

Board Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2013

Approved 10-24-13

Call to Order/Welcome – Rob Jackson

The September meeting of the Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Rob Jackson at 7:30 p.m. at Braddock Hall.

Present: Rob Jackson, Ed Wyse, Bill Barfield, Linda Boone, Scott Schlegel, Ed Saperstein, Charlie Dane, William Hanks, Tim Thompson, Mason Jameson, Jeff Parnes, Fred Costello, Daniela Cockayne, Karen Campblin, Kathy Kaplan, Art Wells, Michele Menapace, Len Forkas

Administrative Topics

Nominating Committee - President Jackson appointment Flint Webb to the committee upon Flint's concurrence to accept the position.

Appointments: Bill Barfield— Mr. Barfield moved to appoint Michele Menapace (Lee District) as a third co-chair of the Education Committee. A point of order was raised noting that the bylaws require the president to name committee chairs. Whereupon President Jackson nominated Ms. Menapace and requested board approval. With Ms. Menapace out of the room, there was considerable discussion of the need for a third co-chair. Morgan Jameson moved to call the question, seconded by Bill Hanks. Unanimously discussion was closed by voice vote. The vote for Ms. Menapace to be appointed co-chair of the Education Committee failed on a voice vote. The Education Committee chairs will consider appointing her as a member of the Education Committee.

School Bond issue. Len Forkas, Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, spoke of the need to pass the bond referendum to renovate older schools and build several new schools. Rates are up recently but still historically low. \$250,000,000 is the amount of the bond referendum. Over 50% of the time, the public schools are used for purposes not related to educating students but are for community uses. Jeff Parnes moved Federation approval of a resolution in support of the Bond Referendum which was seconded and approved on a voice vote.

The Bulletin (Newsletter): Fred Costello, Editor—The deadline for articles for the October newsletter is October 1, 2013.

Board Meeting Minutes: Linda Boone, Recording Secretary—The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the August board meeting as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Scott Schlegel, Treasurer— The account balance of \$ 20,158.39 is an important number at this time of the year because it is higher than usual due to increased donations and membership dues. Bill Hanks moved approval of the report and it was seconded. The report was received and filed on a voice vote.

Citizen of the Year Banquet: Tania Hossain reported on the event for 2014. Tyson's Crown Plaza will be the venue for next year. There will be a new menu. The application process will open earlier this year to allow additional time to prepare nominations. The generosity of our donors has helped keep the event in the black recently. Tania is considering other options for the event, so the agenda may change.

Board and Committee Reports

Budget: Linda Boone—Joe Mondero, Department of Management and Budget, is available to meet with the Federation again to discuss the FY2015 budget.

Citizen Association Services: Don Hinman—not present. Some supervisors may not get enough information from their District Councils or have strained relationships with their Councils. Members were asked to think about how the Federation and District Councils can work better with Supervisors.

Education: Ed Saperstein, & Tim Thompson—Ed Saperstein highlighted several of the findings of the efficiency review done by the state. Points included: suggested savings identified of \$10.8M; reduce the age of buses (close to 10 years); reduce admin assistant staff in the elementary schools; reduce assistant principals for elementary schools (smaller schools might have a parttime assistant principal); reduce custodial expenses through a centralized management system. FCPS has largest school bus fleet in the country and the buses average over 9 years of use.

Environment: Flint Webb— not present but presented a report by email. Representing the Friends of Accotink Creek, Mr. Webb attended the Braddock District HOA/CA Leaders Meeting on Monday (9/23). Bill Barfield also attended representing the Federation. There was considerable discussion about the Residential Efficiencies proposal. And there was also considerable discussion about providing services to elderly (especially since a neighborhood Giant will be shutting down for a year for renovations).

- Mr. Webb also participated in the stream cleanup at Telegraph Road on Saturday and again urged the Board to get out this weekend and help clean up some of the trash so many of you were disgusted with when we saw the presentation about the litter resolution last year. The Friends of Accotink Creek web site for stream cleanups is <http://www.accotink.org/InternationalCoastalCleanuppre-event2013.htm>. There is a link to the Clean Virginia Waterways where you can further link to the Virginia Waterways Cleanup web site to find out about cleanup events in other watersheds. Three George Mason students, three Friends of Accotink Creek stalwarts and one other person collected 2 tires, and about 7 very full trash bags before the rain came. The invasive species, particularly porcelain berry, were really bad in that stretch of Accotink Creek.
- Upcoming events:
 - 9/29/13 – Stream Cleanups: One stream cleanup this weekend on Accotink Creek on Sunday at Braddock Road.
 - 10/2/13 – Smart Growth Social and Fundraiser: DC Eastern tickets are \$25 each.
 - 10/5/13 – NOVA Watershed Workshop: Saturday, 10/5/13, 9:30 am – 4:00 pm at Northern Virginia Community College
 - 10/7/13 – Tysons Comprehensive Plan Amendment, Preliminary Dialogue with County Staff, Spring Hill Elementary School 7:30-9 pm see www.fairfaxcounty.gov/tysons for details.
 - 10/12/13 – Stream Cleanups on Accotink Creek: Picket Road (9-11 am), Barkley Drive (12-2 pm), and Woodburn Road (3-5 pm)
 - 10/19/13 – Document Shredding, West Springfield Government Center, 8 am – noon
 - 10/19/13 – Lake Accotink Park's Fall Watershed cleanup day: 9 am – noon
 - 10/21/13 – Friends of Accotink Creek meeting: Audrey Moore RECenter - Senior Center Lobby, 7-9 pm.

Jim Phillips, Federation appointee to the Engineering Standards Review Board, asked for guidance on the County's management initiative to assume responsibility for stormwater structures (Best Management Practices – BMPs) throughout the county. Currently many HOAs are responsible for maintaining these structures but the maintenance is not sufficient to comply with Federal law under the Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Act. If the County assumes responsibility, it will ensure compliance with the law. The cost would be about \$4.5M per year obtained from the Stormwater taxes that are already effective. Older homes were not required to have BMPs until recently. Western portions of the county are the most affected. The Federation is on record informally as not supporting the assumption of responsibility by the county. This is an economic not an environment issue-- should everybody pay or only the HOAs/new owners in the newer areas. If the County assumes the projects, then the existing stormwater structures

must be in working order. Inspection programs ensure that the County is complying with EPA requirements. This would be a quarter of a cent increase on the Stormwater tax. It was moved by Jeff Parnes and seconded by Bill Hanks that the County's Stormwater Division will be given a sense that the Federation now supports the County assuming responsibility for maintenance of the stormwater facilities. Passed on a voice vote. County will continue to use contractors to maintain the BMPs.

Land Use: Matt Bell & Fred Costello—President Jackson asked the committee to look at County enforcement of Code enforcement issues such as overcrowding, etc. Residential Units controversy has raised issues of current enforcement of County Code again. The District Councils were asked to conduct outreach to their member HOAs identifying the Federation as a contact for these issues.

Library Ad hoc Committee: Kathy Kaplan—provided a handout of items about the controversy concerning libraries, the strategic plan, and the beta plan for the Burke and Reston libraries. Federation will post notices of any community meetings to discuss these issues. There appear to be many other issues that are involved with the decisions surrounding changes in the libraries. Fred Costello added that the costs of digital books is higher than print and has to be paid again after a fixed number of uses. Buying books is only about 10% of the budget. On approval of the Board, the website will be changed to show links to the library committee notes on an ongoing basis. The President commended Kathy for her dedicated work on this committee.

Legislation: Frank Anderson— President Jackson proposed a new form for legislative proposals. Legislators have asked the Federation to focus on a few issues to push with legislators but have others that we advocate for. Federation will need to limit these to about 10 issues. We may want to multi-vote at the Membership Meeting on the issues to limit the issues. Committees asked to provide 3 issues to be considered for the Membership meeting. Sheets will be sent to President Jackson on issues by October 11. Committees can look at County's, PTOs, and our previous legislative packages for issues. At the Membership Meeting, the members will vote on the ten most important issues. Draft resolutions will be done and voted on by Membership at a subsequent meeting. Daniela moved that this process be approved, it was seconded, and then unanimously approved it on a voice vote.

Membership: 40 members last year and the Federation already has 35 members now. We need to push information to the media about what the Federation is doing—resolutions, agendas, community meetings, etc.

Public Safety: Daniela Cockayne—Chief Roessler has postponed his presentation until the November Membership meeting.

Resolutions: Bill Hanks— no report

Transportation: Jeff Parnes/Karen Campblin—Karen Campblin announced the first meeting of the Multi-modal Committee will be held October 9, 6-8 p.m. at the South County Government Center. She will keep the Board updated.

Jeff Parnes mentioned the Community Leadership Institute has an upcoming session—anyone interested in participating should send a request to Mr. Parnes.

WMATA has announced several route changes. Board of Supervisors' Transportation Subcommittee meetings will be published on website. Public discussion has begun about getting rail extended to Centreville.

Website: Jeff Parnes—Committees asked to review and keep their page links updated with current information.

District Council Reports

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

Braddock: Art Wells—Cliff Keenan is the new Braddock District Council chairman.

Lee: Chris Soule—not present but via email reported that Lee District Council hosted the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation and the Springfield Chamber at its September meeting to discuss the boom in development in the area. On October 8th the Council will host a candidates meet and greet for offices which are up for election this November.

Mason: Roger Hoskin—not present.

Mount Vernon: Karen Pohorylo—not present

Providence District Council: Flint Webb—via email report, upcoming events are:

- 10/10/13 – Community Dialogue on Libraries: Luther Jackson Middle School Cafeteria, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church 22042, 7 pm +
- 10/15/13 – PDC Candidate Meet and Greet: Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna, VA 22180, 7-9 pm

Springfield: Ed Wyse—no report.

Sully: Jeff Parnes—League of Women Voters sponsored a meet and greet for Sheriff candidates. Next meeting will discuss Rail to Dulles and improvements for the Dulles area.

Old Business/New Business

None

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

Next Meetings

Membership Meeting—October 17, 2013, 7:30 pm at the Mason Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003

Board Meeting—October 24, 2013, 7:30 pm at Braddock Hall, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA 22015

Minutes prepared by Linda Boone, Recording Secretary