



The Civic Voice

Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation | January 2, 2018 | Volume 103 | Issue 5

Please join us at 6:30 pm in the Hazel Auditorium's lobby to enjoy light refreshments.



Happy New Year's Delegates, Alternates, and Presidents of Member Organizations,

Please pardon a personal note first – It is the Christmas Season in my faith tradition and the “hap, happiest time of the year”! On Dec. 23, I became a grandfather (“Abuelo” in Spanish or “Abo” for short) with the birth of my first grandchild –Alicia Grace Papariello. She is definitely my family’s best Christmas present ever! Our daughter Cecilia, her husband Joe, and our granddaughter Alicia are doing well.

As soon as New Year’s bells ring, ACCF will get to work. In January ACCF will hold **TWO** meetings. On Wednesday, January 2, CivFed will meet in the County Board’s Chambers after the Board’s New Year’s Organizational meeting. The CivFed meeting will follow a reception and begin approximately at 7:30 p.m. with a conversation with Board members, and their plans for the upcoming year.

As ACCF strives to strengthen our committee structure, we will also hold a “Job Fair” at the Jan, 2 meeting so committee chairs can give an overview of their committees, and their future plans to interest delegates and alternates to get more involved with CivFed. Three or four committee chairs will speak in January, with remaining chairs speaking in the following months.

The second ACCF meeting will be a Special Meeting Tuesday, January 8. It will feature our second presentation concerning Amazon’s HQ2 headquarters coming to Arlington. We will discuss the pros and cons of the deal.

This panel will be followed by presentations, discussion and vote on the Public Spaces Master Plan's Level of Service Resolution that is part of the POPS and PSMP methodology. (See the revised resolution that Civic Federation members will consider plus a paper that supports the resolution in this issue). ACCF will present a forum on the resolution. County staff who will participate on the forum is still subject to confirmation at this time. Kari Klaus, with Friends of Aurora Highlands Parks, and Peter Rousselot, columnist with ArlingtonNOW, will speak in favor of the resolution.

Consideration of the Bluemont Resolution about removal of trees in Upton Hills Regional Park has become moot because a building permit already has been issued. For details, see the joint Park & Recreation and Environmental Affairs Committees Statement in the Newsletter.

Over the last few weeks the Board of Directors has been extremely busy focusing on making sure all of our member organizations have paid their dues and submitted their certification documents, plus continued work on developing procedure guidelines to complement our new By-Laws.

We've also been working with the County in analyzing the Energize Arlington effort in October. For more information see report in the Newsletter.

At our last Board of Directors meeting I submitted the name of Ben Kenney, Vice President of North Highlands Civic Association as our new Planning and Zoning Chair. The Board whole hardly supported this nomination. If interested in planning and zoning issues, please get in touch with Ben (see list of ACCF Member Committees). Given future development in Arlington, especially with Amazon coming to town, this committee should be very active in the foreseeable future.

I look forward to seeing you as we kick off 2019!

Best,

Duke "Abo" Banks,
President, Arlington County Civic Federation

CIVIC FEDERATION TO HIT THE GROUND RUNNING IN 2019

The Arlington County Civic Federation will start bright and early in 2019, holding two meetings in the first eight days of the new year. "Arlington and its citizens are facing many big issues and the Civic Federation believes it is essential to start the engagement process as soon as possible," said ACCF President Duke Banks.

Wednesday, Jan. 2. The Civic Federation meet with the Arlington

County Board at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 2, in the County Board Room (3rd floor), 2100 Clarendon Blvd. The Board members will discuss their priorities for the new year and answer questions from Delegates and Alternates. Please note that the time, date and place of the January CivFed meeting was changed to coincide with the County Board's New Year's organization meeting, which begins at 6 p.m., Jan. 2. The County Board will host a reception for the public at 7 p.m., before the start of the CivFed meeting.

In addition to visiting with the County Board, the agenda for the Jan. 2 meeting includes a recap of "Energize Arlington," ACCF's joint project with Arlington County to provide workshops on civic engagement and leadership; a "Job Fair" to interest CivFed members in participating on CivFed committee; and a continuation of the "Open Mic" initiative.

There will be free parking for the ACCF meeting in the parking lot beneath the County Government building at 2100 Clarendon Blvd.

Tuesday, Jan. 8. At 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, the Civic Federation will hold a special meeting in the Hazel Auditorium at Virginia Hospital Center to continue discussion of Amazon's HQ2 headquarters to Arlington. As part of the Amazon discussion, ACCF will present a panel including Sally Duran, chair of the Arlington Economic Development Commission; Stephen Fuller, a professor in the George Mason University Sachar School of Public Policy and Government; and Roshan Abraham, with Our Revolution Arlington.

At the special meeting, ACCF members will also consider and vote on a resolution concerning the Level of Service (LOS) methodology in Arlington County's draft Public Spaces Master Plan, also referred to as "Plan Our Public Spaces" (POPS). Delegate Jesse Boeding introduced the resolution in November. The CivFed Board for Directors voted to postpone consideration of the resolution until January to give CivFed Committees an adequate opportunity to review the resolution.

ACCF TO HOST SCHOOL BOARD AT FEBRUARY MEETING

Members of the Arlington School Board will be the featured program at the February ACCF meeting at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 5, in the Hazel Auditorium at Virginia Hospital Center. ACCF will host a "meet-and-greet" reception for the school board members and ACCF members at 6:30 p.m.

At the Feb. 5 meeting ACCF members will also consider and vote on a resolution urging the Virginia General Assembly to decriminalize possession of small amounts of marijuana. The ACCF Legislation Committee introduced the resolution at the Nov. 13 CivFed meeting. In December, the Committee requested postponing consideration of its

resolution to the February meeting.

ENERGIZE ARLINGTON RECAP AND TOOLS FOR FEDERATION MEMBERS

The 2018 Energize Arlington workshop series co-hosted by the Arlington County Civic Federation and Arlington County Government in October 2018 presented three interactive learning opportunities to strengthen community engagement and enhance leadership skills. This was the second part of a two-part collaboration between the Federation and the County. In March of 2018 County Manager Mark Schwartz and Civic Federation President Duke Banks held [three roundtable discussions with 55 civic and condo association presidents](#) that focused on successes and challenges community leaders experience in their neighborhoods. The roundtables produced robust discussions, connections between participants, and a list of topics and resources that people wanted to expand on that formed the basis for Energize Arlington's focus.

Energize Arlington discussion focused on:

- Getting more of our community involved in the civic process
- Improving communication with residents in multi-family buildings
- Collaborating with communities throughout County processes

Overall, the three sessions were attended by 53 leaders from 35 organizations who used this opportunity to network and exchange valuable knowledge with their peers.

To learn about some of the best practices that emerged from these workshops, read the [Energize Arlington Tips & Resource Guide](#)

Document Supporting POPS Civic Federation Resolution

After receiving extensive feedback from four Committees (Park & Recreation, Environmental Affairs, Revenue and Expenditure, and Schools), the presenter prepared an extensive document in support of the resolution that address concerns or questions poised by the committees.

[Click here](#) to read the Document Supporting POPS Civic Federation Resolution.

Resolution on Level of Service Recommendations for Athletic Fields Contained in the Final Draft of the County's Update of its Public Spaces Master Plan

Whereas, Arlington County is updating its *Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP)* through a public process known as "A Plan for Our Places and Spaces" (POPS) to maintain, preserve and protect Arlington's parks and other public spaces while anticipating how to meet future needs;

Whereas, Arlington County appointed an advisory committee to assist the County and its consultants in developing the update;

Whereas, after nearly 3 years of hard work by staff as well as numerous advisory committee and public meetings and reviews, the “Final Draft” of the PSMP update was issued on October 24, 2018;

Whereas, the update seeks to estimate future park and recreational needs — including playgrounds, tennis courts, hiking trails, athletic fields, nature centers and other “amenities” — by using an analysis called “Population Based Level of Service” or LOS;

Whereas, the County’s recommended LOS formula is computed by aggregating various factors — including nationwide and peer-city averages for various amenities, scientifically valid *Arlington County 2016 Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Survey (Needs Assessment Survey)* results, and other County data;

Whereas, the LOS for athletic fields in this draft calls for significant increases in the numbers of athletic fields over the next several decades;

Whereas, available data appears to demonstrate that the LOS for athletic fields has been significantly overstated and that Arlington will not, for the foreseeable future, need the number of fields estimated in the update;

Whereas, the *Needs Assessment Survey* demonstrated significant unmet outdoor needs for multiuse trails, hiking trails, natural lands and wildlife habitat versus relatively low levels of unmet need for athletic fields;

Whereas, this update is intended to serve as the primary County planning tool for all park planning exercises over the next 20 years, will influence County investment priorities, and will have a direct impact on other County plans, including the *Urban Forest Master Plan* and the *Natural Resources Management Plan*;

Whereas, the County has acknowledged its need to improve its management of athletic fields to better allocate available space among user groups;

Whereas, concerned Arlington residents, including commissioners, have inquired and commented extensively on the recommended LOS for athletic fields, using county-supplied data/information to identify several problems in the current PSMP draft update, including errors in the County’s LOS analysis, as described below:

1. A failure to describe clearly how the County computed the recommended LOS for park amenities, particularly how the *Needs Assessment Survey* was weighted in the LOS computations;
2. Significant unexplained increases in the LOS recommendations for some amenities, including both rectangular and diamond fields, in various drafts of the update;
3. A flawed selection of median nationwide LOS and peer-group LOS figures, resulting in discrepancies between the selected national medians and those published by National Recreation and Park Association as well as the significant differences between Arlington County and the communities chosen as “peer” cities;
4. A failure to apply the appropriate and complete methodology for best practices in determining LOS, as recommended by the County’s consultants, including the

omission of available data on actual athletic field capacities and uses as well as documented demand for field time; and

Whereas, the lack of clarity and transparency in the LOS methodology as applied in the draft update — together with the errors enumerated above — strongly suggest that the figures for athletic fields, as currently recommended, are unreliable and should not be used in the County’s park planning and investment decision-making;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Arlington County Civic Federation asks Arlington County to initiate a transparent public process to:

1. Withdraw the specific LOS athletic field recommendations from the PSMP Final Draft. Revise the text to clarify the basis used to create those recommendations, explain the reasons for changes in the LOS recommendations over time, and disclose the weighting of various factors in the athletic field LOS calculation — in particular, identify the weight given to the *Needs Assessment Survey* results;
2. Ensure that in re-examining the LOS calculation method, the County follows and incorporates best practices for LOS, to include the use of validated County data to verify its conclusions about present and future park amenity needs as well as existing supplies;
3. Explore additional measures to more efficiently allocate existing athletic field time among user groups, to include the replacement of the existing reservation system with a more reliable, accessible, user-friendly online database-reservation system as well as improvement in follow-up field surveys/monitoring to ensure that reserved fields are actually used and to identify underutilized fields; and

Be it further resolved that Arlington County should, in light of limited parkland acreage and the many competing demands for scarce financial resources

Ensure that the Department of Parks and Recreation prioritizes funding to improve athletic field operation and maintenance — keeping existing athletic fields in safe, playable condition for longer periods — ahead of building more athletic fields or devoting substantial funds into expensive infrastructure improvements such as synthetic turf and field lighting.

Joint Statement by Environmental Affair Committee and Parks & Recreation Committee Concerning the Bluemont Upton Hill Resolution

At the November CivFed meeting, the Bluemont Civic Association introduced a resolution seeking to halt the destruction of trees and the enlargement of the upper parking lot planned by the managers of Upton Hill Park, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NOA Parks). Bluemont requested that, at its December meeting, CivFed members approve and ratify the Bluemont resolution.

We wish to express our appreciation to Bluemont and others for raising this issue and for their commitment to preserving the County’s tree

canopy, its valuable natural resources, and to environmental stewardship generally. Their efforts, undertaken over a period of months and engaging large numbers of potentially affected residents and users of the Park, resulted in significant changes to the NOVA Parks' plans for Upton Hill, including a decision to eliminate a planned lower parking lot and driveway. In doing so, the resolution proponents and others saved scores of mature trees and substantial green space for current and future generations of Arlingtonians.

Upon reflection and following review of the draft resolution, however, it was our belief that the text needed to be clarified and strengthened before it was suitable as a Civic Federation resolution. In addition, we felt that the resolution should be accompanied by a brief supporting statement to better explain the NOVA Parks plan and its deficiencies. Finally, to ensure a fair and full airing of the issues, we believed that NOVA Parks should be invited to attend and present its views on the proposal, which have changed significantly over time and on which neighborhoods have expressed different views.

During December, the Committees were informed that the land-disturbing-permit for the upper parking lot had been issued. NOVA Parks had responded to and resolved a large number of County staff comments on proposed stormwater management, tree conservation, grading, and sediment and erosion control, among other matters. In addition, CivFed received a letter from the Dominion Hills Civic Association challenging NOVA Parks' earlier decision to abandon plans for the lower parking lot and driveway extension, maintaining that the absence of that parking lot would reduce needed parking for adjacent residents and merchants. Dominion Hills requested that NOVA Parks reconsider its decision to eliminate the planned lower parking lot.

These developments suggest that the current draft resolution — which is concerned with the upper parking lot addressed by the recently granted permit — may be untimely. At the same time, however, they also highlight continued and strong interest in the proposed development of Upton Hill. Accordingly, it has become clear to the Committees that CivFed could benefit from a presentation by NOVA Parks and interested residents and Civic Associations about the competing visions for Upton Hill Park — a significant recreation and natural resource in our County. Such a presentation could help all of the parties understand more fully the purposes to be served by the current plans, how those plans have evolved over time, remaining opportunities for amendment to those plans, and (perhaps most significant) perceived deficiencies in the NOVA Park's public engagement activities

Common Parliamentary Motions Applicable to and Used in the Deliberative Process

Motion ("I move")	Purpose	Second required?	Debatable?	Amendable?	Vote required?
Main motion	Puts new business before the membership.	Y	Y	Y	Majority
Amend motion	Revises or changes wording or elements of the main motion.	Y	Y	Y	Majority
Discharge issue from committee	Takes/keeps issue from committee and brings before membership before/without committee report/consideration.	Y	Y	Y	Majority, 2/3rds – if no prior notice
Limit/extend debate	Changes amount of time normally permitted for debate/discussion.	Y	Y	N	Two-thirds
Suspend rules	Sets aside normal operating rules, suspends standing rules without previous notice.	Y	N	N	Two-thirds
Table the motion	Stops debate and vote on motion.	Y	Y	N	Majority
Postpone to time certain or indefinitely	Delays deliberation to specific future time or kills motion (postpone indefinitely).	Y	Y	Y	Majority
Appeal decision of the chair	Disagrees with chair and lets members decide. Must appeal immediately.	Y	Y	N	Majority - sustains chair
Previous question	Cuts off debate. Maker of motion first must be recognized by chair.	Y	N	N	Two-thirds
Call the Question	Reconsiders vote taken at same meeting. Maker must be on prevailing side.	Y	Y, if original motion is	N	Majority
Reconsider	Reconsiders vote taken at same meeting. Maker must be on prevailing side.	Y	Y, if original motion is	N	Majority
Recess	Interrupts meeting for a short break.	Y	Y	Y	Majority
Adjourn	Ends meeting immediately.	Y	N	N	Majority



Jan. 2: General Membership Meeting, Arlington County Board Chambers, 7:30 pm (Following the County Board's 6:00 pm New Years Organizational meeting)

- Agenda:
 - 7:30 Call to Order
 - 7:35 Visit with County Board
 - 8:30 Energize Arlington overview
 - 8:35 Committees "Job Fair"
 - 8:45 Old Business
 - 8:50 Open Mic
 - 8:55 New Business

- 9:00 Adjournment

Jan 8: Special Meeting, Virginia Hospital Center, 7:00PM

- Agenda
 - 7:00 Call to Order
 - 7:05 Amazon presentation - Pros and Cons
 - 8:00 Presentation, discussion and vote on Level of Service Resolution of

Jan. 13: ACCF BOD Meeting, Fire Station 2, 6:30 pm

Jan. 24 : Deadline for Feb. ACCF Newsletter deadline

Feb. 5: General Membership Meeting, Virginia Hospital Center, 7 pm

- Visit with APS School Board

Feb. 10: ACCF BOD Meeting, Fire Station 2, 6:30 pm

Does your organization have events to advertise? Email maureenc@civfed.org before the next newsletter deadline for inclusion in the December Civic Voice!

2018-19 ACCF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Duke Banks – duke@civfed.org
 Vice President Nicole Merlene – nicole@civfed.org
 Secretary Maureen Coffey -- maureenc@civfed.org
 Treasurer Sarah Shortall -- sarah@civfed.org
 Acting Board Chair Lois Thomas Koontz -- lois@civfed.org
 Board Member Alexandra Bocian – alexandra@civfed.org
 Board Member Rick Epstein -- rick@civfed.org
 Board Member Mike McMenamain -- mikem@civfed.org
 Board Member Sandy Newton -- sandy@civfed.org

2018-19 ACCF MEMBER STANDING COMMITTEES

Audit -- Chair Jay Wind -- jay@civfed.org
 Banquet – Chair Sandy Newton -- sandy@civfed.org
 Bylaws – Chair Allen Norton -- allen@civfed.org
 Cultural Affairs – Chair Tina Worden – tina@civfed.org
 Emergency Preparedness – Chair Jackie Snelling - jackie@civfed.org
 Environmental Affairs – Chair John Seymour -- juliaseymour@att.net
 Housing – Chair Eric Brescia -- ericbrescia@civfed.org
 Legislation – Chair Ron Haddox -- ron@civfed.org
 Membership – Chair Stefanie Pryor – ACCFMembership@gamil.com
 Parks and Recreation – Duke Banks (POC) – duke@civfed.org
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 Scholarship – Chair Lois Thomas Koontz -- lois@civfed.org
 Transportation – Chair Jerry Auten - jerry@civfed.org

Any Delegate, Alternate and member of a Member Organization may participate on any Member Standing Committee (ACCF Bylaws, Section 3.03). Please contact the Committee chair or point of contact or President Duke Banks if you are interested participating on ACCF Member Committees.

Parking at the Virginia Hospital Center

Delegates, Alternates and others attending the Jan. 8th Arlington County Civic

Federation meeting can **park for FREE in the B/GOLD** garage under the 1635 Medical Office Building at Virginia Hospital Center. Although everyone must take a ticket to enter the B/GOLD garage, the exit gate will be raised when you leave or you can insert your ticket and it will raise. The garage has abundant parking spaces. Please note, parking in any other lot on the Virginia Hospital Center property is not free.

