

Membership Meeting Minutes

Approved 11-21-13

October 17, 2013

The October meeting of the membership of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Rob Jackson at 7:38 p.m. at Mason District Government Center.

Call to Order/ Welcome

There is a meeting quorum.

Administrative Matters

Minutes—Previously the May Membership minutes had not been approved. They were approved unanimously as amended and filed for the record. The September Membership minutes as amended were approved unanimously and filed for the record.

There was no other urgent business for the membership.

Membership Programming

Frank Anderson, co-chair of the Legislative Committee, introduced items for consideration of the membership regarding legislative priorities.

Education—there are three initiatives from the Education Committee.

- a) Public School calendar--Kings Dominion rule—This legislation was originally enacted to support tourism in the state, however, many tourism states start school before Labor Day. Fairfax County students lose valuable time to prepare for tests because of the delay in opening school. 120 of the 130 school districts in Virginia support repeal of the rule. This calendar change has been proposed several years in a row by the Federation. Does Education Committee agree to use existing legislative proposal? Yes. Mr. Anderson moved approval of this item and it was seconded. Discussion included such items: the reasons to retain the current calendar include state makes lots of sales tax revenue over Labor Day and many families travel the last two weeks in August. However, Senator Howell has stated that starting school earlier would not cost the state anything really. It was suggested that the Federation ask only for a study of the calendar change in order to obtain real data about the economic impacts. President Jackson will sign a letter to Senator Saslaw and others supporting this change and asking legislators to enact it. Education Committee co-chairs will review the letter. This proposal/current legislative proposal was approved by a vote of 15 yes, 2 No, 0 abstentions.
- b) Early Childhood Education—Motion to include in legislative package was made by Mr. Saperstein and was seconded by Mr. Wuehrmann. After a brief discussion the motion passed 12 Yes, 5 No, 0 abstentions.
- c) Local Composite Index—Motion to update LCI and include item in legislative package was made by Mr. Saperstein and it was seconded by Mr. Wuehrmann. Federation may want to readdress this based upon the “hold harmless” effort from 2009 to get a recalculation of the index. Fairfax County only gets 20% of its funding from the state. Need to rework the resolution statement about how to re-calculate the LCI. The motion was approved 17 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstentions.

Citizen Association Services Committee—HOAs cannot impose fines unless their documents allow it. Motion to allow all HOAs to impose fines against homeowners who violate HOA rules was made by Mr. Dane and seconded by Mr. Saperstein. Discussion included several questions about what the resolution would change. President Jackson called Don Hineman to address the questions. The purpose of the proposal was to restore the ability of HOAs to fine members for rules violations without changing Covenants or Declarations but just by amending the By-laws. The proposal would change the Commonwealth statute to give this power to HOAs. The motion passed 19 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.

Land Use—Moved by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Costello to include the proposal about transferring authority to make zoning changes from the Board of Supervisors to community residents. Discussion involved whether this had been done in other locations; whether eminent domain rulings affect zoning; special exceptions are different from a change in zoning; is it a zoning or density item; and that the “mcmansion” issue is more of a problem than this one. Many members suggested that additional study was needed on the proposal. Mr. Thompson withdrew his motion. The item was tabled unanimously until next month.

Public Safety—Mr. Saperstein moved and it was seconded by Mr. Thompson to include the proposal to make it a primary violation to use hand-held cell phones while operating a moving vehicle. Hands free devices should be required. Currently 18 year olds and above can use cell phones while driving. The motion passed 19 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstentions.

Resolutions Committee—offered two initiatives.

- a) Use Common Core learning standards proposal. Mr. Wyse moved and it was seconded by Ms. Cockayne. 46 of 50 states have adopted this standard already. Commonwealth SOL standards were revamped last year and may be stronger than these. New FCPS Superintendent is looking at standards also. Education Committee would like to defer this proposal until that work has been done and to table it for now. Mr. Wyse withdrew his proposal.
- b) Better Governance --Mr. Wyse moved and Mr. Thompson seconded the motion to consider the Iowa Plan for reapportionment of legislative redistricting. The motion passed with a vote of 17 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstentions

Transportation Committee—Ms. Camplin proposed to add four new Transportation items:

- a) support of rail to Centreville;
- b) mass transit systems on Route 1 (land use and bicycle lanes must be included);
- c) centralizing the Transportation authorities into a regional one; and
- d) accessibility for elderly and disabled residents to transportation. Legislation may not be the way to effect these changes. Ms. Camplin will submit the items that should be considered in the Legislative Package to the Membership at the November meeting.

The existing Legislative Package will be considered at the November meeting also. Members should review the existing resolutions and determine which to include in the multi-voting planned for the next meeting. The Federation wants to submit no more than 10 items to the legislators. Any remaining items may be sent in the package, or at a later time, as items of interest to the Federation and its members.

Old Business/New Business

None

Adjournment— Membership meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Next Meetings

Board meeting: October 24, 7:30 p.m., at Braddock Hall

Membership meeting—November 21, 2013, 7:30 p.m., at Mason Governmental Center, program by Chief of Police Ed Roessler.

Minutes prepared by Linda Boone, Recording Secretary