



Arlington County Civic Federation

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES, TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2024

MEETING

- Arlington County Civic Federation, General Membership Meeting, 3/12/2024 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Hybrid meeting held in-person at the VHC Hazel Auditorium and virtually via Zoom, called via email invitation, web notification, and Facebook post.

ATTENDANCE

- In-Person: Member delegates checked in and were provided voting cards
- Zoom: Member delegates registered in-advance, and were recorded via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER (John Ford)

- Called to order at 7:00 p.m. with quorum met with 1/10th of member delegates (required 26).

MINUTES APPROVAL (John Ford)

- A motion was made to approve the February GM minutes, the motion was moved, and seconded. The December and January General Membership minutes were approved by acclamation.

BUDGET COLLOQUIM (Adam Henderson)

- CivFed sponsored a discussion on the County budget for the year ahead. We leveraged our committee leaders as panelists who provided committee-focused input for where the county should prioritize spending and staff time and where cuts should be made.
- In general, there appeared to be a somber awareness of increasing taxes for the general population due to the increase in commercial vacancies. Our Board Chair, Adam Henderson started off the review by sharing some County summary tables for overall tax increase/decreases and he shared the County Manager's 1-page summary, which is very good at summarizing the budget planning (see the full budget overview at this [link](#)).
- Adam noted the 2022 CivFed resolution on budget and effective tax rate guidance, which at this time, is unclear to CivFed leaders as to whether the County has taken heed of this request.
 - Therefore be it resolved that the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) urges the Arlington County Board to include a provision in its annual budget guidance to the County Manager requiring the manager to take into account the impact of the effective tax rate increase (i.e., increased assessment plus the nominal/base



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tax rate) on county residents—especially vulnerable populations—and businesses in order to balance new spending with reasonable mitigation of the growing tax burden.

- In the context of the resolution, members were asked to frame their comments to provide priorities for staff time and workplans that support the priorities given a constrained fiscal environment.
- On behalf of the R&E Committee, Adam provided specific options for savings including removing the proposed \$150 K for a tree canopy study and using the recent independent study instead, reallocating \$200K earmarked for an unexplained “contingent” for the Northern VA Juvenile Detention Center, which the state may close due to excess capacity, eliminating 150 FTEs of the 200+ added in FY2022 and FY2023 that remain unfilled. Exempt unfilled auditor, revenue- generating and public safety (police/fire/EMS/sheriff’s department) positions.
- During the panel, CivFed rotated through our committee structure, with committee representatives providing an overview of work priorities, spending or budget cut ideas related to the work their committees perform. We then took comments from our member delegates. As anticipated, there was a wide range of concerns that required a change of focus or additional spending, but there were also ideas provided for spending cuts. The discussion panelists with some of the discussion focus areas outline below:
 - Public Services (Jackie Snelling)
 - Stormwater
 - Public Health
 - Public Safety
 - Housing (Anne Bodine)
 - Arts and Culture (Tina Worden)
 - Environmental Affairs (Mary Glass)
 - Legislation (Dave Schutz)
 - Parks and Recreation (Jackie Snelling)
 - Planning and Zoning (Brian Harner)
 - Transportation (Adam Henderson)
- On the whole, it appeared that CivFed members were more focused on strategies to accomplish key priorities requiring changed staff workplans within the Proposed Budget or additional budgets. There was also a general sentiment that we should reduce taxes.
- See the meeting recording to hear the Q&A: [Arlington Cty Civic Fed \[ACCF\] \(vimeo.com\)](#)
- [See the Summary sent to the County Board](#)



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BANQUET (Nicholas Giacobbe)

- Nick provided a rundown of the planned banquet. See: <https://bit.ly/ACCF-Banquet-2024>

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE ON INTRA-MEMBER

COMMUNICATIONS (Adam Henderson as Communications Committee Chair)

- Adam reviewed the new Communications Committee Charter and discussed the initial recommendations for Civic Associations needing to increase communications review the possibility of using Groups.io ([Link](#)).

VOTE ON NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS (John Ford)

- A motion was made to approve a recommended slate of candidates for the CivFed Nominating Committee. The slate recommended was:
 - Sandi Chesrown
 - David Smith
 - Alex Sakes
 - Bryan Coleman
 - Lois Coontz

Discussion was opened, and a vote was taken. The Nominating Committee was approved by acclamation.

OTHER BUSINESS

- None

ADJOURNMENT – 8:48 p.m.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and approved by acclamation.

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

Submitted by: David R. Smith, Secretary 3/23/2024