



## Minutes – January 6, 2015 ACCF Membership Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Michael McMenamin at Hazel Auditorium. He led the Pledge of Allegiance and approval of the agenda, the minutes of the previous membership meeting and the Treasurer's report. All organizations have paid their dues. Terri Prell, Executive Committee chair, announced that the Executive Committee will meet on January 11, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. at 4805 Wilson Blvd (Fire Station 2) to coordinate committee work and plan future meeting programs.

Jay Farr, now Operations Chief of the Arlington County Police Department, introduced himself. Awards Committee nominations were approved: Joe Pelton (Chair), Randy Swart, Jesse Boeding, Michael Beer, Stefanie Pryor.

### **Lee Highway Re-Visioning Plan**

Sandi Chesrown presented an update on the grassroots strategic partnership for re-visioning Lee Highway that is moving forward with 15 civic associations. Their ultimate vision is a liveable, walkable community with attractive development, and with a sense of place and well-being. They have transitioned to the broader-based Lee Highway Alliance and are holding community meetings. The group is being assisted by Arlington County's Planning Department and other County department staff. Sandi can be reached at sandrachesrouwn07@verizon.net and the web site is leehighwayalliance.com

### **County Manager Presentation**

County Manager Barbara Donnellan gave a presentation on the main elements of preparing next year's budget. Revenue projections are positive, mostly based on 6% residential property assessments. Will add \$330 to \$440 per year for an average homeowner. But there are budget facility costs (Homeless Services Center, new DHS at Sequoia Center. Funding gap on County side \$4 million, schools have more challenges. Analyzing Sheriff's function for possible improvement. Every department is identifying 2% spending cuts. Federation delegates asked questions about density, inspector general function, commitment to schools, strategies for dealing with business vacancy rates, the Public Land for Public Good process, planning for millennials, DHS vacating Edison Complex buildings, parkland acquisition.

### **School Superintendent Presentation**

Arlington Public Schools Superintendent Dr Patrick K. Murphy gave a presentation that centered on the budget process and challenges. There is growth across all segments of the school population, and many budget challenges, with a \$24 million shortfall. Suggestions for savings include managing technology investments, increasing efficiency, freezing salaries and hiring, as well as measures to reduce cost per pupil. Questions were on salaries, non-teaching personnel costs (now about 10%--low for a school system), staffing parity between facilities, hiring teachers with advanced degrees, short-term seat capacity plans, options for dealing with the budget deficit and budgetary costs of the choice program.

### **Planning and Zoning Committee resolution**

P&Z introduced a resolution opposing the draft Arlington County Retail Plan. It will be voted on in February. The draft resolution is on the Civfed web page.

**Announcement:** We need a Banquet Committee chair.

The meeting adjourned at 9:26pm until the next membership meeting on February 3, 2015.

Respectfully submitted by Randy Swart, Secretary