

Board Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2012

Approved January 24, 2013

The December 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 Marco Polo Restaurant, Vienna.

Present: Leonard Bumbaca, Linda Boone, Bill Hanks, Don Hinman, Tania Hossain, Rob Jackson, Cherie Lejeune, Chris Soule, Scoot Schlegel, Flint Webb, and Ed Wyse.

Administrative and Organizational Topics

Committee Chair Appointment: Tania Hossain President—The board approved the appointment of Morgan Jameson as Co-chair of the Human Services Committee.

Board Appointments: Linda Boone, Second Vice President—The board approved the re-appointment of John Hanks as representative to the Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee.

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

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

Treasurer's Report: Scott Schlegel, Treasurer —The board voted to receive and file the treasurer's report.

Citizen of the Year (COY) Awards and Banquet: The nomination period began December 1 and will end January 31.

Membership: The Bel Air Civic Association is our newest member. The Burke Conservancy, representing 15, 000 housing units, is expected to join soon.

Website: Jeff Parnes—no report.

Old and New Business

Retirement of the Evening Star/Washington Post Cup: There was a brief discussion about plans to display the former Citizen of the Year cup at a place of honor in the Governmental Center.

New & Miscellaneous Business

Purchase by Fairfax Water of Falls Church Water: This action was described and discussed.

Board and Committee Reports

Budget: Rob Jackson and Linda Boone—Linda introduced a document titled Process for Budget Review for FY 2014-15 Budget, which included sections on principles for review, focus budgets for review, leads for various budgets, and format for budget resolutions. In discussion the board deleted several of the proposed focus budgets and added to the list of leads. Linda will send the revised plan to the board by e-mail for further action at the next meeting.

Citizen Association Services: Don Hinman—First, Don proposed three ideas for future meeting programs, that could be scheduled as early as March 2013: boards and residents in conflict—rights and responsibilities of HOA/condo boards and residents when there is significant conflict, questions of legitimacy, or both; assessment collection issues with non-resident owners, particularly owners receiving housing program subsidies; and incorporation and insurance issues—pros and cons for voluntary civic associations. Second, Don also asked district council representatives two questions. Would these topics be of interest for a District Council meeting, which we could publicize county-wide? Could the Federation arrange a meeting on one of these topics at your usual District Council location, but not as part of a District Council meeting?

Education: Leonard Bumbaca, Ed Saperstein, & Tim Thompson—Member organizations of the Federation are urged to attend the public information meetings on the superintendent search process.

The Assistant Superintendent Instructional Services Sloan Presidio attended the committee's November meeting where the topic was STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education.

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

• **Introduction to Water Quality Regulations Effecting Urban Trees – December 6**

The Northern Virginia Urban Forestry held their 4th Quarterly Roundtable in Herndon. The topic was an Introduction to Water Quality Regulations Affecting Urban Trees. The speakers were:

- Bruce McGranahan from Land Development Services, Fairfax County. Bruce spoke on New Virginia Stormwater Regulations. The phosphate limit for Virginia is 0.41 lb/ac/year. The new regulations will go live on July 1, 2014. From the County's perspective the State has delegated authority to issue Virginia Stormwater Management Permit authority to the Counties. The Commonwealth (and the Federal EPA through the County's MS4 permit) will hold the County responsible for meeting the pollution goals. One major change is that the Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) will require that the 1" storm is considered in evaluating the performance of controls – not the major storms that have been the focus previously.
- Joan Salvati from the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Joan spoke on the Chesapeake Bay TMDL 'Pollution Diet'. The take home message is that once DCR started looking at the modeling that EPA used to set the TMDL they realized that their data was way out of date. They modeled based on how the County was years ago and now the amount of impervious surfaces is much greater than it was in the model. The stormwater management controls were also out of date so one of the major efforts that the County needs to do is to develop a good inventory of all the stormwater management Best Management Practices (BMPs) being used in the County and keep up the list every year. There was a question about rumors about the Bay TMDL program being taken over by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). DEQ currently handles the point source TMDL program but DCR handles the area source TMDL programs. The explanation is that if DEQ takes over the areas source TMDL program they will also be taking over the personnel.
- Buck Kline from the Virginia Department of Forestry who spoke on Forest Land Conservation. Mr. Kline was concerned that the regulations don't give credit for reducing forest loss. He also mentioned that the Forestry department has a simple on-line calculator that can be used to calculate the value of the trees on any property at <http://inforest.frec.vt.edu/>.
- After the presentations Jim McGlone with the Virginia Department of Forestry facilitated a discussion about how to use the information about the TMDL to encourage planting and saving trees. Mr. McGlone also discussed the need to track new tree plantings. Anyone how has a new tree planting project should send information about the planting to the DoF. They will need the number of trees, the number of volunteers involved with the planting, the number of volunteer hours, the location of the plantings and the date.
- After lunch there was a discussion about future projects. There were a number of projects that were discussed they fell roughly into two broad categories: the need to educate and the need to gather accurate data about tree cover and the tree inventory. One project that will be of particular interest to the Federation is the need to educate Home Owner Associations on the importance of and proper maintenance of trees. Another effort will be to educate landscaping companies on the proper way to plant new trees and how to pick good tree stock.

• **USGS Lecture: Bird's Eye View: Offshore Wind Energy – December 5**

I attended the USGS Public Lecture Series. The subject was Birds at Sea and Offshore Wind Energy. The speakers were Alicia Berlin and Allan O'Connell. The upshot of their research so far is that there is not enough information about the migration patterns of sea birds to determine that off shore wind generators will not interfere with their migration patterns. However, the Bureau of Ocean Energy is very actively researching the issue and are using the information as soon as it is collected when evaluating

possible offshore wind lease areas. The plan is to not allow leases in areas frequently visited by sea birds. The problem is that sea birds are so far out at sea that they are not seen by land-based birders.

• **Planning Commission Environmental Committee – November 29**

At the November 29th Planning Commission Environmental Committee they approved the Green Building Comprehensive Plan Policy Guidance. The Committee is considering expanding the policy developed for the Tysons Corner Urban Center should be expanded to other parts of the County. The Committee could also not reach a consensus on whether and how to deal with public-private partnerships.

• **Westchester house in the RPA – November 28**

I met with the homeowner next to the Westchester Drive property that is going to be built entirely in the Long Branch of the Accotink. The developer mistakenly cut down a tree in the neighbor's yard and the neighbor wanted the developer to save a maple that was scheduled to be cut down as compensation for the tree that was mistakenly taken down but there was a question about the viability of the tree. We met with the County arborist to evaluate the tree. The arborist noticed that the tree had been split through and had healed. The County arborist felt that the tree was not safe due to the split and would have recommended that it be taken down before the house could be occupied in any event.

• **Friends of Accotink Creek – November 19**

Attended the Friends of Accotink Creek meeting. There was a presentation by Vivian Morgan-Mendez and Fernando Mendez of Friends of Nottoway. They discussed the 12-year successful battle to save Nottoway woods from ball field expansion. The group is now turning their attention to solving erosion problems in the woods. Other issues that were discussed were:

- Metro West construction sediment control violations.
- Eleven Oaks Development and how to track sediment controls.
- Developing a way to track major development projects so we can keep an eye on sediment controls better.
- Developing a program to update civic associations on the progress on watershed management plans.
- Katie Keating's Girl Scout Gold project to replace an information kiosk. And
- A video production of stream cleanup.

• **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 5 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 drive way consider replacing it with porous pavers.

Upcoming Meetings:

December 12, 12:30 – 3:30 pm – Remove Invasive Alien Plant Species in Americana Park. For more information see <http://www.accotink.org/cgi-bin/cal.pl?ACTION=VIEWDAY&Year=2012&Month=12&Date=12&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.

December 17, 7 – 9 pm – Monthly Meeting of Friends of Accotink Creek. Audrey Moore Rec Center, 8100 Braddock Rd., Annandale, VA 22003. For more information see <http://www.accotink.org/cgi-bin/cal.pl>.

December 19, 12:30 – 3:30 pm – Remove invasive Kudzu vines in Lake Accotink Park. For more information see <http://www.accotink.org/cgi-bin/cal.pl?ACTION=VIEWDAY&Year=2012&Month=12&Date=19&config=calendar.cfg>.

December 26, 12:30 – 3:30 pm – Remove invasive Kudzu vines in Lake Accotink Park. For more information see <http://www.accotink.org/cgi-bin/cal.pl?ACTION=VIEWDAY&Year=2012&Month=12&Date=26&config=calendar.cfg>.

December 29, 8:30 am – 4 pm – Virginia Invasive Plant Symposium. Middleburg Community Center, 300 West Washington Street, Middleburg, VA. To register see <http://www.pecva.org/index.php/events>.

January 7, 7:30 pm on - Environmental Quality Advisory Council public hearing. This is an early notice for the Environmental Quality Advisory Council's (EQAC) annual public hearing on the environment. EQAC is appointed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to advise on environmental matters. The public is encouraged to attend EQAC's public hearing to share views on the state of the environment and to identify environmental issues applicable to Fairfax County. EQAC welcomes written and/or verbal testimony. Board Auditorium Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, OR South County Center, Room 221A (Woodlawn), 83502 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA. For more information see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/eqac/>.

January 12, 8:30 – 10 am. 60th Green Breakfast, Brion's Grille, 10621 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22032. Topic Kevin Munroe, Manager of Huntley Meadows Park will talk about the Huntley Meadows wetland restoration project. For more information see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/announcements.htm>.

January 13, 7 – 9 pm – Sierra Club/Great Falls Group Program, Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue, East, Vienna, VA. Topic: Natural Gas Hydrofracking. For more information e-mail Susan Bonney at sbonney001@aol.com.

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

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>.

Human Services: Cherie Tripp Lejeune—Cherie reported she is working on the effects of the Affordable Health Care Act on Medicaid costs in Fairfax County.

Land Use: Fred Costello—no report.

Legislation: Frank Anderson and Jason Ha—no report.

Public Safety: Melissa Smarr—no report.

Resolutions: Bill Hanks—Bill proposed a number of changes to the policies and procedures, which are a supplement to the bylaws. Changes included changing reference for mailing address and meeting location from the Packard Center to the post office box and multiple venues. Other changes clarified intent and corrected grammar. The board approved the changes. The revised version will be posted on the website.

Transportation: Joe Gibson and Jeff Parnes—no report.

District Council Reports

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

Braddock District Council: Art Wells (due to an injury Art could not attend; he relayed this report via Ed Wyse)—The annual "Taste of Braddock," held on December 5th, sponsored by the Supervisor's Office and the Braddock District Council, was again a high success and well attended. The next meeting of the Braddock Committee on "Aging in Place" will be held 7:30 pm, December 12th at Braddock Hall.

Lee District Association of Civic Associations: Chris Soule—On December 12 the council held its Employee of the Year banquet and presented Les Dorson awards to Judy Flaig, Grant McIntosh (Lead Chaplain of the Ffx county fire department) and Carl Sell..

Mason District Council: Roger Hoskin—no report.

Mount Vernon Council of Civic Associations: Karen Pohorylo—no report.

Providence District Council: Flint Webb—*Flint provided this report to the board via e-mail.*

The program for the October 20 Providence District Council Meeting was Preparing for Major Emergencies. Marcelo Ferreira from the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management provided information on how to plan for major emergencies. Take home messages:

- Set up a communication point outside the county for all family members to call into.
- Look in on your neighbors and make sure they don't need help.
- Communities should establish a Community Emergency Response Plan and the County can help.
- Sign up for the County's emergency notification system to get accurate and timely information about emergencies.

Marcelo also discussed the capabilities, limitations and failure of the 911 system. The County has a reverse 911 capability which allows them to send out emergency messages to specific areas, but with more and more people relying on cell phones the reverse 911 system has some limitations. The reverse 911 system was used during Sandy to notify the Huntington community to evacuate. The other limitation of the reverse 911 system and other notification capabilities is that to notify too early or to be too alarmist will cause the public to pay less attention in the future. Marcelo also told the story of what the 911 shutdown looked like at the Emergency Management Center.

The next meeting is scheduled December 19, 7:15 pm – Providence District Council Holiday Party, Dunn Loring Administrative Center, located at the corner of Idlywood and Gallows roads, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, Room 108 (left hand entrance). See <http://providencedistrictcouncil.org/>.

Springfield District Council: Ed Wyse—no report.

Sully District Council of Citizens Associations: Jeff Parnes— no report

Adjournment—The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next Meetings

The next membership meeting will be January 17, 7:30 p.m., at the FCPS Administrative Center, Falls Church.

The next board meeting will be January 24, 7:30 p.m., at Braddock Hall, Burke.

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary