

Board Meeting Minutes

FINAL

Approved October 2, 2014

May 22, 2014

Call to Order/Welcome

The May meeting of the Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by First Vice President Ed Wyse at 7:34 p.m. at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce Street, Annandale, VA.

Present: Ed Wyse, Bill Barfield, Linda Boone, Ed Saperstein, Charlie Dane, Flint Webb, Fred Costello, Karen Campblin, Katherine Ward, Art Wells, Morgan Jameson, Matt Bell

Administrative Topics

Appointments: Mr. Barfield asked whether the Federation can have additional representatives to the committees. Matt Bell had inquired to be an alternate to the Airports Advisory Committee. A motion was made by Mr. Jameson and seconded by Mr. Costello to recommend that the Airports Advisory Committee appoint Mr. Bell as an alternate Federation representative. The Federation only recommends appointees to the committees, the committees actually appoint their members. Mr. Bell was unanimously approved on a voice vote to be an alternate to the Airports Authority.

Motion by Mr. Bell and seconded by Mr. Jameson that Federation appointees must either provide a report for the Bulletin or present the report at a meeting during the next 6 months or be replaced as the Federation representative. Board members want to hear what the committees are doing and ensure that the representatives are attending meetings and supporting Federation positions. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote. We need follow-up with the appointees to ensure that they prepare reports or come to a meeting to report. Mr. Barfield will contact the reps and ask them to prepare reports for the fall.

The Bulletin (Newsletter): Fred Costello—June 1 is due date for the Bulletin.

Board Meeting Minutes: Linda Boone, Recording Secretary—The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the April Board meeting as moved by Mr. Bell and seconded by Mr. Jameson. The Minutes are filed for record.

Treasurer's Report: Scott Schlegel, Treasurer—not present but sent report earlier to board via e-mail, but no action was taken at the meeting regarding the report.

Board and Committee Reports

Budget –Linda Boone, nothing new to report

Citizen Association Services: Don Hinman—not present, no report

Education: Ed Saperstein—community meetings are being held to discuss changing start times for schools. Superintendent Garza has reorganized the schools' structure from 8 clusters to 5 regions. She has made several new appointments, including Marty Smith is the new Chief of Staff for FCPS; Kim Dockery appointed as Chief Academic Officer; and Susan Quinn, Chief Operations Officer. The FY2015 budget is being approved tonight with several amendments; one of which was to postpone the teachers' step increases a few months.

Environment: Flint Webb—emailed report. Some key activities of the Environment committee included:

- Attended the Earth Day Symposium put on by the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions and Interfaith Power and Light. The groups coordinating climate change outreach to faith groups (churches, synagogues, temples, mosques etc.). He was surprised at the diversity of faith organizations that were represented and what they all were doing to get the word out about the importance of protecting our natural inheritance for future generations. The meeting was held at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax in Oakton.
- Attended the National Sustainable Design Expo at the DC convention center. He was surprised at the variety of new inexpensive sustainability technologies the college students were developing and implementing in the developing world. There was also a woman from University of Virginia that has a barge to show kindergarten through college age students about wetland restoration. He suggested that she look into doing something similar for Dyke Marsh.
- The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District's seedlings pickup was on May 2nd or 3rd. This year's native plants were bee friendly and included:
 - o Trees: American Plum, Persimmon, and Black Gum, and
 - o Shrubs: Winterberry, Indigobush, Buttonbush, American Elderberry, and Serviceberry.For more information see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.htm>.
- The 69th Green Breakfast on May 11th was a field trip to the Huntley Meadows wetland restoration project. The project won a National Engineering award for its creative approach for regulating the water level in the marsh to maintain a stable hemi marsh for more information see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/restorationproject.htm>.
- On May 15th the Federation Membership meeting program was a debate about the Lorton Construction Debris landfill expansion/Renewable Energy Demonstration Project. The event was well attended and everyone gained an understanding of all sides of the controversial issue.
- On Saturday, May 17th a Rain Barrel Workshop was held in Reston. We strongly encourage everyone to build and/or buy rain barrels. The rain barrels will capture the rainfall keeping it from eroding our streams (and save money by not having to buy treated water to water your plants). For more information about Rain Barrel Workshops and buying rain barrels see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/rainbarrels.htm>.
- The Friends of Accotink Creek held a meeting on Monday, May 19th. Some of the subjects covered were:
 - o Two middle school students presented their ideas for science projects. One student will be studying the ability of native ladybugs to compete with Asian ladybugs and the other student wanted to study insect populations in general. Adult members of the Friends of Accotink Creek will be mentoring the students.
 - o The results of the spring cleanups were announced. There were 458 volunteers who picked up 351 bags of trash at cleanup events organized by the Friends of Accotink Creek alone.
 - o There was also a report about the Wakefield Run. There is an excellent presentation about the Wakefield Run restoration project at http://www.accotink.org/Wakefield_Run.htm.
 - o On June 11th 5% of the purchases made at the Whole Foods Market at Rolling Road and Old Keene Mill Road will be split between the Friends of Accotink Creek and the Friends of Lake Accotink.
 - o There was also a presentation about the fresh water clams in the Accotink just below the Lake Accotink dam. The clams are washed up on shore after big storms and sometimes have a hard time getting back to the water. They are very rare and need to have good water quality to survive. It looks like the dam is doing its job in settling out the silt.

Human Services: Morgan Jameson— no report

Land Use: Fred Costello— Planning Commission RSU Committee meeting will be held at Government Center, May 27, 7:00 p.m., Room 9, 10. Mount Vernon District Council has already voted against this project. The Federation may want to prepare a new resolution about this issue. Nothing has really been decided yet. There is time for additional input.

County ordinance change restricting meetings in homes is based on frequent commercial parties and gatherings in homes resulting in parking on lawns, noise, etc. It appears no one favors approval of this change.

Phase II planning for Reston area will not have a task force appointed and will hold only 2 or 3 community meetings.

Library Ad hoc Committee: Kathy Kaplan –not present, no report

Legislation: Frank Anderson--Not present, no report. Legislative review committee (Ms. Campblin, Mr. Jameson, and Mr. Barfield) will meet after this meeting to address how to get Federation legislative ideas to our elected officials. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Bell and seconded by Mr. Saperstein to have committees and members provide their ideas and inputs to the Legislative Committee by September 15, 2014. It was unanimously approved on a voice vote. What is the purpose of the legislative package? We want legislators to push the positions that the Federation favors. Ideas and write-ups should be short and issue-based, and not necessarily in a resolution format.

Membership: Ed Wyse, no report

Public Safety: Daniela Cockayne— not present, no report

Resolutions: Bill Hanks— not present, no report

Transportation: Karen Campblin—nothing beyond the emailed report from Mr. Parnes:

A) public hearing in June on bike and pedestrian improvements for I495, details on committee web page
B) committee page links to handouts from TAC, BOS Transportation committee, CAC, DATA, TPB and other meetings. Update should be complete by end of May.

Website: Jeff Parnes— not present, emailed report.

A) Reviewing the 500+ banquet photos for posting. He is gladly accepting any other photos of the event.
B) Will have 2015 email aliases working shortly, before the picnic. As a result the 2013 ones will cease working. If you get mail at those addresses you should update the address on file.
C) He has updated many of the committee pages to show only the top topic, when the topic is clicked the associated text appears. Committee chairs should review their pages and send changes to Jeff.

Why do we have the years on the Board and Officers listings? Mr. Parnes can address this at the next Board meeting.

District Council Reports

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

Braddock: Art Wells—At its March 12th meeting, Susan Datta, Chief Financial Officer of Fairfax County, presented an overview of the FY2015 Advertised Budget. Held its annual “Legislative Forum” at its April 9th meeting. Participants included: Congressman Gerry Connolly; State Senators Dick Saslaw, Chap Peterson, and Dave Marsden; and Delegates Vivian Watts, David Bulova, and Eileen Filler-Corn. The BDC’s special committee on “Aging in Place” met on May 21st. The featured speaker was Cherie Lejeune from the Federation. The Office of the Braddock District Supervisor and the BDC will present nine “Best of Braddock” awards at its annual picnic on July 9th in recognition of the achievements of individuals and organizations within the district during the past year. The GMU/Community Forum met May 21st. Subjects discussed included GMU’s Facilities Master Plan and an update of the construction at University Mall.

Lee: Chris Soule— not present, no report

Mason: Roger Hoskin—not present, no report

Mount Vernon: Katherine Ward— Council is supporting meals tax but wants revenue designated for education and parks. Council has voted against any RSUs but Ms. Ward indicated that the county could get additional affordable housing by giving developers a “bump” in density. Council is advocating for multi-modal transportation for Route 1.

Providence District Council: Flint Webb—identity theft and revenge pornography discussed by police at recent PDC meeting. There was a report from the Gabe Goldberg, the Providence Representative on the meals tax task force. Gabe has not decided how he is going to vote, the membership was divided. The next meeting will be the picnic at the Dunn Loring Park Green on June 14th, 2pm to 4 pm.

Springfield: Ed Wyse—no report

Sully: Jeff Parnes—emailed report.

A) May meeting is report from Richmond, two delegates and two senators will speak
B) June meeting is State of Sully given by Supervisor Frey
C) September meeting, jointly sponsored with League of Woman Voters of the Fairfax Area, will be Congressional candidates (10th & 11th districts) night.

Old Business

None

New Business

An infrastructure resolution for FCPS and County to continue working together was mailed earlier to some (but not all) Board members. Dr. Dane asked the Board to consider it at this meeting even though it had not gone through the Education Committee. Mr. Bell moved and Mr. Barfield seconded a motion to approve the resolution as presented, have the Education Committee review the resolution and then have the Membership approve at the picnic. Two friendly amendments were accepted:

1) 4th Whereas statement -- Dr. Dane will cite the reference for the numbers shown.

2) Last Resolved statement to read: "Furthermore, the Federation recommends that the County hire a qualified, independent, contractor to evaluate the County's design and construction process for the purpose of resolving the difference in costs per square foot, and the FCPS and the County's utilization of administrative and warehouse space." The motion passed on a voice vote, with 1 abstention. *NOTE: the format of the resolution needs to be changed to comply with other Federation resolutions before it is submitted to the Board of Supervisors. "Therefore, be it resolved" should be added before the final 3 resolved statements; each statement beginning with Resolved.*

Meals Tax-Mr. Jameson discussed the first meeting of the Meals Tax Task Force. Several decisions have already been made: Agreed that referendum will be presented at a General Election, but do not know which year. Hospitality industry has hired two firms to represent their industries against the Meals Tax. Federation board had not earlier given its task force representatives policy guidance. Mr. Webb moved and Mr. Barfield seconded a motion for the Federation to support a referendum on the Meals Tax to be conducted as part of a general election. The motion passed on a voice vote with one No vote. The Board will make no recommendations at this time about what the tax rate should be or how revenue will be spent. We want to diversify the tax base. It was estimated that a 4% meals tax would generate \$88M per year in revenue.

Picnic—RSVP is on the website, please register if you plan to attend. Board members are asked to invite our elected officials to attend also and to inform First Vice President Ed Wyse who they have invited. President Rob Jackson is arranging for a supervisor to install the officers. Chairman Bulova cannot attend this year.

Rooms are scheduled for meetings in June, July, and August on the fourth Thursdays. President-elect Thompson will decide which meetings will be needed.

Adjournment—The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Next Meetings

Membership Meeting—Picnic June 19, 2014, at 6:30 pm at Annandale Community Park, Annandale, VA
Board Meeting—June 26, 2014 (tentative)

Minutes prepared by Linda Boone, Recording Secretary