



www.fairfaxfederation.org ~|~ P.O. Box 3913, Merrifield, VA 22116-3913

Board Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2014

APPROVED

Call to Order/Welcome – Rob Jackson

The March meeting of the Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Rob Jackson at 7:36 p.m. at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce Street, Annandale, VA.

Present: Rob Jackson, Ed Wyse, Bill Barfield, Linda Boone, Ed Saperstein, Flint Webb, Fred Costello, Bill Hanks, Linda Boone, Tania Hossain, Cherie Tripp Lejeune, Art Wells, Tim Thompson, Karen Campblin, Daniela Cockayne, Matt Bell, Jeff Parnes, Kathy Kaplan, Chris Soule, John Cockayne, Morgan Jameson, Marcia Dewitt, Joan Harveck

Administrative Topics

The Board will first discuss and decide the two bottom line positions that were proposed by the Federation's Committees: 1) Whether the current real estate tax rate shall be retained; or whether the tax rate should be reduced. 2) Whether 50% of the increased tax revenue should go to FCPS; or whether the split between county and FCPS proposed by Ed Long should be retained. No other tax rate or funding split proposals were submitted by the committees. Accordingly, no other proposals are being submitted by the Budget Committee to the Board. President Jackson explained how the discussion will go for the budget discussion tonight. There was no request to increase the tax rate. It was not submitted by any committee. Each committee has 3 times to speak for advocacy on any topic.

Appointments: Vice President Bill Barfield offered no new appointments. He is preparing letters to appointees asking for a semiannual report. Selection of the Citizen of the Year awardee was appreciated by several politicians that had spoken to Mr. Barfield last weekend. Stacy Kincaid, the newly appointed County Sheriff, is interested in visiting with the Federation.

The Bulletin (Newsletter): Fred Costello, articles are due by April 1 for the next Bulletin.

Board Meeting Minutes: Linda Boone, Recording Secretary—The board unanimously approved the minutes of the February board meeting as moved and seconded. The minutes are filed for record.

Treasurer's Report: Scott Schlegel, Treasurer— was not present, but had submitted the Treasurer's Report via email. Following a motion by Mr. Soule and a second by Mr. Thompson, the report was received and filed.

Citizen of the Year Banquet: Tania Hossain was not present but has sent an email updating that work on the banquet was progressing and mailing event would occur at her home this weekend. She asked board members to obtain sponsorships.

Board and Committee Reports

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Linda Boone May 8, 8:37 Deleted: The motion failed. ¶
Linda Boone May 8, 8:37 Added: Paragraph Break

Board and committee reports were not given to allow more time for the budget discussion.

District Council Reports

Seven supervisor districts have councils of citizens associations; Dranesville & Hunter Mill districts do not. District council reports were not given to allow more time for the budget discussion.

Old Business

None

New Business

Several days before the meeting, after the budget committee had incorporated all of the committees' inputs into a single draft resolution, the president had announced process rules to enable timely action during the meeting.

Budget discussion began with a motion to change the order of consideration and process from the one outlined by the president. It was moved by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Hanks. The President initially ruled the change out of order. After discussion about process, a proposal to consider first various subject specific resolutions and second the tax rate was moved by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Barfield and passed by the board.

The Education Committee's initial resolution was discussed and several amendments were offered and voted:

- Motion by Mr. Parnes and seconded by Mr. Barfield to decrease the 50% funding split by \$10M. The motion failed.
- Motion to change the percent to 43% was moved by Mr. Parnes and seconded by Mr. Barfield. The motion failed on a vote of 5 For 6 Opposed 0 Abstentions.
- Ed Saperstein moved that the Board of Supervisors provide the Public Schools with a fair share of available funds which should be a county transfer increase of at least 50% of the FY 2015 projected increase in revenue for Fairfax County. The motion passed and the vote on the final resolution was 9 For 4 Opposed and 0 Abstentions.
- The vote on the final resolution was 9 For 4 Opposed 0 Abstentions

The Library Committee's resolution was discussed and several amendments were offered and voted:

- Motion to approve \$5.4M each year for 2015 and 2016 was made by Ms. Kaplan and seconded by Mr. Thompson. An amendment was requested to remove 2016 from the resolution and that was accepted. After discussion, the motion failed 2 For 13 Opposed 0 Abstentions.
- A motion was made by Mr. Parnes and seconded by Mr. Soule to substitute \$2M for the \$5.4M. After discussion that motion passed 12 For 1 Opposed 0 Abstentions
- A motion was made to include additional funding for a Library Strategic Plan and \$150,000 was approved 13 For 1 Opposed 0 Abstentions
- A motion was made to delete the last resolved clause from the resolution which passed 11 For, 0 Against 0 Abstentions
- The overall approval of the resolution was moved by Ms. Kaplan and seconded. It passed with a vote of 14 For 1 Opposed 0 Abstentions

Another element of the library committee's proposed resolution was removed from the budget resolution to be processed as a separate resolution. The Board approved a process of submitting the resolution directly to the membership without it first being approved by the board; this was due to the fact that there are no board meetings scheduled prior to the March 27 and April 10 membership meetings. The process will roughly be for the Chair, Library Committee to:

- submit the proposed text to the Resolutions Chairman.

- Chairman will return edits or editorial advice to Library Committee.
- Chairman will submit the final proposed text to *The Bulletin* Editor.
- Editor will include the resolution in *The Bulletin* and will submit *The Bulletin* for the President's approval, who will edit or approve it.
- Editor will submit *The Bulletin* to the Webmaster who will post it on the website.
- Webmaster will inform the 1st Vice President when *The Bulletin* is posted and he will broadcast an e-mail announcement of *The Bulletin* via MailChimp to the membership.
- Library Committee Chair will bring paper handouts of the resolution to the April 10 meeting.

This resolution was moved by Ms. Kaplan and seconded by Mr. Webb. The vote was 12 For 1 Opposed 0 Abstentions.

The Debt Management resolution was discussed although Mr. Schlegel, who had analyzed this topic, was not present.

- Mr. Thompson moved and Mr. Barfield seconded to remove a whereas clause about the bonds that fund capital projects which was approved 8 For 5 Opposed 0 Abstentions
- Mr. Thompson moved and Mr. Barfield seconded a motion to add a third resolved clause to the effect, "the County include EDA debt service in the FY2015 budget," which passed 8 For 4 Opposed 0 Abstentions
- Mr. Barfield moved and it was seconded to approve the overall resolution which passed on a vote of 13 For 0 Opposed 0 Abstentions.

The County Employees Compensation was reviewed by Mr. Costello and Ms. Boone. Mr. Costello moved approval and it was seconded by Mrs. Cockayne. Discussion produced several amendments:

- Mr. Barfield moved and it was seconded to remove the whereas clause about teachers and administrators receiving a 2.1% pay increase. The vote was 13 For 0 Opposed 0 Abstentions
- There was extended discussion about whether teachers are county employees and the cost of the 2% raise. There was discussion about whether the wording in the resolution clause would reduce the pay increase for other types of county employees such as uniformed and public safety employees. Mr. Thompson moved and Mr. Saperstein seconded a motion to specifically exclude public safety, uniformed fire and rescue. The motion was approved by a vote of 7 For 3 Opposed 2 Abstentions
- A motion was made to address the cost of the raise. It passed 9 For 2 Opposed 0 Abstentions.
- The revised resolution approving a 2% pay raise for county employees passed on a vote of 13 For 0 Opposed 0 Abstentions.

The Pension Fund resolution was presented by Mr. Costello. Discussion concerned whether the study of pensions should include the FCPS.

- Mr. Webb moved and Mr. Barfield seconded a motion to have the review consider the impact of pension changes on current hiring and to exclude the FCPS employees from the study on a vote of 12 For 1 Opposed 1 Abstention
- A motion was made to revise the resolution statement to better define the action that the county should appoint a blue ribbon commission to study the effect of increasing the retirement age on pension costs and staffing. The motion passed unanimously.
- The entire resolution was moved and seconded, passing with a vote of 13 For 0 Opposed 0 Abstentions.

The final discussion concerned the tax rate to recommend to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Costello reviewed his analyses of income in the county and the need to reduce the tax rate lower than the current rate of \$1.085 so that homeowners do not pay percent wise more in actual taxes than their income increased last year.

- Mr. Thompson moved and it was seconded to add two whereas clauses to the resolution similar to ones that the Mount Vernon District was considering about other revenue sources for the county to consider such as cigarette taxes and transient occupancy taxes. The motion passed on a vote of 15 For 0 Opposed 0 Abstentions.
- Mr. Saperstein moved and Mr. Wyse seconded to maintain the current tax rate which was passed with a vote of 10 For 2 Opposed 0 Abstentions.
- Mr. Saperstein moved and Mr. Wyse seconded to recommend that the Board of Supervisors obtain the equivalent of one penny on the residential tax rate (\$20M) from miscellaneous sources to help fund the FCPS and libraries increases. The motion passed on a vote of 10 For 2 Opposed 0 Abstentions
- The overall resolution passed on a vote of 11 For 2 Opposed 0 Abstentions.

The Budget Process resolution resulted in comments and amendments about the need to revise the process to allow more time for the community to review the document and develop positions to help the Board of Supervisors determine priorities for spending in the county.

- Mr. Hanks moved and Mr. Thompson seconded to amend the resolution to add 5-year budget goals in addition to the 2-year budgets offered by the County Executive. After extended discussion that the FCPS and county already prepare 5-year staffing plans and planning budgets, the motion passed on a vote of 7 For 5 Opposed 2 Abstentions
- Mr. Thompson moved and Mr. Hanks seconded to remove to the resolution for the public schools to hire an independent auditor because the FCPS had hired one that day. The motion unanimously passed 13 For 0 Opposed 0 Abstentions
- Mr. Saperstein moved and Mr. Thompson seconded to remove the whereas clause about the average real dollar amount of taxes more than doubling FY2005-2013 as inaccurate. The motion passed 9 For 1 Opposed 0 Abstentions
- The overall budget process resolution as amended passed on a vote of 11 For 0 Opposed 1 Abstention.

A proposed concluding budget resolution (a final resolution section summarizing the forgoing specific resolutions) was challenged as redundant. Mr. Saperstein moved and Mr. Wyse seconded to delete the concluding resolution which passed on a vote of 10 For 1 Opposed 0 Abstentions.

The board's overall recommended budget resolution to present to the membership was moved for approval and seconded. It was approved by a vote of 10 For 1 Opposed 0 Abstentions.

Adjournment—The meeting adjourned at 10:56 p.m.

Next Meetings

Membership Meetings—March 27, 2014 and April 10, 2014, 7:30 p.m., at Mason Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA

Board Meeting—April 24, 2014, at 7:30 p.m., at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce Street, Annandale, VA.

Minutes prepared by Linda Boone, Recording Secretary