

Board Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2014

Approved

The April meeting of the Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Rob Jackson at 7:35 p.m. at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce Street, Annandale, VA.

Present: Rob Jackson, Ed Wyse, Bill Barfield, Linda Boone, Scott Schlegel, Ed Saperstein, Morgan Jameson, Fred Costello, Jeff Parnes, Flint Webb, Tania Hossain, Matt Bell, Daniela Cockayne, Kathy Kaplan, Don Hinman, Art Wells, William Hanks, Tim Thompson, John Cockayne

Administrative and Organizational Topics

Appointments: Discussion began about the appointment of the Federation member to the newly designated Meal Tax Task Force. Both Tim Thompson and Morgan Jameson expressed interest in serving on the task force. Each person advocated for his appointment. It was decided by vote of the Board that Morgan Jameson would be the primary representative and Tim Thompson would serve as the alternate. The vote was 9 for Mr. Jameson and 5 for Mr. Thompson. Guidance from the Board will be provided later to Mr. Jameson and Mr. Thompson. The appointees are expected to represent the Federation's positions to the task force.

Mr. Barfield offered that Mr. Crandall wishes to remain as the Federation's representative to the Airports Advisory Committee. Mr. Barfield will continue to contact our appointees to ensure they provide annual reports to the Board.

The Nominating Committee will soon nominate candidates for officer for next year. Committee members are Tania Hossain, Art Wells, Flint Webb, Ed Saperstein, and Sally Horn.

The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations has named Katherine Ward as its representative to the Federation.

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

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes: Linda Boone, Recording Secretary—The board approved the minutes of the March board meeting, as amended by Mr. Saperstein. The motion was made by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Webb to approve the minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Scott Schlegel, Treasurer—Scott Schlegel presented reports. Motion to receive and file was made by Mr. Hanks and seconded by Mr. Webb. The voice vote was unanimous.

Some of the donations have not been received yet for the Citizen of the Year banquet.

During review of the 2015 budget, Mr. Hanks asked that the donation to AHOME be increased from \$500 to \$1000 to cover the increased membership cost. After discussion it was moved by Mr. Hanks and seconded by Mr. Bell to approve the increase. The vote was 11 For 3 Opposed 0 Abstentions. The Treasurer will make the budget change.

Ms. Hossain moved that \$500 be included in the budget to support debates; it was seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion was approved unanimously on a voice vote. The overall budget was approved as amended on a voice vote.

Citizen of the Year: Tania Hossain- A photo of the Board with one of the awardees, Kathy Kaplan, was taken. All the arrangements for the event are complete. Volunteers will help with check-in at the event. All tables have been sold.

Board and Committee Reports

Budget: Linda Boone—The Board of Supervisors approved a \$1.09 per \$100 assessed value real estate tax rate, providing increased funding for the Public Schools, a pay increase for county employees, but further cuts in some county services. FY2016 budget will prove to be another tough year. Revenue is not increasing fast enough to keep up with spending demands. Mr. Jackson's testimony at the Budget public hearings was well received.

Citizen Association Services: Don Hinman—Stated that while our legislative package did not move during this session, many good contacts were made and educated about homeowners' issues. Hopefully next year the Federation will find strong sponsors for our legislative initiatives.

Education: Ed Saperstein, & Tim Thompson— no report.

Environment: Flint Webb—Mr. Webb stated that it was Happy Earth Day (belated). It has been a busy week for the Environment committee:

- Monday (4/21) was the Friends of Accotink Creek meeting
- The Fairfax County Restoration Project held the first annual Green Inspirations Environmental Film Festivals Monday (4/20) – Thursday (4/24) in the evening at the Cinema Arts theater at 9650 Main Street, Fairfax, VA 22031. Some notable short documentaries that were shown were:
 - Rachel Carson's Silent Spring
 - Four Mile Run: Reviving an Urban Stream (an excellent film for showing the problems with streams in our urbanizing county).
 - Mud (this is a 1950s era film that describes the silt problems in from construction and what the state of the art was for reducing erosion were back then).
 - Others that I was not able to see.

And continuing next week:

- Friday through and Sunday: **EPA's People, Prosperity and the Planet Competition at the USA Science and Engineering Festival**, Sustainability Pavilion, located in Hall E of the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place (between 9th and 7th Streets NW on L Street NW), Washington, DC 20001. See <http://www.epa.gov/p3/>.
- Saturday, North County Human Service Center, 1850 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston 20190. See <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/shredding.htm>.
- Saturday: Earth Day Symposium and Concert Faith Congregations: Partnering for Climate Change Solutions, commemorating the 51st anniversary of the publication of Silent Spring. Symposium 1:00 – 3:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, VA 22124. RSVP <http://tinyurl.com/426Fairfax>. And the concert is from 7:30-9:30 pm with Jim Scott, the founder of the UU Green Sanctuary movement
- Saturday Accotink stream cleanups:
 - 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM, Accotink Creek at Pickett Road bridge
 - 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM, Accotink Creek at Barkley Dr bridge
 - 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM, Accotink Creek at Woodburn Road bridge
- Sunday: Fairfax County Electric Sundays
 - April 27: I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax 22030
- Friday, May 2nd Young People' Day in Court: May 2 could be an historic day, as young people have their day in court, at 9:30 AM in the United States Court of Appeals in Washington, DC1. This concerns the legal case that young people have filed against the United States federal government. For more information see "Assessing 'Dangerous Climate Change': Required Reductions of Carbon Emissions to Protect Young People, Future Generations and Nature" provides the scientific basis. <http://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/internet/home.nsf>
- Friday and Saturday: Pick up the "Bee-Friendly" native plant seedlings you ordered from the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. Colony collapse disorder and habitat loss has taken its toll on bees, but native bees and other wild insect pollinators still contribute over \$50 billion in ecological services in the United States, according to the Xerces Society. [Learn more about bee colony collapse](#). The trees and shrubs in this year's seedling sale will help provide habitat for bees and add beauty to your landscape. Enjoy! See <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.htm>.

The Environment Committee is also working on a resolution on the Expansion of the Lorton Construction Debris Landfill and the Green Energy Park in Lorton. The Committee is very split on the issue; some feel

that the project is nothing more than Greenwashing and others think that the development of renewable energy in Fairfax County is a good that outweighs the expansion of the landfill. The Board of Supervisor public hearing on the issue is rumored to be the second week in May.

The topic for the May membership meeting is environmental issues. Ms. Boone also advised that if the Board was interested, county staff could discuss the Solid Waste Management Plan amendment process and gather community input for the plan. Interest was expressed and further work will be needed to determine how and when the Federation can have input to the plan preparation.

Human Services: Cherie Tripp Lejeune & Morgan Jameson—Mr. Jameson advised that the date is being finalized to hold the mental health first aid training for the Board. Seniors aging in place has been the topics of several recent community meetings.

Land Use: Matt Bell & Fred Costello—no report.

Legislation: Frank Anderson—no report. Mr. Parnes is attempting to locate a copy of the Federation's Legislative package to post on the website. Next year we need to prepare the package over the summer and be ready to approve it at the September meetings. Further discussion will follow later in the meeting.

Membership: Ed Wyse—Two new HOAs have joined the Federation. The Board did not want to incur the expense to develop a flyer/brochure/card publicizing the Federation. It was decided to use email and MailChimp to get out our talking points.

Public Safety: Daniela Cockayne—no report.

Resolutions: Bill Hanks—no report.

Transportation: Jeff Parnes— Discussed a plan for accessing the western end of Dulles Airport. Planning is already beginning for expanding the airport further into Loudoun County. The Airport Alliance is discussing a \$50M development of the intersection at I-66 and Route 28. The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is about to declare that the Silver Line has reached substantial completion.

Website: Jeff Parnes—Requested that Board members and appointees provide him with photos to post.

Libraries: Kathy Kaplan –Presented a resolution on Strategic Planning for the libraries. Doug Miller is designing a survey for the Libraries to determine customer needs. Mr. Webb moved approval of the resolution and it was seconded by Mr. Wyse. After a friendly amendment from Mr. Bell that was seconded by Mr. Thompson, the amendment was unanimously approved. The entire resolution was then unanimously approved.

Old Business/New Business

Legislation Resolution Process Brainstorming – Mr. Barfield facilitated the discussion and captured the following ideas on the white board.

1. Be specific, to-the-point
2. Be judicious and brief with 2-4 sentence abstract/summary
3. Provide pros and cons for background
4. Advocate for issues most likely to succeed
5. Get word out early to request issues/topics from membership
6. Determine who in Richmond may help, advocate, lobby
7. Provide copy of resolution to legislators
8. Engage Federation committee chairs
9. Ensure entire Federation board is aware of all issues
10. Coordinate visits to Richmond

11. Talk to chiefs of staff (supervisors, delegates, senators)
12. Start process earlier in year – get draft to Board in August
13. Reach out to other counties/jurisdictions for similar issues
14. Do a Federation lobby day
15. Ensure legislature package is distributed, e.g., web site, minutes, newsletter, emails...
16. Update issues as they go thru legislature
17. Educate legislators better; hand hold
18. Lobby the Fairfax and other delegations
19. Issue owner accepts as the main advocate
20. Revise/switch board meeting topics in August vs September
21. Could have both specific and general issues
22. Find legislator to be sponsors of bills
23. Assign simple titles and “catchy handles” to each issue
24. Get to know the legislators
25. Remember: who do we represent!
26. Reach out & use other organizations: county, services, councils, members
27. Tailor an issue to “fit” a legislator
28. Recruiting is always occurring during each contact with legislator
29. Query supervisors for “what is going on”
30. Develop and follow a schedule
31. Define “success” for input (submission) and output (acceptance, to floor, pass/fail)
32. Use issue template: member/committee draft, board refine; membership vote, done
33. Use Federation letterhead
34. Print business cards for officers (makes meetings, POCs, advocating more memorable)

Committee of whole will think about the process and determine the timeline at the May meeting. Ideas for legislative proposal should be provided to President Jackson by May 23.

District Council Reports

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

Braddock: Art Wells—Held meeting on Aging in Place.

Lee: Chris Soule—no report

Mason: Roger Hoskin—no report

Mount Vernon: Karen Pohorylo—no report

Providence District Council: Flint Webb - Mr. Webb offered the following schedule for Providence:

On April 15th rather than having a regular program we held an organizing meeting of the Program and Polity Advisory Committee and the officers. During the meeting a rough schedule of this year's program was developed:

Date	Topic	Organizer
May 20, 2014	Identity Theft	Flint Webb
June 17, 2014	Picnic	Dana Opp
July 15, 2014	Bylaw revisions	Tania Hossain
August 19, 2014	Affordable Housing Opportunity Means Everyone	Flint Webb
September 16, 2014	Stream Restorations in Providence District	Flint Webb
October 21, 2014	Meet candidates	Charlie Hall
November 18, 2014	Legislative priorities?	
December 16, 2014	Holiday Party	Tania Hossain
January 20, 2015	Elections and 2015 program planning	Tania Hossain
February 17, 2015	Public Safety?	Gabe Goldberg
March 17, 2015	County and/or School Budget	?
April 21, 2015	Report from Richmond	?

Springfield: Ed Wyse—no report.

Sully: Jeff Parnes—no report

New Business

Mr. Hanks moved that \$500 be approved as an appropriate donation to AHOME for the current year. Mr. Webb seconded the motion. The motion passed 10 For 0 Against 4 Abstentions

Kathy Kaplan, chair of the Federation's Library Committee, has been appointed to the Engineering Standards Review Board by another organization.

Nominations are open for Federation officers for next year. If you are interested, contact Ms. Hossain. Elections will be held at the May Membership Meeting.

Adjournment—The meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Next Meetings—Membership Meeting (Officer Elections), May 15, 2014, Mason Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale

Board Meeting, May 22, 2014, Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce Street, Annandale

Minutes prepared by Linda Boone, Recording Secretary