



THE Civic Voice

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation

May 2013
Volume 97, Issue 9

Meeting Notice

Tuesday, May 7, 2013
7:30 p.m.
Hazel Auditorium
Virginia Hospital Center
1701 N George Mason Drive
Arlington, VA 22205
www.civfed.org

Agenda

- 7:30 Pledge of Allegiance
Approve agenda
Officer reports
Member delegate
announcements
- 7:40 Legislative Program
- 8:40 Old Business
- Schools Committee Resolution**
- Housing Committee Resolution**
- Arlington Woods Resolution**
- 9:40 New Business
- 9:45 Adjourn

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Executive Committee News

Jim Lantelme, Chair jim@civfed.org
Terri Prell, Vice-Chair terri@civfed.org

The Executive Committee met on April 14, 2013 to plan the agenda for the May 7, 2013, meeting general meeting and discussed the agenda for future meetings (www.civfed.org/officers.htm).

The Executive Committee will meet on May 12, 2013, at 7:30 p.m. at 4805 Wilson Blvd, Arlington VA 22203 (Fire Station 2) to coordinate committee work, plan future meeting programs.

Committee News

Working Group for Neighborhood Insurance

Many delegates and organizations have been concerned about the County requirement to procure insurance for neighborhood and community events. Paul Svercl will lead a working group to investigate possible options for the Federation to provide private insurance to its member organizations. The working group will provide a recommendation, but no action will be taken until the Executive Committee and Federation has had an opportunity to consider said recommendation. If you are interested in participating in the working group, please contact Paul at pvsvvercl@yahoo.com.

Nominating Committee

At the April meeting the Federation elected the Nominating Committee of Jim Pebley, Mileva Hartman, Jackie Snelling, Jim Lantelme, and James Schroll. The Committee will be making a recommendation at the June meeting. If you have suggestions of individuals for the Committee to consider, please email James Schroll at james@civfed.com.

Meeting Program

Legislative Program

The Federation will host our members of the House of Delegates and State Senate for a Legislative Program. Our Legislative Delegation will give a brief update regarding the legislative session and address some issues that might be coming up in next year's session. After their remarks, they will field member delegate questions. Delegates are reminded to keep their questions to 30 seconds in length. Delegates may only ask one question and in the interest of time follow-up questions will not be permitted. Delegates are also reminded that statements are not questions. This will be an hour long program.

Unfinished Business

There are three items of unfinished business before the Federation at the May meeting. Please find the text of these proposed resolutions below:

Proposed Resolution for Adoption by the Arlington Civic Federation regarding the Arlington County School's annual budget

Whereas 7 of 22 elementary schools have weekly Wednesday early release depriving more than 4000 students from an equitable education with 135 minutes of weekly instruction time based solely upon their zipcode;

Whereas the schools without the equal instructional time are: Science Focus, Arlington Traditional, Long Branch, Nottingham, Oakridge, Taylor, and Tuckahoe;

Whereas students who do not have equal instruction time are deprived of 90 minutes of foreign language instruction, and 45 minutes of core (reading, math, science, social studies), and/or interdisciplinary instruction a week;

Whereas families are discriminated against if they don't have the luxury of having a stay-at-home parent or the extra funds to pay for extra after-school care;

Whereas the Superintendent (in his FY2014 proposed budget) and School Board are on record repeatedly stating that Weekly Early Release Wednesday should be terminated;

Whereas the Superintendent and School board have not requested funds to end this inequity because they can't get the county and the state to even cover the full costs of annual enrollment increases despite cost cutting such as larger class sizes and limiting staff pay increases to less than the rate of inflation;

Whereas the Arlington County Schools have received lower percentages of county revenues in the last 5 years, despite large increases in student population and students with special needs;

Be it resolved that the Civic Federation calls upon the Arlington Public Schools to swiftly end weekly early release Wednesdays for all elementary schools.

Be it resolved that the Civic Federation calls upon the County Board of Supervisors to annually provide the \$4.3 million revenue necessary to end this unjustifiable instructional inequity.

ACCF Housing Committee Substitute Budget Resolution

A. Whereas this year, more than usual, has been characterized by major uncertainties in State and Federal funding available for housing in Arlington both for County services and for non-profit providers in the County, and

Whereas these uncertainties have not been fully resolved as the County approved its FY 2014 Budget although the County Board did undertake some restorations,

RESOLVED that the Arlington County Civic Federation recommend that the County Board Direct the County Manager to give priority use of reserved funds to cover FY 2014 emerging shortfalls in State and Federal funding in programs such as Housing Choice vouchers -- which are at the core of Arlington's Safety Net.

B. Whereas real estate taxes unnecessarily reduce the affordability of some wholly committed housing facilities (such as the Mary Marshall Assisted Living Facility),

RESOLVED that the Arlington County Civic Federation recommend that the County Board direct the County Manager to have County staff review available options under State law for granting real estate tax relief/exemption to such facilities and that a report on such be a part of the FY 2015 budget cycle and/or the Affordable Housing Working Group report.

C. Whereas cost estimates are essential in planning for Arlington County's affordable housing goals,

RESOLVED that the Arlington County Civic Federation recommend that the County Board direct its Affordable Housing Working Group to provide cost estimates for reaching previously specified goals in its final report.

D. Whereas in the FY 2014 Proposed Budget there were insufficient funds to cover new supportive housing units previous approved by the Board; and

Whereas that insufficiency would have endangered the business plans of the County's non-profit providers for newly opening projects.

RESOLVED by the Arlington County Civic Federation that when the County Board is preparing FY 2015 budget Guidance for the Manager it should specify sufficient funds for Permanent Supportive Housing are included to meet prior Board approval of such projects."

E. Whereas County staff are now undertaking a review of County owned properties which may no longer be needed to provide County services and/or are not suitable for significant upgrade; and Whereas the County Board has previously stated its commitment to using 'public land for public good' such as affordable housing.

RESOLVED by the Arlington County Civic Federation that it recommend that the County Board ask the Manager to explicitly include affordable housing as an optional use and direct that the Housing Working Group be involved in this process.

Resolution on Preserving Arlington Wood at Arlington Cemetery

Whereas, the Millennium Project at Arlington National Cemetery will remove over 800 trees, many of which are in a 145-year old woodland within an area of the Cemetery known as Arlington Woods, to increase burial space and to construct columbaria;

Whereas, the United States Army Corps of Engineers has promulgated two draft environmental assessments for the Millennium Project that have each recommended a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the project;

Whereas, the issuance of a FONSI will permit the Corps of Engineers to start construction of the Millennium Project during 2013 without the development of an Environmental Impact Statement that can identify many impacts of the Project and can fully assess the Project's alternatives;

Whereas, Arlington County has already lost many of its trees and has little remaining woodland;

Whereas, trees and woodlands provide habitat for wildlife and have many other environmental benefits;

Whereas, the National Park Service has listed Arlington Woods on the National Register of Historic Places because of the woodland's historic association with Arlington House – The Robert E. Lee Memorial;

Whereas, approximately one-half of Arlington Woods is within the "Interment Zone";

Whereas, much of the Millennium Project will take place within the "Interment Zone";

Whereas, the Environment and Energy Conservation Commission, Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board, and Urban Forestry Commission have drafted letters supporting protection of Arlington Woods; and

Whereas, the Government of Arlington County is presently communicating with the Department of the Army and members of the Congress of the United States in matters relating to the expansion of Arlington National Cemetery.

Be it therefore resolved that the Arlington County Civic Federation:

Requests all members of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States that represent the Commonwealth of Virginia and its Congressional districts to make their best efforts, including, but not limited to the adoption of Federal legislation, to protect the trees and woodlands in Arlington National Cemetery that the Millennium Project will remove.

Requests the Arlington County Board and the Arlington County Manager to take official actions that will encourage members of the United States Congress to develop and enact Federal legislation to protect the trees and woodlands in Arlington National Cemetery that the Millennium Project will remove.

General and Executive Committee Meeting Dates

Month	Primary Program Topic	General Meeting	Executive Committee Meeting
May	Legislative Delegation Program	Tuesday 7	Sunday 12
June	To be determined & Civic Federation election	Tuesday 4	Sunday 9

*These meetings will be held the second week of the month, which is a deviation from the original schedule. Please note this change. The location for these meetings is unchanged. Executive Committee meetings will be held on the Sunday following the General Meeting. They will be held at 7:30pm at 4805 Wilson Blvd (Fire Station 2).

Civic Federation Committee Chairs

Civic Federation committees study community-wide policy issues in their jurisdiction and report to the Civic Federation's member organization delegates. All Civic Federation delegates and alternate delegates should serve on a committee. If you are not already serving on a committee, please review the jurisdictions (www.civfed.org/committe.htm) and email the committee chair to sign up.

Committee	Chair(s)	Email Address
Executive	Chair Jim Lantelme; Vice Chair Terri Prell	jim@civfed.org ; terri@civfed.org
Airport	<i>Chair(s) needed</i>	to be determined
Awards	Ann Rudd, Bob Atkins, Joe Pelton, two additional members to be determined	luddite2003@yahoo.com ; joepelton@verizon.net ; arudd100@gmail.com
Audit	Bob Atkins	luddite2003@yahoo.com
Bylaws	Jean Mostrom	703-532-0452
Community Relations	Sharon Rogers	sharon@civfed.org
Cultural Affairs	Barbara Olivere	barbara@civfed.org
Emergency Preparedness	Jackie Snelling	jackie@civfed.org
Environmental Affairs	Joe Pelton	joepelton@civfed.org
Housing	Kathryn Scruggs	kathryn@civfed.org
Legislation	<i>Chair(s) needed</i>	to be determined
Membership	Mileva Hartman	mileva@civfed.org
911 Scholarships	Jim Pebley	jim@civfed.org
Nominating		to be determined
Parks and Recreation	Jay Wind	jay@civfed.org
Planning and Zoning	Martha Moore and Larry Mayer	martha@civfed.org , larrymayer@civfed.org
Public Services	<i>Chair(s) needed</i>	to be determined
Revenues and Expenditures	<i>Chair(s) needed</i>	to be determined
Schools	Michael Beer and Sany Munnell	michaelbeer@civfed.org ; smunnell@gmail.com
Special Events	<i>Chair(s) needed</i>	to be determined
Transportation	Jerry Auten	jerry@civfed.org