



Minutes September 5, 2017 ACCF General Meeting

Call to Order: Federation President Banks noted the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM in the Hazel Auditorium at the Virginia Hospital Center. President Banks led the meeting in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting's agenda and the June 6, 2017 Membership Meeting Minutes were approved as submitted.

September Executive Meeting: President Banks announced that September Executive Committee Meeting would be held at 6:30 pm on September 10 at Fire Station 2, 4805 Wilson Blvd.

October 2017 Membership Meeting: President Banks announced that the October 3, 2017 Membership Meeting will be held in the Hazel Auditorium at the Virginia Hospital Center. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

Treasurer's Report: President Banks announced on behalf of Treasurer Sarah Shortall that the Federation had balances of \$7,041.89 in its checking account and \$20,876.55 in its savings account as of August 31, 2017. There were no objections to the Treasurer's report, and it was filed subject to audit. President Banks reported that forty-three of CivFed's member organizations had paid their 2017-2018 membership fee.

New Delegates and Alternates: President Banks welcomed new delegates John Bloom of the Woman's Club, Eric Brescia of Columbia Heights, and Allen Norton of Bluemont and new alternates Mary Ann Johnson, Paul King and Chad Massie, all of Waverly Hills.

AIM Video recording of this Meeting: President Banks thanked AIM for making a video recording of this Federation meeting. Lois Koontz, the moderator for the Candidate's Forum, said a link to a raw feed of AIM's video would be available on the Federation's website within thirty-six hours and an edited version would be available soon thereafter.

Candidates' Forum: President Banks reviewed the rules governing participation by candidates and delegates and alternates. President Banks said Michael Webb, a School Board candidate, would not be allowed to participate in the Forum because he would not agree in writing to abide by the Forum's rules. Lois Koontz, moderator for the Candidate's Forum, introduced the candidates who were participating in the Forum. Ms. Koontz reviewed the rules governing participation by candidates and delegates and alternates. The candidates listed below made opening and closing statements and answered questions from delegates and alternates:

49th House of Delegates District Panel

- Alfonzo Lopez (D) Incumbent
- Adam Roosevelt (R)

County Board Panel (One Vacancy)

- Eric Gutshall (D)
- Audrey Clement (I)
- Charles McCullough II (I)

School Board Panel (One Vacancy)

- Monique O'Grady (I)

The candidates for the 49th House of Delegates District answered questions about Medicaid; immigration; global warming and the environment; a woman's right to choose; and redistricting. County Board candidates were asked to explain their motives for running for the County Board as independents and, in Mr. Gutshall's case, a democrat; how they would balance rapid development in the county with preserving diversity such as, but not limited to, affordable housing; what they would do to galvanize more Arlington citizens to participate in the civil process; name the one issue about Arlington Government that kept them up at night; what reforms would they support to address Metro's financial problems and APS's growing enrollment without raising taxes. The School Board candidate responded to

questions about the cost of the APS Montessori program; teaching financial literacy to students; new measures to give teachers the opportunity to talk with School Board members; programs that would help students obtain the critical thinking skills necessary to deal with contemporary social issues such as “fake” news; how she would address the cost of increasing APS enrollment.

New Business:

Committee Chairs: Matt Wavro, Technology and Communications Working Group Chair; Martha Moore, Planning and Zoning Committee Chair, Eric Brescia, Housing Committee Chair; Jackie Snelling, Public Services Committee Chair; Nicole Merlene, chair of the Community Relations Committees; and Michael Beer, Schools Committee Chair, spoke briefly on what their committees were currently doing and what they hoped to do in the coming year. They invited those attending the meeting to become members of their committees.

Resolution on County Manager’s Responsibility to Execute the County’s Budget: Roger Morton, a delegate from the Highland Park-Overlee Knolls Civic Association, introduced a resolution which states in relevant part that the ACCF: *recommends the Code of Virginia §15.2, Chapter 7 be updated to require the County Manager to execute the budget as finally adopted to maintain accountability thereby prohibiting the changing of a budget retroactively.* President Banks referred Mr. Morton’s resolution to the R&E and Legislative Committees.

Announcements

- The next General Meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, October 3, 2017 in the Hazel Auditorium at the Virginia Hospital Center. The tentative agenda for this meeting is: 2017 Candidates Forum for uncontested elections, Fund Balances, Panel updating ACCF governance
- The next Executive Committee will be held at 6:30 PM on Sunday, September 10, 2017, at the fire station at 4805 Wilson Blvd.
- The deadline for the October 2017 Newsletter is September 21.
- Leonard “Doc” Muse, a leader in the South Arlington community of Nauck for more than sixty years, died the weekend of Aug. 19-20. He was 94 years old. Mr. Muse, who owned the Green Valley Pharmacy since 1952, was praised for his dedication to Arlington’s black residents for 65 years. He was applauded for the support and guidance he provided to those in need. Portia Clark, president of the Nauck Civic Association, was quoted in an ARLnow obituary as saying, “Doc was a legend. He will be missed by the Nauck community that he helped so much.”
- Public Engagement in Arlington: Arlington County will be taking input on its Public Engagement Process until September 13.
- Arlington County Board: The County Board’s September meetings will be held on Saturday, September 16th, starting 8:30 a.m. The Board Recessed meeting will be held starting at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 19. Both meetings will be held in the County Board Room at 2100 Clarendon Blvd.
- The Arlington County Department of Public Safety Communications and Emergency Management and the Arlington County Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission invites you to its National Preparedness Month Celebration at 7:30pm September 20, 2017 at the Kenmore Middle School, 200 S Carling Spring Road, Arlington VA 22204. They will be recognizing the outstanding individuals and organizations in our community that make Arlington a safe and ready place to work, live, and play. The festivities include a social hour beginning at 6:30 pm, a keynote address from Howard County Emergency Management on the Ellicott City Flooding, and several individual and organizational awards.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Dennis Gerrity, Secretary

County Manager Resolution

Introduced by Roger Morton

Whereas, Virginia Code §15.2 Chapter 6 (County Manager Form) contains the requirement for the County Manager to 'execute the budget as finally adopted' and

Whereas, Virginia Code §15.2 Chapter 7 (County Manager Plan which Arlington is under) contains no such provision for the manager to execute the budget as finally adopted,

Whereas, the approved Arlington Water/Sewer rates have been raised in May, rather than the at the beginning of the fiscal year for which the rates were approved, thereby creating a change to the previous year's budget retroactively without any transparency detailing how much extra funds are being collected and how they are being spent. The lack of transparency also means that year-to-year comparisons are not possible nor are comparisons of water rates with other jurisdictions.

Therefore, recommend the Code of Virginia §15.2 Chapter 7 be updated to require the County Manager to execute the budget as finally adopted to maintain accountability thereby prohibiting the changing of a budget retroactively.

Background:

The early collection of water/sewer rate increases began in about 2006. Prior to that time any increased rates were collected starting at the beginning of the fiscal year for which they were approved, according to my personal records. A note was sent to the County Board in 2015 and forwarded to the County Manager and others on July 17, 2015. The response on October 16, 2015 contained the observation that the idea of making the collection date effective with the fiscal year 'had merit'. Yet, the practice continued in 2017. Another note was sent to the County Board in 2017. The reply received on July 16, 2017 now has 'Arlington County looking into changing the effective date as part of an upcoming water-sewer cost of service and rate study'. 'The consultant will be tasked with determining if it is feasible to change the effective date. This raises the question of who is in charge of making management decisions in the County. Was the change to early implementation of increased rates done based upon a consultant study?

Why the County changed the process years ago and didn't continue with charging the increased rate at the beginning of the fiscal year is a question because it doesn't seem to be in the interest of transparency. Was this change based upon a consultant or did someone in management do it?