

Membership Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2013

Call to Order/ Welcome

The November meeting of the membership of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by First Vice-President Ed Wyse at 7:38 p.m. at Mason District Government Center.

President Rob Jackson has been ill and could not preside at the meeting. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Program: Chief Roessler, Fairfax County Police Department

Colonel Ed Roessler, the new Police Chief for Fairfax County provided his Vision for the Police Department. His goal is described as ethical leadership through engagement with the community. The Police Department is the 32nd largest police department in the county, yet the county has the lowest crime rate for our size. The department also has the lowest officer to per capita ratio in the 50 largest communities in the country. He emphasized a culture of safety –prevent and fight crime—gun turn in program will start in January 2014. The department needs to keep pace with urbanization, e.g., working with Zoning in Tysons to design enough police coverage for the new areas. The department plans to use foot patrols, bikes, and segues to police shopping and metro locations. The demographics of the department do not match the demographics of the community. One of 25 applicants is hired into the department. Chief Roessler is looking for more diversity in newly recruited police officers. He wants to develop future police officers through the Explorer program for kids ages 14-18.

Emergency Preparedness—3 divisions in the police department respond to emergencies. The Incident Commander for police is located at each District. He highlighted the close working relationship between the Police and Fire Departments in the county.

The Chief answered questions from members about:

- the role of the Police and Sheriff's Departments. Sheriff's operate the Adult Detention Center and Courthouse. The departments work together and share the same academy for training. Their civil disturbance teams work together.
- Use of Informants. He discussed the legal standards and policies that apply.
- World Games in 2015. A CEO, Mr. Knight, has been hired to raise funds and coordinate the venues. Volunteers are needed to help at the sites. There will be a Volunteer Coordinator hired also to recruit and manager the 4000 volunteers required to make this event happen. The games begin on June 26, 2015 and will run for 15 days at venues throughout the region.

Vice President Wyse presented the Chief with a Federation mug in recognition of his informative presentation to the membership.

Administrative Matters

Minutes— The October Membership minutes were approved unanimously as presented; filed for the record.

There was no other urgent business for the membership.

Legislative Resolution

Frank Anderson, co-chair of the Legislative Committee, assumed control of the meeting and introduced items for consideration of the membership regarding legislative priorities. There will be a weighed voting to prioritize the items later.

Items A-F were previously approved at the October Membership meeting including: Implement the Iowa Plan for Reapportionment; Restore rule violation enforcement authority to HOAs and Condominium Associations; Permit local school boards to set opening day; Provide additional state funding for quality pre-kindergarten education; Hold FCPS harmless with regard to the LCI and revise the LCI formula; and Make use of hand-held phone when operating a motor vehicle a primary offense.

Don Hinman spoke to an additional item – Seeking restoration of authority for Boards to change HOA documents. Vote: unanimously for.

Litter Reduction—discussion opened by Flint Webb and seconded by John Cockayne. Previous legislation package supported this item and the Federation needs to be able to support projects that arise.

Vote: 17 Yea 6 Nay 0 Abstentions

Discussion

McLean Citizens Association had concerns that there was not enough time to consider these proposals and will not support any of the items.

There was discussion about whether the members could support legislative positions without having specific language. The format of the resolution will contain only subject, position, and rationale. These are general concepts for legislation that the Federation would like to see. Federation Legislative Committee can then craft specific positions to make them more consistent in tense, tone and format. We want our legislators to know what is on our minds.

Deer Control—John Birch moved and it was seconded to discuss control of the white deer population in Fairfax County. Jim McGlone, Urban Forestry, may have data to add to this subject. Commercial hunting permits would have to be done by the State. The addition of deer fences along major roads and other methods could require state involvement. Federation should remove reference to Fairfax County since this is a state issue.

Vote: 15 Yea 5 Nay 0 Abstentions

Climate Change—Moved by Flint Webb, seconded by John Birch. Discussion included encouragement of renewable energy sources.

Vote: 21 Yea 3 Nay 0 Abstentions

Reporting Transportation Performance Measures to the Public— John Birch moved and Ed Wyse seconded the item. Discussion included the value of performance measures and standards for projects—reducing travel time would be a measure that means something to residents. Normalizing the values of certain projects so public can understand them easier.

Vote: 22 Yea 3 Nay 0 Abstentions

Mobility and Accessibility—Moved by John Birch and seconded by Don Hinman. This issue was in the public safety program last year but was moved to Transportation this year. The item is similar to the previous year's resolution.

Could include sidewalks, new transit facilities, etc. How is this not allowed now? There was confusion about the subject and the purpose of this legislation.

Vote: 5 Yea 17 Nay 0 Abstentions

Two members expressed further concerns that they had not seen the legislative items before tonight.

Prioritization of the legislative items occurred at the end of the meeting.

Overall Vote to adopt the legislative package was moved and seconded.

Vote: 20 Yea 3 Nay 0 Abstentions

Old Business/New Business

Citizen of the Year Banquet will be held Sunday, April 27, 2014, at the Tysons Corner Crown Plaza.

Don Hineman offered comments and requested members contact legislators now. December 2 is the cutoff to have legislation drafted. The Federation would like contact names of each member HOA so that they can be contacted when the Federation needs support for various legislation during the upcoming session. First Vice President Wyse will be collecting the names.

Prioritization of Legislative Package

The members prioritized their support for the above legislative issues by voting on the previous legislative items. The results will be tabulated after the meeting.

Adjournment— Membership meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Next Meetings

Board meeting: Next scheduled Membership meeting is January 23, but the location is tentative at this time. Members will be notified. Everyone is invited to the Board meeting on December 5.

Minutes prepared by Linda Boone, Recording Secretary