

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
Board Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2007
Approved at 29 November 2007 Board meeting

Meeting Attendance: Charles Dane, Esther Ferington, Art Wells, Flint Webb, John Jennison, Art Wells, Jeff Parnes, Bill Hanks, Scott Schlegel, Carol Hawn and Sally Ormsby (arrived late due to flat tire).

Guest: Mike Corrigan from Reston Citizens Association

Absent: Tania Hossain (however she did e-mail comments on the draft legislative program), Merrily Pierce, Roger Hoskins and District Council Reps with the exception of Art Wells and Jeff Parnes.

- I. Calendar
 - A. November 15 Membership meeting: will include not only a representative from Dominion Electric Power but also someone from the Piedmont Environmental Council or the Sierra Club
 - B. November 20 Board meeting: postponed to 29 November due to Thanksgiving
 - C. December 13 (2nd Thursday) Membership meeting: Carol pointed out that the Fairfax County Auditorium is not available. The board decided that the attendance would not be too great for the usual room so they would stay with the Packard Center
 - D. December 20 Board meeting: will be at Marco Polo for dinner. The subject for discussion will be possible revisions to the bylaws to include different types of memberships such as those in the Montgomery County Citizens Federation. [AI 1](#)
- II. Rotating Board Secretaries
 - A. Charles Dane switched with Bill Hanks so that Bill Hanks will be the secretary for November and Charlie will be the secretary for March.
 - B. Merrily Pierce will be the secretary for the December (Marco Polo dinner Board meeting).
- III. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes
 - A. August Board Meeting Minutes:
 1. Charles had editorial comments about the minutes
 2. **Motion:** August board meeting minutes should be approved subject to approval of editorial changes Charlie has requested. – Approved Unanimously
 - B. September Board Meeting Minutes:
 1. Charles had editorial comments about the minutes
 2. **Motion:** September board meeting minutes should be approved subject to approval of editorial changes Charlie has requested. – Approved Unanimously
- IV. Treasurer's Report
 - A. The mysterious \$362.75 deposit mentioned suspected of being a bank error at the last meeting turned out to be a re-imbusement check and therefore legitimate.
 - B. Scott is still waiting for documentation for postage from Carol Hawn. Carol acknowledged that she needs to provide this. [AI 2](#)
 - C. Charles questioned the number of paid member associations. Scott thought that the discrepancy may be because some of the dues were for the previous year. Another reason for the discrepancy may be that he only counts associations once the check has

been received not just the application form. This could be a difference with on-line renewals since there is a delay between when the renewal form is received into the system and the receipt of the check. [AI 3](#)

D. Bill Hanks suggested that since our income comes in roughly 6 months prior to the costs associated with the Citizen of the Year Banquet bills we may want to consider investing in a CD to provide greater interest income. [AI 4](#)

V. Organizational Topics

A. Board Vacancies: Jeff had nothing new to report

B. Representative Vacancies (see VIII. C.)

VI. Board & Committee Reports

A. Bulletin/Newsletter – Carol Hawn

1. Bill Hanks provided an article “High Rises to Include Affordable Housing”

2. Carol indicated that with the legislative program, the October membership minutes, Bill Hanks’ article and brief note from Jeff there will be little space for anything else in the Bulletin

3. However, the deadline will be November 4th, but Carol indicated that she probably won’t start on the Bulletin until after the election (November 6).

B. Education and Youth – Charles Dane

1. Division-wide plan

a. Charles indicated that he sent personal comments on the division-wide plan

b. He has received word that the Plan has been revised to include his comments

C. Environment – Flint Webb

1. Green Building comments

a. Flint indicated that he had received comments on his personal specific comments on the Green Building plan but had not reviewed them yet

D. Membership – Charles Dane

1. Web site comments

a. Charles pointed out that the Bulletin is not a committee and the Citizen of the Year (COY) is a Committee so the web site should be re-organized separating the Bulletin from the committees and adding the COY Resolutions to the list of committees. [AI 5](#)

2. Draft letter to paid member organizations pointing out vacancies and soliciting nominees

a. There was discussion that the second paragraph made the letter sound like we were pleading for help filling open positions

b. It was suggested that we first point out all the appointments that are filled by including Esther’s list of appointments then invite the new organizations to propose appointments to the open positions. [AI 6](#)

E. Resolutions – Bill Hanks – nothing to report

1. Jeff wondered what resolutions come under Bill’s purview

2. Bill said it was any resolutions that did not go through another committee, for instance a resolution dealing with the Reston Town proposal

F. Legislative – Sally Ormsby (deferred to the end of the meeting after the presentation by the Reston Town Charter group)

VII. District Councils

A. Braddock – Art Wells

1. Art discussed the last meeting “A Look Back at Braddock – The Web Site!” meeting held on October 24th. The address of the web site is <http://braddockheritage.org/>.
 2. Next meeting will be November 20. Jeff indicated that he has a conflict. Both Esther and Charles indicated that they were free so they will represent the Federation. [AI 7](#)
 3. December 6th will be the Taste of Braddock meeting with restaurants from Braddock presenting their food. Everyone is invited.
- B. Sully – Jeff Parnes
1. They had the meeting with VDOT and FDOT
- C. Lee District Council. Carol Hawn indicated that Jane Hilder is not the representative for the Lee District Council. [AI 8](#)
- VIII. Old Business
- A. Citizen of the Year banquet -John Jennison indicated that he has not had time to focus on possibly changing the venue for the COY banquet or to consider speakers.
- B. Bulletin Board – Esther Ferington has been keeping up the bulletin board
- C. Roster of Representatives – Esther Ferington
1. Esther Ferington handed out a list of Federation Representatives for Fairfax County boards, authorities and commissions
 2. Becky Cate has resigned as our representative on the Trails and Sidewalks Committee and recommended Mark Tipton. Mark Tipton has agreed to represent the Federation.
 - a. There was some discussion about Mr. Tipton’s other activities but there was agreement that there would not be a conflict
 - b. Esther mentioned that both she and Jeff had met with Mr. Tipton and on short notice he had attended the October Membership meeting
 - c. Mr. Tipton is a volunteer with the trails and streams organization
 - d. **Motion:** Appoint Mark Tipton to represent the Federation on the Trails and Sidewalk Committee. – Passed unanimously
 3. Flint Webb questioned whether Jim Davis still represented the Federation on the Engineering Standard Review Committee.
 - a. Esther Ferington indicated that she had called the [Clerk of the Board of Supervisors office, which handles the county’s boards, authorities, and commissions, Nancy Viers](#), and she indicated that Jim is still listed as representing the Federation but they only had a phone number and Esther has not been able to verify that Jim is representing the Federation
 - b. Flint indicated that he had an e-mail address for Jim and can provide it to Esther. [AI 9](#)
 4. Airports Advisory Committee
 - a. Flint Webb indicated that he might be interested in filling the open position
 - b. Carol Hawn indicated that she would like to have someone from Mount Vernon or Lee Districts because issues concerning National Airport are not discussed much.
 5. FCPS School board Advisory Committee on Gifted and Talented Students
 - a. Charles Dane acknowledged that Flint Webb had indicated that his wife may be interested in the position but wanted to know when the meetings were.

- b. Charles has inquired about when the meetings were and is waiting to hear back.
- IX. New Business
- A. First meeting of FCPS Superintendent's Community Advisory Council – Jeff Parnes
 - 1. Attended just a get acquainted and organizational meeting.
 - 2. Next meeting will be in January
 - B. Review of Montgomery County Civic Federation Dues structure – Jeff Parnes
 - 1. The similar organization to the Federation for Montgomery County has a very different membership structure with many organizations being non-voting members
 - 2. The consensus was that there was too much on the agenda to discuss the issue at this time
 - 3. The issue will be discussed at the December Board meeting over dinner
 - C. Pay-Day lending resolution – Sally Ormsby
 - 1. There is a position about Pay-Day lending in the Legislative Position so no further action was taken
 - D. Reston Citizens Association: Town of Reston Proposal – Mike Corrigan
 - 1. Reston Town Charter organization made a presentation about how the Reston Town Charter would work and requested that a position be added to the legislative program to support chartering Reston as a Town.
 - a. The presentation mentioned a 1979 report about urbanizing counties that identified reasons that some urban areas should become towns
 - b. Reston would be the largest Town in the state
 - c. Carol indicated that she thought that some larger Towns are expected to be less than 25,000 population and some are being encouraged to transition to Cities – Herndon was one that is likely to have more than 25,000 after the next census
 - d. Resolution voted on in 1980 failed. (1/3 wanted the resolution, 1/3 thought the resolution was too weak, 1/3 were not for becoming a Town)
 - e. The proposed legislation would empower the Town Committee to hold a referendum and if the referendum passed the Town would be chartered
 - 1) Bill Hanks pointed out that the legislature could modify the charter as part of the legislative process or even delete the Charter and require the Town come back for the Charter to be approved separately
 - 2) Sally Ormsby indicated that it was because of the uncertainties of the legislative process that the County had decided not to go forward with a similar resolution to petition to become a City – giving them more taxing authority
 - 3) Mike Corrigan indicated that they were planning to meet with the legislative delegation next week.
 - 2. Consideration of the proposed legislative position
 - a. Jeff Parnes questioned whether the Federation should take a broader perspective about whether to encourage such petitions generally. The consensus opinion was that we should not.
 - b. Flint questioned whether balkanization of the County into Towns would dilute the effectiveness of the Federation since Civic organizations in Towns are less likely to join the Federation since the Towns are responsible for planning and zoning.
 - 1) Charles thought that some members are from towns

- 2) Flint pointed out that many of the members that have Town addresses may in fact be part of the un-incorporated portion of the County and simply have a Town mailing address pointing out that that was the case for the Dunn Loring Gardens Civic Association. [AI 10](#)
 - c. Sally Ormsby had a number of changes to the proposed legislative position to make it to better conform with the legislative program format.
 - d. **Motion:** The Federation take a position supporting Reston's request to incorporate as a town subject to Sally Ormsby's edits. – The motion passed 9 for 2 against.
- E. Legislative Program
1. Most of the Program was continued from the previous year
 2. The Transportation Funding and Transportation Funding Formula positions need to be revised to reflect the legislation that was passed last year. [AI 11](#)
 3. The Metro Funding discussion in square brackets in the draft Legislative Program needs to be fact checked and incorporated into the rationale [AI 12](#)
 4. Minimum Wage position does not reflect recent Federal legislation and needs to be revised [AI 13](#)
 5. Living Wage position proposed by Tania Hossain will be added to the Citizens Interests as letter e. [AI 14](#)
 6. Electric Restructuring. Esther pointed out a missing "m" in "consuer" in the second line.
 7. After-School Programs/At-Risk Youth/Gang Prevention position
 - a. Charles suggested the addition of "Continued" after Support on the first line.
 - b. John said that he will look at the rational to see if it should be updated. [AI 15](#)
 8. Reform of State and Federal Accountability Systems position needs to be revised to reflect the School Boards current position about No Child Left Behind [AI 16](#)
 9. There needs to be a new position to encourage energy conservation and renewable energy generation. [AI 17](#)
 10. BRAC rationale needs to be revised because the number of students is fluctuating all over the place and there have been a number of changes to BRAC since the position was written. [AI 18](#)
 11. There needs to be a position to give pedestrian right of way in crosswalks. [AI 19](#)
 12. There needs to be a position to provide a mechanism to recycle Compact Florescent Lights (CFL). [AI 20](#)
 - a. John Jennison and Flint Webb thought the position should include computer monitors as well
 - b. Sally felt that they should be separate issues
 13. Sally felt that there the LP should resurrect the old resolution about the Mantua tank farm.
 - a. John rattled off four recent spill event accidents that have occurred at the tank farm over the last eight months
 - b. There was considerable concern on the board about calling for the relocation of the tank farm, noting that re-locating the tank farm could cause more tanker traffic since the tank farm is centrally located in the county on the fuel pipeline.
 - c. The consensus was that the resolution should call for the "phased relocation with the goal to limit local tanker truck traffic in high density populated areas". [AI 21](#)

14. Sally and Flint felt that there should be a legislative program provision to address the problem of endocrine disruptors and pharmaceuticals in streams and rivers. [AI 22](#)
 15. Tania Hossain had requested a statement about human trafficking.
 - a. Sally, and the Board agreed, that the provision should not be as specific as what Tania requested. [AI 23](#)
 16. The Draft LP will be sent around to the Board for electronic approval before it is published in the Bulletin. [AI 24](#)
- F. Green Building Resolution
1. Sally had not had a chance to review Flint's edits [AI 25](#)

Action Items:

1. Jeff Parnes will query Board members for who plan to attend the December Board meeting at Marco Polo and reserve a table.
2. Carol Hawn will provide documentation for postage within 60 days of incurring the costs or by the next Board meeting. The 60-day rule applies to all expenses for re-imburement.
3. Scott Schlegel and Charles Dane will reconcile membership lists.
4. Scott Schlegel will investigate the possibility of investing in a CD 6-months prior to the Citizen of the Year Banquet.
5. Jeff Parnes will see that the web site home page will be revised to separate the Bulletin from the committees and adding Citizen of the Year Resolutions as a committees
6. Charles Dane will revise the letter to new members to emphasize the filled positions and inviting the organization to submit nominations to fill the open positions.
7. Charles Dane and Esther Ferington will represent the Federation at the Braddock District Council meeting on November 20th.
8. Carol Hawn will identify proper representative for the Lee District Council
9. Flint Webb to provide Jim Davis' e-mail address to Esther Ferington to verify that he is representing the Federation on the Engineering Standards Review Committee
10. Charles Dane will look at the member associations and see how many are in Towns.
11. Jeff Parnes will revise the Transportation Funding and Transportation Funding Formula positions in the Legislative Program (LP) to reflect legislation that was passed last year.
12. Jeff Parnes will fact check with County OT staff the current status of the transportation items in the priority section of the draft LP and incorporate correct funding amounts into the rationale.
13. Carol Hawn will get information to update the Minimum Wage position in the LP to reflect Federal Minimum Wage law.
14. Sally Ormsby will add Tania Hossain's Living wage position modified as appropriate to the LP
15. John Jennison will consider update the Rationale of the After-School Programs/At-Risk Youth/Gang Prevention position in the LP
16. Charles Dane will update the Reform of State and Federal Accountability Systems position in the LP to make sure it is consistent with the current School Board position.
17. Flint Webb will write a new position in the LP encouraging conservation and renewable power generation.
18. Art Wells will revise the BRAC resolution in the LP to remove number of students and add "wobble-room" to the resolution.

19. Sally Ormsby will add a position to the LP to support legislation to give pedestrians the write-of-way in crosswalks.
20. Sally Ormsby will add positions to the LP to support the development of a mechanism to recycle CFL bulbs and computer monitors.
21. Sally will incorporate the old Federation position regarding the Mantua tank farm to emphasis the “phased relocation with the goal to limit local tanker truck traffic in high density populated areas” along with giving local communities authority to enforce Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan violations.
22. Sally will draft a position for the LP to address the problems of endocrine disruptors and pharmaceuticals in streams and rivers.
23. Sally to include a position about human trafficking similar to the one Tania requested but less specific.
24. Sally Ormsby will send around the Draft LP to the Board for electronic approval prior to publication in the Bulletin.
25. Flint Webb will send out the Green Building resolution to the Board for final approval once Sally has agreed to the final changes.