

Board Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2016

Approved April 28, 2016

The March meeting of the Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order on March 17, 2016, by President Tim Thompson at 7:35 p.m. at Mason District Governmental Center, [6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003](#).

Present:

Officers: Tim Thompson (President/Colvin's Glen-Colvin's Forest Citizens Association), Ed Wyse (First Vice President/Springfield/Membership/ Civic Association of West Springfield), Bill Barfield (Second Vice President/Legislation), Curtis Anderson (Recording Secretary/Budget), and Fred Costello (Corresponding Secretary/Land Use/Fox Mill Estates Homes Association).

District Council Representatives: Art Wells (Braddock/Truro Homes Association), and John Birch (Mason/Bel Air Homeowners Association).

Committee Chairs: Kathy Kaplan (Library/ Woodside at Holly Oak), and Nancy Trainer (Nominating/Education/ Potomac Hills Citizens Association)

Other: John Cockayne (Public Safety Committee), Clyde Miller, Judy Harbeck (Mount Vernon/Education Committee), Tammy Petrine (Library Committee), and Jon Clark (Budget Committee).

Administrative and Organizational Topics: Tim Thompson –

1. Picnic location: The site of last year's picnic, Mason District Park, is not available. Ed Wyse moved that the board give him permission to reserve a picnic shelter for the June meeting at Nottoway Park, Vienna, or Roundtree Park, Falls Church. The motion was passed by voice vote.
2. Dr. Dane Remembrance: Tim announced that the Fairfax County School Board will honor Dr. Charles Dane at its meeting April 14, 7 p.m., Luther Jackson Middle School, Falls Church. Federation members are invited to attend.

Bulletin/Newsletter: Fred Costello – Articles are due Saturday, April 2, at 9 am.

Meeting Minutes: None presented.

Treasurer's Report: By email Matthew Bell noted that the current balance in the BB&T account is \$16,458.14.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

1. Proffers Legislation: Tim announced that the governor signed into law the proffers bill, which the Federation had opposed.
2. Land Use Resolution: Fred Costello moved to adopt a resolution on Opposing Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment Regarding the PDC/PRM Districts, which had been drafted by Clyde Miller of Mason District Council. Art Wells seconded the motion. Clyde described the issue. Nancy Trainer moved to edit the second resolved statement; Ed Wyse seconded the motion. The edit was adopted by voice vote. The resolution was passed unanimously by voice vote. (Resolution attached).
3. Budget Committee: Board approved a Budget Resolution unanimously. (Resolution attached).

Board & Committee Reports

1. Budget – Curtis Anderson – No report.
2. Citizens Association Services – Don Hinman – No report.
3. Citizen of the Year (COY) Banquet – Jeff Parnes – Sunday, April 3; please sign up.
4. Education –Ed Saperstein & Nancy Trainer – No report.
5. Environment - Flint Webb & Monica Billger – No report.
6. Human Services – Cherie Tripp Lejeune & Morgan Jameson – No report.
7. Land Use - Fred Costello – No report.
8. Library - Kathy Kaplan and Dennis Hayes – No report.
9. Legislation - Bill Barfield, Matt Bell and Katherine Ward – No report.
10. Membership – Ed Wyse & Shiasta Keating – No report.
11. Public Safety – Patrick Smaldore and Daniela Cockayne – No report.
12. Resolutions – VACANT – No report.
13. Transportation – Jeff Parnes & Karen Campblin – No report.
14. Website – Jeff Parnes and Fred Costello – No report.

District Council Reports

(Dranesville & Hunter Mill - N/A)

1. Braddock – Art Wells – Report attached.
2. Lee – Vacant – No report.
3. Mason – John Birch – No report.
4. Mt. Vernon – Katherine Ward – No report.
5. Providence – Flint Webb – No report.
6. Springfield – Ed Wyse - No report.
7. Sully – Jeff Parnes – No report.

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 10:38 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Curtis M. Anderson, Recording Secretary
with the assistance of Ed Wyse, First Vice President.

Next Meetings:

Board Meeting – April 28, 2016, 7:30 pm at Dunn Loring Center, Room 108 (Entrance 2), 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, VA 22027

Membership Meeting – March 31, 2016, 7:30 pm at West Springfield Governmental Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA 22152.

Attachment 1

Braddock District Council Report to the Federation Board March 17 (Art Wells)

The Braddock District Council (BDC) meeting on March 9, 2016 featured the presentation of the Fairfax County's FY2017 Advertised Budget by Supervisor Cook and two staff members from the Office of Management and Budget: Kcitie Horstman and Ellicia Seard. As expected, there was a lively discussion on the part of the many in attendance. The several handouts included copies of the (a) 85 chart comprehensive briefing; and (b) an excellent, understandable booklet, "A Citizen's Guide to the Budget."

Supervisor Cook will be holding a budget town meeting on March 28th at 7:30 at the Robinson Secondary School on Sideburn Road. Also participating will be Ed Long, the County Executive, and Megan McLaughlin, the district's School Board representative.

The next BDC meeting will be on April 13th which will feature an update by members of the Northern Virginia Delegation of the major actions by the General Assembly during its just completed session.

The BDC's special committee on "Aging in Place" continued its active, timely work at its March 16th meeting. The featured presentation was "Library Resources Available But Often Missed."

Attachment 2

Resolution Regarding Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment for PDC/PRM Districts

WHEREAS, the county has demonstrated no requirement or community benefit for new regulations permitting floor area ratios (FARs) exceeding 3.0 and as high as 5.0 to support development in PDC and/or PRM districts in Community Business Centers (CBCs), Commercial Revitalization Districts (CRDs), and/or Transit Station Areas (TSAs), and

WHEREAS, the proposed zoning ordinance amendment could trigger a proliferation of 5.0 FAR developments, damaging surrounding communities, by allowing such developments on any land unit in a CBC, CRD, or TSA as long as the development would not exceed any site-specific density/intensity recommendation in the comprehensive plan, and

WHEREAS, presumptive designation of all CBCs for development at FARs as high as 5.0 would not be in the best interests of the county community given the fact that CBCs provide essential retail outlets and services for surrounding communities, and

WHEREAS, presumptive designation of all Commercial Revitalization Districts for development at FARs as high as 5.0 would not be in the best interests of the county community given the fact that “revitalization” and very high density development are not synonymous, and

WHEREAS, the Board’s policy to allow concurrent out-of-turn plan amendments to accommodate rezoning applications in CRDs would allow comprehensive plan density/intensity recommendations to be modified on a case-by-case basis, thereby eliminating any effective limit on proliferation of FAR 5.0 developments, and

WHEREAS, the lack of a definition of the term “Commercial Revitalization District” would allow the Board to arbitrarily designate an area a CRD thereby unreasonably subjecting it to the very high-density development provisions of the proposed zoning ordinance amendment, and

WHEREAS, the lack of a definition of the term “Transit Station Area” would allow the Board to arbitrarily designate an area a TSA thereby unreasonably subjecting it to the very high-density development provisions of the proposed zoning ordinance amendment, and

WHEREAS, current land unit plans developed by the community are based on zoning ordinance regulations limiting FAR to 3.0, and increasing the FAR limit to 5.0 would require community re-planning activities to assure that the change would not produce unacceptable consequences, and

WHEREAS, in land units zoned PDC or PRM districts, the proposed amendment would allow the Board to approve developments at FARs up to 5.0 without public review or hearings, and

WHEREAS, community concerns submitted to the county several times since August 2015 related to proposed modifications to open space; off-street parking; and bulk, landscape, and screening regulations remain unresolved,

THEREFORE, BE IT

Resolved, the Federation recommends that the county stop work on any further development of the proposed zoning ordinance amendment for PDC/PRM districts.

Resolved, the Federation recommends that the county consider establishing a set of high-density regulations that could be applied to any underlying PDC or PRM district anywhere in the county for the purpose of allowing FARs up to, but not exceeding, 4.0. The high-density regulations should specify the conditions under which the Board could approve rezoning to a higher level, including infrastructure capability requirements as well as requirements for Transportation Demand Management (TDM) and proximity to transit. Any approval of a FAR higher than that allowed in the underlying district should require public hearings before the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors with unanimous votes in favor in both cases. For districts entirely within one-quarter mile of Metro rail stations, the Board could approve up to 5.0 FAR.

Attachment 3

**Resolution on the
Fairfax County Advertised Fiscal Year 2017 Budget**

(Adopted by Board March 17, 2016)

(Adopted by Membership March xx, 2016)

The following resolutions were adopted by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (Federation) Membership on March xx, 2016. This package of resolutions submitted to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Tim Thompson, President
Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations

Table of Contents

I.	INTRODUCTION	3
II.	BUDGET PROCESS	5
III.	REVENUES	6
IV.	DEBT MANAGEMENT	7
V.	COMPENSATION	8
VI.	SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS	10
	A. EDUCATION/FCPS TRANSFER	10
	B. LIBRARY BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR FY2017	12

I. INTRODUCTION

The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations is, as you know, a 75-Year organization representing over 60,000 homeowners throughout Fairfax County.

The Federation applauds the County for putting forward a budget which:

- (a) strives to continue Fairfax County's bond rating as Triple-A by all three rating agencies;
- (b) continues to maintain a relatively safe and secure community; and
- (c) continues to recognize Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) as a most important reason for businesses from around the USA & world to relocate to our County.

These new businesses, in expanding the tax base, provide tax relief to the Federation's Membership by not increasing property taxes as high as would be necessary without this strong business community and wide-ranging tax base.

However, the Federation still remains greatly concerned by the complete lack of transparency on a number of issues in the County and by the hypocritical stance by the County Executive and Board of Supervisors. They announce "Schools are our #1 priority" yet show, for example, on Fairfax County's Channel 16 the actual funding per student in FCPS has decreased 24%, or \$1,120 per student, since 2009.

The Federation and its membership is concerned about the inconsistencies presented between the words and the facts.

By the County's own audio & visual slides on Channel 16, K-12 School Funding at the state level has dropped significantly; Virginia's national ranking has gone from 35th to 42nd. If funding rank includes inflation since 2009, only Mississippi is below Virginia, now at 49th!

Chairman Bulova is shown saying the Urban Crescent (geographically from Norfolk, the Tidewater area and up the I-95 corridor to Fairfax and Arlington) represents 80% of the commonwealth's students. The elected County officials of the Urban Crescent have met and agreed to DOUBLE SCHOOL SPENDING per the signed letter shown on the TV program.

Since our school system is an anchor for our community and the #1 reason businesses choose Fairfax County in which to locate (per Dr. Gordon of EDA), it is most essential that the funding per student is increased to at least 2009 levels. However, the Fairfax County Executive has again under-budgeted funding that only exasperates the funding per student problem. Funding goes down yet once more. Since 2009, the BOS has reduced its funding per student (adjusted for inflation) from \$13,340 to \$12,196 or 9%; Compare this to the FY2009 rate of \$0.92/\$100 resulting in an average tax payment of \$4,821.50 vs. FY2017 (proposed) rate of \$1.13/\$100 equating to \$5,962.42 tax payment.

This is an increase of 21-cents or 22.83% in the rate resulting in an increase in tax payment per homeowner of \$1,141 or 22.66% ... yet you lower the funding per student 9% while the number of students increased in FCPS during this time by almost 20,000 students. Just this increase alone (20K kids) would equate to the 8th largest school system in the commonwealth. We note that FCPS at 189,000 students is the largest in the commonwealth and 10th largest in USA.

The Federation believes there are significant savings to be found in both the County and FCPS budgets. Controlling the real estate tax burden on home owners (the Federation's Membership) should be of significant importance in Fairfax County's budget for FY2017. The resulting consequence of having to pay higher & higher property taxes is that businesses may prefer to relocate away from Fairfax County, a result which is completely unsatisfactory to us. We are concerned that the current trajectory of tax increases on homeowners is unsustainable. Last year's unfunded pay raise balance (FY 2016 Approved) should NOT be picked up and added to this year's pay increase thus making them "whole". The FY 2017 Advertised Budget – which, for example, yields an effective pay raise for non-school employees of the County of 5.47% while teachers are not having their 2% pay raise funded by the County Executive.

The Board of Supervisors and County Executive should seriously rethink their funding sources as other than the County's homeowners – of which 60,000 homes constitute the Federation's Membership.

II. BUDGET PROCESS

WHEREAS, the Advertised Property Tax Rate for FY2017 had to be announced by March 1, 2016 just two weeks after the County Executive released his Advertised Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Advertised Budget was released on February 16, 2016, and the public hearings on the budget are scheduled to begin 49 days later, on April 5th to 7th; and

WHEREAS, the County and FCPS already develop a 5 year staffing plan and budget outlooks; and

WHEREAS, while the “performance” of most departments and agencies, while reported in the County’s proposed budget under the heading of Performance Measurement Results, include many activities, such as attending meetings and preparing reports, that are activities rather than real accomplishments/results; and

WHEREAS, both the County government and FCPS provide many non-mandated programs that should be reviewed for need and effectiveness, especially during economic downturns; and

WHEREAS, Fairfax County has an obligation to ensure the most efficient use of tax dollars at a time of continuing shortfalls, to minimize damage to essential County and schools programs, and to limit the burden on County taxpayers; and

THEREFORE, BE IT

1. **Resolved**, the Federation praises the County’s extensive series of public meetings to solicit community input on spending priorities, and urges that such meetings be continued in future years; and be it further
2. **Resolved**, the Federation continues to strongly urge that the processes/calendar for County residents' informed input to the budget decision-making process allow at least 60 days between release of the Advertised Budget and the public testimony on the budget; and be it further
3. **Resolved**, the Federation urges the County to publish 5-year budget goals; and be it further.
4. **Resolved**, the Federation urges the County to publish a 5 year capital projects plan which includes projects for both the County and FCPS.

III. REVENUES

WHEREAS, the rising additional fees that directly affect homeowners (such as storm water fees and waste disposal fees) further increases the “tax burden” on homeowners; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has the authority to adopt a zoning ordinance to assess and impose transportation impact fees on by-right commercial or mixed-use development, and to require that the collected impact fees be used to pay all or part of the costs of reasonable road improvements, and that new transportation revenues collected from fuel taxes be used to alleviate transportation congestion within the County; and

THEREFORE, BE IT

1. **Resolved**, the Federation recommends the Board of Supervisors pursue additional sources of revenue including but not limited to: (A) implementing a Meals Tax, (B) increasing fees for BPOL and residential permitting, and (C) implementing a plastic bag usage fee; and be it further
2. **Resolved**, the Federation recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt a zoning ordinance to assess and impose transportation impact fees on by-right commercial or mixed-use development; the collected impact fees are to be used to pay all or part of the costs of reasonable road improvement, and that new transportation revenues collected from fuel taxes be used to alleviate transportation congestion within the County.

IV. DEBT MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, Fairfax County has maintained a Aaa rating from Moody's Investors Service since 1975, a AAA rating from Standard & Poor's since 1978 and a AAA rating from Fitch Ratings since 1997; and

WHEREAS, as of January 2016, Fairfax County is only one of 11 states, 46 counties, and 33 cities to hold a Triple-A rating from all three rating agencies; and

WHEREAS, Fairfax County has been able to maintain its Triple-A bond rating throughout many economic downturns and Federal Government budget reductions over the past 36 years by following sound financial management practices; and

WHEREAS, interest payments on the debt amount to over \$100M per year; and

WHEREAS, taxpayer support for bonds may depend on the effective interest rate, including fees, being paid; and

WHEREAS, the County issues bonds annually at an average amount of \$100M, less than 3% of the annual operating revenue; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Economic Development Authority Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRB) is to stimulate economic growth in the private sector; and

THEREFORE, BE IT

- 1. Resolved**, that the Federation recommends that the County continue to adhere to sound financial management policies and practices, including matching recurring requirements with sustainable and recurring sources of revenue, and if necessary defer or eliminate any new debt issuance that might place the County's strong debt rating and healthy financial condition at risk; and be it further.
- 2. Resolved**, that the County can only use Economic Development Authority IRB bonds when the underlying project will be paid by a revenue stream that does not consist of government funds; and be it further
- 3. Resolved**, just as regulations required publishing of both the stated interest rate and the annual percentage rate (APR) for consumers, similarly Fairfax County should report the effective interest rate, as well as additional costs, on existing bonds and the estimated effective interest rate, as well as additional costs, on proposed bonds.

V. COMPENSATION¹

WHEREAS, people live much longer than they did when the County retirement system was instituted (life expectancy is now 83, as compared to 70 not many years ago); and

WHEREAS, police and uniformed employees of the County are eligible for retirement at a much earlier age than taxpayers in the private sector; and

WHEREAS, the long-term liability of the defined benefit pension fund is uncertain under the present funding; and

WHEREAS, raising the age at which retirement benefits are first paid to County employees (not including uniformed services or FCPS) to age 66, we estimate would save the County \$150M per year when fully implemented in year ten; and

WHEREAS, the DROP program was introduced during the housing bubble, when the County had abundant income, but now, after the bubble burst, \$33M per year is required to fund the DROP program; and

WHEREAS, the DROP program gives employees a lumped-sum payment averaging \$250,000 upon retirement, over and above their pension plan; and

WHEREAS, the annual cost-of-living increase in the pension payments is 4% although the cost of living has increased recently only 1.65%, the difference adding \$4M to the current County expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the salaries of County employees are nearly the same as those in the private sector, although the fringe benefits that these employees receive amounts equal to 51-53% of their salaries, as compared to at most 30% in the private sector; and

WHEREAS, the private sector is moving to defined contribution pension plans away from defined benefit pension plans to increase portability and better control costs; and

THEREFORE, BE IT

1. **Resolved**, that the cost-of-living increase in the pension funds be that of the current cost of living rather than having a minimum cost-of-living increase of 4%; and be it further
2. **Resolved**, that, over a 10-year period, the County raise the age at which retirement benefits first are paid to the age of 66; and be it further

¹ Dollar values in this section are the Federation's best estimate, as presented in Report 147 on the Federation's website budget page. The Federation would welcome the County's estimate and the supporting documentation.

- 3. Resolved**, that, over a 10-year period, the DROP program be terminated; and be it further

- 4. Resolved**, that the County and FCPS pay a living wage for a single person to low salary employees; and be it further

- 5. Resolved**, that the County and FCPS should transition from a defined benefit to a defined contribution pension plan.

VI. SPECIFIC RESOLUTIONS

A. EDUCATION/FCPS TRANSFER

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Advertised FY 2017 budget requires a County transfer increase of about \$68 million more than in the County Executive's proposed increase (a difference which may be somewhat offset by additional state funds); and

WHEREAS, since FY 2009 FCPS has increased class size three times; and

WHEREAS, FCPS elementary school class sizes have now grown to as many as 35 students in some schools; and

WHEREAS, the FCPS Advertised FY 2017 budget includes about \$10 million to reduce the largest class sizes in elementary classrooms; and

WHEREAS, "FCPS is significantly below the market average for teacher salaries and total compensation," and, for example, at the 15th year, a "FCPS teacher's salary is about \$8,500 below the market average and about \$20,000 below an Arlington County teacher;"² and

WHEREAS, the FY 2017 FCPS Advertised budget includes about \$100 million for a salary increase to begin to address its uncompetitive salaries, including about \$40 million to improve the teacher salary scale in the career years where FCPS lags the local market the most; and

WHEREAS, FCPS opened this school year with 200 teacher vacancies, which is unprecedented and demonstrates a problem attracting and/or retaining teachers who are sufficiently qualified to serve our students; and

WHEREAS, younger employees often have different preferences and needs regarding the composition of their compensation as compared to employees close to retirement; and

THEREFORE, BE IT

- 1. Resolved**, the Federation requests the County to increase the proposed County transfer for schools so that FCPS can begin to substantively address the issues of teacher salary and large elementary school class sizes; and be it further
- 2. Resolved**, the Federation recommends that FCPS adopt more flexible compensation packages for their employees, permitting employees more choice in allocating their total compensation between salary and benefits; and be it

² Advertised Budget Presentation, Joint Board of Supervisors/School Board Meeting. February 26, 2016.

further

- 3. Resolved**, the Federation commends Superintendent Garza for reviewing the salary scales and the entire compensation package.

B. LIBRARY BUDGET RESOLUTION FOR FY2017

BACKGROUND

The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations recommends a modest increase to the FY16 Library Advertised Budget to reverse the significant and disproportionate cuts sustained to the library since 2009. Key priorities include investing in library employees, providing adequate staffing to engage the public and care for the materials collection, and to increase the physical holdings of the library in order to restore Fairfax County Public Library to a world-class facility.

WHEREAS, the federal ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) signed into law December 2015 declares public and school libraries to be essential for public education and worthy of support³; and

WHEREAS, the home schooling of children in Fairfax County saves the taxpayers in excess of \$31M every year, and those children depend on public libraries to serve as their school libraries, budgeting for their educational library materials must be included in the library budget; and

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Public Library has had its budget reduced to less than 1% (0.007) of the entire \$3.99B FY2016 County budget; and

WHEREAS, the County's population and cost of living increases since 2004 necessitates a library budget increase in excess of \$10 million to maintain services; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Advertised budget is inadequate to properly service and maintain current collection levels; and

WHEREAS, fourteen FTE (full time equivalent) circulation aide positions with budgeted funds to provide overtime were removed last year; and

WHEREAS, half the library page positions and their associated funding were removed in 2009; and

WHEREAS, library books are being discarded because of lack of adequate staff to shelve them; and

WHEREAS, the print collection has been and continues to be decimated by inappropriate culling with as many discards through the first six months of FY16 as the entire year of FY15 according to library documents provided to the Library Board; and

³ <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/sites/ala.org.advocacy/files/content/advleg/federallegislation/ALA%20-%20ESEA%20Conference%20Overview%20%2811-30-15%29.pdf>

<http://www.districtdispatch.org/2015/12/significant-victory-for-libraries-as-president-signs-essa-into-law/>

WHEREAS, the Library Board of Trustees requested an additional \$2M to the FY2015 budget to support staff levels and replenish the nonfiction collection diminished by twelve years of excessive culling; and

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations included a request for an additional \$2M in their library budget resolution for FY2015; and

THEREFORE, BE IT

1. **Resolved**, that the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations requests that the Board of Supervisors add \$2M to the FY2017 Advertised library budget; and be it further
2. **Resolved**, that 14 FTE (full time equivalent) circulation aide positions eliminated in FY2016 and their budgeted funding be restored to avoid cutting library hours; and be it further
3. **Resolved**, that the library page positions eliminated in FY2009 and their budgeted funding be restored; and be it further
4. **Resolved**, that appropriate measures to protect and maintain the print collection be enacted by the Board of Supervisors and the Library Board including the elimination of "grubby" lists, elimination of the 24-month low-demand review criteria and replacing it with American Library Association standard 60-month review criteria, allowing volunteers and library staff to mend lightly damaged books, and allowing donated books with less than four copies of each title be added to the library's print collection.