

Minutes February 6, 2018 ACCF General Meeting

Call to Order: Federation President Banks noted the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. President Banks led the meeting in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting's agenda and the January 2, 2018 Membership Meeting Minutes were approved as submitted.

February Executive Meeting: President Banks announced that the February Executive Committee Meeting would be held at 6:30 PM on February 11 at Fire Station 2, 4805 Wilson Blvd.

March 2018 Membership Meeting: President Banks announced that the March 6, 2018 Membership Meeting will be held in the Hazel Auditorium at the Virginia Hospital Center. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. The meeting's highlight will be a visit by the School Board.

Treasurer's Report: President Banks announced on behalf of Treasurer Sarah Shortall that the January Treasurer's report was available on the back page of the draft minutes of the January Membership Meeting. The balances in the Federation's checking account was \$8,023.75 and its saving account was \$18,619.61 as of January 31, 2018.

Member Organizations All-Stars: President Banks announced that the following member organizations had two or more delegates and/or alternates present at the January Membership Meeting: Arlington Heights Civic Association, Bluemont Civic Association, Buckingham Community Civic Association, Crystal City Civic Association, Dominion Hills Civic Association, Friends of Arlington Parks, Glencarlyn Citizens Association, League of Women Voters, Madison Manor Citizens Association, North Highlands Citizens Association, Opera NOVA, and the Waverly Hills Civic Association.

New Delegate: President Banks welcomed new delegates Marjorie Hobart of the League of Women Voters of Arlington, Mary Ann Johnson of the Waverly Hills Civic Association, and Bill Walls of the Arlington-East Falls Church Civic Association.

Special Guest: President Banks introduced David Smolansky, Mayor-in-exile of the city of El Hatillo in Venezuela.

Career Center Video recording of this Meeting: President Banks thanked Career Center students Georgia Blanchard, Sophia Field, Campbell Hamilton-Howard and their Career Center instructor Tom O'Day for make a video recording of this Federation meeting. President Banks also thanked Duane Lomis of APS who helped manage the sound system and provided production oversight.

Committee Reports: Martha Moore, Chair of the Planning & Zoning Committee, reported that the Virginia Hospital Center had submitted a site plan application to replace existing buildings on the Edison Site with a new 7-story medical office building and an 8-story parking garage. Ms. Moore said the Site Plan Review Committee had scheduled a walking tour of the site for 10 AM on Saturday, February 10.

2018 Annual Civic Federation Banquet: President Banks reminded the meeting to save the date – May 4, 2018. CivFed's 2018 Annual Banquet will feature **Alan Ehrenhalt** – Former Executive Editor, Governing Magazine, and **Peter Rousselot** – Columnist of the ARLNow opinion column, "Peter's Take." President Banks promised that there will be a lively conversation on the theme of Arlington's Growth Express -Still on track...or off the rails?

Joint Meetings of the County Manager and Civic Federation President with Presidents of Civic and Condominium Associations: President Banks reported that he had been visiting and exchanging emails with County staff over the past several months concerning how to improve public participation in Arlington County where the County and Civic Federation have two similar objectives – diversifying public processes and membership that better represents Arlington’s demographics. To this end, in March both County Manager Mark Schwartz and he will hold a series of meetings with Civic and Condo Association Presidents to explore strategies on how to promote more diversity in civic associations, County public processes, and in CivFed’s delegate ranks. Look for an invitation with details for these roundtables that will take place on March 1, March 3, and March 8.

Suspension of the Rules: A motion was made, seconded and approved to suspend the Federation’s Standing Rules to allow delegates and alternates to ask a second question taking 15 seconds or less if they completed their first question was within 30 seconds or less and to open the floor to questions from the public. Presenters will have 2 minutes to answer questions.

Redistricting Program: President Banks gave an overview of the Redistricting Program. He explained that Mark Kelly withdrew as participant on the discussion panel portion of the program because of partisan criticism of his presence on the panel. Mr. Banks stressed that it is important for the Civic Federation to welcome all points of view in its non-partisan tradition. President Banks introduced Brian Cannon of OneVirginia2021 who gave a presentation on Redistricting.

Panel Discussion of Redistricting: President Banks introduced Juliet Hiznay as moderator and Brian Cannon and Don Gurney of the League of Women Voters of Arlington as members of a panel that would discuss redistricting and answer question about it. Ms. Hiznay and Messrs Cannon and Gurney made brief introductory comments. Messrs Cannon and Gurney then answered questions from Ms Hiznay and the audience on the following topics: What is the exiting provision under the Virginia Constitution on redistricting and does it apply to the current situation? Did either Mr. Cannon or Mr. Gurney see a problem with the current redistricting process in Virginia? How are the bills on redistricting currently before the General Assembly faring? What role does party leadership play in redistricting? Is redistricting being used to punish minority opinions within their ranks? Is the U.S. Supreme Court sending a message that redistricting issues must resolved on the state level? What kind of success have existing state redistricting commissions had in redistricting their states? What can the public in Arlington to do make redistricting happen in Virginia? What does transparency mean the redistricting process? What effect does consideration of community interest have SB106? How do they weigh variables such as compactness, competitiveness and minority representation to get fair redistricting? Can maps and computer algorithms be used to increase competitiveness in redistricting? What do student map exercise predict for the effect of redistricting on Northern Virginia? Who is picked to make the redistricting maps and how are they picked? Is there a particular method of selecting those who make redistricting maps that is considered the best way? Why didn’t Virginia follow Iowa’s system and use professional civil servants rather politicians to draw redirecting maps? Has OneVirginia2021 considered multi-member districting as an alternative to the first-past-the-post system Virginia uses? Will the constitutional amendment proposed by OneVirginia2021 allow for consideration of multimember districts in the future? Are there redistricting commissions that include members of the public, nonpartisan, nonpolitical appointees? Are there states have passed this amendment that and what preconditions have facilitated its passage? What can be done now to encourage the Virginia General assembly to create a redistricting commission or would it be better to wait until 2019? Who are the top Republican and Democrats in Virginia proponents of gerrymandering legislation? Does the League of Women of Voters have a strategy to use the courts

as the last resort for redistricting reform? How does OneVirginia2021 and LWV balance making redistricting contiguous, compact, and competitive? Why isn't redistricting one of Governor Northam's priorities?

Resolution on Fair Redistricting: Juliet Hiznay of the Legislative Committee gave a brief report on the Fair Redistricting Resolution. A motion to bring the resolution to the floor was made and seconded. There was discussion pro and con on the exclusion of those holding differing viewpoints from the discussion panel.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Fair Redistricting resolution, which states in relevant part that the *Arlington County Civic Federation urges that the Virginia General Assembly pass legislation to amend the state constitution to transfer the redistricting authority from the Virginia General Assembly to an impartial, independent commission.*

Be it further resolved, the Arlington County Civic Federation further recommends that (1) the composition of the commission should be designed to ensure that redistricting decisions are insulated from the interests of incumbents and political parties and instead are based on objective, nonpartisan criteria (e.g. compactness, contiguity, and community boundaries), and (2) the commission should ensure public participation and be fully transparent, (3) the commissioners be required to take an oath to make independent decisions that support the goal of ensuring proportional representation based on districts that are not politically or racially gerrymandered.

Juliet Hiznay of the Legislative Committee explained changes in the resolution that had been made since its introduction.

A motion to amend the second paragraph in of the resolution's *Therefore* by deleting the following language: "*that support the goal of ensuring proportional representation based on districts that are not politically or racially gerrymandered.*" was made and seconded. The question was called. There were 14 ayes and 37 nays on the motion to amend, and the motion to amend did not pass.

The main motion was then voted on, and it passed with 44 yeas, 1 nay, and 6 abstentions.

Modernizing ACCF Governance:

Vice President Wavro and Chair of the Bylaws Subcommittee reported that the subcommittee met on January 16th from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM at the Central Library. The purpose of the meeting was to review the work product of Bean Kinney & Korman. The committee reviewed the draft bylaws for areas where there was general agreement on the structure/language. There was agreement on Article 8 Miscellaneous. Areas with objections and no consensus to move forward included Article 1 Name and Purpose (both sections) and Article 2 (sections 1 through 12). Mr. Wavro said the next steps for the subcommittee were to complete the personal liability shield, move forward on Incorporation, and return to the Executive Committee for feedback on next steps given the current expenditures [\$2,400].

Announcements:

Arlington Public Schools Elementary Schools Planning Initiative: As part of its Elementary Planning Initiative, Arlington Public Schools is reviewing walk zones for all elementary schools. APS is requesting representation from identified neighboring civic associations (along with PTA representatives) on a task group for each elementary school community to provide input on the current school walk zones and identify any potential areas of expansion. Please contact your civic association president if you are interested.

Arlington Neighborhood College: Arlington Neighborhood College is a civic education program sponsored by Arlington County. It is free, but there are a limited number of slots. It will be held on 8 consecutive Thursdays, 6-9:30 PM, starting April 12. The deadline for applications is March 18. For more information, Google "Arlington Neighborhood College 2018".

Arlington Neighborhood Day Planning: CivFed has been working in partnership with Arlington County and eight other community organizations to plan the first Arlington Neighborhood Workshop, and we are asking for your help in planning the agenda. You can with planning this workshop by participating in this survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8M7ZXN8> . This half-day event, targeted for May 2018 will offer an opportunity for neighborhoods, civic associations, and community organizations to connect with one another, share organizational challenges, and learn about the best practices for community building. This workshop offers a chance to explore strategies that can strengthen neighborhood resources, increase membership, diversify participation, enhance communication, and address other challenges identified. The Arlington Neighborhood Workshop hopes to empower and equip participants with skills and tools that can be applied across your own neighborhoods, civic associations, and organizations.

Updating the 2005 Public Spaces Master Plan: A POPS Advisory Committee meeting will be held from 7:00 to 9 :00 PM on Wednesday, February 7, in the Azalea Room at Courthouse Plaza. There will another POPS Advisory Committee from 7:30 to 9 :00 A.M. on Tuesday, February 13, in the Azalea Room at Courthouse Plaza.

NCAC: The Neighborhood Conservation Advisory will meet from 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM on February 8 in the Navy League Building at 2300 Wilson Blvd. For information about this meeting here is a link to the NCAC [website](#).

Transportation Commission: The Transportation Commission's February meeting will be held on Thursday, February 8th, starting 7:30 PM. in Room 307 at 2100 Clarendon Boulevard. Click here for this meeting's [agenda](#).

Planning Commission: The Planning Commission's February meeting will be held on Monday, February 12th starting 7:00 PM in Room 307 at 2100 Clarendon Blvd. Click here for this meeting's [agenda](#) a few days before February 12. The Commission's Carryover Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 14, starting at 7:00 PM.

Housing Commission: The Housing Commission's February meeting will be held on Thursday, February 15th starting 7:00 PM in Room 307 at 2100 Clarendon Boulevard. Click here for information on this meeting's [agenda](#).

Arlington County Board: The County Board's February meeting will be held on Saturday, February 24th starting 8:30 a.m. Click here for this meeting's [agenda](#) a few days before February 24. The Board Recessed Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 27, starting at 3:00 PM.

February Executive Committee Meeting: The CivFed November Executive Committee Meeting will be held from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM on Sunday, February 11, in the community room of Fire Station 2 located at 4805 Wilson Blvd. Delegates and alternates are welcome to attend.

March Newsletter: The deadline for March newsletter articles is Thursday, February 22. Newsletters are published approximately 1 week before the meeting.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Changing the Day on which Monthly Membership Meetings Are Held: President Banks reported that he had received several emails pointing out that one of the constraints on attendance at monthly Membership is that CivFed's traditional "first Tuesday of the month" conflicts with the meeting dates of countless PTAs. There are several folks who have expressed interest in becoming involved with CivFed, but because they have children in APS, they place a higher priority of attending PTA meetings than CivFed meetings. President Banks said he will ask for a show of hands at the March Membership Meeting on the possibility of changing the day on which Monthly Membership Meetings are held to either the second Monday or Tuesday of the month so that CivFed could experiment with this schedule change to see if it would increase participation by delegates who have school-age children.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:25 PM.
Respectfully submitted: Dennis Gerrity, Secretary

**Agenda
ACCF General Meeting
February 6, 2018**

7:00 Regular Business
 7:10 OneVirginia2021 Presentation on Redistricting
 7:40 Panel Discussion of Redistricting Resolution
 8:40 Vote to Consider the Legislative Committee's Redistricting Resolution
 8:45 Vote on Legislative Committee's Redistricting Resolution
 8:50 Update on Incorporation and New Bylaws
 8:55 Old Business
 9:00 New Business
 9:05 Adjourn

**ACCF Treasurer's Report
January 1-31, 2018**

Checking Account			
Beginning Balance 1/1/18			\$8,031.39
Deposits		\$148.25	\$148.25
	Checks	\$100.00	
	Paypal*	\$48.25	
Payments/Expenses			\$155.89
	Supplies	\$15.89	
	Dues overpayment	\$50.00	
	2018 P.O. Box Rent	\$90.00	
Ending Balance 1/31/18			\$8,023.75
Savings Account			
Beginning Balance 1/1/18			\$18,619.13
Deposits			\$0.00
Interest			\$0.48
Expenses/Payments			\$0.00
Ending Balance 1/31/18			\$18,619.61

* - PayPal charges a fee of \$1.75 for each \$50 electronic dues payment.