

Membership Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2013

Approved February 21, 2013

The January meeting of the Membership of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by 1st Vice President Rob Jackson at 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Administration Center in Falls Church.

Program

FCPS Proposed Budget for FY 2014—Kristen Michael, Director of Budget, FCPS—On January 10 the superintendent released the proposed budget for next year. Ms. Michael's described the "budget drivers" and proposed budget, using the official FCPS set of slides and she answered questions. The slides of this presentation and other relevant FCPS budget documents are available at <http://www.fcps.edu/fs/budget/budgetdocuments.shtml>. 1st Vice President Rob Jackson thanked Ms. Michael for her informative presentation.

Administrative and Organizational Topics – Tania Hossain

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

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

Treasurer's Report: Scott Schlegel, Treasurer—Scott was not present but provided a written report. This report lists four fewer members than the membership chair's listing; the officers will reconcile the lists. The board voted to receive and file the report.

Webmaster Report: Jeff Parnes, Webmaster—no report.

Citizen of the Year: Jeff Parnes, COY Chair—The nomination period will close January 31.

Old Business—None

New & Miscellaneous Business—None

District Council Reports

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

Braddock District Council: Art Wells—(Charlie Dane reported)—The January 9 meeting featured presentations and discussion with leaders of four other district councils (Lee, Springfield, Mason, and Providence) to share information about each council, common problems, and best practices. The Aging in Place Committee is quite active.

Lee District Council of Civic Organizations: Chris Soule—no report.

Mason District Council: Roger Hoskin—*Roger provided this report to the board via e-mail.*

The Mason District Council (MDC) had their "town meeting" Tuesday, January 15th, at the Annandale United Methodist Church. We counted about 190 "sign-ins" but realistically, I think attendance was over 200. We had a moderated panel which consisted of Supervisor Gross, Mason District School Board Representative, Sandy Evans, commander of the Mason District Police District Captain Gun Lee, and Susan Epstein, representing the Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance. The meeting lasted over two hours and could have gone on longer.

The council had conducted a survey to identify major issues of concern to the community. Over 600 people responded. High on the issue list was property maintenance and the high number of code violations. Crime, overall, was down but burglaries were up. Citizens were also concerned about

speeding on several major roads including Little River Turnpike and Sleepy Hollow Road. The major school issue was overcrowding and the location of a proposed new elementary school in Mason District. Yes, even Glasgow, our new middle school which was thought to have more than enough capacity to meet foreseeable needs when it was built, is now bursting at the seams.

MDC signed up 4 new associations at the meeting and with follow up could add several more. MDC's next meeting will be in February.

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 Providence District Council Holiday Party was held at the Dunn-Loring Administrative Center on December 19. It was well attended and included an appearance by Supervisor Smith.

At the next Providence District Council Meeting, on March 6, Supervisor Linda Smyth, School Board Member Patty Reed, and the county and school budget staffs will discuss the FY2014 county and school budgets. Details TBD. See <http://providencedistrictcouncil.org/>.

Springfield District Council: Ed Wyse—no report.

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

Board and Committee Reports

Budget: Rob Jackson and Linda Boone—Linda reported that Susan Datta, Director, Department of Management and Budget, will meet with the Budget Committee co-chairs on February 27 and the County Executive Ed Long will speak at the March 21 meeting. A volunteer has agreed to lead the Federation's review of the budget for the Community Services Board. (Note: Several days after this committee report was made, the date of the March membership meeting with Mr. Long was changed to March 28.)

Citizen Association Services: Don Hinman—no report

Education: Leonard Bumbaca, Ed Saperstein, & Tim Thompson—Tim reported the committee is preparing its budget input and will present its proposed position to the Federation board on January 24.

Environment: Flint Webb—*Flint submitted this report via e-mail for inclusion in the minutes.*

• Sierra Club/Great Falls Group – January 15

The Great Falls Group held a meeting to discuss hydro-fracturing (fracking). Jeff Brown from Pangea-Global, a fracking advocacy group, presented a good summary of how fracking is done and some of the environmental concerns. Jeff made a point that the industry recognizes the need for regulation but feels that when done responsibly it does not need to be an environmental concern. I made the point that regulations are only good if there are regulators to ensure that they get followed and that the recent crop of Republican nominees were all for abolishing the EPA. Jeff said that mostly States are in charge of overseeing the industry. I pointed out that States are cutting back on their environmental budgets as well. A member in the audience who does superfund remediation stated that PA regulators are discouraged from regulating the oil and gas industry because the Governor says that they need the jobs that fracking brings to the State. Jeff was courageous to make a presentation to the Sierra Club and the discussion was frank and polite and could form the foundation of a fruitful exchange between the industry and environmental groups.

• Green Breakfast and Visit to Huntley Meadows Park – January 12

Kevin Munroe, the Manager of Huntley Meadows Park, spoke about their wetlands restoration project. The project will begin this spring with staging of equipment but will not start in earnest until after the spring nesting season. The plan is to put in a flow management device that will allow the Park to actively manage the water level so there will be roughly an even split between open water and marsh area. That will provide the maximum biodiversity of the park.

The discussion prompted me to go visit Huntley Meadows Park the next day and I saw a muskrat, a beaver, and many varieties of ducks and birds. I was amazed that there was an active beaver lodge right under the boardwalk even encompassing the bench on the boardwalk. I very much recommend a visit!

• **Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, Technical Advisory Committee – January 15**

Ana was out of town so I filled in by attending the January MWAQC TAC conference call.

The Washington Metropolitan Area is seeking re-designation attainment of the 1997 fine particulate matter National Ambient Air Quality Standard (PM_{2.5} NAAQS). There will be a public hearing on February 25th. For more information about the re-designation request see <http://www.mwcog.org/environment/air/sip/default.asp>.

There was also a discussion about a recent ruling by the DC Circuit Court Remanding the PM_{2.5} NAAQS Implementation rule which will mean that EPA will not be able to act on approving the re-designation request until the legal issues are resolved, but they will probably have to be resolved before the Washington Metro Area will submit the re-designation request in March.

The other significant news is that the Potomac River power plant emissions permits have been revoked. The plant is now permanently closed with no prospects of re-opening!

Upcoming Meetings:

January 17 – Annual Meeting of Friends of Lake Accotink. 7 pm, Room 1-2, Richard Byrd Library, 7520 Commerce Street, Springfield, VA 22150. See <http://www.accotink.org/>.

January 22 – Monthly Meeting of Friends of Accotink Creek. 7 pm Audrey Moore Rec Center, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale, VA 22003. See <http://www.accotink.org/>.

January 28 – Fairfax County Stormwater Ordinance Stakeholder Meeting. 7 pm, Fairfax County Government Center, Board Auditorium (Snow date is Monday, February 4, 2013). For further information see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwaterordinance.htm>.

February 2 – Volunteer Management Bootcamp. Come learn the secrets of the volunteer cycle including program planning, targeted recruitment, and volunteer supervision. This training session is specifically geared toward those new to volunteer management, and is a great course for those who manage volunteers on a regular basis, as well as those who want to know more about working with volunteers. There is a fee for this event if you are interested contact Pheobe Bicknell (e-mail: pbicknell@volunteerfairfax.org or call: 703-246-3809)

February 7 – Planning Commission Environmental Committee.

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

February 25 – Monthly Meeting of Friends of Accotink Creek. 7 pm Audrey Moore Rec Center, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale, VA 22003. See <http://www.accotink.org/>.

February 25 - State Implementation Plan Revision - 1997 Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards. 7 pm, Fairfax County Government Center, in conference room 2/3. For further information see <http://townhall.virginia.gov/ViewNotice.cfm?GNID=438>.

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 28 – Air & Waste Management Association, Baltimore-Washington Chapter meeting. Dr. Ana Prados (Federation MWAQC TAC representative) will be speaking on using satellite data to monitor air quality. 6:30 – 9:30 pm, National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) offices located at 444 North Capitol Street, NW - Suite 307- Washington, DC 20001. Conflicts with the Federation Board meeting so I will be missing the February Board meeting.

Human Services: Cherie Tripp Lejeune and Morgan Jameson—no report.

Land Use: Fred Costello—no report.

Legislation: Frank Anderson—no report.

Public Safety: Melissa Smarr—no report.

Resolutions: Bill Hanks—Bill reported that he and Ed Wyse are finalizing the Federation's Policies and Procedures, as amended by the board on December 6. They will be delivered to the board on January 24 and posted on the Federation's website.

Transportation: Joe Gibson and Jeff Parnes—no report.

Adjournment—The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Next Meetings

The next board meeting will be January 24, 2013, 7:30 p.m., at Braddock Hall, Burke.

The next membership meeting will be Thursday, February 21, 2013, 7:30 p.m. at the Mason Governmental Center, Annandale.

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary