Membership Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2016

The September Membership meeting of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (FCFCA) was called to order on September 15, 2016, by President Tim Thompson at 7:20 p.m. at the Mason Governmental Center 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003.

Present:

BOARD:

Officers: Tim Thompson (President/Colvin’s Glen-Colvin’s Forest Citizens Association), Ed Wyse (First Vice President/Springfield/Membership/Civic Association of West Springfield), and George Becerra (Recording Secretary).

District Council Representatives: Art Wells (Braddock/Truro Homes Association), John Birch (Mason/Bel Air Homeowners Association), and Peter Sitnik (Mount Vernon/Co-Chair, Legislation).

Committee Chairs: Cherie Tripp Lejeune (Co-Chair, Human Services), Ed Saperstein (Education/Glen Haven Farms Homeowners Association), and Patrick Smaldore (Public Safety).

MEMBERSHIP:

Members: John Cewe (Crosspointe Swim and Racquet, Inc.), Lars Hanson (Robin Glen HOA) Rick Kotteman (Groveton, Virginia, Civic Association), Mike Cook (Holmes Run Valley Citizens Association), Amanda Sansbury (Lafayette Village Community Association), Mike Rioux (Mason Hill Citizens Association), Greg Doherty (Mason Hill Citizens Association), Keith Brown (North Springfield Civic Association), Daniela Cockayne (Sleepy Hollow Citizens Association), John Cockayne (Sleepy Hollow Citizens Association), and Gabriel Goldberg (Walnut Hill Homeowners Association).

Others: None

Invited Guests: None

Nomination and Election of Recording Secretary: President Tim Thompson nominated George Becerra (after receiving recommendation from the Nominations Committee) for position of Recording Secretary. The nomination was seconded.

Then the President asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. Hearing none, the President proceeded with taking a vote. Vote was unanimous for electing George Becerra as Recording Secretary.
Presentation by Cherie Tripp Lejeune (Co-Chair, Human Services) on Neighbor to Neighbor (http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/fairfax50plus-community-engagement.htm). This is one of the programs under the Fairfax 50+ Community Action Plan Initiatives (Community Engagement). This County program’s goal is increase awareness of neighborhood models such as the villages model as well as online tools that facilitate neighborhood interaction and support. See Attachment 1 for handouts given at the meeting.

President on the newly created Revenue Committee: President Thompson has created a Revenue Committee, in which the Chair is Morgan Jameson. The focus of the Committee will be on raising the tax base instead of touching on the real estate tax. President Thompson goes on to mention about the Meals Tax referendum and the Invest in Fairfax organization that is in favor of having it. He gives a brief history on the Meals Tax Committee formed by Chairman Bulova, 2 years ago. Informs the members that $97M will be generated by a Meals Tax in Fairfax County, with 29% coming from visitors/tourists/non-residents. The President has met with all the Board of Supervisors on this matter.

Meeting Minutes: June’s Membership meeting minutes were passed unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report: No report.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:
1. Legislative Package: Co-Chair, Legislation, Peter Sitnik with President Thompson introduced the Legislative Package Survey. Peter gives a basic overview of what the Survey is. Several members ask what happens with the Survey results in regards to the Final Legislative Package and more importantly what has the Federation done on these items in Richmond during session? Then what have been the final actions/results from an advocacy point of if we had won, partial win, defeated and if we need to continue with advocating for the next year. Peter states that the Survey will be open until Thursday, September 22nd. Members are invited to help compile the results at Bill Barfield’s home. It was also mentioned that members will vote on the Final Legislative Package at the next Membership meeting on Thursday, October 27th.

District Council Reports & Membership – Open Floor (Dranesville & Hunter Mill - N/A)
1. Braddock – Art Wells – Last meeting was a Picnic Meeting
2. Lee – No report.
4. **Mt. Vernon** – Peter Sitnik – Meals Tax Forum on September 28th at 7pm at the South County Government Center
5. **Providence** – No report
6. **Springfield** – No report.
7. **Sully** – No report.
8. **Membership** – Open Floor – None.

**Board & Committee Reports**

1. **Budget** – No report.
2. **Citizens Association Services** – No report.
3. **Education** – No report.
4. **Environment** - No report.
5. **Human Services** – No report.
6. **Land Use** - No report.
7. **Legislation** – See New Business
8. **Library** – No report
9. **Membership** – Ed Wyse – Provided membership sign-in sheets and vote cards for the meeting and gave a quick membership count overview
10. **Public Safety** – No report.
11. **Resolutions** – No report.
12. **Transportation** – No report.
13. **Website** – No report

**Announcements:** September is National Preparedness Month

**Adjournment** - The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

**Next Meetings:**

**Membership Meeting** – October 27, 2016 – Providence Community Center, Classroom #2, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax 22031.

**Board Meeting** – October 20, 2016 - Providence Community Center, Classroom #2, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax 22031.

Minutes prepared by George Becerra, Recording Secretary
May 14-15
Recommended 1-4 p.m.

Neighborhood Knock

Fairfax Neighbors--Why Not Say "HELLO" to existing neighbors or meet new ones.

Please JOIN in the first "Neighborhood Knock"

Contact: Cherie Lejeune 203-400-3668
Fedhumanserviceschr2016@fairfaxfederation.org
General Tips for Supporting Volunteers

Recruitment of volunteers is all about relationships.
Describe what volunteers will be doing (keep it general).
Have a checklist of possible tasks.
Respond to volunteers quickly and with a great attitude.
Make volunteering convenient and easy.
Say “Thank You” one hundred times (e-cards, emails, Facebook, handwritten, phone calls, have small recognition events, certificates, etc.
Watch for signs that a volunteer has over-committed. Try to be flexible and find a schedule that works for each individual volunteer.
Volunteers like to be a part of an organization that is known for their great work. Publish photos of volunteers at work in the neighborhood newsletters or web site.
Check-in regularly with your volunteers. Find what works best for them. If they are unhappy, find out why. If there is something you can do about it, take action.
Stay positive. Positive energy breeds positive involvement.
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
A Block Captain or Area Connector Approach

Identify interested key leaders within smaller segments of the neighborhood who have good skills in communication and connecting people to each other.

Organize a meeting of these individuals and ask them to become the Connectors for their area.

Create a suggestion list for the Connector’s role. **Choose a few items from this list or create your own. You don’t have to do everything on this list! It can be simple or complex – depending on neighborhood interest.**

1) Create a contact list of residents in the Connector’s area
2) Establish a point(s) of contact (e.g. phone number, email, virtual web-system) for residents to contact when they have a need.
3) Go door-to-door and personally meet each resident and explain role
4) Using a simple questionnaire, find who is willing to help other neighbors when there are needs.
5) Host a potluck or other function for neighbors to get to know each other. Host a few social events each year to foster on-going connections.
6) Facilitate the connection of neighbors in need with neighbors willing to help.
   a. Organize snow shoveling buddies.
   b. Organize grass cutting buddies.
   c. Organize meal preparers for short term needs.
   d. Organize lists of volunteer drivers.
   e. Establish a list of vulnerable individuals and provide regular check-ins.
   f. Establish a “share list” of businesses that neighbors recommend.
   g. Provide contact number to county social services when appropriate.
   h. Add your own ideas to this list.
7) Identify obstacles to connecting. Identify what works well and what obstacles exist and share with other Connectors.

Establish a method for Connectors to reach out to nearby Connectors if there is a need that cannot be filled within a particular neighborhood segment or area.

Hold regular meetings of Connectors to share successes and challenges. Have speakers when appropriate on topics of interest.

Have community-wide volunteer appreciation events for Connectors and service helpers.
Using Technology To Help Neighborhoods Connect

Communication is the key.

How? What are the primary options?

A Telephone Tree:
Designated communicators would call a list of neighbors to share information.

Computer technology options:

Email distribution list
Ask all your neighbors for their email addresses. Compile into a distribution list or "Contact Group" in your Contacts list.

Use a "list serve" for larger email lists. Listserv users can add or remove themselves from the email list on their own. May or may not be a cost to use.

Virtual Approach
Nextdoor.com is the primary digital neighborhood communication tool being used in the Fairfax Area. Participants can post information to share with neighbors. See Digital N2N Communication Tool for more information.