

The Civic Voice



Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation | November 2020 | Volume 105 | Number 3

November 17, 2020 Virtual ACCF Membership Meeting

On November 17, 2020, the ACCF will conduct a virtual Membership Meeting using Zoom, a video conferencing platform. Delegates, Alternate Delegates, others associated with member organizations, and the public are invited to attend.

Advance Registration for the meeting is required and must be completed by 12PM on Tuesday, November 17.

**If voting members register after this deadline, the receipt of an electronic ballot cannot be ensured. Due to limited capacity, we must request that voting members adhere to this deadline.

Please use the following registration link: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwqdeGgqTIuHddkM8cRhFhNEBvjowbCETWL

A confirmation email will be sent with unique meeting log-in/phone-in details. We ask for your cooperation and strongly encourage early check-in, which starts at 6 PM.

To expedite the check-in process, please use your first and last name as your profile name, this will help our team ensure delegates receive their electronic ballots.

If you are not familiar with Zoom, here is a<u>link to information and instructions on how to</u> register and participate in CivFed's November 17, 2020 Membership Meeting.

Interested in being an Arlington County Civic Federation Delegate

The Arlington County Civic Federation was founded in 1916. Today, it has more than 90 member organizations dedicated to advocacy and community involvement. The Federation membership reflects the broad array of interests and talents found in the County and is open and welcoming to all groups within Arlington, firmly believing that a broader range of groups creates better problem-solving outcomes for Arlington and its residents. Our purpose continues to be promoting the general welfare of Arlington County and vicinity in a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-sectional, and non-political manner.

Arlington County Civic Federation Delegates enjoy the full benefits of participation, voting and serving in Civic Federation leadership positions. If your organization is a member of the Civic Federation, ask if it has open slots for delegates. If it is not a member organization of the Civic Federation, encourage it to join. Here is a <u>link</u> to our website for more details.

November 17, 2020 Membership Meeting Agenda

7:00 Regular Business (Pledge, Approve Minutes, etc.)7:10 Legislative Committee Presentation: Qualified Immunity Panel

7:50 GMU Arlington Campus Expansion - Liza Wilson Durant, Associate Provost

 $8{:}10$ County DES: Parking Permits Review Report - Stephen Crim DES Parking Program

Manager

8:30 Governance Task Force: Member Slate

8:45 Announce Electronic Ballots emailed

8:50 Old Business (Green Valley - Columbia Heights Boundary Adjustment)

 $8\!:\!55$ New Business (Resolution to Amend the Bylaws; Awards & Banquet Committee

Status Update) 9:00 - Adjourn

President's Corner

Welcome,

The elections are over, and our lives will continue much as they did before. We will go to work or school, spend time with family and friends, and try to be healthy and happy. The lens of an election contest is ready made to divide people into one camp or another, and that is how our two-party system works in a democracy, but aside from the context of the election, we need to remember that we are all one people, living in one county. We are all Arlington together despite our differences in politics, race, gender, socioeconomic status or geography; and we continue to live and work together. Unity does not mean uniformity; our strength is in our diversity.

Our civic work continues. This month, our legislative affairs committee has a presentation regarding qualified immunity for law enforcement officials. This is a very important, relevant topic in terms of police practices, reform and civil rights. We hope for a robust, respectful discussion.

The County has begun <u>Dialogues on Race and Equity (DRE)</u> as part of the County's broader commitment to racial equity and follows the County Board's 2019 equity resolution. DRE will include a series of virtual community conversations with individuals, local faith groups, civic organizations, and community leaders, to learn about and address the ways in which Arlington can be a more equitable and inclusive place for all residents and businesses. The Civic Federation has signed up as a community partner for DRE as part of our ongoing commitment to diversity and equity. Further information will be forthcoming.

The Civic Federation has also signed up as a community partner for Arlington County's Missing Middle Housing Study. This will be a series of community discussions about the study. We will pass along further information as it published. I encourage you to visit the County's site for further information.

Now that the Civic Federation membership has voted to approve the Task Force on Governance, I will be announcing a slate of nominees for the task force at the meeting. Thanks to all those who put forward names, we are finalizing our candidate interviews this week, and will have a full slate for the membership to approve during the meeting.

In closing, thank you all for all the work you do to make our neighborhoods and communities better. Our sense of community and spirit of service are what make Arlington the robust, welcoming place that it is.

Warmly,

Allan Gajadhar

November Ballot

In accordance with our Bylaws, voting delegates must attend the meeting to receive a

ballot. Ballots will be sent to the email addresses submitted by their member organization. If voting members have registered after the deadline, CivFed cannot ensure that late registrants will receive an electronic ballot.

Delegates and alternates are designated by the member organization. Please contact your organization if you are unsure of your voting status.

The <u>Secretary</u> must be notified of alternates acting as substitutes for voting delegates by 12 PM, on Tuesday, November 17.

The November Ballot will be introduced and distributed to voting members shortly before the meeting is adjourned and voting will close at 12PM on Wednesday, November 18.

Results will be announced via email to the membership at 6 PM, on Wednesday, November 18, 2020.

Voting members will receive a ballot to vote on the following:

- A Motion to Approve the Draft October 20, 2020 Membership Meeting Minutes
- A Motion to Approve a Boundary Clarification

If you have registered before the deadline, are a voting delegate and do not receive a ballot, please contact Allan Gajadhar.

Delegate Participation in Resolutions

Proposing, amending, and correcting resolutions are benefits enjoyed by member organizations. Virtual Meetings are a new opportunity to reimagine a process that considers a more modern approach to how we engage and participate. This is a work in progress that requires time and patience as well as an open mind and flexibility.

The Board will consider how to move forward. At the printing of this newsletter, no new resolutions have been proposed. If delegates, officers, or committees are interested in proposing a new resolution, please communicate directly with the <u>President</u> or <u>Board</u> Chair.

Once a resolution is proposed to the membership at a virtual meeting, we will communicate next steps at that time.

A Motion to Approve a Boundary Clarification

A motion will be introduced at the November Membership Meeting to approve a boundary clarification agreement between Green Valley and the Columbia Heights Civic Associations for the north and south sides of 16th Street South between South Walter Reed Drive and South Barton St. The Civic Federation's Membership Committee has approved this boundary change clarification. If this motion is approved by the membership, both the north and south sides of 16th Street South between South Walter Reed Drive and South Barton St will lie within the boundaries of the Columbia Heights Civic Association. A letter is <u>attached</u> confirming the agreement between Green Valley and the Columbia Heights Civic Associations on this boundary clarification. This letter provides details of the process that led to it. Please review this letter before voting on this motion.

Call for Candidates for CivFed's Board of Directors

If you or someone you know is interested in joining CivFed's leadership team, please submit candidate nominations to <u>CivFed's Secretary Allen Norton</u> for one of two seats that were added to the Board of Directors in October 2020.

The Board Candidate Election will be held on December 15. Nominations must be received by December 1, 2020, and will be announced in the December Newsletter. For

qualifications and other details see Bylaws Section (3.07) of CivFed's Bylaws.

Program on Qualified Immunity at Civic Federation's November 17, 2020 Meeting

The Legislation Committee has organized a program on qualified immunity at the upcoming general membership meeting. Interest in reforming qualified immunity, which prevents individuals from bringing civil rights claims against government officials or government employees, has gained attention in the legal and political spectrums.

A reform effort was undertaken during the 2020 Special Session of the Virginia General Assembly. <u>House Bill 5013</u> passed the Virginia House of Delegates but not in the Virginia Senate.

Given the legal complexity of qualified immunity, the Legislation Committee organized a panel discussion so that ACCF members have an opportunity to learn more about this issue. Civic Federation Delegates and Alternates are invited to <u>submit questions for panelists in advance</u>.

Panelists:

<u>Virginia Delegate Jeffrey Bourne (31st District)</u> Victor Glasberg, Esq.

**Other panelists are pending.

New members to the Legislative Committee are always welcome and please reach out to Committee Chair Ron Haddox

Arlington County Public Schools

Arlington Public School (APS) instruction is online for most students. This means that having a reliable Internet connection in a student's home is essential to support virtual learning. To help families without Internet service, Arlington Public Schools is offering to pay for up to 12 months of Comcast Internet Essentials service for qualified APS families. To learn more, please visit http://www.apsva.us/digital-learning/internet/. APS also created a Public Service Announcement (PSA) in English and Spanish to provide more information on the Comcast Internet Essentials initiative.

English PSA: https://vimeo.com/458559271 Spanish PSA: https://vimeo.com/458567873

For more information about the Arlington County Public School system, use this link: <u>APS Website</u>

Update: the Superintendent has proposed a phased approach for students to transition to a hybrid/in-person model. <u>Here is a link</u> to the current plan.

The APS and School Resource Officer Work Group is forming. It will consist of 48 members representing student demographics and include members of advisory groups, students, parents, police, and staff.

For persons interested in serving on the Work Group, the application deadline has been extended to November 9, 2020. The Work Group charge and application can be found at this <u>link</u>.

The Civic Federation's Website

2020-2021 Board of Directors

Officers

President, <u>Allan Gajadhar</u> Vice President, <u>Tina Worden</u> Secretary, <u>Allen Norton</u> Treasurer, <u>Burt Bostwick</u>

Board of Directors

Board Chair, Eric Cassel

Member at Large, <u>Michael Cantwell</u> Member at Large, <u>Mike McMenamin</u>

Member at Large, <u>Stacy Meyer</u> Member at Large, <u>John Vihstadt</u>

Voting delegates and alternate delegates who are interested to serve on the Civic Federation's Board of Directors should contact <u>President Allan Gajadhar</u>.

2020-2021 ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES

Cultural Affairs – <u>Chair Tina Worden</u>

Environmental Affairs – Chair Mary Glass

Housing - Chair John Vihstadt

Legislation - Chair Ron Haddox

Parks and Recreation – Chair Duke Banks

Planning and Zoning – <u>Chair Ben Keeney</u>

Public Services - Chair John Ford

Revenues and Expenditures – Burt Bostwick (POC)

Schools - Chair Michael Beer

Transportation – Co-chairs Jerry Auten and Joe Pelton

• Airport Noise Subcommittee – <u>Chair Joe Pelton</u>

2020-2021 ACCF SUPPORT COMMITTEES

Audit -- Chair Jay Wind

Awards – Chair – TBD

Bylaws and Rules - Chair Allen Norton

Banquet - TBD

Communications – Chair Tina Worden

Membership - Chair Dennis Gerrity

Any Delegate, Alternate Delegate, or member of a Member Organization may participate on any Public Interest or Support Committee. Please contact the applicable Committee chair, point of contact, or <u>President Allan Gajadhar</u> if you are interested in participating on ACCF Committees.

Communication Committee Report

The committee met on October 27, 2020. Chair Tina Worden presided. Others in attendance were Allan Gajadhar (ACCF president), Allen Norton (ACCF Secretary), Adam Henderson (ACCF webmaster), Nicole Merlene, Dennis Gerrity, and Chris Worden.

Adam Henderson has been the ACCF webmaster for over nine years. He provided a status of the website, email accounts, discussed best practices, data flow, and offered recommendations.

Nicole Merlene provided an overview of her experience reimagining the Civic Federation's social media presence using Facebook. The committee is currently compiling an inventory of tasks to prioritize processes and maximize capacity so that we can focus on more creative efforts to raise ACCF visibility. If interested in joining us, please contact: Communications Committee Chair, Tina Worden.

Presentation on George Mason University's Arlington Campus Expansion

George Mason University is transforming its <u>Arlington campus</u> to create a new innovation hub for the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor. Liza Wilson Durant, GMU's Associate Provost, will join us this month to discuss the project. She will take questions after the presentation.

The \$250 million expansion project will include a 500,000 square foot<u>state-of-the-art building</u> (see request for proposal details) that will serve as the headquarters for Mason's Institute for Digital Innovation and its proposed School of Computing, which will offer a premier location for advancing digital innovation.

The new headquarters will house classrooms and research labs as well as event and community space, all setting the stage for faculty and students to join with dynamic entrepreneurs, local organizations, and industry partners to create and drive social and technological innovation in the Northern Virginia region.

To learn more about the Arlington Campus expansion, please visit the <u>Arlington Forward</u> webpage or contact <u>Toni Andrews</u> to schedule a virtual presentation for your organization.

Presentation on Residential Permit Parking Program Review

After more than three years of community engagement, research, and technical review, County staff completed a review of the <u>Residential Permit Parking</u> (RPP) program and proposed an updated RPP program to the County Board for consideration.

Stephen Crim, Parking Program Manager of the Transportation Engineering and Operations Bureau of the Department of Environmental Services, will join us this month to discuss the proposed program. He will take questions after his presentation.

We invite you to review the <u>proposed program</u> to learn about the changes, how public engagement informed the proposal, and how it differs from the current program. You can sign up for project updates and announcements on the RPP Review website.

Planning and Zoning Committee Meeting

Everyone is welcome to join the next Planning and Zoning Committee meeting that will be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2020, at 1 PM. The meeting will be virtual using the Zoom platform.

We are in the process of assessing the level of interest regarding planning and zoning projects and studies occurring in Arlington. All comments and thoughts are welcome!

If you wish to attend our next committee meeting or cannot make it but have ideas to share, feel free to email the Committee Chair, Benjamin Keeney, at plan.zone.chair@civfed.org

Register in advance for this meeting: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEvcOmsrjsiHodln3ASZOBXtN-8pAgoZYbR

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

<u>Draft October 20, 2020 Membership Meeting Minutes</u> <u>October 2020 Treasurer's Report</u> <u>Draft September 20, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes</u> <u>Draft October 25, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes</u>

ACCF Calendar FY2021

November 2020

- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Thursday, November 5, 2020
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, November 17, 2020, 7PM, via Zoom; Registration begins: 6PM
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Sunday, November 22, 2020, 6PM, via Zoom

December 2020

- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Thursday, December 3. 2020
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 7PM, via Zoom; Registration begins: 6PM
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Sunday, December 20, 2020, 6PM, via Zoom

January 2021

- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Thursday, December 17, 2020
- GENERAL MEETING: Saturday, January 2, 2021 **County Board Annual Organizational Meeting, via Zoom; Time: TBD
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Sunday, January 24, 2021, 6PM, via Zoom

February 2021

- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Thursday, February 4, 2021
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 7PM, via Zoom; Registration begins: 6PM
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Sunday, February 21, 2021, 6PM, via Zoom

March 2021

- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Thursday, March 4, 2021
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 7PM, via Zoom; Registration begins: 6PM
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Sunday 21 March 2021, 6p, via Zoom

April 2021

April is Civic Month by Arlington County Board Proclamation

- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Thursday, April 8, 2021
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, April 20, 2021, 7PM, via Zoom; Registration begins: 6PM
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Sunday, April 25, 2021, 6PM, via Zoom

May 2021

- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Thursday, May 6, 2021
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, May 18, 2021, 7PM, via Zoom; Registration begins: 6PM
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Sunday, May 23, 2021, 6PM, via Zoom

June 2021

- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Thursday, June3, 2021
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, June 15, 2021, 7PM, via Zoom; Registration begins: 6PM BOARD OF DIRECTORS: TBD

!Please Remember!

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After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing unique log-in/phone-in details for the meeting. We encourage you to check-in between 6 PM and 7PM. To expedite the check-in process, please use your first and last name as your profile name so that we can confirm electronic ballots for delegates. The check-in process may take some time and we ask for your patience.

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