



## **Minutes – October 1, 2013** **ACCF Membership Meeting**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Mike McMenamain at Hazel Auditorium. James Schroll led the Pledge of Allegiance. The agenda was approved. Treasurer Peter Olivere reported a balance of \$19,934 with 55 paid and 25 unpaid.

### **Program:**

#### **Potential Changes for Curbside Refuse and Recycling-Managing Solid Waste**

Arlington County is planning changes in curbside refuse and recycling services starting next June and needs input from Civic Associations and residents. Proposals include adding yard waste and food waste to year round recycling or composting. Jackie Snelling introduced Erik Grabowsky, Arlington County's Solid Waste Bureau Chief, who discussed changes under consideration and feedback so far. The County now recycles half of the waste stream, and could reach 80%. Residents now pay \$294 for waste collection, and might see an increase. Delegates are encouraged to poll their civic organizations and respond to the survey at

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/SW>

#### **Urban Agriculture Task Force Report**

John Vihstadt, who chaired Arlington's Urban Agriculture Task Force, presented an overview of the Task Force's report of nearly 100 pages. Recommendations covered backyard hens, expanding community gardens, farmers' markets, a local food hub, urban agriculture education, a municipal composting system, sustainable food planning and establishing a standing Commission on Urban Agriculture. The report may be accessed by visiting [www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us) and searching for urban agriculture. Ed Fendley and Darnell Carpenter presented some opposing views on the hens issue. The Planning and Zoning Committee circulated a survey for delegates to register their civic organization's views on backyard hens. The survey is available on the Civfed web site.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Resolution Urging the County to Study the Establishment of an Independent Authority to Review the Arlington County Budget and Selected Programs and Projects**

Burt Bostwick and Suzanne Sundburg reviewed the revised Revenues and Expenditures Committee resolution. Following questions and an unsuccessful motion to amend in two points, the resolution as proposed passed by a vote of 40-2-1. It is attached.

### **New business**

Mark Antell introduced a resolution regarding the use of the Wilson School property. The Executive Committee will determine which committees will review it.

The meeting adjourned at 9:34pm until the next membership meeting on Nov. 12, 2013. (One week late due to elections.)

Respectfully submitted:  
Randy Swart, Secretary

## **Resolution: Establish an Independent Authority to Review the Arlington County Budget and Selected Programs and Projects**

### ***WHEREAS,***

- The Arlington County budget has grown to over \$1 billion, and the County has inadequate internal budget controls and review processes;
- Fairfax and Montgomery Counties have established budget and program/project review mechanisms that have resulted in substantial savings;
- The County has recently witnessed significant cost overruns in conjunction with Artisphere operations and the Columbia Pike Super Stop construction;
- The ACCF previously approved as part of its annual budget recommendations for FY 2012 and FY 2013, the study, funding and establishment of an independent budget review authority; and
- The County's own auditors in their FY 2012 audit letter accompanying the report on the County's finances recommended that the County "Establish an Independent Internal Audit Function" and further stated, "Establishment of an internal auditing function could result in substantial benefits to the County in terms of strengthened internal control and increased efficiency."

### ***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,***

That the County fund a study by independent advisors for the purpose of establishing an independent County budget review authority that will provide Arlington County residents and taxpayers with reasonable assurance that their taxes and fees are being effectively and efficiently spent.