Membership Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2019                      Final                      Approved: March 28, 2019

The monthly Membership meeting of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations began at 7:30 PM at the FCPS Administrative Center, Suite 1600, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church.

Welcome and Announcements – President

Program – Presentations of the Fairfax County Executive’s Advertised FY2020 Budget and of the Fairfax County Public Schools FY2020 Advertised Budget were given by county and school officials. Members asked questions and discussion ensued about various aspects and issues. The program concluded at 9:15 p.m.

Fairfax County Executive’s Advertised FY2020 Budget by Christina Jackson and Albena Assenova, Office of the County Executive. They provided two documents as handouts. Their briefings followed the handouts’ structure.

- Two-page Citizen’s Guide to the Budget
- Twenty-nine slide County Executive Budget Presentation – FY 2020 Advertised Budget Plan, dated February 19, 2019

The presenters also recommended for reference the 31-page Advertised Budget Summary.

These documents are available on the county’s website at: https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/advertised-budget-plan

Survey: Shaping the Future Together Fairfax County Strategic Plan

The county briefers also encouraged all citizens to take the short survey that seeks input to inform the Shaping the Future Together Fairfax County Strategic Plan. The survey is available at https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/strategicplan/. (The survey closing date is not advertised, so the Federation encourages citizens to participate soon.)

Fairfax County Public Schools FY2020 Advertised Budget by Alice Wigington, Office of Budget. She provided as a handout the eleven-slide presentation FCPS Advertised Budget FY2020, dated February 7, 2019.

School budget is $3.0B. This is a 4.1% increase. 73% of the increase is for compensation. FCPS is looking for a new learning management system (need to update BlackBoard). The budget includes 5 new Academy Program positions. The FCPS budget increases the substitute pay. There is $6M for Board initiatives in the School budget. One of the initiatives is to give each HS student a laptop computer. There was a question about teacher retention. They considered retention in setting the new salaries. The School board had over $6M that
they would like to spend but they needed additional information before they decided where to allocate these funds. There is a projected enrollment decrease resulting in a $6.3M decrease. The FCPS has funded additional mental health positions. The FCPS budget makes the final installment in the salary scale enhancement. Except for cafeteria workers there are a few school employees that are making “Living Wage”, but the FCPS is increasing the living wage from $14.5/hr to $14.83/hr (the County Living Wage is $14.98, up from $14.83 last year). 71% of the Schools revenue is from the county. The State funding budget is a decrease in funding of about $3.7-4.5M (depending on which legislative body budget you are looking at). FCPS hopes that the funding will be restored in conference or that the Governor will make adjustment before he signs the funding bill but the current FCPS budget has assumed that there would be no change.

The presentation slides are available at: https://www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/budget/budget-documents.

Meeting Minutes – Recording Secretary:

Vote approval of last Membership Meeting (December 2018). Minutes approved as amended.

Administrative Topics: Announcements as needed
There was a question about whether the Federation should look into the issue of the dumping of shopping carts in the streams.

New Business:

Legislative Committee Chairman:
Bill Barfield summarized the status of Federation’s 2019 Legislative Issues in the General Assembly. There were some big successes and several items that were partially dealt with this year, but will need continued vigilance next year. The report is included as Attachment 1.
Flint summarized the C-PACE program changes: While Federation’s Residential properties were not included this year because of abuses in the residential PACE program in California. The PACE alliance is working on how to fix the legislation to reduce the chances of abuses in a new bill next year. Senator Chap Peterson was the champion of this bill this year and is working on revising the bill for re-submission next year.
Short Term Rental: Efforts to remove or change the County’s ability to regulate Sort Term Rentals bills died this year; the issue will be coming back next year. Chap Peterson voted against the Federation’s position on this issue. [Don Hinman had a long list of Fairfax legislators that supported the Federation and opposed the Federation but I didn’t catch the full list at the time. I think we should include this information in the full end of session Legislative Committee Report. Don Hinman’s comments will be appended to the March membership meeting.]
School year: passed both houses and is on to the Governor.
Homan Services Committee:
Mike Perel announced that there will be a Northern Virginia Positive Aging Fair April 8th, 8:45am – 4pm at the Government Center. Pat Collins from NBC4 Washington will be the Keynote Speaker. Register at www.PositiveAgingFair.com.

Old Business:

COY Co-Chairs: Citizen of the Year Award & Banquet status
The nominating committee has initial consensus of the COY selection.
The COY will be the first or 2nd week in April.

Adjournment: 9:38

Next Meetings (all meetings are open to the public):

The next Membership meetings is: March 28, 7:30 PM at the Fairfax County Government Center. Topic is review of the Federation Resolution regarding the Advertised Fairfax County 2020 Budget

The next Board meeting is February 28, 7:30 PM, Braddock Hall, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke

Minutes prepared by (Flint Webb, Recording Secretary)

Attachments:

1. Legislative Committee Report
Attachment 1. 2019 Federation Legislative Issues Status Report as of Thursday, 21 February, 2019

All below Legislative Issues were submitted by the Federation on 1 November, 2018, to the Fairfax delegation to the 2019 General Assembly and to the Board of Supervisors.

Status updates from Tim Thompson, Co-Chair, Legislative Committee, and Past-President. Additional research by Bill Barfield, Co-Chair, Legislative Committee, and President.

Issue ID - Legislative Issue

a) Background  
b) Federation Position  
c) Status

19A01 - Local Authority to Regulate Short Term Rentals

a) The 2018 General Assembly authorized local governments to regulate short term rentals. Fairfax County has done so.

b) Do not repeal this authorization.

c) SUCCESS - Sen Ebbin’s bill (SB1701) killed in the House Counties, Cities &Towns Subcommittee #2.

19E01 - City-County Revenue Equalization

a) Virginia allows city governments more options to raise revenue than counties.

b) Authorize counties the same revenue options as cities.

c) Pair of companion bills defeated in full committees of respective chambers. SB200 (carry-over from Favola 2018 session and Federation 18E01) is being combined into the nucleus of the Governor Tax Reform package for the 2020 session.

19E02 - Free and Reduced Meals

a) It generally costs more to educate students who qualify for FRM but the state funding formulas do not include this factor.

b) Structure state educational support so that additional money is provided on a per student basis for FRM students.

c) Though no particular bill made it out of Committee, unbelievable positive traction for the 2020 session from VEA’s support with their push for “At-Risk Add-On” Funding (a per-pupil basis program).

2/24 · Education:

- $85.7M in net new funding for K-12 education. Over the biennium, Fairfax County Public Schools will see an increase in basic state aid of ~$7M.

- The biennial budget already included an increase in teacher salaries by 3%. The amendments increase this to 5% and is part of our effort to address Virginia’s growing teacher shortage.
- $12.2M to increase the counselor-to-student ratio in public schools and $5.7M for other school safety recommendations of the Select Committee on School Safety.

19E03 - School Opening Date
a) The Virginia Board of Education decides whether school districts may open before Labor Day.
b) Authorize local school boards to establish their schools’ start dates.
c) IT PASSED! Waiting for Governor’s signature.

19C01 - Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)
a) PACE is a regional program that helps commercial property owners borrow for cost effective clean energy capital improvements. The government facilitates by collecting loan payments as an add-on to property taxes. Local governments must pass enabling legislation.
b) Expand the program to include condominium and homeowner associations. Pass statewide enabling legislation.
c) SB1200 passed as amended with deletion of “Residence”. Waiting Governor’s signature.

19C02 - Roadway Salt and Lawn Fertilizer
a) Road salt & lawn fertilizer are major pollutants.
a.1) SALT: VDOT is developing a Salt Management Strategy (SaMS).
a.2) FERTILIZER: Lawn care companies apply more applications than necessary.
b.1) SALT: Support identification and promote adoption of best management practices.
b.2) FERTILIZER: Reassess Nutrient Management Standards/Criteria; Enforce contractor-operator compliance; Expand public outreach and education.
c) HB2023 (Murphy) - Laid on Table. Meetings being scheduled with Chesapeake Bay Foundation to jointly approach this issue together and to maximize efforts to pass bill in the 2020 session.
   In a related Environment/Stormwater Management bill, $10M was passed for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund, which is used to help urban areas meet Chesapeake Bay restoration requirements.

19C03 - Plastic Bags
a) Single-use plastic bags are an environmental disaster: they are difficult to recycle and, as litter they degrade into micro-plastics that enter the food chain.
b) Ban (or tax to reduce use of) single-use plastic bags.
c) SB1116 (Petersen) - Failed to Report from Senate Finance Committee vote by (5-11).

19L01 - Proffers and Impact Fees
a) Previously, proffers were negotiated between developer and local government. In 2016, in response to misuse by some local governments, the state put severe and confusing limitations on proffers.
b) Establish clear and concise standards for the adoption and use of proffers associated with re-zonings and new development.

c) **SB1373 (Favola) – PASSED the Senate 40-0, and the House 93-4-1.**

2/17 The Proffer Bill SB1373 – Favora, also teasingly called “Barbara’s Law” by Chairman Stanley, combines both the home builders and local county governments into a renewed partnership.

The bill, sitting on the Gov’t desk for signature, establishes a framework for the “give and take” associated with the approval of new development RESIDENTIAL projects (remember: existing proffer policy did NOT include commercial projects/development, only residential developments). It identifies the appropriate proffers to ensure that communities achieve the infrastructure necessary to sustain growth.

**19G01 - Redistricting Commission**

a) The legislature – with governor sign-off – draws legislative and Congressional districts after each census. The party in power typically draws districts for political advantage.

b) Establish a non-partisan redistricting commission to define legislative and Congressional districts.

c) **HJ615ER (Cole / Kory) Passed House 51-48, had second reading in Senate, awaiting final floor vote.**

**2/24 Redistricting:**

The proposed constitutional amendment that will make meaningful changes (**SJ306**).

The measure establishes the Virginia Redistricting Commission, to be comprised of 16 members tasked with establishing legislative districts every ten years. The membership would consist of eight legislative members (with equal representation from the two major parties) and eight citizen members. The citizen members would be selected by a committee of five retired Virginia judges. Any redistricting plan must have the vote of at least six of the eight legislative members and six of the eight citizen members. Should the commission fail to act, or the General Assembly fail to adopt the plan recommended by the commission, then districts would be drawn by the Virginia Supreme Court.

**19P01 - Reduce Hand-Held Devices Usage While Driving**

a) Current law prohibits drivers under age 18 from using cell phones and texting and older drivers from texting.

b) Prohibit the use of hand-held communication devises by all while operating motor vehicles, with exceptions for while legally parked, GPS-devices, emergency vehicles, and emergency situations.

c) **SB1341 (Stuart) - Passed Senate 34-6. Passed out of House Subcommittee #1 of Courts of Justice. Marcus Simon & Vivian Watts are both on full Committee of Courts of Justice. House vote ??** Legislation requiring hands-free technology for personal communications devices while driving faltered right before the finish line (**HB1811**). While the original bill would have required hands-free, the conference committee report only made minor tweaks to our existing texting and driving law and was rejected.
19T01 - Smart Transportation: Sources to Promote Regional Connectivity

a) Current transportation funding and priorities are auto centric, to the exclusion of other modes that could enable a better working network.
b) Five specific positions to seek new funding and study alternative methods of improving mobility.
c) HJ647 (Carroll Foy) - Laid on Table in Rules Subcommittee #1 (8-0).

ERA Resolution:

2/22 ERA Amendment. The House Leadership, despite Marcus Simon’s parliamentary efforts, prevent the bill to come directly to the House floor, despite its passage in the Senate (and its same party control). Therefore - DEAD this session.