

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
7:30 pm, Thursday, 25 February 2010

Call to Order/Welcome - Jeff Parnes

Calendar:

Month	Membership	Board	Newsletter Deadline
Feb	18 -Presentation by Park Authority / Tyson's Corner Plan	25	29 Jan
Mar	25 - County Budget Presentation (4 th Thursday)	18 (3 rd Thursday) Budget	12 Mar
Apr	15 - Report from Federation Appointees & Representatives (Kahan)	22	2 Apr
May	20- Report from Richmond (Selected Fairfax County legislators)	27	30 Apr
Jun	17 - Picnic - State of Fairfax by Sharon Bulova, BOS Chair, Officer Installation	24	28 May

Administrative Topics - Jeff Parnes

- **Officers and Board Vacancies and Appointments:**
 - Human Services - Need Chair
 - Bulletin - Carol is planning to step down after the June 2010 bulletin. If you're interested in serving as Editor when she steps down please either contact her (FedBulletinEditor2009@fairfaxfederation.org) or Jeff (FedPres2009@fairfaxfederation.org).
- **Bulletin/Newsletter - Carol**
 - Newsletter articles due 12 March
- **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes -**
 - 28 Jan 10 - Ed Wyse Recording Secretary: The draft minutes are available at <<<http://www.fcfa.org/minutes-agenda/201001MinutesBoardDraft.pdf>>>
- **The Federation has found a new place to hold its meetings for 2010.**
 - The Federation has reserved the use of Braddock Hall (9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke) as a backup location for the fall 2010 meetings in case the Packard Building is unavailable - Hats off to Bill Hanks for taking the lead in making the reservations.
- **Treasurer's Report - Scott**
 - Scott reserved the use of the Annandale Community Park Picnic shelter for our June meeting.

Old Business

- **COY - John**
 - John has submitted an RFP for the banquet for 125 attendees at Tyson's Crown Plaza for April 25 or May 2.
 - Pricing is normally:
 - \$45/person plated entree (chicken), salad, dessert, and coffee/tea.
 - plus 22% service charge
 - plus 5% tax (figure \$57/person)
 - Podium, microfilm & hanging banner complimentary.
 - Cash bar \$80 bartender fee.
 - As an alternative we have been offered:
 - \$50/person, including service & tax.
 - Podium, microfilm & hanging banner complimentary
 - Cash bar \$80 bartender fee.
 - Scott generated this COY Banquet Break Even Analysis:

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- Last year the Marriott charged us approximately \$67/person which included all the hotel charges, we charged each guest, \$65. We lost \$2/person from the Marriott alone. Add in all the other printing and award charges and we ended up losing \$1,350., \$11.45 per guest even with the donations.
- Using the \$50 estimate, and 125 guest minimum, and keeping all other costs the same as last year, the cost per person would be approximately \$63/person. Add on top of that, only 106 of the charged 125 paid. If we keep the price at \$65, and only 106 pay this time, and we guarantee 125, we will lose \$908.00 again this year without the donations. With the donations we will make \$591.
- He thinks we should increase the price by \$5. and cut down drastically on the free meals.
- SAIC has agreed to be head liner sponsor, and we are negotiating the level of donation.
- John has met with the Firefighters for their sponsor interest.
- Please redouble your efforts for nominations, which close on 28 February.
- The Governor's scheduler reported that they do not make decisions on the Governor's schedule until, at best, six weeks prior to an event. They hope to have an answer for us on this on whether he can attend by the end of next week.
- Roger also submitted a request for the Governor to speak at our Banquet this spring but hasn't heard anything yet.
- The Washington Post is only doing in-kind donations this year - providing items that could be auctioned at meetings, speakers at events.
- **Tyson's Corner Presentation**
 - Bob Jordan reported that Clark Tyler made an interesting and informative presentation the other night. However, he tended to gloss over some quite legitimate potential issues that may affect all of Fairfax County, not just Tyson's and the adjacent neighborhoods. As has been noted in the draft minutes of last week's meeting, the MCA will hold an open forum on March 2 on the redevelopment of Tyson's at which two planning commissioners will speak. Bob has invited all of the Federation membership to attend and hope that you will be able to do so.
 - Bob would also like to recommend that the Federation invite representatives of the Greater Tyson's Citizens Coalition and the MCA's P&Z Committee to the next Federation membership meeting. There are potentially some very significant issues with the proposed redevelopment that could potentially affect the entire county, depending on how the comp plan is revised. (Think taxes and infrastructure costs). It would be very worthwhile for the membership to be aware of these potential issues. (Please note that the Greater Tyson's Citizens Coalition and the MCA support the transit-oriented redevelopment of Tyson's but the devil is in the details). He has informed Ted Alexander from the GTCC and Mark Zetts from the MCA P&Z committee on this offer. He would like to know if a presentation is feasible at the March 25 or April 15 meetings.
- **Signs to direct motorists to the VRE stations** - Carey
 - At our August board meeting we voted to pursue the strategy of a resolution that seeks to improve VRE ridership through a multi-faceted marketing campaign that would include electronic sign boards as one element. We await Carey's draft resolution for board vetting.
- **Recent Actions**
 - Letter to Governor (7 Feb 10) to Urge that the Local Composite Index be Recalculated This Year
<http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/letters/LettertoGovmcDonnellreLCI100207.pdf>
The next day the Governor did as we requested (no causality is implied or should be inferred!)
- **Chairman's Photos** - John
 - The Fairfax Chronicle ran an article regarding last month's portrait gallery dedication
<http://www.fcfa.org/newspaper/BoardChairmenHonored-FairfaxChronicle1002.pdf>

New and Miscellaneous Business

- **Resolution on Advertized Tax Rate**
 - Charlie indicated that some might have been perturbed by his raising the advertized rate issue at the February membership meeting; he has now determined that the BOS will set the advertized rate on March 9th.
 - The upper limit of this advertized rate cannot exceed the tax rate that may later be set. Thus, the advertized tax rate may become limiting if the budget picture continues going south, and the citizens may actually accept some tax rate that would result in a higher real estate tax amount for the average homeowner.

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- Further, while Mt Vernon District Council has not yet recommended a specific upper limit they have printed a resolution on the advertized tax rate in their November Record, which reads in part "Requests the Fairfax county board of Supervisors to provide the necessary maximum Tax Rate guidance and to direct the County Executive to disclose in the FY2011 Advertized Budget Plan at a minimum those Funding Levels and Revenue Enhancements, including Tax Rates, necessary to maintain ALL [his emphasis] current County and school service levels, including any additional costs related to growth, employee benefit and reasonable compensation increase, other rising costs or decline in state or federal funding, as well as any needed enhancement to services." He understands that this resolution was adopted without change.
- As he anticipated, if the Federation is going to recommend an advertized tax rate, the board will have to do this at our meeting this Thursday without the full membership having spoken on the issue. However, given that the membership did not express their opinions one-way or the other at our meeting, he believes that the board is in a stronger position to recommend an advertized rate.
- Note that the County Executive's budget will be released on the 23rd and the Federation's budget committee will meet on the 24th, so the committee may come to the board with a recommendation on the 25th.
- Mike Thompson indicated the other option is to keep the tax rate where it is today, take fewer dollars and make the changes necessary in the budget to fit the income just as businesses and families are doing all of the county, state and nation today and have been doing.
 - Why should county government be any different? Why not freeze salaries at today's level, not fill any openings when county employees leave (unless a critical position determined by and approved by the BOS), no newly created position as happened a year or two ago, and review the employees' payments toward benefits and have the employee portion reflect the private sector payments? The reason times like this are called "tough times" is because "tough" decisions have to be made and those should include local government budgeting to reflect the downturn in the economy and not increase taxes. If rates are increased to keep property taxes as last year's level (though incomes have not increased in many cases to make payment of those taxes any easier), then that rate increase should be indexed so that it goes down as property values begin to increase. Otherwise the Federation will be advocating a hidden tax increase when our property values begin to increase.
 - Mike will likely be in Richmond on Thursday and may be there into the evening working on state budget and other issues so getting to the Board Meeting will be tough. He would like my objections as outlined above to be part of the minutes.
- Fred comments included that any resolution should address the long-term problem of the school pension benefit. See <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/blogs/beltway-confidential/Fairfax-faces-choice-Raise-taxes-to-fund-teacher-pensions-or-get-real-about-spending-84903852.html>.
 - He prefers that the all future pension benefits be of the defined-contribution type, rather than the defined-benefit type that is now in place. (Someone told him that the Federal government has already made this transition. Almost nobody in the private sector has a defined-benefit plan.) Those working under the present system could have their defined-benefit plan frozen as is, so they do not lose anything already earned, but their future earned benefits be in a defined-contribution plan. The cost savings would be significant because the funds that must be set aside for the present pension would be greatly reduced. The cost savings would be even greater in the future.
 - He also suggested a resolution which has been modified by Flint <http://www.fcfa.org/committees/Budget/Resolution2011AdvertisedTaxRateDraft100225V2.pdf>
 - Jeff reports that at its February meeting Sully passed a resolution on the advertised tax rate calling for it to be set "at a level that would replicate funding of the 2010 budget."
- **Empanelling a Nomination Committee**
 - Per our standard practices the nomination committee is chaired by the Past President and has at least two additional members - a committee chair and a district representative - volunteers should contact John or Jeff before they are appointed.
 - Nominations are announced in April, elections in May and installation of new officers occurs in June at our Annual Picnic

Board & Committee Reports

- Association Services - Don Hinman
- Budget - Carey Campbell and Charlie Hall

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- Federation Budget Committee Kickoff Meeting was held last night hosted by Kosmo and attended by Tania, Carey, Charlies Dane and Hall, Fred, and Flint
- Have we invited speakers for our March Members meeting?
- Jeff is scheduled to be the 69th speaker at the 7 April 2010 budget public hearing.
- Education & Youth - Charlie Dane
 - Presented committee's position on FCPS budget to school board on 17 Feb
- Environment - Flint Webb
- Human Services - **Vacant**
 - Tania was scheduled to attend the Fairfax County Health Department sponsored MAPP - A Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax - inaugural community coalition dinner meeting on Thursday, February 4, 2010
 - A Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax is a coalition of community leaders committed to assessing Fairfax County's most pressing health needs and developing a strategic plan that will improve the overall health of our community. The coalition will utilize the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) strategic process developed by the CDC and NACCHO to guide them through this effort.
- Land Use - Fred Costello
 - The Land use committee has contacted the Hunters Mill Defense League, the Western Fairfax County Citizens Association and Occoquan Watershed Coalition on a proposed change in the zoning ordinance concerning the setback for stables to see if it's possible to establish a consensus position on this proposed change.
 - Fred plans to attend a COG-hosted dialogue on HUD Sustainable Communities Planning Grant, March 1
 - The Federation was asked if it was undertaking any serious examination of corruption and incompetence in parts of the Fairfax County government. At the membership meeting informal discussion yielded an answer of no, looking for corruption and incompetence are outside our charter. The Federation does actively identify problems with government and proposes ways to improve governance
- Legislation - Tania Hossain
- Membership - Tania Hossain
 - Tania has requested an updated HOA list from the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs. The office used to maintain a current list of the presidents of all CAs and HOAs throughout the County. In the summer of 1985, there were about 800 organizations listed. There are now about 1,800 total.
 - In the past about 20% of the "current" presidents were dead ends.
 - About 40% were out of office but could provide the names of a newer president for use in follow-up membership letters
- Public Safety - Gail Parker
- Resolutions - Bill Hanks (in Florida)
- Transportation - Roger Hoskin and Carey Campbell
 - In mid February 2010 the Fairfax County Department of Transportation prepared Project Summary Reports by District which can be found on the Sully District Council Presentations page:
<< <http://www.sullydistrict.org/presentations/index.html>>>
[Braddock](#) [Dranesville](#) [Hunter Mill](#) [Lee](#) [Mason](#) [Mt Vernon](#) [Providence](#) [Springfield](#) [Sully](#)
 - Both the Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee and the Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC) met on 16 February 2010. The following documents may be of interest and can be found on the Sully District Council Presentations page:
<< <http://www.sullydistrict.org/presentations/index.html>>>
 - Transforming Tyson's: Overview of the Transportation Section of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment, 3rd Draft
 - Tyson's Connector - Lunchtime free bus service in Tyson's Corner: Update on Operations since Nov. 23, 2009
 - Citizen's Task Force: Study of Financial, Legal & Legislative Issues Associated with Improving Roadway Service Delivery
 - Northern Virginia Transportation Authority 2010 Legislative Program
 - 2010 General Assembly Session Transportation Funding/Allocation Bills
- Website - Jeff Parnes

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- Pictures of board members were posted on the contact page
- Those board or liaison members whose portraits were not taken, or who wish to replace the portrait taken, please send Jeff a jpg that you'd like him to use.

District Council Reports (Dranesville & Hunter Mill - N/A)

- Braddock - Art Wells
- Lee - Don Hinman
- Mason - Roger Hoskins
- Mt. Vernon - Karen Pohoryo
- Providence - Charlie Hall
- Sully - Jeff Parnes
 - Schedule
 - February -School Budget
 - March - County Budget
 - April - Human Services
 - At its February meeting Sully passed a resolution on the advertised tax rate calling for it to be set "at a level that would replicate funding of the 2010 budget."
- Springfield - Mike Thompson

Adjournment

The March 2010 membership meeting will be on the 25th

The March 2010 board meeting will be on the 18th