

Membership Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2012

Approved December 13, 2012

The November 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 Hidden Oaks Nature Center in Annandale.

Program

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC), Technical Advisory Committee:

Dr. Ana Prados, the Federation's representative to the Technical Advisory Committee, described the work of the committee supporting regional collaborative planning to achieve the ambient air quality standards that were established under the Clean Air Act. She also described how the Technical Advisory Committee works with the Transportation Planning Board and the Public Advisory Committee.

Countywide Dialogue on Transportation: Jeff Parnes, Co-chair of the Federation's Transportation Committee and Chair of the Fairfax County Transportation Advisory Commission, discussed the history of transportation financing that has led to the present projected massive long term financing shortfall for transportation. He also introduced the topic of the recently concluded Countywide Dialogue on Transportation. During a month long community outreach via online survey and nine public meetings conducted by the Transportation Advisory Commission and Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT), county residents had the opportunity to express their opinions regarding how to address the projected funding shortfall. Jeff then turned the floor over to Todd Wigglesworth and Ray Johnson, both of the FCDOT Coordination and Funding Division, who briefed the results of the survey and answered questions with their view of the transportation funding situation and options.

Administrative and Organizational Topics – Tania Hossain

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

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary—The membership approved the minutes of the October 2012 membership meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Scott Schlegel, Treasurer—Scott was not able to attend the meeting. He provided a written financial report to all board members via e-mail the morning after the meeting.

Membership: Tania reported the new membership of the Bel Air Civic Association of Falls Church in Mason District.

Webmaster Report: Jeff Parnes, Webmaster—Jeff showed the links on the Federation's Transportation Committee webpage that open various transportation presentations and documents that are posted by the Federation and other bodies. He urged other committee chairs to provide similar links within their functional areas to facilitate the sharing of information. Post-Thanksgiving for about a fortnight Jeff will not be available for website work. He is looking for a co-worker to help with website maintenance responsibility and reports that the task is simply posting files to the site.

Citizen of the Year: Jeff Parnes—The nomination period opens December 1. Discussion of considerations for speaker selection was deferred to a board meeting

Old Business—None

New & Miscellaneous Business—None

Board and Committee Reports

Budget: Rob Jackson and Linda Boone—Linda distributed a one-page description of a process for review of the county budget. Discussion and consideration was deferred to a board meeting.

Citizen Association Services: Don Hinman—Linda Boone reported. The Fairfax County Consumer Affairs Branch hosted the 2012 Common Interest Community Educational Seminar on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at the Fairfax County Government Center. Guest speakers from the Washington Metropolitan Chapter Community Associations Institute shared information about recent regulations, legislation and case law that impact how homeowners associations and condominium associations govern themselves.

The 2012 Common Interest Community Educational Seminar – A View from Richmond will be replayed on the following dates:

- Saturday, November 17, 2012, at 1:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 21, 2012, at 9:00 a.m.
- Monday, November 26, 2012, at 5:00 p.m.

This is an excellent program for the boards of directors of any common interest community in Virginia. The presentation is available at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer/presentations/wmccai.pdf>.

Education: Leonard Bumbaca, Ed Saperstein, & Tim Thompson—no report.

Environment: Flint Webb—The Commonwealth wishes to develop offshore oil fields; the US Navy opposes this because the Navy uses the same areas for transit and training. The question arises whether oil development would hinder wind power development. Flint will study the issue and possibly offer a resolution at the December board meeting.

The December membership meeting will focus on home energy with two presentations:

- Susan Hafeli, Fairfax County Utility Analyst, will discuss the Energy Action Fairfax program. Susan managed the County's \$9.6 million federal stimulus energy grant which included conducting energy audits in a number of communities in Fairfax County including several Federation Member associations.
- Then Philip Haddix, Project Manager from The Solar Foundation, will have a presentation, Solar Powering Your Community: Impediments to Residential Solar in Virginia. Philip will discuss the advantages and impediments to residential solar energy in Virginia.

Together the two presentations will give us a vision of what we and the county can do to reduce energy costs and what we can do to solar power our neighborhoods.

(Flint reported briefly at the meeting and also sent the below message to members of the board via e-mail; the information is presented here for benefit of the membership.)

• **Winterize Your Home – November 10**

The City of Fairfax held an event to help residents get ready for winter. There were vendors to talk about energy audits, sealing and caulking, insulation, windows and doors, chimneys, HVAC systems, and thermostats.

• **Green Breakfast – November 10**

The topic for the 59th Green Breakfast was **Conservation Practices for All Landscapes: From Your Downspout to the Chesapeake Bay**. Lily Whitesell from the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD) discussed measures homeowners can take to help the Bay. Five things to know are:

1. Know your nearest stream
2. Is there a Resource Protection Area in your yard? See <http://fairfaxcounty.gov/gisapps/myneighborhood/myndefault.aspx>.
3. What is the topography? Where does the water flow into and from your property?
4. Are there problem spots? Does water collect or pond and stay there for a week after a rain?
5. What is the soil like? See <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/soilsinfo.htm>.

And the five things to do are:

1. Prevent pollution. Pick up the trash in your yard.

2. Rain barrels, cisterns or downspout diversions. The NVSWCD has rain barrel workshops periodically and has some re-purposed pickle barrels.
3. Use conservation landscaping. Plant more plants. They recommended the tree benefit calculator <http://www.treebenefits.com/calculator/>.
4. Rain gardens and soil amendments. Mulch in your grass clippings and fall leaves to add organic matter to your soil and help the soil retain moisture.
5. Use permeable driveways, walkways, and patios. Before you re-surface your driveway consider replacing it with porous pavers.

• **Stream Clean Up – October 20**

Flint participated in the stream cleanup at Accotink Creek and Little River Turnpike. This was the last cleanup in Fairfax County that took place as part of the Fall International Coastal Cleanup. All together at the cleanups organized by the Friends of Accotink Creek 107 volunteers collected 303 bags of trash – an increase in trash collected by 178% over last year with only a 4% increase in volunteers. The wrap up of the Friends of Accotink Creek organized cleanups can be seen at <http://www.accotink.org/InternationalCoastalCleanupPost-Event2012.htm> including a neat sculpture of “Paint Gun Pete” made by Bill Nell from trash picked up this year.

• **Green Breakfast Tour of Stream Restoration and Stormwater Project at Fairfax County Government Center – October 20**

Flint attended the Green Breakfast and toured the stream restoration and stormwater project at the Fairfax County Government Center. Participants learned a lot about stream restoration and stormwater management designs. The project involved not only conversion of a dry stormwater management pond to a wet pond with ducks rather than geese. The restoration project involved restoring the stream bed up to a level that will allow the floodplain to function properly, including the creation of a small wetland area. The level of the stream bed was increased by using silt that had settled in the old farm lake downstream and the bed level was set by large boulders. We learned about the elaborate stream flow modeling that is necessary for a good stream restoration design and how the bends in the stream are used to dissipate the energy from major storm events.

• **Stormwater Management Ordinance Meeting – October 17**

Flint attended the meeting of the stormwater management ordinance planning. The interested parties were divided into four working sessions. Because of the large number of interested parties there were two working groups dealing with stormwater facilities in residential areas. The other working groups at the October meeting dealt with Adequate Outfall Requirements and Restrictions on Certain BMPs (Best Management Practices).

The main focus on the stormwater facilities in residential areas were:

- Whether the County should allow BMPs on single lots or should continue to require a dedicated lot for the BMPs. Flint advocated that they (BMPs on single lots) should be allowed; it would allow for better residential community design options, and is consistent with the philosophy that it is best to control stormwater as close to the source as possible.
- How to ensure that residential BMPs will be properly maintained. Flint suggested that the County could certify qualified vendors and require that the homeowner or HOA contract with one of the qualified vendors. The County would then spot check the vendors and in that way would have control as required by the MS4 permit.

For more information see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwaterordinance.htm>.

Upcoming Meetings:

November 15 – America Recycles Day

November 15, 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm – Virginia Native Plant Society, Potomac Chapter meeting at Green Springs Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22312. Topic: Climate Change: Effects on Wildflowers and Pollinators. See <http://vnps.org/wp/events-2/climate-change-affects-on-wildflowers-and-pollinators/>.

November 17, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm – Rain Garden Workshop for Homeowners at Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. Arlington, VA. To register e-mail Aileen Winquist at awinquist@arlingtonva.us.

November 19, 7 pm – Monthly meeting of the Friends of Accotink Creek at the Audrey Moore Recreation Center, 8100 Braddock Road. For additional information see <http://www.accotink.org/cgi-bin/cal.pl?ACTION=VIEWDAY&Year=2012&Month=11&Date=19&config=calendar.cfg>.

December 13, 7:30 – 10 pm – Fairfax Federation Environmental Membership meeting, Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce Street, Annandale, VA 22003. Topics: Energy Action Fairfax by Susan Hafeli, Fairfax County Utility Analyst and Solar Powering Your Community by Philip Haddix from the Solar Foundation.

January 12, 8:30 – 10 am. 60th Green Breakfast, Brion's Grille, 10621 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22032. Topic TBD.

February 26 – Master Naturalist training program starts. The training includes 40 hours of training meeting on Mondays. For more information see <http://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/fairfax.html#training>.

February 13 – Tree Stewards training starts. See <http://treestewards.org/>.

Human Services: Cherie Tripp Lejeune—no report.

Land Use: Fred Costello—Fred noted that infill projects increase stormwater run off but there is inadequate analysis of this potential in the approval process. He will study how to address this issue.

Legislation: Frank Anderson and Jason Ha—Tania will summarize the Federation's positions at the public hearing.

Public Safety: Melissa Smarr—no report.

Resolutions: Bill Hanks—no report.

Transportation: Joe Gibson and Jeff Parnes—no report, but see the program report of these minutes.

District Council Reports

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

Braddock: Art Wells— The Taste of Braddock Holiday Open House will be December 5, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in Braddock Hall and the Kings Park Library Meeting Room. The next Braddock District Council meeting will be December 12, 7:30 p.m. at Braddock Hall, 9002 Burke Lake Road in Burke.

Lee: Chris Soule—no report

Mason: Roger Hoskin—The town hall meeting has been postponed to January.

Mount Vernon: Karen Pohorylo—Tania reported that the Mount Vernon district council wants to emulate the Federation's legislative position process and will be seeking our advice.

Providence: Flint Webb—The next Providence District Council meeting will be November 20, 7:15 pm, at the Dunn Loring Administrative Center, located at the corner of Idlywood and Gallows roads. Topic: Preparing for Major Emergencies. For more information see <http://providencedistrictcouncil.org/>.

Springfield: Ed Wyse—No report.

Sully: The next Sully District Council meeting will be November 28; the program will be Fire and Rescue Services in Sully District. The SDC webpage now features 25 pictures, some from the September Transportation Dialogue and others from recent land use meetings. The chair of the Sully District Council is running for the office of president of the Western Fairfax County Citizens Association, which has significant geographic overlap with the Sully District Council.

Adjournment—The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Next Meetings

The November/December Annual Board Dinner will be at the Marco Polo Restaurant, Vienna, on Thursday, December 6 at 6:30 pm. Cost is \$25/person. All are welcome to attend. RSVP is requested by December 1 by e-mail to fedpres2013@fairfaxfederation.org.

The next membership meeting will be Thursday, December 13, 2012 starting at 7:30 pm at the Hidden Oaks Nature Center, Annandale.

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary