

## Membership Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2013

Approved May 16, 2013

The April 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 Mason Governmental Center.

### Program: Report from Richmond

State Senator Janet Howell, representing the 32<sup>nd</sup> District, which spans a swath from Reston into Arlington, joined us for an informal discussion of the workings of the General Assembly in its recent session.

She provided her insight into the partisan bickering that had carried over from last year eventually evolving into a bipartisan commitment to get things done. She applauded the governor for bravely outlining the extent of the transportation problem which was not recognized in some areas of the Commonwealth. She described how the transportation legislation evolved; indeed she had an inside view as a member of the conference committee that reconciled the disparate House and Senate transportation bills.

In the question and answer session, she divulged her positions on many issues and gave advice how the Federation can best work with legislators. Basically, those wishing to lobby the legislators should understand that legislators do not control their own schedules. Typically, while General Assembly and committee meetings may be scheduled in advance, legislators receive only one or two days notice when the bills they sponsor will be under consideration. Senator Howell recommended that we should rent a hotel room and invite legislators to visit us there as their schedules allow. She also recommended that we plan to visit sessions of both houses and some committee meetings. She counseled that:

- the best time of year to engage legislators is in early autumn before the legislature assembles;
- we should choose advocates for our legislative proposals; and
- we should seek to get our legislation introduced in both houses.

Senator Howell's biography reveals that among her past volunteer endeavors are the positions of chair of the Federation's Land Use Committee, co-chair of the Hunter Mill District Council, and president of the Reston Community Association. The Federation sincerely appreciates Senator Howell devoting her time to us and sharing her observations and advice.

### Administrative and Organizational Topics – Tania Hossain

**Federation Appointments:** Linda Boone: John Cockanye is our new representative to the Citizens Corps Council and Daniela Cockayne is our new alternate representative.

**The Bulletin (newsletter):** Fred Costello, Editor—The deadline for articles for the May newsletter is April 27.

**Approval of Board Meeting Minutes:** Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary: The membership approved the minutes of the February and March 2013 membership meetings.

**Treasurer's Report:** Scott Schlegel, Treasurer—Due to the high volume of transactions related to the recent Citizen of the Year banquet, Scott did not prepare a report for this meeting, but will present a report for the next membership meeting.

**Webmaster Report:** Jeff Parnes, Webmaster—Tania thanked Fred for assisting Jeff with website maintenance.

## Old, 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—The April 10 meeting featured several members of the Northern Virginia delegation to the General Assembly who discussed major issues addressed during the recently concluded session. The BDC Aging in Place Committee's April 17 meeting featured timely presentations on two major programs focused on assisting senior citizens: (1) Adult Health Day Care Program administered by the Fairfax County Health Department and (2) Program for All-Exclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) administered by INOVA Care for Seniors. Both presentations provided a good understanding of the organizations and services available to provide assistance to seniors' health needs.

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

**Mason District Council:** Roger Hoskin—no report.

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

**Providence District Council:** Flint Webb—*Flint gave a brief oral report, then provided this written report to the board via e-mail on April 19.*

#### In the PDC meeting of April 16:

**Board Elections:** The slate was Charlie Hall, Chair; Flint Webb, Vice Chair; Cynthia Lee, Secretary; and Julia Hutchins, Treasurer. The proposed slate was elected with no other candidates coming from the floor. For more information about the new officers see <http://providencedistrictcouncil.org/2013/03/05/2013-pdc-board-officers-nominated/>.

**Fairfax Forward land use discussion:** Marianne Gardner, Director of the Planning Division, Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ), and Meghan VanDam, Chief of the Policy and Plan Development Branch, Planning Division, DZP, presented the Fairfax Forward plan. The Providence District aired its concerns about the plan mostly dealing with insufficient public engagement and encouraging representation from the district councils and other homeowner and civic associations. For more information about Fairfax Forward see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/fairfaxforward/>. For more information about PDC's concerns see <http://providencedistrictcouncil.org/2013/04/13/letter-to-board-subject-of-april-16-pdc-vote/>. The proposal will be going to the Board of Supervisors on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Tania announced that she has appointed Federation 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Rob Jackson to the Fairfax Forward panel, with the first meeting scheduled May 6.

#### Upcoming meetings:

The PDC will be having monthly meetings on the third Tuesday evening every month. See <http://providencedistrictcouncil.org/>.

- May 21 – Legislative Delegation (TBD). Dunn Loring Administrative Center, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, VA 22027.
- June 18 – Metro West Update
- July – Picnic and optional meeting on July 16. The picnic will probably be a weekend event.
- August 20 – Optional meeting
- September 17 – Stormwater Ordinance and/or Stream Restorations in Providence District
- October 15 – Candidate meeting
- November 12 – TBD (date moved to avoid Thanksgiving week)
- December 10 – Holiday party (date moved away from Christmas week)

**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—The Federation delivered its budget position to the board of supervisors on April 9. Thanks to all who helped write this document.

**Citizen Association Services:** Don Hinman—Tania reported that Don has written thank you letters for President Hossain's signature to send to the legislators who dialogued with us and were receptive to our recommendations in the recent session.

**Education:** Leonard Bumbaca, Ed Saperstein, & Tim Thompson—Charlie Dane reported that the new school superintendent, Dr. Karen Garza, was being introduced to the school board this evening. Dr. Garza's hiring was the culmination of an impressive search and selection effort. The committee will meet May 8 or 9 to review the school budget.

**Environment:** Flint Webb—Flint did not give an oral report, other than noting that Monday is Earth Day. On April 19 he submitted a detailed written report to the board via e-mail.

**Human Services:** Cherie Tripp Lejeune and Morgan Jameson—Tania reported that the committee continues planning to provide mental first aid training.

**Land Use:** Fred Costello & Matt Bell—Fred reported that Reston traffic simulation indicates severe future congestion even under conditions of a high residential ratio. Fred will check on Matt's progress in planning the May membership meeting program.

**Legislation:** Frank Anderson—The committee arranged this evening's program and introduced Senator Howell.

**Membership:** Tania Hussain—Membership has increased by two associations since last month. Daniela Cockayne introduced Joe Decker as new alternate representative for Sleepy Hollow Citizens Association.

**Public Safety:** Daniela Cockayne & Melissa Smarr—Tania introduced Daniela as new co-chair of the committee. Daniela urged residents to remain vigilant about terrorism and to report to police situations that seem suspicious.

**Resolutions:** Bill Hanks—no report.

**Transportation:** Jeff Parnes—no report.

**Adjournment**—The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

## Next Meetings

Board meeting: April 25, 7:30 p.m., at the FCPS Dunn Loring Administration Center (Entrance 2, Conference Room 111).

Annual meeting with a program on Land Use and the Election of Officers, May 16, 7:30 p.m., at Mason Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Recording Secretary