

Board Meeting Minutes

August 23, 2012

Approved September 27, 2012

The August 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 Braddock Hall in Burke.

Present: Linda Boone, Charlie Dane, Joe Gibson, Bill Hanks, Rob Jackson, Jason Ha (part of meeting), Tania Hossain, Scott Schlegel, Flint Webb (part of meeting), Art Wells, and Ed Wyse.

Administrative and Organizational Topics – Tania Hossain

Per the bylaws and policies and procedures, President Hossain appointed the chairs of the standing committees. The officers and district representatives present at this meeting voted their approval of the appointments.

- Budget Committee Co-Chairs: Rob Jackson (Dranesville) and Linda Boone (Mason)
- Citizens Association Services Chair: Don Hinman (Lee)
- Education Committee Co-Chairs: Tim Thompson (Hunter Mill), Leonard Bumbaca (Mason), and Ed Saperstein (Dranesville)
- Environment Committee Chair: Flint Webb (Providence)
- Human Services Chair: Cherie Tripp Lejeune (Sully)
- Land Use Chair: Fred Costello (Hunter Mill)
- Legislation Co-Chairs: Frank Anderson (Springfield) and Jason Ha (Providence)
- Membership Chair: Tania Hossain (Providence)
- Public Safety Chair: Melissa Smarr (Springfield)
- Resolutions (and Bylaws) Chair: Bill Hanks (Braddock)
- Transportation Co-Chairs: Joe Gibson (Dranesville) and Jeff Parnes (Sully)

Per the bylaws and policies and procedures, President Hossain appointed the members of the audit and finance committees. The board members at this meeting voted their approval of the appointments.

- Finance Committee: Scott Schlegel - Chair (Dranesville), Ed Wyse (Springfield), and Rob Jackson (Dranesville)
- Audit Committee: Bill Hanks - Chair (Braddock), Linda Boone (Mason), and Charlie Dane (Braddock)

Per the bylaws and policies and procedures, President Hossain reappointed Tim Thompson to the School Superintendent's Business and Community Advisory Council (BCAC) for the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 school years. The board members at this meeting voted their approval of the appointment.

The Bulletin (newsletter): Fred Costello, Editor—The deadline for articles for the September newsletter is August 30.

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: The board approved the minutes of the June 2012 board meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Scott Schlegel, Treasurer —Scott provided a written financial report and briefed the highlights. The board voted to receive and file the treasurer's report.

Budget Modification: Scott Schlegel, Treasurer—The board reviewed a request by Past President Jeff Parnes for \$500 in supplies and software to support an upgrade of the Federation's membership database, a reorganization of the website, and integration of the database and website. The board voted to approve this request and to modify budget accordingly. The board approved other budget changes: to decrease the amount allocated for rent to about \$300 because the Federation has found free venues for many meetings. Scott noted that the expense for post office box rental (\$58 this year) is categorized as a rental expense.

Post Office Box: Transition from the Packard Center address to the post office box is going smoothly. Scott will change the address on file with the bank that provides our checking account.

Agent: Past President John Jennison is listed as the registered agent in our incorporation document with the Commonwealth.

Membership: Tania reported that she has sent recruiting 500 letters and will continue sending more until the end of September.

Webmaster Report: Jeff Parnes—*Jeff's report was distributed via e-mail to the board.*

If you know of someone who might be interested in helping me maintain our website, please pass me the person's name and contact information, thanks!

- Throughout the site, I updated old email addresses and our mailing address to refer to the current email format, *fedpostion2013*, and our revised mailing address. I did the update via a global search and replace; if you come across any examples where the global changes did not take, please bring the page's URL to my attention.
- The home page now refreshes itself about every five seconds, each time displaying a random photo from a selection of Federation events over the last twelve years, most from our photo gallery site (updated to include our picnic and Evolution of Fairfax photos).
- With inputs from Tania, Linda, Charlie Dane, and Esther Ferington, I submitted to the Emerging Leaders Institute our proposal for a team to work on our database and website. I usually don't send mail with the return receipt function enabled, but I did on the email used to submit our proposal, and received receipts showing the email had been read. We should hear back one way or another in September.
- I updated the Leadership page with our current officers; after the current committee chairs are designated, I'll add them to the page and update the respective committee email aliases.
- Over the summer, I received updates from the Education and Citizens Association Services committees that I applied to their respective pages. Each incoming committee chair should review his or her committee's webpage for currency, as should district representatives.
- The calendar page reflects currently planned locations and topics. Each location either links to a page with instructions on how to find the site if instructions are available, or map coordinates for the address, if not. Each location also has its address in the clear, so that someone using a smart phone can highlight the address and have their way-finding app use it as a basis for navigation. The topics link to their respective committee page, where the committees should provide information regarding the planned meeting topic.

Policies and Procedures (P&P): Bill Hanks distributed a 5-page handout detailing proposed changes to the Federation's Policies and Procedures to update existing references to the Packard Center as the meeting location and postal address. Members advised some minor edits. Bill plans to submit the changes for approval at the September board meeting.

Citizen of the Year: Jeff Parnes submitted this report via e-mail to board members. Steve and Sharon Okrend, the husband and wife team who served as photographers at this year's COY event and who had accepted my invitation to return at next year's event, informed me that they have received a wedding "save-the-date" announcement for that weekend, and probably will not be able to repeat their performance. I'll consider any recommendations you may have, and otherwise am planning to contact Bill Brynes and his wife who served for many years as event photographers, only not to be able to make it last year because, they too, had a wedding invitation!

Audit Committee: The audit committee, composed of Bill Hanks, Linda Boone, and Charlie Dane, conducted with Treasurer Schlegel the audit of last year's fiscal records just prior to this meeting. The committee will make its formal report at the September board meeting.

Old Business—None

New & Miscellaneous Business

Legislative Package: The Federation plans to present the annual legislative package to the membership for approval at the September meeting. Unfortunately we are behind schedule in preparation. Tania directed the committee co-chairs to update last year's package by removing those items upon which the legislature has taken action, by flagging those items that lack justifications and requesting sponsors from the board, and by calling upon the board to propose new items. After this action, items without justification will be removed from the package. Committee chairs are to provide their inputs to the legislative committee by September 8 so that the committee can assemble the package for presentation at the September 20 membership meeting.

Because the board will not have followed normal procedures (considering and recommending the proposed legislative package for membership action and making the proposed legislative package available in writing before the membership meeting), a two-thirds vote of the membership will be required to introduce the proposed legislative package for membership action. (Reference: Bylaws/Policies & Procedures: Article V, Section 7)

There was a discussion regarding the size of the package, with guidance that less is better provided we can develop better our most important issues. A counterview was that when our members lobby in Richmond they have firmer ground when they can support their views with our legislative package, so we don't want to unnecessarily constrain our issues.

Planning to Finance Tyson Corners Transportation Improvements in Coming Decades—Rob Jackson. Rob announced that planning long-range financing for Tysons Corner has commenced with issues of how costs will be allocated between private and public sources (and how much from each public funder) and whether Fairfax County will be responsible to guarantee any future shortfalls in Federal and Commonwealth funds. The magnitude of the project will impact the taxes of all county residents and will affect competition for budget resources. Tania directed that this issue be included in our legislative package, our budget package, and our transportation committee activities. Due to the rapid development of planning, Rob and Joe will collaborate to draft a resolution to express a Federation position. Again due to time constraints, the plan is to offer this resolution to the membership at the September meeting. Rob will forward this draft to Tania who will share it with the board.

Because the board will not have followed normal procedures (considering and recommending the resolution for membership action and making the proposed resolution available in writing before the membership meeting), a two-thirds vote of the membership will be required to introduce the legislative package for membership action. (Reference: Bylaws/Policies & Procedures: Article V, Section 7)

Resolution on Electrical Power Plants and Greenhouse Gases: Flint reintroduced a resolution which applauded EPA for its proposed new standard for reduced carbon emissions from new electrical power plants and asked our Congressional delegation to oppose efforts to restrict implementation of EPA greenhouse gas standards. There was lengthy and vigorous debate in which it became evident that many felt the resolution was too general and too broad in what it asked. Flint withdrew the resolution.

Federation Participation in the Fairfax County Roundup: This conference is scheduled for October 25 with the mission to introduce various non-governmental organizations involved in disaster recovery to each other. The sponsors are Fairfax County and Volunteer Fairfax. They have invited the Federation to participate by advertising the event and helping with logistics at the conference. Charlie Dane advised we should encourage the district councils to participate. The board voted for the Federation to participate. Linda Boone is the lead.

Helicopter Noise: McLean Hamlet and other nearby areas have been disturbed by frequent, low level helicopter flights. The board determined that this was a local problem not fixable by county-level policy. Consequently the Federation will not act on this issue.

Board and Committee Reports

Budget: Rob Jackson and Linda Boone—The county executive has warned of lower than projected revenues for the next two years and has directed departments to plan for possible funding cuts of up to

5%. Tania advised the chairs to ask the other committee chairs for budget input at the appropriate time and stated that former chair Charlie Hall has offered his assistance to them.

Citizen Association Services: Don Hinman—Tania noted that Don did great work in the July 30 conference in which the Federation and the County advised HOA leaders of their new responsibilities under the ombudsman legislation.

Education: Leonard Bumbaca, Ed Saperstein, & Tim Thompson—Charlie Dane noted that the school board, composed of six re-elected incumbents and six new members, is learning how to function effectively together. Five firms have submitted bids to conduct the search for the next FCPS superintendent. The September Education committee meeting date has not yet been set. The committee will lobby this year for permission to open schools prior to Labor Day in order to increase preparation time for standardized tests and to synchronize high school and community college schedules to assist those FCPS students who take community college courses. The committee will submit a newsletter article on the topic of employee pay raises and retirement fund contributions.

Environment: Flint Webb—*Flint submitted this report via e-mail to the board.*

- **Fairfax Connector Express Lanes to Tysons Corner Bus Service – August 22nd**

Starting in January the *Fairfax Connector* will be starting service from the Burk Center VRE parking lot to Tysons Corner. They are planning to follow it up with service from the Lorton VRE and the Saratoga/Springfield park-and-ride later in 2013. They will be taking the plans to the Board of Supervisors on September 11th. The Friends of Accotink Creek point out that there is no plan to include porous pavers and/or a rain garden to control runoff from the Saratoga Park and Ride.

- **Court Throws Out the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule – August 20th**

The Cross-State Air Pollution (CSAP) Rule was promulgated in 2011 in response to the 2008 Court ruling throwing out the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) promulgated under the Bush Administration. In throwing out the CSAP the Court left the CAIR limits in place. The purpose of these rules was to require upwind states to place controls on utility boilers so that the emission sources in the upwind states does not make it impossible for downwind States to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The original CAIR rule stopped a number of lawsuits pitting downwind states against upwind states. The CAIR limitations have been key to cleaning up the air in the Washington DC area since without the limits the air quality entering the region was above the NAAQS and would have required Virginia to stop all combustion sources in order to try to meet the NAAQS. EPA could appeal the decision or promulgate new regulations that would meet the Court's concerns. The key to the decision appears to be that the EPA did not let the States develop their own plans to limit emissions but instead set Federal standards so the fix may simply require States to develop their own rules that have the same emission limits as the Federal standards.

- **Friends of Accotink Creek Meetings – August 20th and July 16th**

Fall International Coastal Cleanup: Cleanups are planned at 21 locations in Fairfax County organized by Cleanup Virginia (www.cleanupvirginia.org) starting September 15th. The Friends of Accotink Creek are organizing 15 of the proposed cleanup locations and would like to not only supply bags and gloves but have people on the stream to provide information about the stream – pointing out erosion problems, invasive species and hazards such as poison ivy.

The Friends of Accotink Creek (FACc) is also working on a letter about the Accotink Creek Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) calling for all parties to start working on fixing the problem rather than fighting over it. The FACc is also working on a resolution asking for the County to require porous paving and/or rain gardens for any parking lot or roadway improvements they may be undertaking.

The FACc also selected the name for a small tributary near the Wakefield Park. There were 21 names proposed on the FACc web site ranging from Foo Creek after the local band Foo Fighters, made up of students from the local high school, to Dickens Creek after Francis Asbury Dickens who owned property in the area in 1804-1901. The selected name was Wakefield Run. The name is unofficial but the county requested the FACc to name the tributary. There are still several tributaries that have not been named.

- **Fairfax County Stormwater Management Ordinance – July 24th**

The County has begun a process to develop a stormwater management ordinance. There was a kickoff meeting on July 24th. The next meetings will be separated into interest groups – I have signed up to participate in the meetings dealing with issues of particular interest of home owners and HOA's representing the Federation. The next meetings will be on September 24th and then meetings are planned for October 17th.

- **Planning Commission Environmental Committee Green Building Policy Implementation – July 19th**

The County is trying to finalize plans to implement the Green Building Policy Plan. Key issues that remain are how to impose tight regulations on new development or re-development projects and how to ensure that the developers do what they signed up for in their proffers.

- **Green Breakfast – Energy Action Fairfax – July 14th**

The meeting focused on a program to provide free energy assessments for a number of HOA's and CASs under a stimulus grant. The web site for the program is www.fairfaxCounty.gov/Energyactionfairfax. The program has ended for this year but the County would like to do something similar in the future. I have approached Susan Hafeli about the possibility of speaking to the Federation for the December Membership meeting.

- **Fairfax County Sued EPA over the Accotink Creek TMDL – July 12th**

Fairfax County, VDOT and the State of Virginia is suing the EPA over what the county considers to be an unreasonable Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) limits for Accotink Creek. The Fairfax County web site is: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2012/updates/fairfax-sues-epa-to-challenge-stormwater-rule.htm>. The County feels that they need to sue to keep the standard from being incorporated in to the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) permit which has been going through negotiations for several years. The County believes that there are better ways to control sediment pollution other than limiting the storm flow rates.

- **Citizen Forum on Greenhouse Gas Regulations – June 13th**

The Forum was a panel discussion about GHG regulations held at Gunston Middle School in Arlington and sponsored by the League of Conservation Voters, Environment Virginia, and the Sierra Club. The panelists were:

- Carol Browner (who showed up late) – former Administrator of the EPA under the Clinton Administration.
- Dr. Ravi Gupta, MD – Dr. Gupta focused on the health risks of fine PM emissions associated coal combustion.
- Dr. James Kintar – Dr. Kintar is the Director of the Center for Ocean-Land-Atmosphere Studies. He focused on climate change impacts – particularly increased drought.
- Dr. Chris Lillis – Dr. Lillis is a medical doctor in private practice in Fredericksburg who focused on asthma risks of climate change.
- Gloria Pan – Director of MomsRising, a group that focuses on issues facing American mothers and families.

Human Services: Cherie Tripp Lejeune—no report.

Land Use: Fred Costello—no report

Legislation: Frank Anderson and Jason Ha—no report; see New Business.

Public Safety: Melissa Smarr —no report.

Resolutions (and Policies and Procedures (P&P)): Bill Hanks—Bill distributed a 5-page handout detailing proposed changes to the Federation's Policies and Procedures to update references to the Packard Center as the meeting location and postal address. Members advised some minor edits. Bill plans to submit the changes for approval at the September board meeting.

Bill also distributed a draft resolution outlining transportation funding recommendations, and the resolution was referred to the Transportation Committee.

Transportation: Joe Gibson and Jeff Parnes—*Jeff provided most of the report via e-mail to board members.*

As I mentioned previously, Fairfax County is exploring enhanced funding (\$3 billion over 10 years, or on the average, \$300 million a year) for transportation improvements in the county.

- When FCDOT presented this recommendation to the BOS Transportation Committee in the spring, the BOS Committee decided that the Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC), on which I serve as Sully Commissioner and chair, should develop an outreach plan for informing county residents. The board enlarged the basic TAC with additional representation from business, transportation and advocacy groups (with such folks as Roger Diedrich representing environmental interests, Alan Young trails and bikes, Jim Lawson of DATA for Transportation Demand Management, and business community representatives from Tysons Corner and other locations),
- Starting in June, the enlarged TAC has met twice a month, with a final outreach plan to be provided as an information item to the BOS on 11 September. The outreach plan will attempt to explain to Fairfax County residents the need for the additional funding, the projects that the enhanced TAC and FCDOT' have recommended, and possible sources of funding with comments on revenue feasibility and practicality.
- The draft outreach plan calls for a series of meetings throughout the county starting in late September and until mid-to-late October. Each meeting is proposed to run from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., with staffed information stations available for review and a presentation followed by Q&A's starting at 7:30
- To engage county residents, the plan also calls for a website dedicated to support the outreach, with a survey response form and the possibility of monitored social voting enable for a short time period.
- The results of this outreach program will be evaluated by the enhanced TAC, which will make recommendations regarding the feedback received on the projects proposed and funding streams presented.
- The Federation might wish to either schedule a special meeting on this subject or rearrange its schedule to have a presentation at a regularly scheduled meeting.
- I support Bill Hanks' proposed resolution on increased transportation funding. I feel, based on the efforts described above, that no action will be taken on the resolution as it will be overtaken by the larger efforts underway. I have, on the other hand, distributed his resolution to the enhanced TAC as evidence that there is support for vehicle miles traveled (VMT) tax for transportation funding purposes in addition to the gas tax.
- Check the transportation committee page for future transportation meetings/hearings and past presentations

Joe provided this information in the meeting: At its July 11 meeting the McLean Community Association (MCA) passed a resolution asking the USDOT to assume control or greater oversight of the Silver Line construction project. The MCA will next turn its efforts toward increased Federal government funding for the Silver Line to constrain increases in the tolls.

District Council Reports

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

Braddock: Art Wells—The Braddock District Council is organizing an “Aging in Place” committee based on information from an information meeting in February and Supervisor Cook’s one-day workshop in May. The topic of the September 12 meeting will be the Express Lanes due to open in December. George Mason University and Braddock District are sponsoring a “Welcome Watch” August 29-31 for students who live off-campus.

Lee: Chris Soule—no report.

Mason: John Birch—no report.

Mount Vernon: Karen Pohorylo—no report.

Providence: Flint Webb—*(incorporated by publishing in the minutes)* The Providence District Council will have a meeting on Monday, September 17th from 7 to 9 pm at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road. The subject will be Merrifield and Beltway construction updates. For further information see <http://providencedistrictcouncil.org/>.

Springfield: Ed Wyse—no report.

Sully: Jeff Parnes provided his report via e-mail to board members. Sully’s Land use and Transportation Committee met in July, covering Fairfax Forward (the county’s replacement process for the discontinued Area Plan Reviews) and proposed bank in the Sully Station Shopping Center. In September, we’re scheduled for a presentation on the I-495 express lanes and residential development on the old EDS—now HP—site along Centreville Road.

Adjournment—The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Next Meetings

The next membership meeting will be September 20, 7:30 p.m., in the Kings Park Library Meeting Room.

The next board meeting will be September 27, 7:30 p.m., in Braddock Hall.

Both meeting rooms are in the same building as the Braddock District Supervisor’s Office.

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary