

MINUTES

Arlington County Civic Federation

March 6, 1990

John T. Hazel Auditorium, Arlington Hospital

The meeting was called to order by President Sandy Keyes at 7:50 p.m. Quorum was announced present.

1. Agenda was adopted as presented.
2. There was no emergency business to consider.
3. Treasurer's Report. (Presented by President Keyes in absence of Treasurer Amy Appelbaum) Checking account--\$1,101.65; Savings Account--\$2,087.38; Total--\$3,189.03. To date there are 46 paid memberships. Newly paid members: Arlington Housing Corporation, Arlington Historical Society, Arlington Forest Civic Association, Arlington Education Association, Parkway Civic Association, Ballston/Virginia Square, New Arlington Douglas Park, Rivercrest, Tara Leeway, and our newest member, Astoria Condominium Unit Owners Association. The only members in good standing who have not yet paid for this year: Ashton Heights, Buckingham Tenants, Buckingham Village Housing Corporation, Columbia Forest, Concord Mews and Nauck.
4. Executive Committee Report (by Executive Committee Chairman Evelyn Staples): At February 15 meeting of Committee discussion topics included: the upcoming Banquet; Jean Mostrom's presentation of ACCF position to the School Board; scheduling of future ACCF discussions on the Open Space Task Force report, the North Highlands report, and the draft Housing Policy. The Committee's next meeting: March 15 at Ballston Center.
5. Announcements:
(By President Keyes);
 - Topics for the April meeting will include presentations from State legislators; item from the Parks and Recreation Committee; and possibly the Claremont traffic plans.
 - An Environmental Symposium, sponsored by the Council of Presidents of Metro Washington Civic Federations, will be held Saturday, March 31, at the UDC/Van Ness Campus.
 - Annual Banquet scheduled April 21 at the Ballston Holiday Inn. Cost to be \$19 per person.
 - County School Board received ACCF's criticism with "good attitude." The Board expressed belief that adequate opportunities for public response have been present.
 - New ACCF membership list should be available next meeting.
(By Bill Nolden, Chairman of ACCF Transportation Committee):

--Public meeting on the Claremont/S. Dinwiddie St. traffic plans will be held March 29, 7:30 p.m. Working group has planned some restrictive measures. ACCF is being asked to consider the plans after the hearing.

(By Bob Hemphill, Secretary of Arlington Ridge Association):

--GSA is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Navy about procuring 4 million square feet of commercial space. Two of five locations being considered are in Arlington. Arlington Ridge and Aurora Highland civic associations have drawn up a list of specific issues they wish GSA to address in the EIS. A proposed resolution of ACCF endorsement of these issues of concern will be presented under "New Business." Comments to GSA are due by March 10.

6. Program

a. County Public Works Department/Recycling. Mr. Ken Hooke, acting director of the Public Works Department, discussed the upcoming reorganization of the Department into two departments, with two directors to be recruited. Specifics are not yet known, but the reorganization should be completed by June or July. Two task forces are currently working on the matter. The Department's goal is for the reorganization to occur with no disruptions to or noticeable changes in expected services.

Questions from the floor about the reorganization:

--Are any citizens on the task forces? (No; only staff. Department is "happy to receive comments" from citizens.)

--Will one of the reorganized departments perhaps be Traffic or Transportation? (Not known at this time; there are a "number of ways" the Department could be split.)

--Why does the County Manager want this reorganization? What's broke? (Thinks Manager believes two smaller departments, each with a director, could function better.)

--Will new staff be hired? (No; current positions will be reclassified.)

--Have contracts been considered? (County already is contracting for a number of services.)

--Are there liaisons with the State on County/State roads issues? (An ongoing activity; some lag due to staff problems.)

--When is expanded study planned for Rosslyn-Ballston corridor? (Haven't budgeted for such a study; would be extensive.)

--Several specific neighborhood problems were brought to Mr. Hooke's attention. He urged the individuals to contact the Department about the matters and they'd be looked into.

Mr. Hooke also discussed the future Recycling Program. Included in his remarks:

--Ad-Hoc Committee of Arlington and Alexandria citizens have developed reports (available in libraries).

--Public hearing to be held in April. Executive Summary will be available from: Jeff Harne, Dept. of Public Works, 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 717, Arlington, VA 22201.

--State has mandated that 25 percent of refuse be recycled by 1995.

--A Pilot Program for recycling will be first step.

Possibility: different pick-ups for various recyclables such as newspapers, two types of plastics (HDPE and PET); cans (tin and aluminum); maybe glass (for glass or asphalt).

Questions from the floor about recycling:

--Is County using recycled paper? (Some; currently costs are higher for recycled paper.)

--How complex will the sorting-out process be? (Estimated cost for planned recycling process is \$40 to \$60 per residence per year.)

--Objection made to Eagle Carts. Called "unwieldy" and difficult for senior citizens. (Cart use is not mandatory. Arrangements can be made for backdoor pick-ups for residents unable to get refuse to curb.)

--When will the Pilot Program begin? (Fall of 1990.)

--Where? (Probably in the same area where the Eagle Cart study was made and in an adjacent area.)

--How long will the Pilot Program last? (Will run until June or July of next year.)

b. Proposed County Housing Plan. Mr. Jerome Walker, Director of Community Planning for the Housing Division, introduced members of his staff accompanying him and provided information about the proposed Housing Plan, including:

--Advisory Committee on Housing hosting a community forum on March 15 for citizen input.

--Two workshops for "give and take" will be held April 5 and April 19.

--Revised plan reflecting input from above meetings will be completed by May 17.

--A forum on the revised document will be held June 7.

--County Board will take action on the document on June 23.

--Plan addresses eight issues: 1) preserving / improving existing housing stock; 2) equal opportunities in housing; 3) rental subsidies; 4) increasing family-sized rental housing options; 5) increasing homeownership opportunities for low and moderate income families; 6) alternative housing options for low and moderate income singles; 7) meeting housing needs of special populations (homeless, elderly, disabled); and 8) fostering of drug-free housing.

--Plan's goal is to address County's current priorities and future needs.

--Plan may offer some economic incentives to developers for providing affordable housing such as: 20 percent bonus density; financial assistance; tax-exemptions. Developers' contributions could include: 1 percent monetary contribution; off-site housing; replacement of losses of affordable housing.

--Focus in plan also on entire business community with proposals such as employer-assisted housing and "partnerships."

--Mr. Walker emphasized that he or his staff would be happy to attend civic association meetings in regard to the proposed plan.

Questions from the floor about the housing plan:

--Wouldn't a 1 percent contribution from the developer be passed on through higher costs? (Perhaps in upscale residential areas and in higher rents for businesses.)

--Who qualifies for "affordable housing?" (Income of \$17,300 for family of one, up to \$40,000 for family of four.)

--What can assure taxpayers they're not subsidizing cars and credit cards instead of bona-fide need for housing? (Rental assistance through Federal funds in Section 8 and Housing Grant requires thorough documentation. An income-to-debt ratio is a possibility for homeownership, but has not yet been decided.)

--Wouldn't it be better to attack the demand for housing rather than the supply of housing, i.e., stop growth of the daytime population? (The demand is already with us. Most recommendations in the Plan are dealing with the present needs.)

--Is creative "doubling up" being recommended? (Yes.)

Addendum to the Housing Discussion: Mr. Ron Hager told delegates about the "Christmas in April" program scheduled for April 28, which provides a free repair and maintenance program by volunteers for selected County residents unable to maintain their residences. Still needed this year are pick-up trucks and volunteers qualified for plumbing and electrical work. (Telephone 528-5606.) Contributions and donations also are welcome.

c. The County Budget. Sandy Oravec, Co-Chairman of the Revenues and Expenditures Committee, presided. (Assisting Ms. Oravec on the Committee are Monica Craven, Co-Chairman Ken Ingram, Roy Lowry, Art Pahno, Evelyn Staples and Earl Mellor.)

** MOTION. To accept the recommendations of the Revenues and Expenditures Committee. (Complete recommendation on file with the Secretary's minutes.)

** MOTION TO AMEND by striking the non-support for restoring summer library hours.

***MOTION TO AMEND PASSED (voice vote).

** MOTION TO AMEND recommendation on County employee raises from: "The County employee raises including COLA should not exceed the CPI" to: "The County employee raises for COLA should not exceed 75 percent of the CPI."

*** MOTION TO AMEND FAILED, 11 in favor; 24 opposed (hand vote).

** QUESTION CALLED. PASSED (voice vote).

*** MAIN MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED (voice vote).

** MOTION. To submit ACCF's statement on the School Budget to the County Board along with the Federation's recommendations on the County Budget.

*** MOTION PASSED, 16 for; 11 opposed (hand vote).

7. Unfinished Business.

Announcement made that a public hearing on the Abingdon House is scheduled by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority on March 29 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott.

8. Minutes of the February 1990 meeting were adopted as presented.

9. New Business.

*** Members of the Journal Cup Election Committee were nominated and accepted by acclamation as follows: Bill Gearhart; Anne Noll; Ken Ingram; Sue Zajac; and Ed Knowles.

** MOTION to adopt proposed Resolution to be presented to GSA on GSA's Environmental Impact Statement for the Department of the Navy as follows:

Whereas, the General Services Administration is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on procuring 4 million square feet of commercial space for the Department of the Navy and has asked for public comment on issues to be analyzed in the EIS; and

Whereas, the proposed development in question would be 10 percent larger than the Pentagon and could, according to the County staff, require heroic changes on the order of widening Glebe Road and Route One to ten lanes, among other things; and

Whereas, both the Arlington Ridge and Aurora Highlands Civic Associations have submitted detailed comments to GSA suggesting issues to be analyzed;

Therefore be it resolved that the Arlington County Civic Federation endorses the need as expressed by Arlington Ridge and Aurora Highlands Civic Associations for a thorough, professional and exhaustive analysis of the consequences to the County and its residents of the selection of each of the alternatives under consideration, with special attention paid to traffic, air quality, water quality, solid waste and economic impacts.

*** RESOLUTION PASSED (Unanimous).

10. Meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.


Tommye Morton, Secretary

Approved: _____