

Membership Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2012

Approved June 21, 2012

The May 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 West Springfield Governmental Center in Springfield.

Program—Report from Richmond with Senator Saslaw and Delegate Watts

The General Assembly members briefed highlights of the recently concluded legislative session and then engaged in a lively question and answer/discussion period.

Delegate Vivian Watts, House of Delegates 39th District, chose to focus on the issue of transportation. Her presentation, Quicksand at the Bottom of the Well (available at her website (<http://www.vivianwatts.com/>) and to be posted on the Federation's Transportation Committee web page), laments underfunding of transportation in Virginia in the recent past and continuing into the foreseeable future.

Senator Saslaw, State Senate 35th District, reported on many issues from the session and noted that most are perennially brought before the General Assembly in one form or another. He provided the handout 2012 Session Highlights which summarizes significant legislation considered by the 2012 General Assembly as selected by the staff of the Virginia Division of Legislative Services (<http://dls.virginia.gov/pubs/hilights/2012/Highlights2012.pdf>). Senator Saslaw noted the shortfall in transportation funding and addressed other issues including the post-Labor Day opening of public schools, abortion, immigration, guns, and the proposal to eliminate tenure in public schools. Legislation Committee Co-Chair Frank Anderson thanked Senator Saslaw and Delegate Watts for providing us their inputs and presented each with a Federation mug.

Administrative Topics

The Bulletin (Newsletter): Fred Costello, Editor—Newsletter articles are due to the editor by May 30, 2012.

Minutes: Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary—The membership approved the minutes of the April 2012 meeting with one change regarding the report of the Nominations Committee.

Treasurer's Report: Scott Schlegel, Treasurer—Scott presented the report of current financial status. He proposed three minor changes to the budget that had been approved at the prior meeting; the membership approved these changes. Scott reported that he had deposited the SAIC donation for the Citizen of Year Banquet and had paid the final Packard Center rent to the Arts Council. The membership voted to receive and file the treasurer's report.

Membership: Don Hinman, 1st Vice President—In his Treasurer's report, Scott had also reported that 28 associations have paid dues for the current membership year and four have paid in advance for the next membership year. Another seven associations have submitted membership applications but their dues are pending. First Vice President Hinman's records indicate a lower number for the latter category; the two officers will reconcile their lists.

Old Business—None

New Business

Election of Officers: Jeff Parnes—At the April membership meeting, the Nominations Committee presented a list of candidates for election, but made no nomination for Second Vice President. The floor was opened for additional nominations; Joe Gibson nominated Linda Boone for the position of Second Vice President. The members present unanimously elected the proposed slate of officers, who will be invested at the June picnic and will assume office on July 1.

Position	Name	Residence
President	Tania Hossain (incumbent)	Merrifield
First Vice President	Rob Jackson	McLean
Second Vice President	Linda Boone	Annandale
Recording Secretary	Ed Wyse (incumbent)	Springfield
Corresponding Secretary	Fred Costello (incumbent)	Reston
Treasurer	Scott Schlegel (incumbent)	Great Falls

Board & Committee Reports

Citizen Association Services: Don Hinman—Don has completed a map of civic associations and homeowner/condo associations in Lee District and asked members to review and provide suggestions for improvement. He aims to map the remaining eight districts in the future.

Education: Leonard Bumbaca, Ed Saperstein, and Tim Thompson—Tania reported the committee will report soon on FCPS budget amendments.

Environment: Roger Diedrich & Flint Webb—*[This report was not given in the meeting but is published in the minutes for information.]* Flint attended the Stream Cleanup at the Woodburn Road crossing of Accotink Creek on May 21st. All together 256 bags of trash, 15 tires, and a range of miscellaneous stuff including a traffic stop light and a CO₂ tank were removed from the Accotink Creek at the sites managed by the Friends of Accotink Creek. See the report on the FoAC web site <http://www.accotink.org/PotomacWatershedCleanuppost-event2012.htm>.

Flint also attended the April 24th public hearing about Fairfax Connector changes being planned. For Tysons Corner they have a two step plan: initially working with the current grid of streets and then working with the new street grids. The most immediate changes will be the changes that will be going into effect on June 30. The big changes are:

- New route 981 from Tysons Westpark to Dulles Airport (premium service) and
- Modifying route 335 to provide better service to Fort Belvoir.

Once the HOT lanes are opened they are planning the following new services:

- Burke Center VRE station to Tysons Corner,
- Lorton VRE station to Tysons Corner, and
- Springfield to Tysons corner.

For further information see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/connector/news/meetings.htm>.

Roger Diedrich was awarded the Sanders-Henn Community Hero Award by the Coalition For Smart Growth in a reception at National Trust for Historic Preservation in DC on May 2nd.

Flint attended the Green Breakfast on May 12th. The subject was establishing conservation corridors in Northern Virginia. The speaker was Laura Grape, Senior Environmental Planner for the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. The plan is to provide conservation corridors so wildlife can travel across the county to prevent inbreeding.

The Committee is working on a couple of resolutions, one to support EPA's actions to control greenhouse gases using existing clean air act mechanisms, and one to reduce solid waste.

Upcoming Event: June 4th, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m., the Sierra Club is having a Clean Energy event at the Oakton Library

Land Use: Fred Costello—The Reston Task Force will meet May 22 on transportation issues. (Post meeting correction; while there is a May 22 meeting, transportation issues will be the topic of the June 12 meeting.)

Legislation: Frank Anderson and Jason Ha—Tania thanked the committee for organizing tonight's Report from Richmond. She also noted that next year we will prepare and deliver the Federation's legislative program to the Board of Supervisors early enough to inform them in the development of their own legislative program.

Website: Jeff Parnes—The webmaster seeks an intern to help with database and website development and maintenance.

The other committees had no reports this evening: Budget: Carey Campbell and Charlie Hall; Environment: Roger Diedrich & Flint Webb; Human Services: Cherie Tripp Lejeune; Public Safety: As'ad Hess-Linckost; Resolutions: Bill Hanks, and Transportation: Carey Campbell and Jeff Parnes.

District Council Reports

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

Mason: John Birch—At the Mason District Council's last meeting, within a fortnight past, the topic was land use. One association was urging the district council and the Federation to attend a public hearing on a specific project. The Federation does not take positions on individual projects and will not attend this hearing; rather the Federation focuses on countywide policies.

Providence: Flint Webb—[*This report was not given in the meeting but is published in the minutes for information.*] On May 15th, the Providence District Council held their Report from Richmond program with Senator Dick Saslaw and Delegate David Bulova. They had just finished the legislative session in Richmond at 2:30 am that morning.

Before they started, Fran provided an update of the Area Plan Review process. The focus this year is to make sure the map agrees with the text. When there is a discrepancy the text controls so it is important. Fran asked for everyone to check the map against the text for their area.

Senator Saslaw complained about the hyper-partisanship that has afflicted both state and national politics. He noted that little significant legislation was passed this year using the non-partisan Session Highlights 2012 report that he provided as a handout. The House was not willing to do anything about increasing revenues – not even indexing the measly gas tax so that as the price of gasoline goes up the revenues for maintaining our infrastructure also increases. Senator Saslaw pointed out that the gasoline isn't any lower – it just means that the oil companies make more profit. He sighted pricing studies of neighboring states with MUCH higher gasoline taxes. He also remarked that the State ranks 48th in per pupil K-12 spending and that our elite state colleges need to lower the number of in-state students so they can pay staff salaries using the higher tuitions from out-of-state students. As a solution to the hyper-partisanship Senator Saslaw liked the California solution of having everyone run in an open primary and with the top two candidates—regardless of party affiliation—running in the general election.

Delegate Bulova participated even though he only has one precinct in Providence District. He noted that they were able to retain the cost to compete funding for our school support staff. He bemoaned the failure to reach agreement on the Silver Line funding. He also mentioned that there was a careful look at tax credits this year and cited the motion picture opportunity fund as one that has gone away and should have remained. He bemoaned the breaking of the tradition of not legislating through the budget, with the addition of a new legal title in the Code of Virginia included in a budget bill this year.

Delegate Bulova specifically mentioned the bills he sponsored:

- Water bill requiring that water supply plans need to be considered when issuing water discharge permits – Passed.
- Stopping cramming third party charges on phone bills. – The bill failed but Verizon is going to do this anyway.
- HOA model declarations – Passed easily in both houses, but was vetoed by the Governor. However, it may be that a non-profit will take up the charge and draft something.

Finally he pointed out that there will be a constitutional amendment on the ballot this year. The amendment would establish that eminent domain can only be used for a public use and the General Assembly defines “public use.” He remarked that this would take some prerogatives away from counties but generally is a good idea.

Delegate Bulova also talked about lobbying in Richmond. He opined that lobbyists are expected to present both sides of an argument.

Upcoming Events:

- June 23rd, Charlie Hall’s house, PDC Picnic. Information about this event will soon be posted on the web site <http://providencedistrictcouncil.org/>.
- September 17th, Luther Jackson Middle School, The topic will be the HOT Lanes and Merrifield Town Center development.

Springfield: Ed Wyse—Ed Wyse is the newly appointed representative to the Federation. The SDC met on May 9 to hear Springfield District School Board Member Elizabeth Schultz, who provided information on the school budget and the search process for a new superintendent and answered questions from parents and teachers who were worried about overcrowding at some elementary schools. The next council meeting will be in the autumn with a representative from the Metro Police to discuss their plans for the Springfield Metro station.

Reports were not received from the other councils’ representatives: Braddock: Art Wells, Lee: Chris Soule; Mount Vernon, Karen Pohorylo; and Sully: Jeff Parnes.

Adjournment—The meeting adjourned at 10: 05 p.m.

Next Meetings

The next board meeting is on Thursday, May 24, 2012, 7:30 p.m., at the Mason Governmental Center.

The next membership meeting is the annual picnic meeting on Thursday, June 21, 6:30 p.m. for the picnic and 7:30 p.m. for the program, at the Annandale Community Park Picnic Shelter. The meeting will feature Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and the installation of 2012-2013 officers.

Minutes written by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary