



THE Civic Voice

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation

November 2010

Meeting Notice

Tuesday, November 9, 2010
7:30 p.m.
Hazel Conference Center
Virginia Hospital Center
1701 N. George Mason Drive
Arlington, VA 22205
www.civfed.org

PLEASE NOTE NOVEMBER 9th IS THE SECOND TUESDAY

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Banquet Date - April 8, 2011 -----	4

Agenda

- 7:30 Pledge of Allegiance
Adopt agenda
Officer reports
Member delegate announcements
- 7:40 Emergency Preparedness Advisory
Commission Informational Program
- 8:10 Library System Informational Program
- 8:50 Natural Resources Management Plan
Informational Program
- 9:20 Unfinished Business (*vote anticipated*)
 - Planning and Zoning Committee Report
on Sign Removal motion
- 9:40 New Business
- 9:45 Adjourn

Executive Committee

Mark Antell, Chair mark@civfed.org
Gary Barbee, Vice-Chair gary@civfed.org

The Executive Committee will meet on November 11, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. at 4805 Wilson Boulevard (Fire Department Station 2 in Ballston) to coordinate committee work, plan future meeting programs, and organize the December Civic Voice newsletter.

An Executive Committee subcommittee is studying how to best address the projected Civic Federation surplus of member dues revenues compared to expenses. The projected surplus for 2010 - 2011 is approximately \$1,600.00 which is on top of the of \$10,872.00 balance on hand at the end of 2009 - 2010.

The 2010 - 2011 Civic Federation Awards Committee will be elected at the December 7, 2010, Civic Federation meeting. Please contact Vice President Terri Prell (terri@civfed.org) if you are interested in serving on the committee.

Agenda Details

Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission

Jackie Snelling jackie@civfed.org

Jackie Snelling, chair of the Civic Federation Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee, will lead an informational program about the Arlington County Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission. The commission is an advisory board charged with coordinating the efforts of the Local Emergency Planning Committee, as well as Emergency Medical Services and the Citizen Corps Council. The guest speakers will be:

- Christopher Essig, Chair, Arlington County Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission
- Steve Kral, Outreach Chair, Arlington County Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission
- Mike Signer, Vice Chair, Arlington County Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission
- 15 Min. - Guest speaker presentation
- 15 Min. - Member delegate discussion

Library System

Barbara Olivere barbara@civfed.org

Barbara Olivere, chair of the Civic Federation Cultural Affairs Committee, will lead an informational program about the Arlington County Public Library System with guest speaker Diane Kresh, Director, Arlington County Department of Libraries:

- 10 Min. - Guest speaker presentation
- 10 Min. - Cultural Affairs Committee prepared questions
- 20 min. - Member delegate questions and discussion

Natural Resources Management Plan

Larry Finch larryfinch@civfed.org

Larry Finch, chair of the Civic Federation Environmental Affairs Committee, will lead an informational program about the Arlington County Natural Resources Management Plan with guest speaker Greg Zell, Naturalist, Arlington County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources.

- 20 Minutes - Guest speaker presentation
- 10 Minutes - Member delegate discussion

Committee News

Airport

Steve Geiger steveg@civfed.org

The committee is studying the authorization process to implement the way-point takeoff procedure to the north of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport that is moving through the Federal Aviation Administration. This procedure would require aircraft taking off to the north to follow a set path over the river that could ameliorate much of the airplane noise that Arlington residents are now experiencing.

Community Relations

Sharon Rogers sharon@civfed.org

The committee is preparing to transfer Civic Federation documents from 1996 to 2010 to the Arlington County Central Library Virginia Room. Nearly complete Civic Federation records dating from 1928 are available in Record Group 14. Please contact Ms. Rogers to find out how to contribute Civic Federation material that you have.

Cultural Affairs

Barbara Oliver barbara@civfed.org

The committee will lead an informational program on November 9, 2010, about the Arlington County Public Library System with guest speaker Diane Kresh, Director, Arlington County Department of Libraries.

Emergency Preparedness

Jackie Snelling jackie@civfed.org

The committee will lead an informational program on November 9, 2010, about the Arlington County Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission. The commission provides policy advice to the Arlington County Board on Arlington's emergency preparedness and ability to respond. To ensure that Arlington is a safe, well-prepared and resilient place to live, work, and visit, the commission is a community forum focused on coordinating and integrating the efforts of Arlington's schools, civic, commercial, service communities, as well as other government agencies located in Arlington with County, state, and federal emergency preparedness organizations.

Environmental Affairs

Larry Finch larryfinch@civfed.org

The committee is studying the Arlington County Natural Resources Management Plan (<http://tinyurl.com/Natural-Resources-Mngt-Plan>). The committee will lead an informational program on November 9, 2010, about natural resource problems and recommended policies and actions to preserve Arlington's documented natural resources for future generations.

Housing

Kathryn Scruggs kathryn@civfed.org

The committee will meet on November 18, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. at 935 N. Liberty Street (Scruggs Residence). Discussion topics will be development of the Key Boulevard

Apartments and in the Columbia Pike corridor. Study and discussion will focus on preserving the ability of current residents to continue living in communities that are planned for redevelopment.

Legislation

Peter Owen peterowen@civfed.org

The committee has begun a study of state policy that could enhance local revenue collection and efficiency. Please look for further information shortly.

The committee has not received federal or state legislative issues to organize in a supplement for member delegates to consider adding to the Civic Federation legislative packages that have been adopted in past years. Please send community-wide, neighborhood-focused legislative issues to Mr. Owen.

Membership

Mileva Hartman mileva@civfed.org

Thank you very much! All but a couple of Civic Federation member organizations have submitted membership dues. Please make sure that your member delegates fully participate at the Civic Federation.

Planning and Zoning

Larry Mayer larrymayer@civfed.org

Martha Moore martha@civfed.org

The committee met on October 24, 2010, to reconsider and further study the Sign Removal motion. The committee will present a report to member delegates on November 9, 2010.

The committee continues to study transition from high density commercially zoned areas to low density residentially zoned areas. The question is should Arlington County create new planning guidelines and zoning options.

Revenues and Expenditures

Wayne Kubicki wayne@civfed.org

The committee is preparing an informational program for the December 7, 2010, Civic Federation meeting with guest speaker Barbara Donnellan, Arlington County Manager.

Schools

Michael Beer michaelbeer@civfed.org
Cecelia Espenosa cecelia@civfed.org

The committee is preparing an informational program for the December 7, 2010, Civic Federation meeting with guest speaker Patrick Murphy, Superintendent of Arlington Public Schools.

Special Events

Peter Olivere peterolivere@civfed.org

The Civic Federation banquet will be held on April 8, 2011, at 1900 N. Fort Myer Drive (Rosslyn Holiday Inn). The committee is accepting speaker nominations for the banquet. Please contact Mr. Olivere if you have suggestions for a speaker you would like to hear.

Unfinished Business

Sign Removal Motion

On November 9, 2010, Civic Federation member delegates will hear, discuss, and consider a Sign Removal motion that Bernard Berne (Buckingham) introduced on October 5, 2010. The issue the motion raises was studied by the Civic Federation Planning and Zoning Committee. The committee recommends not adopting the motion. The complete committee report is listed on the Civic Federation website (www.civfed.org/reppzsigns1011.pdf).

Whereas, improper commercial signage in Arlington often creates visual disturbance, obstructs beautification, creates safety hazards,

and lessens the usefulness and enjoyment of public property, especially travel-ways;

Whereas, commercial signs are often unlawfully placed on public lands and public right-of-ways on weekends, when the County's code enforcement personnel and inspectors are not at work, but are often removed by Monday mornings;

Whereas, Arlington citizens have asked Arlington County to consider amending the County's sign ordinance to permit its citizens to legally remove illegal commercial signs;

Whereas, the Arlington County Manager prepared in July 2010 a memorandum to the County Board that discusses issues relating to illegal signage;

Whereas, the Manager's memorandum states that the City of Richmond has adopted an ordinance to reduce criminal and civil liability for individual citizens who "abate" violations of the sign ordinance (by, for example, removing illegal commercial signs in the public right-of-way), which approach was not recommended by the County Manager due to the relative complexity of the signage rules in Arlington;

Whereas, citizens who remove signs have a responsibility to be knowledgeable about the "complexities of the Arlington sign code";

Whereas, there are ambiguities in the existing sign code and in the Manager's July 19, 2010 proposed ordinance revisions, which could lead to differing interpretations even by courts of law; and

Whereas, various civic organizations, including the Civic Federation, have asked the County to provide evening, night and weekend Code enforcement coverage for signage and other code violations, which has not occurred.

Therefore, be it resolved that, the Arlington County Civic Federation asks the County government to:

1. Amend the County's sign ordinance to minimize its ambiguity;
2. Amend the County code in a manner similar to the City of Richmond to reduce liability for citizens who remove illegal signs from public right-of-way; and
3. Conduct periodic education programs to teach interested citizens and businesses about the forms and placement of signage in Arlington that are legal or not legal.