volunteer positions who receive expense stipends for their volunteer efforts. *[Note: One of this year's awardees is a recipient of expense stipends; however the Federation board had discussed this situation after that particular nomination was received and decided that an expense stipend does not constitute employment. This discussion apparently has not been documented in minutes or anywhere else.]* Examination of this issue revealed that the criteria for Citizen of the Year and Certificate of Merit are in paragraph "(1) Purpose of Awards" while the criteria for the Special Gratitude award is included in a list of items of specifications to be included on the nomination form in paragraph (2)(a)(v). The issue was referred to the Resolutions Committee. The questions are: (1) For each of the three awards, what should be the policy related to employment being a disqualifying criterion and (2) how should the Policies and Procedures read to reflect the proposed policy?

Proposed Resolution Supporting U.S. Constitutional Amendments to Declare Corporations are Not People and That Governments Can Restrict Spending Political Campaign Spending: Roger Diedrich proposed to the board a resolution supporting amendments to the US Constitution on the nature of corporations and declaring that political campaign spending is not freedom of speech. The board discussed which groups were sponsoring this movement, whether the definition of "artificial entities"—intended to mean corporations—would or should also include other organizations such as labor unions and trade associations, how politically charged are the issues, how much interest our members have in this national issue, and what the unintended outcomes of such amendments might be. The board referred the proposed resolution to the Legislative Committee. The earliest the resolution could be presented to the membership would be the September meeting.

Picnic: Tania—All are invited to the picnic. Board members should do their part in bringing food for the potluck and should RSVP with what they are bringing, using our website. Scott reported he has the permit for the Annandale Community Park shelter house.

Board and Committee Reports

Budget: Carey Campbell and Charlie Hall—Tania noted that the Board of Supervisors marked up the proposed Fiscal Year 2013 Budget on April 24 and has scheduled formal adoption of the budget on May 1. If you her to take action on any of the items in our budget resolution, please advise her, although time is short.

Citizen Association Services: *Don Hinman*—no report.

Education: Leonard Bumbaca, Ed Saperstein, & Tim Thompson—With a new superintendant coming on board soon, the committee is studying how it can most effectively contribute to a successful transition.

Environment: *Roger Diedrich and Flint Webb*—Flint and Roger proposed a resolution urging our Congressmen to oppose any attempts within Congress to weaken proposed EPA regulations on air quality standards for new electricity-generating plants, including not to weaken the EPA by reducing funding. In discussion some members felt that funding was a separate issue from regulations. The point was opined that a blank recommendation to not reduce EPA funding agency-wide was too broad. Time wise, this action will pass (or perhaps already has passed) the House but is unlikely to pass the Senate; furthermore the Senate probably would not address the issue until the autumn. The board returned the draft resolution to the committee for refinement, in consultation with the resolutions committee. The earliest the resolution could be acted upon by the board would be in August or September and by the membership after board clearance.

Flint attended a public hearing on Connector busses, especially for Tysons, and immediate plans for express service between Tysons and Dulles and for increased service in South County.

Human Services: *Cherie Lejeune*—The goal is to reach current members and ask if they would like to use the Mobile Neighbor application and what reports they would like.

Land Use: *Fred Costello*—no report.

Legislation: *Frank Anderson and Jason Ha*—Tania requested that the committee promptly provide a list of legislators who will participate in the May Membership meeting so their names can be published in the next issue of *The Bulletin*.

Public Safety: *As'ad Hess-Linckost*—Tania reported they will send the crime prevention alert survey template to the community and then must “sell” it.

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

Transportation: *Carey Campbell, Roger Hoskins, and Jeff Parnes*—The April meeting of the Fairfax Committee of 100, attend by several of our board, was on intercity rail. Attendees learned the state of intercity passenger rail in Virginia, the challenges faced, and the declining levels of Federal support. The presentation will be posted on the Federation website.

The governor explained in a recent radio interview his non-support in this year's budget for a proposed additional \$300M for Dulles Rail Phase II: (1) the money is not needed until 2014 so there is still time to act later; (2) there is no sufficient mechanism to insure against cost overruns; (3) he has concerns about MWAA lean toward a project labor agreement; and (4) he is miffed that the MWAA has not seated additional Virginia members of to its board. (On this last point, Federal and Virginia law have approved a new MWAA board structure, but Maryland and D.C have not passed such laws in their jurisdictions.)

Action was assigned to the transportation committee to propose what the Federation can do to influence Virginia to provide additional support for Phase II.

Flint mentioned that he attended the public hearing about the Connector bus changes that are being planned for Tysons Corner (http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector/news/2012/12_006.htm) and the more immediate changes. The presentation materials for the June 2012 changes can be found at (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/offsite/?pg=http://www.slideshare.net/fairfaxcounty/connector-june2012-changes>). The presentation about the new service that will be introduced to take advantage of the 495 HOT lanes can be found at (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/offsite/?pg=http://www.slideshare.net/fairfaxcounty/connector-495-expresslanes-12620538>).

District Council Reports

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

Braddock: *Art Wells*—The April meeting topic was Report from Richmond, with area legislators participating. Congressman Connelly also participated.

Lee: *Chris Soule*—no report.

Mason: *John Birch*—The council will an election of officers on May 3.

Mount Vernon: *Karen Pohorylo*—no report.

Providence: *Flint Webb*—Nothing new to report since the report that was made at the April 19 membership meeting.

Springfield: *Mike Thompson*—The council will meet May 9 with Elizabeth Schultz, Springfield District member of the school board.

Sully: *Jeff Parnes*—Scheduled for the April 25 meeting were presentations on I-66 Automated Traffic Management and land use. Neither of the scheduled guest speakers came. The May meeting will include the “State of Sully.” Ten Commonwealth senators and delegates whose districts overlap Sully District are invited.

Adjournment—The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Next Meetings

The next membership meeting will be May 17 at 7:30 p.m., in the West Springfield Governmental Center.

The next board meeting will be May 24, 7:30 p.m., in the Mason Governmental Center.

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary