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Membership Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2014

Approved November 20, 2014

The October meeting of the Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order by President Tim Thompson at 7:45 p.m. at Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA.

The Federation’s 2015 Legislative Package

This year the legislative package was developed via input from a survey of residents constructed by the Legislative Committee and conducted online. Survey results were consolidated into fifteen positions. The Federation’s board on October 2nd voted whether to adopt each position. Eleven positions were adopted. On October 14 the legislative package was sent via e-mail to the membership. The legislative package was presented to the legislators who attended this evening’s meeting and will be delivered to the other legislators in the next few days.

The titles of the legislative positions are:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Law for hands-free driving• Increase tobacco tax for schools• School opening date• Update LCI (Local Composite Index)• Remove state-funding formula limit (for libraries)• Declare libraries to be essential services | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate change & energy conservation• Solid waste/debris control• Plastic bag fee/credit• Guidelines on \$50M funds transfer (state transportation funds)• Redistricting laws |
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The Federation’s 2015 Legislative Package, as presented to our legislators and the Board of Supervisors, is available at <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/resolutions/ResolutionLegislativeProgram2015Approved20141016.pdf>.

The Federation’s internal working 2015 Proposed 15 Issues Package with statistics from the survey, all fifteen proposed issues, and board voting results is available at <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/committees/Legislation/Federation2015LegislativeSurveySummaryandWorkingDocument201410014.pdf>.

Legislators’ Forum

Six of the twenty-five members of the General Assembly who represent Fairfax County participated in the forum. The legislators who participated were:

Legislator	District	Areas in District
Senator Chap Peterson	34 th	City of Fairfax, Town of Vienna, surrounding areas, extending west
Senator David Marsden	37 th	Parts of Sully, Springfield, Braddock, & Mason Districts
Delegate Mark Keam	35 th	Town of Vienna, surrounding areas, extending west
Delegate David Bulova	37 th	City of Fairfax, surrounding areas, extending west
Delegate Vivian Watts	39 th	Straddling I-95/I-395/I-495 intersection, extending south & west
Delegate Marcus Simon	53 rd	City of Falls Church and surrounding areas

In addition, Legislative Aide Megan Howard represented Delegate Scott Surovell, 44th District, Mount Vernon area from Potomac River west to Beulah St. & Telegraph Rd., including Rt. 1 corridor.

The legislators each gave a short address about their views of the continuing 2014 General Assembly session and the upcoming 2105 session.

Your secretary tried here to summarize the legislator's key points. I offer my apologies if I have omitted or misrepresented any points. Any error is entirely mine.

Legislator	Key Points Made
Senator Chap Peterson	Will file a bill to tax plastic bags.
Senator David Marsden	Pushing ethics reform. An example is state employees who end a career with a high-paying political appointment and retire based on the earnings of their high three years of earnings. Explained declining economic conditions in many parts of Virginia and how that impacts the dynamics of legislative cohesion.
Delegate Mark Keam	Builds his legislative program in the post-election period and drafts his bills in November; he suggests we inform our members to sign up for legislators' e-mail news releases; he discussed pending budget issues due to declining revenue forecasts; in November the current session will tackle judicial appointments; in January expect more ethics reform, redistricting for Congress, and consideration of the recommendations of the Standards of Learning reform commission. He expects Medicaid expansion will be a major issue in the next election for General Assembly members.

Legislator	Key Points Made
Delegate David Bulova	For fair reapportionment; has great interest in HOA/Common Interest Board issues; questions whether HOA's need non-judicial takings power (although rarely exercised); asks if there should be a minimum size for HOA's; investigating disposal of digital assets upon death; improving energy efficiency (specific example how to assist homeowners to spread the cost of energy-saving capital improvements over the life of projected savings); and ban microbeads
Delegate Vivian Watts	Medicaid in the current budget is incredibly complex (19-pages); one reason for the extended legislative session is that it diminishes the governor's powers; reform of tax policy and Local Composite Index are important because demographics have changed since these were enacted—they no longer are fair or effective; ethics rules should apply to family members; semi-annual financial statements ought to occur prior to elections instead of in December; we need to take a long-term approach to the needs of the mental ill, especially those who also have physical limitations; will observe photo ID in actual practice to see how election officials' discretionary decisions impact citizens; transportation revenue forecast is down significantly; must repeal a 2012 law that gives the Commonwealth Transportation Commission power to allocate the first \$50M in construction funds with formula or other constraint; Common Interest Communities is outside my committee assignments but keep me informed of your views.
Delegate Marcus Simon	Ban microbeads; election process improvement to include redistricting, that clerk of elections should focus on facilitating voting rather than "gatekeeping", & repeal of photo ID requirement; campaign finance reform, especially to prohibit candidates from using campaign funds for personal use; and repeal ban on same sex marriages (bill already submitted). He will seek opposition party co-sponsors for bills he will introduce.
Megan Howard for Delegate Scott Surovell	The future of the US Route 1 corridor is a key issue. Delegate Surovell's vision includes a 6-lane road with a transit component and corresponding focused, walkable, mixed-use development near the road. Delegate Surovell and Senator Puller will sponsor legislation to allocate \$4M to conduct the next step toward corridor improvements—a Phase 2 Study for US Rt. 1 Multi-Modal Analysis.

New Business

Endorsement of the Transportation Bond Issue in the General Election

In its October 2 meeting the board had approved in principle endorsing a "yes" vote for the transportation bond issue on the November 4 ballot. A written version of the

resolution had not yet been written and was not available in time to be published in *The Bulletin* or otherwise shared with the membership.

Consequently, a 2/3's majority vote was required to bring the question to the floor at the membership meeting. On the question of consideration, the vote was for: 22; against: 0; and abstain: 6.

Ed Wyse read the resolution which had been written by Jeff Parnes, co-chair of the Transportation Committee. The bond issue authorizes the county to purchase \$100M in bonds to fund transportation spot improvements and pedestrian and bicycle projects.

Your secretary attempted to summarize the discussion. One reviewer disputed the secretary's summary and offered an alternative. In the interest of fairness, both versions are presented.

Version A

Discussion asked why the bond issue; the reply was that the new state funding for transportation was prioritized toward congestion relief and that if the county wanted these other types of improvements it would have to pay for them. Discussion also addressed whether the need was real and whether we should accept the county, instead of the state, paying.

Version B

The bond Issue was discussed. Why was there such an imbalance between the relatively small amount of \$16 million dedicated to FC road improvements/congestion relief and the large remaining amount allocated to bicycle paths, sidewalks, and walkways? The reply was that since most of the monies contained in the new state funding were allocated to statewide road improvement, it was expected that FC would assume the responsibility for most local infrastructural improvements. Did that not equate to double taxation, a member asked?

The resolution passed on a vote of: for: 19; against: 7; and abstain: 0.

The resolution is available at

<http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/resolutions/ResolutionSupport2014TransportationBondReferendumApproved20141016.pdf>

Administrative Topics:

1. Meeting Minutes: The membership approved the September 2014 Membership Meeting minutes by voice vote.
2. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Matt Bell gave a brief report on the financial statement.

District Council Reports

Art Wells, representative of the Braddock District Council, reported that the council received at its October meeting a police briefing on the anti-speeding campaign. The next district council meeting will receive a briefing on the renovation of the Ravensworth Shopping Center.

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Next Meetings

Board
October 23, 2014, 7:30 pm, at Braddock
Hall, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke

Membership
November 20, 7:30 p.m., at Mason
District Governmental Center, 6507
Columbia Pike, Annandale – Topic:
Emergency Preparedness.

Minutes prepared by Ed Wyse, Secretary Pro Tem