

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

NEWSLETTER

81st Year as
The Civic Voice of Arlington

June 1997

Volume 81, No. 10

JUNE 1997 MEETING

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 3, 1997
starts at: 7:30 p.m.

Place: John T. Hazel Auditorium,
Arlington Hospital
1701 N. George Mason Drive

PROGRAM SEQUENCE

Election of 1997-98 Officers and Executive
Committee; (15 minutes)

Annual Reports of Committee Chairs, if any;
(30 minutes)

Specific Committee Reports and Action
Items:

Transportation, Report on County's
Neighborhood Traffic Calming Measures
Study, and, Report on County Board
Adopted Interim Guidelines for the
Placement of Telecommunications Facilities
on County Owned Property (Monopoles), by
David Jones; (30 minutes)

Revenues & Expenditures, Report and
Resolution on County's Capital Improvement
Plan, by Randy Swart; (45 minutes)

SUMMARY OF MAY 6th MEETING AND ACTIONS

U.S. Congressman James P. Moran joined Virginia state legislators, Senator Mary Margaret Whipple, and Delegates James F. Almand, Judy Connally and Karen Darner, to provide Federation delegates with a legislative wrap-up from both the national and state levels. Topics covered were wide-ranging and a question/answer period, with delegates' follow-up questions and comments, allowed a lively exchange between delegates and their elected representatives. Preliminary to introducing the evening's guests, ACCF Legislative Committee Chairman Amy Appelbaum gave a brief report on how the 61 proposals in the Federation's 1997 Legislative Package fared in the General Assembly session.

Robert Nester, Chairman of ACCF's Parks and Recreation Committee, briefed delegates on the status of Fort C.F. Smith, the proposed boathouse on the Rosslyn waterfront, the erection of monopoles on County parkland, and the Park Trail Sign Project, which would place coded visible markers on County trails to aid in locating sites in emergencies. Chairman Nester requested comments and input on these issues.

Delegates voted to welcome into Federation membership the **Columbia Forest Civic Association**. Susan Johnson is President of

the group. The ACCF now has 69 member organizations.

Delegates elected a **Nominating Committee** consisting of Amy Appelbaum, Jim Charleton, David Foster, David Jones, and Ernest Ragland. The President asked Ernie Ragland to convene the Committee. The Committee will present to the membership for its consideration, at the June 3rd meeting, a slate of Officers and five Executive Committee members for 1997-1998.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Let me be among the first to congratulate our new newsletter team in publishing this document. We've had a lot of discussion regarding the potential difficulties and advantages of changing to this new format. Any comments or suggestions from the membership will be greatly appreciated as we try to evaluate the effectiveness of this new approach.

It is again that time of year when we try to wrap up existing projects for the summer and try to find new committee chairmen and representatives to replace those folks who are moving on. We have been asked to name representatives to the United Way, APS (schools) Advisory Council on Instruction, and others. We, as usual, would like to find additional people interested in working on our Public Services, Schools, and Housing Committees, to name a few. Please contact me or any Executive Committee member to volunteer.

Items of interest to watch over the summer include the schools overcrowding report, redevelopment plans for the old courthouse site, traffic calming measures for neighborhoods, and the Parks department study on level I and II playing fields. Executive Committee members and committees will be

monitoring these issues and preparing for the fall starting with our traditional candidate's night on September 2.

Hope to see you at the June meeting and again in September.

Bill Nolden

COMMITTEE CORNER

NOMINATIONS and ELECTION: The Nominating Committee's report was not available at press time. Delegates interested in the Committee's recommended slate may telephone any of the Committee members before the meeting.

BOATHOUSE UPDATE: Robert Nester, Chairman of our Parks and Recreation Committee (PARC) reports that the Arlington Boathouse Coalition is pursuing building a 25,000 square foot boathouse on a wooded Virginia Potomac River shore site opposite Theodore Roosevelt Island. The National Park Service (NPS), which controls the 1.25-acre site along the George Washington Memorial Parkway, remains opposed to use of this site. Because of the Coalition's insistence on building at this site alone, it may be at least ten years between the 1992 Parks Bond approval and the date when the first oar out of this Boathouse might hit the water. ACCF voted in December 1995 to oppose use of this site for any development. The County Board, in May of 1996, approved a \$1 million donation to the project, provided the backers raised \$4.8 million of the estimated \$5.8 million total within 5 years. **PARC's is considering bringing ACCF members a resolution, in the fall, asking the County Board to cancel all County staff support for building a Boathouse at the Rosslyn site and to reprogram the \$1 million bond funds. One option of redirected funding would be a**

Boathouse at another site, developed in cooperation with the NPS. Another option is to switch the funds to an alternate project meeting the original bond's goals.

ANNUAL REPORTS REMINDER: ACCF Committee Chairs, and appointed representatives to other organizations, are reminded that your written 1996-1997 annual report of activities is due by June 2, 1997 to Secretary Tommye Morton.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

The **Arlington Ridge Civic Association** and the **Aurora Highlands Civic Association** inform us that they hosted a joint meeting, on May 14, 1997, to hear a presentation by Federal Realty Investment Trust for the proposed development of the Pentagon City approximately 16 acre tract, located behind the Fashion Centre garage, bordered by S. 15th Street, S. Joyce Street and Army Navy Drive. The developer is proposing a 310,000 square foot strip mall with 4 levels of apartments on top. At issue, is the **Pentagon City Phased Development Site Plan** which applies to the development of the full 116 acre Pentagon City site, and has been in place since 1976.

The full complement of allocated commercial and office space has been built-out. The only use remaining to be built, under the current site plan, is residential. The Pentagon City Phased Development Site Plan was the first in Arlington County. To date, densities have undergone minor modifications, but no change in "use" has been permitted. **Abrogation** of this Site Plan has County-wide implications for all Site and Sector Plans. That is, if Site/Sector Plans can be so easily amended by developer's proposals--what confidence can be placed in them? Each of the two Associations took separate votes on resolutions to support adherence to the existing Site Plan and, hence,

to deny the proposed development. These votes were unanimous with approximately 30 members in attendance for AHCA (voice vote) and 50 counted votes of ARCA members.

The **Ballston-Virginia Square Civic Association** informs us that the County has advertised changes to the C-O-A (commercial-office-apartment) zoning ordinance to treat hotels as residential and thereby have up to three **more hotels in the heart of Ballston**. If the County Board approves such changes, this would create 100% commercial blocks in Ballston. At their April 30th meeting, with over 80 members present, after listening to a staff presentation on the matter, the BVSCA members expressed extreme displeasure with the proposal primarily due to the volume of tour busses already traversing the neighborhood and parking on the residential streets. The members were supportive of staying with the already approved plan for the C-O-A district which is to have a mix of 50% residential and 50% commercial development on each block. The BVSCA is seeking support for maintaining the 50/50 mix expressed in the Ballston Sector Plan and the current version of the C-O-A ordinance. The amendments are scheduled to be considered at the **June 7th County Board** meeting.

From the **Barcroft School and Civic League:** Delegates may recall that the County approved a use permit for Vanguard Services to locate a group home, called **Demeter House**, for 18 clients in the Barcroft neighborhood. The immediate neighbors then sued Vanguard and the County, alleging that public safety would be affected and that Arlington was not following its own regulations requiring that

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