



THE Civic Voice

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation

December 2010

Meeting Notice

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

Agenda

- 7:30 Pledge of Allegiance
Adopt agenda
Officer reports
Member delegate announcements
- 7:40 Election of Civic Federation
Awards Committee
- 7:50 Arlington County Manager and
APS Superintendent Program
 - Ms. Donnellan's Presentation (15 Min.)
 - Dr. Murphy's Presentation (15 Min.)
 - Committee Prepared Questions (20 Min.)
 - Member Delegate Questions (20 Min.)
- 9:00 Commissioner of Revenue Program
- 9:20 Unfinished Business (*vote anticipated*)
 - Tax Administration Motion
- 9:40 New Business
- 9:45 Adjourn

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Executive Committee

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

The Executive Committee will meet on December 13, 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 January Civic Voice newsletter.

Member delegates will elect the Awards Committee on December 7, 2010. *It shall be the duty of this committee to seek and make recommendations for persons, committees, or members to receive the Sun Gazette Cup and Certificates of Appreciation.*

Thank you Sharon Rogers for leading the transfer of Civic Federation documents to the Arlington Central Library Virginia Room.

Civic Federation member delegates did not adopt the Sign Removal motion at the November 9, 2010, membership meeting.

Agenda Details

Arlington County Manager & Arlington Public Schools Superintendent

Wayne Kubicki wayne@civfed.org
Michael Beer michaelbeer@civfed.org
Cecelia Espenosa cecelia@civfed.org

Wayne Kubicki, chair of the Civic Federation Revenue and Expenditures Committee, and Michael Beer and Cecelia Espenosa, co-chairs of the Civic Federation Schools Committee, will lead an informational program with guest speakers Barbara Donnellan, Arlington County Manager, and Patrick Murphy, Arlington Public Schools Superintendent.

Ms. Donnellan will focus on countywide policy issues including the projected revenue forecast, size of the potential budget gap, size and impact of a potential tax increase, and strategy and process to recommend Arlington County service levels.

Dr. Murphy will focus on systemwide policy issues including the projected enrollment and expenses, revenue sharing agreement, size of the potential budget gap, and strategy and process to recommend Arlington Public Schools service levels.

Commissioner of Revenue

Peter Owen peterowen@civfed.org

Peter Owen, chair of the Civic Federation Legislation Committee, will lead an informational program about Virginia tax administration with guest speaker Ingrid Morroy, Commissioner of Revenue.

Ms. Morroy will focus on background information about a proposal for new state policy to foster local registration for state and local business taxes, local monitoring of state sales taxes, and an audit partnership for meals tax and sales tax.

Committee News

Airport

Steve Geiger steveg@civfed.org

The committee is studying the authorization process to implement a new way-point takeoff procedure to the north of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. The new procedure could reduce airplane noise.

Community Relations

Sharon Rogers sharon@civfed.org

Thank you Larry Finch, Barbara Olivere, and Jackie Snelling for leading programs at the November 9, 2010, Civic Federation meeting.

Special thanks and recognition for Larry Mayer and Martha Moore and the members of the Civic Federation Planning and Zoning Committee for leading an extensive study on the sign removal issue.

Cultural Affairs

Barbara Olivere barbara@civfed.org

The presentation from the November 9, 2010, Civic Federation meeting about the Arlington County Library System on the Civic Federation website (www.civfed.org/presAPL1011.pdf). Thank you Diane Kresh, Director, Arlington County Department of Libraries.

Emergency Preparedness

Jackie Snelling jackie@civfed.org

Christopher Essig, Chair of the Arlington County Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission briefed Civic Federation delegates on the mission of the new commission. The commission's mission is to be a community forum and coordinate efforts to make Arlington a safe, well-prepared and resilient place to live, work, and visit. Mr. Essig and Vice Chair Mike

Signer asked the Civic Federation for input on plans for involving the community in emergency preparedness including a potential public forum, exercises, and training and motivating individuals and neighborhoods. As a way of getting input, a quick survey was given to complete to indicate the important threats, priorities and member organizations' interest in educational presentations.

Results from surveys collected during the program name a range of hazards and priorities for preparedness planning and indicate that member many neighborhoods would be interested in presentations to improve individual and neighborhood knowledge and participation in preparing for emergencies.

Threats listed as important included:

- Disruptions to power, water, gas and communications from multiple causes,
- Metro accidents and high-rise fires, and
- Terrorism including attacks on Metro, cyber, and utilities.

Preparedness planning priorities included:

- Public alerts and warnings,
- Evacuation or reaching shelter for people without cars and people with disabilities,
- Neighborhood preparation to help neighbors and organizational prep for sheltering like supplies of water for schools, churches, employers,
- Education and guidance for evacuation and shelter re community plans (go bag demos, shelter in place guidance, designated shelters),
- Broadband and wireless communication protection and restoration plans,
- Access to medical help, and
- Education for school age residents.

The presentation (<http://www.civfed.org/presEPAC1011.pdf>) and survey ([PDF](#) and [WORD](#)) are on the Civic Federation website. Please send additional survey responses or interest on preparedness to Jackie Snelling on

jackie@civfed.org. Thank you Mr. Essig, Mr. Signer and the commission for their focus on this important topic.

Environmental Affairs

Larry Finch larryfinch@civfed.org

The presentation from the November 9, 2010, Civic Federation meeting about the Arlington County Natural Resources Management Plan is on the Civic Federation website (www.civfed.org/presNRMP1011.pdf). Thank you Greg Zell, Naturalist, Arlington County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources.

Housing

Kathryn Scruggs kathryn@civfed.org

The committee will meet on November 29, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. at 935 N. Liberty Street (Scruggs Residence). *Please note the rescheduled date.* 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 Legislation Committee met on Monday, November 22, 2010 where it heard a presentation from Commissioner of the Revenue Ingrid Morroy and Deputy Commissioner of the Revenue Ann Bisson. The Committee had had referred to it a motion offered by Committee Chairman Peter Owen at the November 9, 2010, Civic Federation meeting relating to legislation regarding local tax administration. After discussion, the Committee voted 8-0 to recommend that the Federation adopt a motion for resolution in favor of legislation to allow local revenue collectors (such as Arlington's Commissioner of the Revenue) to administer specified registration and tax

assessment functions currently conducted by the State of Virginia. The Committee Chairman was directed to finalize the wording of the motion in a manner consistent with the deliberations at the meeting. The motion is listed on page 5 in Unfinished Business section of this newsletter. Committee member Barbara Oliveri was authorized to present the Committee's report to the Federation. Present for the meeting were: Peter Owen (chair), Barbara Oliveri, Robert Atkins, Jerry Auten, Tom Connally, Peg Hogan, Conor Marshall, and Stuart Raphael.

The committee is preparing the Legislative Delegation program for the January 4, 2011, Civic Federation meeting with guest speakers Senator Patricia Ticer, Senator Mary Margaret Whipple, Delegate Robert Brink, Delegate Adam Ebbin, Delegate David Englin, and Delegate Patrick Hope.

The committee has not received, other than the tax administration issue, 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 countywide, neighborhood-focused legislative issues to Peter Owen on peterowen@civfed.org.

Membership

Mileva Hartman mileva@civfed.org

Thank you for responding! Every Civic Federation member organization has submitted membership dues. 100% by November 1st - a record of efficiency!

Not every member organization is regularly represented at Civic Federation meetings. Please make sure that your community is represented. The meeting schedule and topics are on the website (www.civfed.org/10-11-mtgdates-chairs.pdf). Member presidents - please make every effort to insure that your delegates participate.

Planning and Zoning

Larry Mayer larrymayer@civfed.org
Martha Moore martha@civfed.org

Please contact Larry Mayer and Martha Moore to schedule neighborhood discussions with the committee about transition from high density commercially zoned areas to low density residentially zoned areas in your neighborhood. The question the committee is studying 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.

On October 11, 2010, Patrick Spann (Bellevue Forest Citizens' Association) was appointed to represent the Civic Federation and serve as a Board Member for the Arlington County Scholarship Fund for Teachers. The Fund awards scholarships to students who are members of the June graduating class of an accredited public high school located in Arlington County and who plan a career in education. The Civic Federation has been a sponsor of the fund since it was founded in 1955.

On November 9, 2010, the Arlington County School Board appointed Kenneth Friedli (Maywood Civic Association) to represent the Civic Federation and serve on the

Arlington Public Schools Budget Advisory Council. The role of the council includes:

- Making recommendations on policies and practices related to the presentation and preparation of the operating budget and the financial management of the school system;
- Making recommendations to the School Board on budget priorities before the Board gives its annual budget direction to the Superintendent and at other times as appropriate;
- Advising on the degree to which the Superintendent's Proposed Budget supports best fiscal practices and the School Board's priorities;
- Assisting in educating the community about the budgeting process and the contents of each year's budget;
- Providing, upon the Board's request, study and recommendations on special topics or issues;
- Presenting an annual written report of the Council's work as part of the School Board's annual budget process. The report may raise issues and concerns that the Council has related to the budget, and
- Collaborating as appropriate with the Arlington Public Schools Advisory Council on Instruction.

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 Peter Olivere with keynote speaker suggestions.

Unfinished Business

Tax Administration Motion

On December 7, 2010, Civic Federation member delegates will hear, discuss, and consider a recommendation from the Civic Federation Legislation Committee regarding Tax Administration. This item will include a presentation by Commissioner of Revenue Ingrid Morroy and an opportunity for delegates to ask questions. A member delegate vote is anticipated:

Whereas an efficient, accurate and taxpayer-friendly tax assessment, collection and accounting system is in the interest of Arlingtonians and Virginians,

Whereas, the Commissioners of the Revenue Association of Virginia has proposed certain changes to Virginia tax administration to create more efficient, accurate and customer friendly tax assessment and collections,

Whereas, the Association's proposals would allow local tax administrators to provide "one-stop" services for certain local businesses, and would be able to more promptly and accurately assess sales and other taxes from certain local businesses, and

Whereas, "local" tax administration addressed by the Association's proposals would in Arlington County be administered by the office of the Commissioner of Revenue,

Be it therefore Resolved, That the Arlington County Civic Federation supports legislation allowing local registration for state and local business taxes, local monitoring of the local option portion of the state sales and use tax, local/state tax audit partnership for the meals tax, and local registration and monitoring of businesses that are subject to the licensing laws of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation.