



## Minutes – December 4, 2007 ACCF Membership Meeting

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Larry Mayer, President. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Antonelli of the Columbia Heights Civic Association.
2. Agenda approved as submitted.
3. Approval of Minutes. The minutes of the November 13, 2007 membership meeting were distributed and approved as submitted.
4. Treasurer's Report: The full report is available on Civic Federation website. Balance on hand is \$4,285.38. Sixty-five (79%) of the member organizations have paid their dues as of December 4, 2007.
5. Committee Reports and Announcements:
  - "What's My Sign" has initiated some changes in public safety signs.
  - A chair is needed for the Bylaws Committee
  - Housing Committee is planning the January 8 program on accessory dwelling units
  - Executive Committee meetings are open. See [www.civfed.org](http://www.civfed.org) calendar for location information
  - Please submit email addresses to Sharon Rogers, Secretary
6. The Banquet Awards Committee was nominated and appointed: Mark Antell, Burt Bostwick, Frances Finta, Mileva Hartman, and Ann Rudd.
7. Special rules for the School Board Program were outlined and appear in the *Civic Voice* Newsletter at [www.civfed.org/news0712.pdf](http://www.civfed.org/news0712.pdf).
8. The annual program with the Arlington School Board, including questions from meeting participants, ran from 8 – 9:15 p.m. Questions presented in advance to School Board members appear on the Civic Federation website at [www.civfed.org/news0712.pdf](http://www.civfed.org/news0712.pdf).
9. Mike Kerley, Chair, Public Services Committee, presented the following resolution on Snow Removal. It was passed with no modifications by a vote of 29 for, 1 against, 1 abstention:

Whereas the Arlington county Civic Federation passed a "Resolution Regarding Arlington County's Snow and Ice Policy" on December 4, 2000 (see below), which calls upon the County to adopt and enforce an ordinance that requires owners or tenants of private property to promptly clear sidewalks in the public right of way of snow and ice, and also calls upon the County to take the necessary actions that will ensure that County streets and sidewalks and trails on public property are promptly cleared of snow and ice;

Whereas no action was taken by the County pursuant to the Federation's Resolution of December 4, 2000, purportedly due to perceived difficulties in enforcing an ordinance and in removing snow and ice from public properties;

Whereas neighboring communities and communities throughout the country have adopted and enforce ordinances that require commercial and residential property owners and tenants to remove snow and ice, and also have implemented policies that ensure that snow and ice are promptly removed from public streets and sidewalks and trails on public property;

Whereas snow and ice on sidewalks and streets pose a serious danger to the health and safety of pedestrians and motorists, particularly the elderly and those with disabilities; and

Whereas the County's increased emphasis since 2000 on alternative transportation and on "safe routes" to school for children make the adoption of an appropriate ordinance and policies all the more urgent;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Arlington County Civic Federation reaffirms its resolution of December 4, 2000, and calls upon the Arlington County Board promptly (a) to adopt a snow and ice removal ordinance and take the necessary actions that will ensure that the ordinance is enforced, and (b) allow for exceptions for residents who are physically unable, and (c) take the necessary actions that will ensure that County streets and sidewalks on public property, including frequently used bike and pedestrian trails, are promptly cleared of snow and ice.

#### 10. New Business and Other Announcements

- Larry Mayer presented the Federation position on the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) before the County Board. The County Board has deferred action until January, 2008.
- Following a unanimous motion to suspend the rules, Burt Bostwick, Chair, Revenues and Expenditures Committee, and Wayne Kubicki, Arlington County Taxpayers Association, presented the following "Resolution on Imposition of a New Tax for Stormwater Management" that passed, with no changes, by a vote of 36 for, 3 against, 1 abstention and will be immediately transmitted to the County Board:

**Whereas:**

1. At its next meeting on December 15, 2007 (or at the recess session on December 18, 2007), the Arlington County Board has scheduled a hearing on the imposition of a new tax for stormwater management; and

2. The Board voted to advertise this hearing at its 11/27/07 recess session, without any prior public notice, which allows only 18 days for public consideration; and

3. This new tax is at a proposed rate of \$.014 per \$100 of assessed real property value, and hence is the equivalent of a 1.4 cent increase in real estate taxes (raising the current calendar year rate of 81.8 cents to 83.2 cents, resulting in a 1.7% increase in real estate taxes); and
4. This new tax will provide approximately \$8 million dollars in new revenue to the County, and will be dedicated to the upgrade and expansion of the County's stormwater drainage and sewer infrastructure; and
5. Heretofore, funding for such stormwater costs has been provided for from the County's General Fund, and has never had a separate, dedicated revenue source for support; and
6. At its recessed meeting on November 27, 2007, the County Board voted on the close-out of the County's FY 2007 finances, which showed a surplus of over \$40 million - of which \$2.9 million was allocated to unnamed capital projects and \$9.6 million was not allocated to any specific use in FY 2008; and
7. There is no emergency or pressing need to adopt this new tax at this time; and
8. The Arlington County Civic Federation, in its report on the FY 2008 Arlington budget, supported the County Manager's initiative for additional spending for stormwater management (most of which was not funded by the County Board), but "strongly oppose(d) funding through a special taxing district or separate, new utility" for stormwater management (pg. 10 of the report);

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the Arlington County Civic Federation:

- Supports increased County spending on our stormwater system; and
- Urges the County Board to utilize either some of the available surplus described above and/or other already existing general fund revenues to fund such spending through the normal budget processes, so that core services receive the highest spending priority; and
- Opposes the imposition of the new 1.4 cent tax as unnecessary, given the funds already available, and urges the County Board to vote against such imposition.

11. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Submitted:

Sharon J. Rogers  
Secretary