



Minutes – January 7, 2014 **ACCF Membership Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Mike McMenamain at Hazel Auditorium. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sarah Sommerville from Clarendon-Courthouse. There was a minute of silence in memory of Bob Atkins. The agenda was approved as submitted. Minutes for the previous membership meeting were approved. The Treasurer's report was approved with a balance of \$20,726.93. Three organizations have not paid their dues yet. Cherrydale was readmitted to membership.

Acting Executive Committee Chair Terri Prell announced that the Executive Committee will meet on January 12, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. at 4805 Wilson Blvd (Fire Station 2) to coordinate committee work and plan future meeting programs.

Program:

Civic Association Priorities

Completing the November and December polls of members' concerns, issues raised : Preserve prevailing land use and zoning patterns, confine densest commercial development, follow Complete Streets Policy and observe the Americans with Disabilities Act, institute traffic-calming measures to address safety issues, complete the western entrance to the Ballston metro station, GLUP changes to accommodate affordable housing, disturbance of historic sites, Glebe and Lee Highway intersection, need for four way stops at specific locations, school district and busing changes, inadequate enforcement of setback requirements and fences, inadequate explanation of zoning provisions in plain languages, Neighborhood Conservation program, requirement for handicapped ramps even if there is no sidewalk, Neighborhood Conservation program project lowering property values, parking requirements in new developments, poles in middle of sidewalk, utility companies obstructions in sidewalks.

Schools Superintendent

Dr. Patrick Murphy presented on the fiscal implications of current APS challenges. Schools are 81% funded by local government revenues. APS share of local revenues is 45%. Federal revenues steadily decreased over past four years, now down more due to sequestration. APS is hoping for some increase in State funding. Budget will increase this year due to personnel costs and rising enrollment, up 26% since FY2008. Schools are overcapacity overall. Costs up: staff, materials, relocatables. Will eliminate Wednesday early release, have retirement contribution increase. Must remain competitive for best teachers. Options to cut costs if forced to: reduce benefits, reduce programs or services, increase class size. Will use closeout funding, then request additional funds. Graduation rate is up, dropout rate is down. Advanced diplomas – 66% and 90% move on to higher education. Study online shows that property values in Arlington are higher due to improved academic performance of our schools. APS graduates earn above-average salaries.

Question responses: Ten year vision: look at where the jobs will be, prepare students for continuous education. Arlington is becoming an urban community. We have to address capacity issues. May use facilities more hours of the day. Technology will have influence. Little space for new buildings. Middle school has become highest priority for new capacity. Redrawing high school districts had little payoff compared to disruption. Trying to accelerate new long range

planning effort. Will continue to be involved in Thomas Jefferson science school in Fairfax. Career center classes follow student needs. We see disastrous schools cutbacks in jurisdictions around us, can't let that happen in Arlington.

County Manager

Strategic investments: METRO was instrumental in growth, and is the lifeline of who we are. Bloomberg named us number one for weathering the recession. Successful in getting commercial growth, helps us afford programs and amenities. Streetcar is a strategic investment, will add jobs, residents, housing. A 58% increase in jobs. Metro is the lifeline of who we are. Superstops will provide more info for users. Have halted the program for re-evaluation. Will cut costs, but intend to build more than 20 stations along Columbia Pike. New fiber optic system will link many devices and locations. Will add redundancy to 911 system. Arts are essential to make this a great community. Affordable housing: we now have 15% of our housing stock designated as affordable. Need local workers for local retail. Looking with APS at properties for schools, open space, housing, etc. Budget: largest budget item is schools. Forty percent of the budget is for schools, while only 13% have children in the schools. Our budget should reflect our shared values.

Question responses: Water-sewer system can handle growth. Challenge is to replace aging pipes. New water treatment plant on line. Have a fifty year capacity. Just starting parking studies for multi-family housing. Internal auditor function will be handled with in-house and contract staff. Ballston Metro west entrance funding will come from State funding, about \$75 million. Development density can be adjusted by plans and by individual site plans.

Schools share of budget is a collaborative process, we work together. To advance the construction of Wakefield High, the County side did fewer capital projects. APS has been putting aside reserves to prepare for debt service for new facilities they will need. If APS has a \$25 million deficit, "we can deal with that."

New Capital Improvement Plan this spring will have results of re-evaluation of streetcar funding, using state and other funding. Not sure if it will include Federal funding or not. Contracting vs. using County staff depends on service being provided. Highest cost is people, have had to look at benefits and long-term commitments. Affordable housing for professionals (work force housing) is a challenge the Board wants to look at.

Awards Committee Nominations: Michael Beer, plus others to be selected by Excom.

There was no old business and no new business.

The meeting adjourned at 9:29.

Respectfully submitted:

Randy Swart, Secretary

Packed programs require longer minutes.