



Minutes – February 3, 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, minutes of the previous membership meeting and Treasurer's report. The Executive Committee will meet on February 8, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. at 4805 Wilson Blvd (Fire Station 2) to coordinate committee work and plan future meeting.

VDOT Program

Ellen Vogel and Terry Yates, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) briefed us on recent issues. Stormwater management improvements now require a landscape architect's input for all projects. Neighborhoods should get involved early and be insistent, but VDOT may not be far enough along in the project to answer questions. The dirt mounds will stay at Arlington Boulevard and Washington Boulevard, but will be landscaped. Public art can't be distracting or a safety hazard, and VDOT will not fund it or maintain it. Illegal sign removal can be done by Arlington County if there is an agreement with VDOT. Arlington roads with route numbers under 600 are usually VDOT-maintained. Sound barriers are installed if road capacity is increased, but there are no plans to add I-66 sound barriers for Westover Village. On Feb. 5 there is a meeting on I-66, the same night the Transportation Commission will discuss the I-66 projects. Susan Finotti from County staff added comments. VDOT has a new website: virginiaroads.org

County Board Program

County Board members Mary Hynes (Chair), Walter Tejada (Vice Chair), Jay Fiset, Libby Garvey and John Vihstadt provided updates on Arlington's directions for 2015 and answered questions submitted in advance by the Federation's committee chairs. Issues for Arlington include demographic changes, commercial vacancies, Federal policies. The County Board and School Board launched a Community Facilities Study in January. The County will issue a press release before every Board meeting summarizing major actions to be considered. Open Door Mondays continue with opportunities to speak directly with a Board member and there are now quarterly business breakfasts. Columbia Pike planning and improvements will continue in the aftermath of the streetcar project cancellation. The Crystal City transitway will continue. Affordable housing will be a challenge, even some projects already in progress. Lee Highway planning has begun as a community-led process that the County Board will support. The County is encouraging business activity, and many business projects are continuing. The County is making slow progress in establishing an internal auditor position, and making use of external auditors as well. Schools issues, including the recent TJ decision will continue. Walter Tejada noted that he will be leaving the Board at the end of this year. He rejects the cancellation of the streetcar project and believes those responsible should be held accountable for finding solutions to the problems left in its aftermath.

Announcement:

- Joe Pelton: The Awards Committee is looking for nominations. It will meet on February 12th.
- Alexandra Bocian of Highview Park offered to store the ACCF County Fair booth materials.

Old Business

Resolution: Retail Plan. The Planning and Zoning Committee resolution recommending extensive changes in the County's proposed Retail Plan passed by a vote of 36-2-4

New Business

A resolution was introduced by Eric Cassel to request earlier morning hours at Long Bridge Park. It was referred to the Parks Committee.

Chairman McMenamin commended Larry Mayer, who is leaving Arlington. He was warmly applauded.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35pm until the next membership meeting on March 3, 2015.

Respectfully submitted by Randy Swart, Secretary