



Arlington County Civic Federation

The Civic Voice

The Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation
February 2024 | Volume 108 | Number 06

February General Membership Meeting

Location: Hazel Auditorium, Virginia Hospital Center

Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2023 @ 7:00 PM

Invitation: Delegates, Alternate Delegates, others associated with member organizations, and the public are invited to attend this meeting.

Delegates: All requests for delegate swaps with alternates must be submitted to the secretary@civfed.org by **Sunday February 11th at 12 noon**. No exceptions.

Options for attending the meeting:

- 1. In-Person** (Delegates, Other Guests): No registration is needed to attend in-person.
- 2. Facebook Live** (Other Guests): No registration is needed to watch the live stream which can be found on the [ArlCivFed Facebook page](#).
- 3. Zoom** (Delegates): [Registration](#) is required by **Monday February 12 at 12 noon**. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The Zoom passcode is 123456, but if you use the links provided after you register you will not have to enter it.

Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 - 7:15: Opening and approval of December and January [minutes](#)
- 7:15 - 8:00 p.m. Dr. Duran, Arlington County Superintendent
- 8:00 - 8:45 Arlington County Public School Board
- 8:45 - 9:00 Awards Committee Appointments

Reminder: Parking passes will be provided. Meetings are held in the 'Conference Center' depicted on the map below.



President's Message

Arlington is full of discussion about the future these days. In October your Civic Federation sponsored a thought-provoking discussion of what our future might look like around here in 25 years. Many viewpoints were represented. A summary by that meeting's organizer, CivFed Board Vice-Chair Jackie Snelling, appears below in this newsletter.

County Board Chair Libby Garvey is promoting a colloquium on Arlington's future that will be formally launched this week. CivFed will be well represented.

Who will be running things when the future becomes the present? Chances are that many of those leaders are in Arlington's great public schools right now, so what's happening in APS should be of interest to all of us. And that will be the focus of our February general meeting, starting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13 at the Virginia Hospital Center's Hazel Auditorium and via Zoom.

Our guests will be APS Superintendent Francisco Duran, followed by members of the Arlington County School Board. Following short presentations by the speakers, the floor will be open for questions from our members.

Looking further ahead, our Board Chair Adam Henderson offers a glimpse at our plans for the March 12 and April 9 membership meetings. Check out his comments on transportation issues in Arlington (March) and an examination of greenspace as well as health and well-being issues around the county (April).

Many of the ideas for our programming are originating in our reinvigorated committee structure, and you'll find reports from many of them below. Please look these over and let us know if you'd like to join in their efforts to improve things in our county.

Finally, I'm pleased to announce that we are finalizing details for an April 12 Civic Federation banquet. We're working on an exciting program and hope to see as many of you as possible with us on that Friday evening.

As we revive the banquet tradition, we'll present our annual awards on that occasion. On Tuesday we will vote on membership of a proposed awards committee. Members joining me would be Nick Giacobbe (Vice-President, Aurora Highlands CA), Jean Henceroth (President, Leeway-Overlee CA), Nicole Merlene Toulouse (Past CivFed Vice-President and Executive Board Chair) and Kathleen Trainor (President, Highland Park-Overlee Knolls CA).

January General Membership Outbrief

1) Annual Joint Meeting with the County Board

CivFed was again pleased that the Arlington County Board participated in a joint meeting at the Arlington County Board room.

Our president, John Ford, led a discussion with the Arlington County Board members: Libby Garvey (Chair), Takis Karantonis (Vice Chair), Matt de Ferranti, Susan Cunningham, and Maureen Coffey. Discussion questions were pre-prepared as well as asked by members during the meeting. Topics discussed included:

- Freedom of information act
- How fast will population grow and impacts to the County
- Special GLUP process
- Focus on inequity, what will the County do with this year's budget
- Mental health services
- Ranked Choice voting
- Effort to keep crime down in the County
- Increasing communication from the County

The Arlington County Civic Federation would like to thank the Arlington County Board and other supporting staff for their time, and we hope to schedule this community exchange for next year at this time.

Meeting Video Link: [Arlington Cty Civic Fed \[ACCF\] \(vimeo.com\)](#)



From left to right at front table: Susan Cunningham, Matt de Ferranti, Libby Garvey, Takis Karantonis, Maureen Coffey

2) Resolution on CivFed 2024 Virginia Legislative Priorities

A motion was made to approve the CivFed 2024 legislative priorities ([link](#)). The legislative priorities were approved: 43 yea, 2 nay, 1 abstention.

3) New Member: Arlington Artists Alliance

The Arlington Artists Alliance was approved for CivFed membership: 47 yes, 0 nay, 1 abstention.

From the Board Chair

It's hard to believe that it's February already and we are already well into the second half of CivFed's fiscal year. After we engage with the School Superintendent and School Board this month, we only have four more meetings before our summer break. But those four meetings will be packed with interesting topics. For each of the months ahead, we encourage you to get in touch if you have particular thoughts or suggestions. You can reach me at bod.chair@civfed.org.

In March, we plan an overview of the state of transportation in Arlington County: What's the status with Vision Zero? What's new in mitigating aviation noise? How are we preparing for possible service cuts to Metro due to budget and ridership shortfalls?

For April, we will focus on geographic inequities in our community, from greenspace to health and well-being.

May is still a bit in development, but the program will feature an update on stormwater.

We'll close out the fiscal year in June with our annual election of officers and the board, year-end wrap ups with our committees and a feedback session with you, our delegates and alternates, on suggested priorities when we return from summer break.

In short, lots to do in the months ahead. And we look forward to your continued vigorous engagement on each of these vital topics.

Adam R Henderson
ACCF Board Chair

Arlington Visioning 2050

by Jackie Snelling, Moderator

On October 23, ACCF held a meeting to start the conversation for "Arlington Vision for 2040 and Beyond". We focused on broad community-based visioning seeking diverse participation identifying common objectives, multiple diverse visions and features, consideration of relevant data areas and analyses, and views on the methods and tools we should use for an effective visioning process.

We look forward to the February 5 County kick-off Vision 2050. The County will kick off with a panel of business, climate, demography, and education experts and discussions to begin to develop scenarios. Our members are ready to join the community discussions and to take an active role.

As we move forward with this year-long effort, we can learn from some of the themes that emerged from our community-based discussion last October.

We heard that we share a great many common objectives that cut across the diverse visions. These shared objectives were heard throughout and gave the discussion of diverse visions a positive frame. The long list of common objectives and visions emphasized the environment in climate change, livability, green spaces and gathering places, equity, sustainability, diverse housing options, high quality effective infrastructure and services such as schools and transportation and many specifics.

The data discussion focused on the need for longer range analyses, open data, and methods such as recognizing uncertainty by using multiple scenarios with a range of

assumptions and different methods.

In the shared objectives, the visions and the methods or tools for achieving shared outcomes, many speakers and audience contributors highlighted the values that they believe are critical to engagement with each other in this process and others. The values repeated most often included honesty, transparency, a willingness to listen and intent to understand, diversity of background and viewpoints, inclusion, equity, and a high priority on developing trust.

There was a range of views on how realistic the visioning can be – some thought the discussion was overly positive and needed to focus more on conflicts, some indicated that elements of the visions may be mutually exclusive, others suggested that, if we start with common objectives and plan for diverse livable options, we may be able to create an Arlington vision and plans that intentionally support different options co-existing in different places.

We are embarking on an exciting and highly challenging community engagement and planning process. We hope that, as we move ahead, we can remember our shared values and objectives to continue the civil discussion that can lead us to a productive outcome for our whole community.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Jackie at bod.vicechair@civfed.org.

Member Spotlight

League of Women Voters of Arlington and Alexandria City

In 1944, a group of women from Arlington formed the League of Women Voters of Arlington. In 2019, the City of Alexandria joined with the Arlington League.

The League of Women Voters, founded in 1920, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that supports voter registration and education as well as advocating for voting rights. In Arlington and Alexandria, we register voters at:

- Arlington County High Schools
- farmers' markets
- selected large apartment buildings and condos
- selected AHC facilities and AFAC distribution sites

To register voters, you must take the state training and you work with a trained League member before you go out on your own. With three elections this year, there is a lot of opportunity to register voters.

Our issues include:

- Ranked Choice Voting for both local and statewide elections.
- Restoration of rights
- Election integrity
- National popular vote
- Affordable housing

Why should you join the LWV:

- It is a trusted, nonpartisan, national organization.
- We advocate on key issues to state and local officials
- We rely on volunteers. LWVAAC has no paid staff. There is room for both introverts and extroverts.

For more information go to my.lwv.org/virginia/Arlington-and-alexandria-city or write to lwvarlintonva@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sports Arena Move to Alexandria—Who Pays the \$2.8 Billion Tab?

While awaiting the County Manager's proposed FY2025 budget, let's briefly review a hot topic in Richmond—the governor's proposed \$2.8 billion[1] subsidy (tax-free, taxpayer-backstopped bonds[2] + debt service) enabling Caps/Wizards' owner Ted Leonsis to move his teams to Potomac Yard.

Of chief concern are the wildly optimistic “economic impact” or “output” numbers[3] in arena-supporting “studies” that defy basic economic principles. A clear majority of economists,[4] including ones who have examined 130+ such subsidy deals struck in the past 30 years,[5] agree that these sports-venue subsidies cost the public more than they deliver.[6]

They include Dr. Dennis Coates, a University of MD sports economics expert,[7] who spoke at a recent arena town hall, where he highlighted the unreliability of analyses being used to justify this unprecedented[8] subsidy (4:45/1:56:12 on the time counter):[9]
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7n0YMW4qAX4>.

To clarify, economic impact/output numbers are a red herring.[10] Only actual *revenues* repay publicly floated bonds. Fortunately, we needn't be economists to see that these “fantastic” (meaning “unbelievable”)[11] numbers don't add up.

According to Mayor Bowser, DC receives \$25 million in annual revenue, generated by the Wizards/Caps.[12] The Richmond Times Dispatch reports total bond costs over 40 years at \$2.8 billion,[13] which Virginia and Alexandria taxpayers would be obligated to repay, should earmarked incoming revenues be insufficient for a new state-created sports & entertainment authority[14] to repay that debt.

Moving the teams across the Potomac River is unlikely to magically increase the amount of revenue generated. So now, let's divide \$2.8 billion by 40 years, resulting in an average cost of \$70 million annually for debt repayment.

\$70 million (annual bond repayment) – \$25 million (annual arena revenue) = (\$45 million)

Who will pay that +/- \$45 million shortfall? If arena proponents claim that unsubsidized development in the new “entertainment district”[15] will cover most of the bond repayment costs, then clearly Virginia needn't incur a \$2.8 billion debt. The site can still be developed and produce plenty of revenue without asking all Virginians (and their children) to guarantee (or repay) such an enormous debt for the next 40 years.

See additional information about the proposed sports & entertainment authority legislation and the arena's impacts here:
<https://www.richmondsunlight.com/bill/2024/sb718/>. You can find contact information for your legislators here: <https://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov>.

See 'End Notes' at the bottom of this newsletter.

For more information, please contact Suzanne Sundburg, ACCF Revenue and Expenditures Committee POC, at rev.expend.chair@civfed.org.

CivFed Schools Committee

by Todd Truitt, Schools Committee Chair

Volunteer Opportunity for 2024 Scholarship Community Review with Arlington Community Foundation

With over 100 scholarships available, Arlington Community Foundation is seeking volunteers to participate in its annual community scholarship review. The entire process is virtual, and the orientation video and applications will be available by March 1. Sign up [here](#) by February 15th.

All volunteers are required to view the prerecorded online orientation session at their convenience but prior to reviewing applications. Volunteers will have until March 14 to review up to 25 scholarship applications.

If you have any questions, please contact Natalia Muniz at scholarship@arlc.org or 703-243-4785 ext. 200.

CivFed Housing Committee Committee

by Anne Bodine, Housing Committee Co-Chair

For our February meeting, the Housing Committee has invited Courtney Battle, Executive Director of the Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND) to provide an overview of housing challenges, and affordable housing successes, throughout the DMV region.

Register to join us 6:30-8:00 pm on Thursday February 15 at <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwxf-2gqToiGdaKa-M-rDUrckYE58mfH-fX>

CivFed Environmental Affairs Committee

by Mary Glass, Environmental Affairs Committee Chair

Climate Change and Heat Island Priorities Development Meeting Thursday February 15, 2024, 7-8 pm on Zoom

The Environmental Affairs Committee welcomes all delegates, alternates, and interested parties to voice your opinions on climate change and heat island concerns. We will be shaping our strategy for addressing these critical issues for the next year. Join us in discussion of these consequential environmental topics. These could include the roles of transportation, densification, environmental equity, infrastructure, tree canopy and many more topics in controlling climate change locally.

Topic: ACCF climate change- heat island priorities development meeting

Time: Feb 15, 2024, 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register for this Zoom Meeting at:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvdu-pqjwH9cszOaehjtaoAwz3ohSmeCp>

Arlington's Deer Management Options: Essential Facts ACCF Public Town Hall on Zoom Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 7-8:00 pm

The program will address the current and potential steps to address deer management in Arlington. The focus will be to provide a good overview of the issues emphasizing the best available data and experience. The program will begin with short presentations by a county representative and other knowledgeable speakers who can provide different perspectives on deer management. Most of the meeting time will be reserved for questions from the audience.

Have a nagging question about any deer management issue? You're probably not alone, so come ask your question and help others get the information they are trying to find.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, FREE. REGISTER AT:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYlduCsRTwsHNLwm32ta8GDfCE-nJwf2xeF>

PLEASE JOIN the Environmental Affairs Committee! As Arlington continues to grow, environmental awareness will be critical. We need your opinions and energy to address

these topics. Delegates and Alternates are especially important to this work, but any members of ACCF member organizations are welcome to participate.

If you have questions or want more information, please contact the Committee Chair Mary Glass at environmental.affairs.chair@civfed.org.

CivFed Arts and Culture Committee

by Sandi Chesrown Arts and Culture Committee Co-Chair

The Arts and Culture Committee will meet at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) on Tuesday, February 20, at 5:30-7:00 p.m in the Tiffany Room. The meeting agenda will include discussion of membership and ideas for creating more support for the arts. The President of the Leeway Overlee Civic Association will give an update on the LAC (former Lee Community/ Senior/ Arts Center), and programmatic and building renovation issues will be discussed. A community engagement process in 2024 for both the LAC and the Green House at Fire Station 8 will be discussed-both were highlighted under Plan Langston Boulevard as important community hubs of activity.

Recently, the CivFed approved two items impacting this committee:

1. A name change from "Cultural Affairs" to "Arts and Culture" was approved, to better reflect the committee's objectives,
2. A Co-Chair position for Sandi Chesrown was approved. Sandi is a Board Member of the Arlington Artists Alliance and President of the Waverly Hills Civic Association. Sandi will assist Tina Worden, who will continue as a Co-Chair.

More details? Please contact Tina Worden: cultural.affairs.chair@civfed.org or Sandi Chesrown, sandracheshrown07@verizon.net.

CivFed Legislation Committee

by Paul Holland, Legislation Committee Chair

The Legislation Committee will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, February 27, at 7:00-9:00 p.m. Those interested in joining the meeting can register here: <https://uso6web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUudO-vqj8pHNJLQYelHxqd5t-ltYSiGFM>.

The meeting agenda will include:

1. Opportunities to expand committee membership and involvement from member organizations.
2. A summary of ongoing legislation that overlaps with Civic Federation priorities (as identified through adopted resolutions).
3. Ideas for continued activation of the Legislative Committee

New members are always welcome! Please join us. We are looking forward to a thoughtful and active discussion at our next meeting.

For questions or interest in joining the Committee, please contact Paul at legislation.chair@civfed.org.

CivFed Legislation - Form of Government Subcommittee

by Dave Schutz, Form of Government Subcommittee Chair

This is an exciting time for folks with an interest in Arlington's form of government (FoG). Several bills which align with the recommendations from CivFed's TiGER group have been introduced: HB841 (Hope) HB 658 (Cole) and SB 428 (Van Valkenberg) all

enable jurisdictions to adopt ranked choice voting (RCV) for local offices, including school boards and constitutional officers as well as county boards. HB 1225 (Hope) for the county manager plan of government (only Arlington) expands County powers. Broadens several powers available to counties that have adopted the county manager plan of government by giving such counties the option of following general law rather than the provisions specified in this optional form of county government. The bill also allows for the direct election of the board chairman if approved by referendum, rather than having the board chairman chosen by other members of the county board.

There are headwinds! Ms. Garvey has been expressing her views to our delegation, I hear vigorously. Gazette Leader reports that she and Takis Karantonis will go to Richmond and lobby Hope to withdraw his legislation (note that even if he bowed to this pressure, the Cole and Van Valkenberg bills would advance the TiGER agenda). Matt de Ferranti has said he thinks RCV is swell - but only for party primaries. Meanwhile, the Board is at least making noises about making RCV permanent for general elections at its February meeting, after Ms. Garvey said she had neglected to announce its intent the requisite fourteen days in advance of the January meeting.

Libby Garvey has told me (Dave Schutz, Form of Government Subcommittee Chair) that she is against the Hope bill, her stated view is that Arlington's government is good and also that the Board will be too busy with other issues to deal with this issue this year. I don't know if she is aware of the Cole bill. Neither Susan Cunningham nor Maureen Coffey was involved with developing the County Board wish list this year, but each has made supportive statements about TiGER on the campaign trail. Note that neither bill requires the County to make changes, but each would enable the County to do so. It was in large part because CivFed was not getting support for the TiGER reforms that it revived its practice of developing a legislative priority list of our own this year, and all four bills are broadly consistent with the asks in the legislative priority list TiGER passed (TiGER decided that ranked choice voting for the constitutionals was not an issue it would deal with, so no CivFed position there).

FoG Subcommittee has not set a date for its next meeting, we are waiting for the legislative process to play out on the bills named above. We encourage readers of this article to contact their Delegates and Senator to give your views on the bills. If you are interested in the work of the FoG Subcommittee, please contact Dave Schutz (formofgov.chair@civfed.org) and if interested in the work of the larger Legislation Committee please contact Paul Holland (legislation.chair@civfed.org).

Planning And Zoning Committee Update

by Brian Harner, Planning and Zoning Co-Chair

Next meeting: 7 - 8:30 pm, Tuesday, February 20 (virtual only)

Please register at:

<https://uso6web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqfuqprj8uGN2Lzs372IobklKSAp1h5LE>

The newly formed Planning and Zoning Committee held its first meeting on January 9. Many thanks to the 19 Civic Federation members who attended and shared their background, concerns and interests in the work of P&Z. Issues brought forth included storm water management and tree cover, Special GLUP, visioning, Langston Boulevard implementation, Extended Housing Options, data and general planning issues.

Realizing that all of these issues are related, and the challenges presented are complex, I expect the committee will benefit from several orientation sessions over the next several months, allowing us to begin to sort through priorities and formulate a plan for addressing the most pressing issues. We will also discuss and consider how to address current topics under county consideration by establishing relevant subcommittees on critical topics.

I've used the discussion provided at the first meeting to help formulate a framework and work plan, which we can cover going forward in approximately four to six meetings. Each meeting will include one or more short presentations (15-minutes), followed by discussion:

Visioning and the Comprehensive Plan - February

How are Arlington's Comprehensive Plan and General Land Use Plan constructed, and how have other communities created their plans? What are the values and goals we should use to strengthen and enhance our current plan?

Planning Data, Density and Growth - March

Good planning requires good data. What are the data-based planning frameworks that will assist in making good planning and zoning decisions? Potential issues for presentation and discussion in the March meeting will include density in terms of population and job growth; number of units per acre established in the GLUP; current number of units built in Arlington; demographics and schools.

Environment - April

Arlingtonians are passionate about environmental issues large and small. How does our planning recognize the importance of the natural environment to our community's health, quality of life, and economic vitality? What models of urban development can best balance growth and environmental protections? How do we effectively incorporate environmental goals and standards into our Comprehensive Plan and zoning ordinances?

If you were not present at our first meeting, please join as we move forward. Our goal is to ensure the committee considers a wide range of viewpoints. I also want to ensure that we value everyone's time and organize for efficiency and results as we move forward this year.

You can reach Brian Harner by email at plan.zone.chair@civfed.org.

CivFed Parks and Recreation Committee

by Jackie Snelling, Board Vice Chair

The April 9 ACCF General Membership meeting will include a discussion on equity for public open green spaces, or park areas that are open green space rather than designated recreation areas. We will use the ACCF Parks Committee sponsored resolution and white paper from 2021 as a base for the discussion (2021 documents here: <https://www.civfed.org/about-us/committees/parks/>).

Please contact Jackie Snelling at bod.vicechair@civfed.org if you would like to help plan the park equity discussion slated for the April meeting and/or work on rejuvenation of the Parks committee.

CivFed Public Services - Public Safety Subcommittee

by Mike McMenamain, Public Safety Subcommittee Chair

The Public Safety Subcommittee needs your help and support! In March, we are planning a presentation by the Police Department on crime data that is broken down by neighborhoods. In April, we are planning a Community Policing Workshop.

Please contact Michael McMenamain, Subcommittee Chair, if you would like to support planning for these activities, public.safety.sc.chair@civfed.org.

CivFed Awards Banquet Resumes

by Nick Giacobbe, CivFed Board, Banquet Chair

We are excited to announce the resumption of the long-standing Civic Federation tradition of an in-person awards banquet. Save the evening of **Friday, April 12** for camaraderie with your fellow civic leaders and an opportunity to honor the good work that so many volunteers are doing through our awards program. We will be returning to historic Fort Myer for this year's celebration and the dinner program will also include a pair of inspiring speakers. Watch for your invitation to this event and sign up early.

The banquet committee has learned a lot from the planners from prior years and could use a few more volunteers to help pull it together. If you are interested, please contact Nick Giacobbe at ngiacobbe@gmail.com.

February Preparedness

*prepared with guidance and graphic
by Tania Bougebrayel Cohn, Arlington
Department of Public Safety
Communications & Emergency
Management*



Be My Prepared Valentine: This Valentine's Day, give your loved ones something they will really appreciate—peace of mind. Prepare your household and your business or workplace before a disaster or emergency strikes by taking four simple steps:

- 1. Sign Up for Arlington Alert:** Receive free emergency alerts about traffic, weather, County closures, and more at ArlingtonAlert.com.
- 2. Create a Household Emergency Plan:** Protect those you love by planning what to do if an emergency impacts your area. Consider the needs of your household, make a plan, and practice it together. Learn more: ready.gov/plan.
- 3. Gather Supplies and Build an Emergency Kit:** Skip the chocolates and flowers and get your sweetie a treat or two for their emergency kit. Find a supply list: ready.gov/kit.
- 4. Prepare for Cold Weather and Power Outages:** Winter storms increase the risk of car accidents, hypothermia, and power outages. Find tips for preparing for winter weather at Arlington Emergency-Preparedness Winter-Weather and tips for power outages at ready.gov/power-outages.

Feel the Heritage Festival in Green Valley Saturday, February 24

Please join our Green Valley Civic Association in celebrating "Black History Month" at the Feel the Heritage Festival in our neighborhood.

WHAT: Hundreds of Arlington County residents will be celebrating Black History Month at the 30th annual Feel the Heritage Festival at Charles Drew Community Center in the Green Valley neighborhood. This year's festival will include artisan vendors, free kids' activities, a full agenda of great African American Art & Artisans, Hall of History, entertainment and delicious soul food. Admission to the festival is free. Feel the Heritage Festival is sponsored by the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation and is organized with a dedicated group of community volunteers. More information at Arlingtonva.us.

WHERE: Charles Drew Community Center, 3500 23rd Street S, Arlington, VA 22206

WHEN: Saturday, February 24, 2024: noon-5 p.m.

FEEL THE HERITAGE FESTIVAL



FREE ACTIVITIES, HALL OF HISTORY, FOOD, LIVE MUSIC, ARTISAN VENDORS, AND MORE!



ARLINGTON'S 30TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF
AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, NOON-5 PM
CHARLES DREW COMMUNITY CENTER

3500 23rd STREET SOUTH, ARLINGTON



2023-2024 Board of Directors

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ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES

- Arts and Culture – Co-Chairs Tina Worden and Sandi Chesrown
- Diversity – Chair TBD - if interested contact bod.vicechair@civfed.org
- Environmental Affairs – Chair Mary Glass
- Housing – Co-Chairs Anne Bodine and Matt Hall
- Legislation – Chair Paul Holland
- Parks and Recreation – Chair TBD - if interested contact bod.vicechair@civfed.org
- Planning and Zoning – Chair Brian Harner
- Public Services – Chair John Ford
- Revenues and Expenditures – Chair Suzanne Sundburg
- Schools – Chair Todd Truitt
- Transportation – Chair TBD - if interested contact bod.vicechair@civfed.org

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 President John Ford if you are interested in participating on ACCF committees.

[Link to Committee Website](#)

Interested in being an Arlington County Civic Federation Delegate?

The Arlington County Civic Federation was founded in 1916. Today, it has 80+ 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 its 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 link to our website for more details.

joinus@Civfed.org

[The Civic Federation's Website](#)

CivFed Calendar FY2024

February

- Tuesday, 2/13: General Membership Meeting
- Thursday, 2/15: Environmental Affairs Meeting
- Thursday, 2/15: Housing Committee Meeting
- Tuesday, 2/20: Planning and Zoning Meeting
- Tuesday, 2/20: Arts and Culture Meeting
- Wednesday, 2/21: Board Meeting
- Saturday, 2/24: Heritage Festival in Green Valley
- Monday, 2/26: Deadline for March Newsletter Input
- Tuesday, 2/27: ACCF Town Hall meeting on Deer Management in Arlington
- Tuesday, 2/27: Legislative Committee

March

- Tuesday, 3/12: General Membership Meeting
- Sunday, 3/17: Board Meeting
- Monday, 3/25: Deadline for April Newsletter Input

April

- Tuesday, 4/9: General Membership Meeting
- Sunday, 4/14: Board Meeting
- Monday, 4/29: Deadline for April Newsletter Input

End Notes for the "Sports Arena Move to Alexandria" Article

[1] Richmond Times Dispatch, "Legislation introduced to fund arena for Wizards, Capitals as transportation questions loom" (1-19-2024): https://richmond.com/news/state-regional/government-politics/alexandria-virginia-arena-wizards-capitals-legislation/article_b5819dec-b63d-11ee-8ed8-e7540e8e94c5.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

[2] Daily Progress, "Legislation introduced to fund arena for Wizards, Capitals as transportation questions loom," (1-24-2024): https://dailyprogress.com/news/state-regional/government-politics/alexandria-virginia-arena-wizards-capitals-legislation/article_9ac71828-77b7-50d2-ba2f-82b87b850d1a.html#:~:text=Other%20questions%20focus%20on%20the,committee%20approved%20unanimously%20last%20month and WTOP, "Taxpayers could bear the brunt of 'monumental' cost of Potomac Yard

development” (12-20-2023): <https://wtop.com/local/2023/12/taxpayers-could-brunt-monumental-cost-of-potomac-yard-development-2/>

“Rep. Don Beyer, who represents the area of Alexandria in Congress, told WTOP his biggest concern is the use of tax-exempt federal bonds to finance the project. ‘I have long supported the idea that we shouldn’t be using tax-exempt federal bonds to build stadiums for billionaires ... and my understanding is that they will be using tax-exempt federal bonds, which means basically, Americans across the country are going to be subsidizing it,’ said Beyer, who has been a co-sponsor of [legislation](#) ‘for a number of years in a row’ that aims to end tax breaks for professional sports teams building new facilities.”

[3] Field of Schemes website, “Alexandria official claims \$1.5B Caps/Wizards subsidy will pay for itself, seems to misunderstand how money works” (12-28-2023):

<https://www.fieldofschemes.com/2023/12/28/20769/alexandria-official-claims-1-5b-caps-wizards-subsidy-will-pay-for-itself-seems-to-misunderstand-how-money-works/>

[4] Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, “The Economics of Subsidizing Sports Stadiums” (2017): <https://research.stlouisfed.org/publications/page1-econ/2017-05-01/the-economics-of-subsidizing-sports-stadiums/> and

“Should Cities Pay for Sports Facilities?” (2001):

<https://www.stlouisfed.org/publications/regional-economist/april-2001/should-cities-pay-for-sports-facilities#>

“The short answer to this question is ‘No.’ When studying this issue, almost all economists and development specialists (at least those who work independently and not for a chamber of commerce or similar organization) conclude that the rate of return a city or metropolitan area receives for its investment is generally below that of alternative projects. In addition, evidence suggests that cities and metro areas that have invested heavily in sports stadiums and arenas have, on average, experienced slower income growth than those that have not.”

[5] *Journal of Economic Surveys*, “The Impact of Professional Sports Franchises and Venues on Local Economies: A Comprehensive Survey,” Bradbury, Coates, Humphries (8-17-2022): https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4022547

[6] Bloomberg, “The Dream of the Suburban Sports District Can Be a Nightmare for Taxpayers” (12-16-2023): https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-12-16/downtown-dc-faces-a-new-dilemma-in-potential-sports-team-exodus?utm_campaign=news&utm_medium=bd&utm_source=applenews

https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-12-16/downtown-dc-faces-a-new-dilemma-in-potential-sports-team-exodus?utm_campaign=news&utm_medium=bd&utm_source=applenews

[7] Foundation for Economic Education, Dennis Coates: <https://fee.org/people/dennis-coates>

[8] The Washington Post, “Caps, Wizards complex in Virginia could get largest arena subsidy ever,” (12-15-2023): <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2023/12/15/capitals-wizards-potomac-yard-arena-finances-virginia-dc/>

[9] Stop the Arena Coalition Facebook page (accessed 1-29-2024):

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Stop-the-Potomac-Yard-Arena/61554907161704/>

[10] *Journal of Travel Research*, “Economic Impact Studies: Instruments for Political Shenanigans?,” Compton (August 2006): <https://college.agrilife.org/rptsweb/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2020/08/0047287506288870.pdf>

Abstract: “Most economic impact studies are commissioned to legitimize a political position rather than to search for economic truth. Often, this results in the use of mischievous procedures that produce large numbers that study sponsors seek to support a predetermined position. Examples are selected primarily from the reports of ostensibly expert consultants that illustrate 10 of these mischievous procedures: including local residents; inappropriate aggregation; inclusion of time-switchers and casuals; abuse of multipliers; ignoring costs borne by the local community; ignoring opportunity costs; ignoring displacement costs; expanding the project scope; exaggerating visitation numbers; and inclusion of consumer surplus. The political payoff of these shenanigans is discussed.”

[11] Stop the Arena at Potomac Yard - Virtual Town Hall, January 24, 2024:

(“fantastic”=21:31/1:56:12 on the time counter) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7n0YMw4qAX4>

[12] News Channel 4 NBC, “DC could lose \$25M in yearly tax revenue if Caps, Wizards leave, mayor says” (12-13-2023): <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/dc-could-lose-25m-in-yearly-tax-revenue-if-caps-wizards-leave-mayor-says/3493803/>

[13] Richmond Times Dispatch, “Legislation introduced to fund arena for Wizards, Capitals as transportation questions loom” (1-19-2024): https://richmond.com/news/state-regional/government-politics/alexandria-virginia-arena-wizards-capitals-legislation/article_b5819dec-b63d-11ee-8ed8-e7540e8e94c5.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

[14] Richmond Sunlight, “Senate Bill (SB)718: Virginia Sports and Entertainment Authority and Financing Fund; established, report.” (1-19-2024): <https://www.richmondsunlight.com/bill/2024/sb718/fulltext/>

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