



[**Due To The Current COVID-19 Virus This Was A Virtual Meeting**]

Minutes

June 28, 2020

**Arlington County Civic Federation (“ACCF”)
Board of Directors Meeting**

Call to Order at 6:05 p.m.

Board members attending the meeting: Allan Gajadhar, Burt Bostwick, Allen Norton, Dennis Gerrity, Stacy Meyer, Tina Worden, Eric Cassel and Mike McMenamin. Others attending included Ron Haddox (Legislation Committee Chair); Michael Beer (Schools Committee Chair); John Vihstadt (Tara-Leeway); Michael Cantwell (Yorktown) and Dave Schutz (Ashton Heights).

Meeting Format: The meeting was held Virtually using Zoom. Allan was controller.

Minutes: The May 24th Board Meeting minutes were accepted as written.

Officer’s Reports:

President’s Report:

The last few Virtual meeting went very well. The job of the Zoom Meeting Controller is rather labor intensive, though. The assistance given is greatly appreciated, but greater collaboration will be needed going forward. The specifics of collaboration planning for the Fall meetings will be dealt with later.

Vice-President’s Report: No report

Secretary’s Report: The last new 2019-2020 Contact/Certification/Dues information was on 3-12-20. 79 Organizations paid Dues, 42 sent updated Contact Sheets and 31 sent Certifications of Membership. The 2020-2021 Contact/Certification/Dues effort is starting. The Balston-Virginia Square CA just sent us a new Contact Sheet. They are the first organization to do so. There will be training sessions with Dennis Gerrity on our Access database over the next several weeks.

Treasurer’s Report: Little change from the April Board meeting. We currently have \$21,900 in checking and savings.

Old Business:

Dues for Next Year:

Burt said that as COVID-19 had driven our costs down, we could easily afford to cut our dues to Zero for a year. Allen & Eric wanted the dues to be something or we would risk the members devaluing membership in CivFed.

A **Motion** was made that the **Dues** for 2020-2021 would be **\$20.00**. It was seconded and approved.

Video Storage:

Zoom charges a lot of money to store our sessions (over a certain threshold).

Adam suggested that for long term storage we should use Vimeo. Its Plus plan costs \$84 a year and would give us 5GB/week with 250GB total storage per year. A **Motion** was made that we use Vimeo for video storage.

It was seconded and **approved**.

Zoom:

Zoom voting might handle amendments to resolutions quicker than Constant Contact.

Note: Eric said we might want to continue using Zoom as an option when we start having in-person meetings again. Burt agreed and said it increases participation.

Voting Problems:

Allan suggested that Zoom breakout rooms might be a way to separate Delegates from Alternates and guests for voting purposes. A test was done on breakout rooms. It appears to work. Dennis pointed out that the Virginia Non-Stock Corporation Act may cause problems with some types of online voting.

BOD Meeting:

Extent of Notification for BOD meetings: One reading of the Virginia Non-Stock Corporation Act is that we should notify every Delegate and Alternate of BOD meetings. The link to get into the Zoom meeting doesn't have to go to everyone, but they all should be able to get the link by asking.

Criteria for in-person general meetings:

The Governor and the Hospital will set the criteria, not us. (VHC has no plans yet to reopen the auditorium)

Stacy: Need In-Person meeting for social interaction.

Mike M.: In-Person meetings should be done again when we are allowed to do so. The collaboration factor matters as does the ability to talk to the people who present (School Board, County Board, etc) after the meeting with follow-up questions. Mike also suggested that we start looking for other venues because we might be ready for an In-Person meeting before VHC is willing to let us have one.

We will **Re-Evaluate** In-Person meetings vs, Zoom meetings at the **September** BOD meeting.

Code of Conduct: Will deal with it at the next meeting (not everyone had seen the draft).

Political Resolution: Eric Cassel wrote one.

Eric: This resolution is needed to define the boundaries of political involvement by Directors. We want CivFed to be nonpartisan and we need the trust of the Delegates in order to have that happen. If that trust is violated there could be severe problems. Society is changing and we have to be extra careful with trust.

Burt: Why is this necessary? What problem are we trying to solve? In the last twenty years this has never been a problem. This resolution is well intentioned, but it is overkill.

There was much more discussion on this resolution than can be recorded here. Two were for it as written and five or so had concerns. Eric will modify the resolution to deal with those concerns and will present it to the Board at the next meeting.

New Business:

Next Meeting Agenda:

The Agenda for the next meeting was not discussed - directly. There are a number of items, however, that will need to be attended to: Selection of Board Chair, Code of Conduct, Political Resolution, Public Safety Committee (Cantwell), Voting, Schutz/Beer Resolution, Date of Membership Meeting.

Chair and Vice-Chair of Board of Directors:

The selection of a Chair and a Vice-Chair was put off by the Board of Directors. Stacy Meyer and Eric Cassel are both running for Chair.

Public Safety Committee: Michael Cantwell (Yorktown) suggested that CivFed needs one (it would be separate from the existing Public Services Committee). It would focus on fire, police and emergency management solely. It will be described in greater depth at the next BOD meeting.

Possible ways for CivFed to help the Organizations: Michael Cantwell (Yorktown) said that in discussions with a number of Organizations they have asked that CivFed consider creating a portal on our Web site that they could use. They would also like CivFed to provide technical assistance as needed to help them set up their own Web sites (which would have a common look and feel). Many Organizations would also like it if control could be consolidated so there would be one Webmaster instead of one for each Organization.

CivFed Operational Investments: John asked if there were any investments we should make, either hardware or software, to help us run our meetings better – especially if we will do Virtual meetings for the foreseeable future. Allan replied that people have said that when we go back to in-person meetings people they would like us to continue the Virtual component. It might be better to use a real camera instead of the small camera on a laptop to do this.

Draft Resolution of the BOD to the Membership of the ACCF: Michael Beer and Dave Schutz presented a pre-draft resolution that asks the Civic Federation to create a **Arlington County Governance Review Task Force**. It would be an Ad Hoc Committee. Its mission will be to examine the structure of the County Government and of the School Board. A review of this type has not been done in many years.
Note: They would like two or three Board members to help them finish the resolution.

Date of Membership Meeting: It was moved from the 1st to the 3rd Tuesday last year to get more participation from young Delegates with children (PTA meetings conflicted with CivFed meetings). John Vihstadt (Tara-Leeway) asked if the change had done what was intended. Unfortunately the numbers are not clear so we really don't know. He also pointed out that the 3rd Tuesday is when some County Board meetings take place. This issue will be addressed at greater length at a future Board meeting.

The summer BOD meetings will be on Sunday, July 19th and Sunday, August 23rd at 6:00pm. They both will be **Virtual** meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01
Respectfully submitted by Allen Norton