



Minutes – November 13, 2007 ACCF Membership Meeting

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Larry Mayer, President. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Martha Moore of the Lyon Village Civic Association.
2. Agenda approved as submitted.
3. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the October 2, 2007 membership meeting were distributed and approved as submitted.
4. Treasurer's Report: The full report is available on Civic Federation website. Balance on hand is \$4,760.38. Sixty-two (75.6%) of the member organizations have paid their dues as of November 4, 2007. The proposed 2007-2008 was presented by Frances Finta and approved by voice vote. A copy appears on the Civic Federation website.
5. Committee Reports and Announcements:
 - The Housing Committee has begun discussion of the Housing Authority referendum
 - The Planning and Zoning Committee is monitoring County action on Transfer of Development Rights (TDR)
 - Please submit email addresses to Sharon Rogers, Secretary
6. The following resolution on the Master Transportation Plan Map, brought forward for immediate action by three committees (Planning and Zoning, Transportation, Executive) passed without modification by a vote of 23 for, 0 against, 2 abstentions. It was immediately delivered to the Arlington County Board that was meeting concurrently.

"Whereas Arlington County is in the process of adopting a new Master Transportation Plan (MTP), and the plan includes an overview, written plan, and a map;

Whereas the County Board on October 13, 2007, voted to advertise the overview and map and has placed both documents on its meeting agenda for November 13, 2007, for public hearing and possible adoption;

Whereas the new MTP, once adopted, will become part of the County's comprehensive plan, and the elements of the MTP, including the map, will have legal significance and, is expected to guide the County's decision-making and investment in its transportation system over the next 25 years;

Whereas the map shows the location of arterial streets, and designates each of these arterial streets (or portions thereof) as falling into one of six street categories that purports to reflect the land use of adjacent properties as indicated in the County's General Land Use Plan;

Whereas many of the street category designations on the map do not accurately reflect the current land use designation in the GLUP for properties on one or both sides of the arterial street, and in those cases generally show a higher level of land use than in the GLUP;

Whereas such inaccuracies, if not corrected, may cause developers and other property owners to claim reliance on the map as the most recent County statement of land use policy, and/or cause the map to be interpreted by staff or future County Boards as indicating an intent to up-GLUP the properties at issue should a request be received, creating ambiguities in land use or even new rights, particularly along neighborhood edges where such ambiguities or rights did not previously exist;

Whereas the legend for the map shows street cross sections for each of the six arterial street categories that sometimes reinforces these inaccuracies by depicting building forms and setbacks that are inconsistent with the GLUP for properties that front on the street;

Whereas these concerns have previously been expressed to County staff, but who nonetheless recommended adoption of the advertised map; and

Whereas the proposed cross sections impart an unrealistic rigidity to the plan, such as by indicating that left turn lanes are allowed only on commercial arterial streets, when they may be appropriate on other types of arterial streets, such as next to schools or churches;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Arlington County Civic Federation urges the County Board to simplify the map by (1) renaming the categories and changing relevant text terms (e.g., by renaming the categories with numbers or letters – 1-6 or A-F) so that the arterial street categories no longer directly refer to specific land use designations or use GLUP terms; (2) removing building type, height, and form depictions from the street cross section legend; and (3) allowing for greater flexibility to address safety and other considerations on particular arterial streets."

7. The Code Enforcement Program featured presentations by Shahriar Amiri, Inspection Services Division; Gary Greene, Code Enforcement; Jay Farr and Dave Dailey, Police. Presentations were followed by questions from committee chairs from Planning and Zoning (Bill Gearhart) and Public Services (Mike Kerley). The most intractable problems center on noise complaints (requires coordination between police and code enforcement) and hoarding behavior by residents. The Arlington County website is being enhanced to achieve more online transactions and to better reflect information on who to call for particular issues.

8. The Legislative Program, Part II proceeded with discussion of four items considered for addition to the Federation's 2008 Legislative Package. Results of the second round of voting, posted on the Civic Federation website after voting at this meeting:

- 1) Evaluate/support JLARC recommendations on licensed psychiatric services = 28-4
- 2) Allow workforce housing in state/local government facilities = 19-15
- 3) Permit building affordable housing over publicly-owned property = 20-14
- 4) Adopt Instant Runoff Voting for elections in the Commonwealth = 14-19

9. New Business and Other Announcements

- An inquiry about a Federation position on the Columbia Pike Trolley will be reviewed by the Executive Committee
- An inquiry about the County ordinance or action on sidewalk snow shoveling will be assessed by the Public Services Committee
- The Arlington County Schools Capital Improvement Plan is the program topic for Committee of 100 on November 14.

10. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.

Submitted:

Sharon J. Rogers
Secretary