Board Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2017

The January meeting of the Board of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations was called to order on January 26, 2017, by President Tim Thompson at 7:35 p.m. at Dunn Loring Center, Room 108, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, VA 22027.

Present:

Officers: Tim Thompson (President), Ed Wyse (First Vice President/Springfield/Membership), Bill Barfield (Second Vice President/Co-Chair Legislation), and Alejandro Mattiuzzo (Treasurer), and George Becerra (Recording Secretary).

District Council Representatives: Art Wells (Braddock), John Birch (Mason), Peter Sitnik (Mount Vernon/Co-Chair, Legislation), Flint Webb (Providence/Co-Chair, Environment), and Jeff Parnes (Sully/Co-Chair, Transportation).

Committee Chairs: Judy Harbeck (Co-Chair, Budget), Ed Saperstein (Co-Chair, Budget; Co-Chair, Education), Nancy Trainer (Co-Chair, Education), Patrick Smaldore (Co-Chair, Public Safety), and Karen Campblin (Co-Chair, Transportation).

Visitor(s): None

Administrative and Organizational Topics:
President Thompson gave an update on the General Assembly session and the efforts he and other Federation members are doing to lobby our Legislative Package and specific issues.

Jeff Parnes, Coordinator of the Citizen of the Year Award Banquet, gave us an update on the plans for the April 2nd Award Banquet: Over 100 groups (which includes, non-profits) contacted to submit applications. Three food choices will be offered.

Bulletin/Newsletter: No report.

Meeting Minutes: December 2016 Board Minutes, as amended, were passed unanimously by voice vote.

Treasurer’s Report: No report.

Unfinished Business: None.
New Business [Agenda List (Attachment 1)]:

1. Education [Education Co-Chairs, Nancy Trainer and Ed Saperstein]
   Co-Chairs passed out Draft Remarks on the Proposed FY 2018 FCPS School
   Budget (Attachment 2).
   Remarks are intended to be given to the School Board for it’s January 30th
   meeting.

   Discussion held on Draft Remarks.
   Motion was made to forward the Draft Remarks under the purview of the
   Executive Board to the School Board.
   Passed unanimously.

2. Budget [Budget Co-Chairs, Judy Harbeck and Ed Saperstein]
   Co-Chairs passed out a Draft Resolution Supporting Meaningful Citizen
   Participation in the FY2018 Budget Process (Attachment 3).

   Discussion Held.
   Recommendation made that the Draft Resolution be forwarded to the
   Resolutions Chair for final edits to then be distributed to the members for the
   General Membership meeting on February 16th.
   Passed unanimously.

3. Land Use (President Thompson along with Nancy Trainer and Ed Saperstein)
   BOS Chairman Sharon Bulova is creating a New Land Use Community Council
   (Attachment 4). Have been asked by Bulova for a Federation representative.

   Discussion held.
   President Thompson has appointed Annmarie Swope to be the Federation’s
   representative.
   Passed with approval.

   Motion made to add more than 1 representative to the new Council.
   Discussion held.
   Motion failed.

4. Fairfax 275th Year Anniversary (President Thompson).
   There is a Committee formed for this event and it is Chaired by Gretchen Bulova.

   Motion made that President Thompson create a special committee to help in this
   County endeavor.
   Motion passed unanimously.
5. Citizen Services (President Thompson).
Gave us an update on Don Hinman’s efforts at the General Assembly session concerning the various Short Term Rental Legislation and what bills passed and did not pass in Committees.

6. Legislation (Legislation Co-Chair Bill Barfield and President Thompson).

Bill Barfield mentioned that President Thompson and the 2 VPs (Wyse and Barfield) spoke together and testified to the Federation’s Legislative Package at the public hearings held on January 7th by the Fairfax County General Assembly Delegation.

Barfield also commended other Federation members who had been to Richmond advocating for variety of Federation issues and personal issues. This list included Flint Webb (Environment), Karen Campblin (Transportation), Don Hinman (Short Term Rentals), and Patrick Smaldore (Public Safety).

7. Environment (Environment Co-Chair, Flint Webb)
Both Co-Chairs testified at the EQAC meetings. Submitted a letter by the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (Attachment 5). Motion to Support letter and to recommend it for approval by the membership at the next general membership meeting. Passed unanimously.

8. Transportation (Transportation Co-Chairs, Jeff Parnes and Karen Campblin).
Co-Chair Parnes submitted Mount Vernon Council’s draft resolution on Metro funding (Attachment 6). Co-Chair Campblin talked about the Keep Metro Safe meeting. Environmental Co-Chair Webb talked about the advocacy for a Gas Tax Revenue

9. Public Safety (Public Safety Co-Chair, Patrick Smaldore).
Stated who were the Civilian Review Panel nominees. Motion to approve all 3 nominees. Passed unanimously.

Smaldore wanted the Federation to endorse/provide materials and a publicity banner to the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce and the McLean Citizens Association for their Public Safety Preparedness Program. Agreed to help in advertisement only.

10. Bylaws
George Becerra brought up the issue of having attendance minimums for Officers and Committee Chairs. Also, to include removal and replacement policies in the Bylaws. Discussion held.
Tasked that the President will create a special committee under the Policies and Bylaws Procedure Committee to look at these issues mentioned.

Board & Committee Reports
5. Human Services – No report.
12. Revenue – No report.

District Council Reports
(Dranesville & Hunter Mill - N/A)
4. Mt. Vernon – Peter Sitnik – Topics discussed at their Council meeting was their upcoming Town Hall meeting on February 4th (Fairfax County is losing development opportunities), canker worms, and Fairfax Forward

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

Next Meetings:
Membership Meeting – February 16, 2017 at 7:30 p.m., at the Providence Community Center, Classroom #2, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax, VA 22031.

Board Meeting – February 23, 2017 at 7:30pm, at the Dunn Loring Center (Room 108).

Minutes prepared by George Becerra, Recording Secretary
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DRAFT Remarks of Nancy Trainer on Proposed FY 2018 FCPS School Budget on behalf of the Education Committee of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations –January 30, 2016-- Fairfax County School Board Meeting

My name is Nancy Trainer, and I am co-chair of the Education Committee of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. Tonight I am speaking on behalf of our committee.*

We would like to commend the Proposed Budget’s focus on maintaining instructional quality and improving the pay of FCPS employees, while not targeting established programs for major cuts.

We agree that compensation is important in attracting and retaining a quality workforce, and to the extent that funds are available we support improving FCPS employee salaries. As in years past, we also urge you to explore flexible compensation packages, since younger employees may have different needs than employees close to retirement, and creative compensation packages could help recruit and retain staff without any additional spending.

If the proposed budget is not fully funded, we strongly urge you to spread the shortfall around the FCPS system rather than targeting particular established programs. We believe all stakeholders should share in sacrifice, to ensure that cuts are fair and equitable. In the past we have seen programs pitted against one another, forced to engage in interest group politics. We hope you will reject that approach. We believe one of the strengths of FCPS is that it provides services in different programs based on what helps each child educationally rather than a “one size fits all” approach. It would be a sad state of affairs to start eliminating these programs that are part of the fabric of our county, and have succeeded over the years in meeting each child where they are.

In the longer term, we join you in your efforts to diversify the revenue base in Fairfax County, which could improve funding for our schools. The Federation’s 2017 Legislative package proposes equalizing the revenue-generating authority of counties with that of cities. Currently, Virginia caps the tax rate that counties (but not cities) can apply to cigarettes, lodging and admissions.** For example, Fairfax County can charge a county tobacco tax of up to $0.30 per pack of cigarettes, whereas a number of neighboring cities charge much higher amounts. Alexandria charges $1.15 a pack, the City of Fairfax $0.85 a pack, and Falls Church $0.75 a pack, to name a few. We hope we have your support in these and other efforts to diversify FCPS’ funding sources.

Thank you for your collective service to the children in our communities, and for all the time you have spent on various school matters. We look forward to working together to help support our schools.

*The two co-chairs of the Education Committee are Nancy Trainer and Ed Saperstein.
**County-City revenue equalization would also provide counties with greater authority to enact a meals tax but, as you know, the meals tax was defeated last November.
WHEREAS Fairfax County’s Fiscal Year 2018 Advertised Budget Plan (“FY2018 County Advertised Budget”) will be released by the County Executive on February 14, 2017, and will include expectations, presumptions and recommendations with respect to revenue sources (“Revenue”), funding levels for County services (“County Funding Levels”), and the proposed amount of support to be provided to Fairfax County Public Schools (“School Transfer”); and

WHEREAS on January 12, 2017, the Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools (“FCPS”) released a Proposed School Budget for FY2018 which included a request for funding from Fairfax County “Requested FCPS Transfer”); and

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2017, without formal public input the Board of Supervisors (“BOS”) will advertise the maximum residential and commercial real property tax rate (“Maximum Rate”) which the BOS may legally and actually adopt in April 2017, for application in FY2018 (“Actual Rate”) to generate the major portion of Revenue; and

WHEREAS it is anticipated that Revenue may not be adequate, based on FY2017 actual tax rates, to support County Funding Levels and/or satisfy the FCPS Transfer Request, potentially requiring cuts which could denigrate County services and infrastructure and/or dilute the asset value of Fairfax County Public Schools (“FCPS”) as an economic driver of the County economy; and

WHEREAS the Actual Rate, Funding Levels, School Transfer and related matters in the FY2018 County Advertised Budget will be the subject of public hearings beginning April 4, 2017 (“Public Hearings”) to elicit citizen input on budgetary priorities and the proper balance of services and taxes; and

WHEREAS meaningful citizen participation in the budget process at the Public Hearings in April and the flexibility of the BOS to respond to demonstrated needs in adopting the County’s FY2018 Budget in May should not be unnecessarily chilled and circumscribed by the arbitrary ceiling of the Maximum Rate set in February; and

WHEREAS meaningful citizen participation in the budget process specifically requires that the Maximum Rate be advertised at a level which would in theory fully fund both the FCPS Transfer Request and County Funding Levels in order to promote positive discussion on budgetary priorities and the proper balance of taxes and services, and to preserve BOS flexibility to respond;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens’ Associations (“FCFCA”) in order to promote meaningful citizen participation in the FY2018 Fairfax County Budget process, enhance public discourse on budgetary priorities and the proper balance of public services and tax burden, and provide flexibility to the BOS, requests the BOS advertise a Maximum Tax Rate which would fully fund both County Funding Levels and the FCPS Transfer Request for FY2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that FCFCA expresses no opinion at this time as to Actual Tax Rate, Funding Levels or School Transfer appropriate for implementation in FY2018.
Chairman Bulova Seeks Applicants for New Land Use Community Council

Beginning in February, Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, will be convening a Community Council tasked with identifying ways to enhance and improve community engagement during the process of planning and land development in Fairfax County. Meetings of the Council will begin with a review of planning and zoning as it evolved from the early years of the county to the present. It will conclude with the adoption of a slate of recommendations for how the County can best involve interested and/or affected residents when land use changes are being considered.

The Community Council will meet on approximately four or five Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center. No previous experience with land use issues is required. Individuals with a background in communications or interest in community issues are also welcome. Chairman Bulova is looking for one or two individuals from each district. If this is something you may be interested in, please contact Supervisor Cook's office at 703-425-9300 or reply to this email.

The Office of Supervisor John C. Cook, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA 22015
How Fairfax County’s inaction is already costing us money

- The declaration commits Fairfax to reducing “county geographical GHG emissions.” That means the county will shrink emissions from both public sources (schools, libraries, buses) and private sources (homes, businesses, cars). The best way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is energy efficiency. More efficient homes and businesses would mean less money paid to Dominion Power and Washington Natural Gas every month. By not acting on this policy, the county is not helping homeowners and small business owners reduce their utility bills. The county is not even reducing its own utility bills, and residents ultimately sign those checks, too. The county’s inaction costs us money.

- Climate change affects us in Fairfax County. Taxpayers are on the hook for a $30 million bond to build a levee to protect Huntington from floods. Sea level rise is expected to permanently flood areas along the Potomac from the northern end of the county near National Airport through Belle Haven/Mount Vernon and down to Pohick Bay. That will require either the construction of additional costly levees or the abandonment of homes and businesses. Although floods are a constant feature of life on Earth, climate change means less frozen water and more liquid water, which in turn means the loss of land. And warmer waters expand causing additional sea level rise and flooding. By not acting on our local contribution to climate change, the county is not doing the bare minimum to protect us from these losses.

- We are growing more slowly than Arlington County, which has robust efficiency and clean energy programs for residents and business owners. In addition, the county leaves much to be desired in meeting the federal guidelines for sustainability that shape federal agencies’ choices of office locations. We cannot attribute our slower residential growth and historically low office vacancy rate solely to the county’s environmental policies. However, it is clear that the county is not doing what it could to attract the residents and commercial lessors that are committed to sustainability.

How much will taking action cost?

- There is no extra money in the budget. Funding an office dedicated to implementation of the 2007 pledge means less funding for other programs, all of which are valuable.

- However, climate change presents a threat that will negatively impact everyone in Fairfax County:
  - the children and seniors who suffer increased asthma and respiratory disease[cwf1];
  - the homeowners who find themselves flooded;
  - the public safety officers and educators who respond to climate refugees and perpetrators of violence in climate-driven conflicts, all of whom arrive here from around the world; and
  - County residents are not saving as much money as they could be on their utility bills.

- Spending money on this initiative is the single best way to serve everyone’s interests, both now and in the coming decades.

- Arlington County, Montgomery County, and Washington, D.C. have offices that are solely dedicated to public and private adoption of efficient, clean energy. The size of the offices’ budgets ranges from $1.75 million (Arlington) to $20 million (D.C.).

- As a starting point for discussion, we could imagine funding an office that costs even less than the lowest figure available. Again for discussion, perhaps that office might have a $1 million annual budget and begin funding in FY 2019.
The budget for the county is in the realm of $2 billion. An office funded at even a minimal amount would represent .0005% of the total budget and would be the single best way to protect all people in Fairfax County, both now and in the future.
There's this month's Bulletin
Past Bulletins

You'll need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view bulletins, minutes or agenda. Get it here!

Transportation Committee

Committee Info

Contact the Transportation Committee Chairs

I-66 Rush Hour Traffic looking east to the Nutley Street Overpass

Upcoming or Ongoing Transportation-related Public Hearings or Information Meetings

Recent Committee Actions

- **Request for a Resolution on Metro funding submitted by the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Association January 2017**

  The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (MVCCA) was debating a proposed draft resolution designed to request the Commonwealth to secure a permanent funding source in support of Metro.

  - In their discussion they came to the conclusion that the Federation is in a far better position to influence the Virginia legislature than the MVCCA. They therefore sent their thoughts, to see if there is sufficient agreement that there should be a Federation Resolution on this matter.
  - They entertained the following considerations:
    - Metro has management and maintenance problems which currently forces it to curtail late night services;
    - The Northern Virginia public needs to recognize that a continuing well managed and adequately financed operation of Metro is not just in the interest of the Metro ridership but also is of the utmost interest of those who drive, since Metro ameliorates traffic congestion; of interest to real estate owners where Metro provides vital connections; and to business interests since Metro enlarges the customer base;
    - Many District are looking to the future for a Metro expansion; all such hopes are in vain until the current operational and maintenance problems are remedied;
    - The four major recipients of Metro service, The District of Columbia, the State of Maryland, the State of Virginia and the Federal Government are involved in funding and governing the Metro system; each blames the fault of current problems on either Metro management or their sister jurisdictions, rather than looking into their own respective culpability for the current problems;
    - The maintenance problems of Metro appear to be primarily related to funding; maintenance had been deferred in the past due to lack of money; adequate funding required for maintenance was either not allocated or diverted to support operational requirements;
    - Looking at our State’s culpability for the lack of Metro maintenance funding, the Commonwealth of Virginia has not designated a permanent funding source to support Metro.
In view of the above, all of our representatives to the State Senate and the House of Delegates should be encouraged to initiate action to determine the correct funding needs for Metro’s operation and proper maintenance, determine Virginia’s fair share of costs and sponsor legislation identifying an ongoing permanent funding source to support the Metro system.

- They ask if we are willing to proceed with this initiative and if they can be of any assistance in the furtherance of this proposal.

The MVCCA wording was circulated to the Federation Transportation committee and committee members furnished the following comments:

- The Federation should strongly support Metro Rail safety repairs and more importantly modernization—and if deemed appropriate, VRE—which can be a more cost effective rail transport to some areas, and the Federation should also support light rail feeder systems.
- Hasn't the Federation already done a resolution in the past along these lines that could be reiterated? Also, more voices are more likely to be heard, and so the MVCCA may want to issue their own resolution too.
- Reading through the various comments offered by several of the respondents to your original message, I would concur that a statement (or a series of statements) addressing the Metro issue would be very beneficial to the larger regional community. I particularly like the idea of having multiple civic organizations across the region each submit separate statements on this topic. These communications should be directed to our respective local (city or county), state (DC, MD, and VA), and federal elected officials (US Senators and members of Congress) who ultimately make these financial funding decisions. (And should be held fully accountable for their continuing failure to do what is necessary and appropriate in this regard.)

- The safety and operational issues facing the WMATA system (both bus and rail) have been created over the past several decades, and it will take an appropriate amount of time for these issues to be fully resolved. Given the stated desire of the new federal administration to make major investments in the nation's infrastructure, what better action to start with than bringing Metro back to its original goal of being "America's Subway System." If not now, when? And if not by these proponents of national improvement, who?
- We could move this forward, but the resolution should include an action such as:
  1. Present that there is support for LeMunyon’s HB2136, creation of a Metro Safety Commission and this would compliment the Commission’s mission to ensure system wide safety.
  2. Request for a Transit Needs Study to determine dedicated funding options, could include a lessons learned of other states etc.
     1. Work with WMATA to streamline existing operations and determine how much is needed to run the system. WMATA’s new GM is currently doing this just need to make sure the new changes are included in the models.
     2. Identify and evaluate innovative funding sources.
     3. Develop an implementable action plan and methodology to collect and allocate revenue.
     4. Work with existing transit agencies to determine future needs and gaps, and
     5. Develop recommendations for monitoring safety, performance and management. The study needs to be conducted in cooperation with all municipalities—meaning they are a part of the study and they pay for part as well.

Input in response to a call for neighborhood streets that are in poor condition 9 December 2015

Input in response to the I-66 Inside Beltway Public Information Meetings 30 June 2015


Funding the Route 1 Multi-Modal Phase 2 Analysis Study 20 November 2014

Supporting the 2014 Transportation Bond Referendum 16 October 2014

Past Committee Actions

Transportation–related Presentations of Interest to Fairfax Federation Members

- At its 21 Sept 2016 meeting (agenda) the Metropolitan Washington Transportation Planning Board (TPB) was briefed on:
  - State of the Commute Survey - Technical Survey Report
  - Mitigation Actions and Experiences from WMATA's SafeTrack Surge Activities
  - Federal Planning Regulations
  - FY 2017-2022 Transportation Improvement Program and the TIP Forum
  - Update on Recent Proposed Federal Rulemaking and TPB Comments
Braddock District Activities

The Braddock District Council (BDC) and the Supervisor’s Office jointly sponsored its annual “Taste of Braddock” buffet. Food dishes were provided by various firms within the district which were enjoyed by the large turnout of District citizens.

The next BDC meeting will be on February 8th at the Kings Park Library Meeting Room. The featured subject will be the FCPS FY 2018 proposed budget. Guest speakers will be Ilryong Moon, Member-at Large from the FCPS Board and Kristen Michael, Assistant Superintendent, Department of Financial Services. The meeting will begin at 7:30.

The BDC’s special committee, “Aging in Place” December 21st meeting featured the audiologist Dr. Abby Holauchock who discussed the subject of “Hearing Issues and Aids”. The committee’s January 18th meeting featured a discussion of “Chronic Disease Management” by Colleen Turner from the Fairfax County Government.