

MINUTES
Arlington County Civic Federation
October 3, 1989
John T. Hazel Auditorium, Arlington Hospital

The meeting was called to order by President Sandy Keyes at 7:47 p.m. Quorum was announced present.

1. Agenda was adopted as presented.
2. Minutes of September meeting were adopted as presented.
3. There was no emergency business to consider.
4. Treasurer's Report. Because Treasurer Amy Appelbaum was delayed, the Treasurer's Report was deferred until later in the meeting. (The full schedule prevented subsequent oral presentation of the Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Appelbaum gave the report to the Secretary to be appended to the Minutes. The Report: Checking Account--\$915.89; Savings Account--\$2,039.59; Total--\$2,955.48. To date there are seven paid memberships. Newly paid members are: Donaldson Run; Fairlington; Forest Glen; and Highland Park-Overlee Knolls.)
5. Executive Committee Report (presented by Chairman Evelyn Staples). Paul Gruber has been appointed chairman of the new Parks and Recreation Committee. The next meeting of the Executive Committee is Oct. 19, 7:45 p.m., at Ballston Center.
6. Announcements. (By President Keyes)
 - Time of Oct. 28 Newsletter Editors' Workshop changed to 10:00 a.m.
 - Arlington County preliminary budget hearing scheduled Oct. 12, 10:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., at George Mason Center.
 - Ed Hilz's letter to The Washington Post was personal and not intended to be construed as representative of the Federation.
7. Program
 - a. David Bell, Clerk of the Courts, Arlington County, (introduced by Evelyn Staples) described the Courts' operations, his own duties, and innovations instituted (such as microfilming of deeds and the "Rocket Docket"). Volume of cases has "increased substantially," and space limitations and personnel shortage still exist, although recent renovations and added space have helped. He expects a new court facility to be needed within five years.

In answer to questions:

- Half of funding is from state; half from County.
- Operations are "practically in the black." Charges are made for services, and "County and State does well by us."
- Falls Church pays fees for Circuit Court operations, for judges, etc.
- Major impact from addition of Falls Church and National Airport comes from the increase in number of automatic appeals from District to Circuit Court.
- Would prefer to see sentences by judge rather than jury.
- Current numbers of judges: 4 Circuit Court; 3 District Court; 2 Juvenile/Family Relations.
- An updated brochure on wills is available from County.

b. Alexandria 2020. Ted Saks, co-chairman of ACCF Planning and Zoning Committee and a representative from Aurora Highlands on the Alexandria 2020 Citizens Advisory Task Force, provided brief background of the joint project of RF&P Corporation and CSX Realty, Inc. to prepare a master plan for development of the Potomac Yard. The site is 320 acres, 57 of which are in Arlington. Mr. Saks introduced Denton Kent, Executive Director of Alexandria 2020, who provided handouts, a slide presentation, and a discussion about the Master Plan process. Mr. Kent:

- Distinguished between master planning (guidelines) and the site planning process (specifics).
- Stressed important role of Citizens Advisory Task Force in providing community input at each state of process.
- Said master plan formulation work expected to be completed by December 1989 (in Alexandria; Arlington time frame may be different.)

--Described concept of plan:

* Goals and Objectives ("vision statement")--Good blend of communities; diversity of employment and housing opportunities; transportation innovation; best planning and design; beauty, innovation, and civic pride.

* Open Space--35 percent quota, with series of parks and squares of "opportunity sites."

* Land Use--Incorporates 4 neighborhoods and part of Braddock Road; grid pattern envisioned; 2.0 FAR density; mix of office, residential, and retail uses.

* Transportation--Goal to make area "most transit-accessible site in Northern Virginia," with 50 percent transit use. Two existing metro stations; one new one planned (Potomac Central); and one additional potential station at Four-Mile Run. Innovations such as internal "people mover systems" and "pedestrian connections" expected to reduce automobile dependency in Yard.

In answer to questions:

- Initial construction could begin in 4 1/2 to 5 years.
- Zoning changes would be needed; residential currently not allowed.

--Favorable current tax assessment status of RF&P will change when construction begins.

--Discussions are under way with National Park Service on existing easements (36 acres restricted to rail use since 1938). "May end up in litigation."

--Architect being hired to provide architectural "unity."

c. ACCF Committees. President Keyes provided handout with Committee descriptions and a sign-up sheet for volunteers. The ACCF Committees and their chairmen: Parks and Recreation (new)--Paul Gruber, chairman (Safety, report on Open Space Task Force study, upcoming Park Bond referendum); Bylaws--Sue Zajac, chairman; Cultural Affairs--chairman needed; Environmental--Jules Cohen, chairman; Housing--Jane Hilz, chairman; Legislation--Dave Foster, chairman; Membership--Frances Finta, chairman; Planning and Zoning--Ted Saks, Bill Gearhart, co-chairmen; Public Services--Evelyn Staples, chairman; Revenue and Expenditures--Sandy Oravec, Ken Ingram, co-chairmen; Schools--Ed Hilz, chairman; Special Events--Executive Committee/ John Bernard, Banquet coordinator; Transportation--Bill Nolden, chairman.

Arlington Family Life Program (presented by Schools Committee, Ed Hilz, chairman, presiding). Handouts were provided: 1) The proposed Family Life Program for Arlington County Schools, developed by the Arlington Community Involvement Team (CIT); 2) The Minority Report of CIT, with objections to philosophy and intent of the Program; and 3) The ACCF Schools Committee's recommendations.

Opposing perspectives on the proposed program were provided by Mary Cottrell (CIT member, supporting the program, which she said emphasizes abstinence) and Jim Schollaert (in disagreement with CIT's report; prefers curriculum that stresses basic core values and provides firm guidance).

** MOTION. (By the Schools Committee) That the Civic Federation supports the implementation of the Family Life Education Objectives and Descriptive Statements, dated June 1989. However, the Civic Federation has the following concerns about the proposed program:

[Concerns are listed with the following recommendations: improved communication with citizens; sex-separated classes when sensitive content materials being taught; provision of an opt-out policy procedure; creation of an effective teacher-training program; and development of objective criteria -- with public input -- for evaluating program's effectiveness. Complete motion on file with Secretary's Minutes.]

During discussion, Mr. Hilz said the Committee believes that CIT's proposed program is "conceptually OK," that the disagreements are in ~~that~~ ^{the} approach, and that differences could be

"worked out with dialogue." He advised delegates that a vote on the matter at this meeting was necessary so that the Federation's input could be timely.

** MOTION TO AMEND. To amend to read: That the Civic Federation supports a Family Life Education program and requests that the following concerns among others be addressed: [List of concerns and recommendations remain the same.]

During discussion it was pointed out that minorities were not represented in the CIT and that the proposed Program had not been published in Spanish. Reply was made that the public hearings had taken care of those omissions.

*** MOTION TO AMEND DEFEATED: 18 against; 14 in favor (hand vote).

** Question called (26 to 1 in favor)

*** ORIGINAL MOTION PASSED: 20 in favor; 13 against (hand vote). (President Keyes announced that the vote of support with concerns and recommendations will state the vote tally when presented to the ~~County~~ Board.)

8. There was no unfinished business to consider.
9. There was no new business to consider.
10. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.


Tommye Morton, Secretary

Approved: _____