

Minutes

Arlington County Civic Federation

John T. Hazel Auditorium, Arlington Hospital
June 6, 1995

The meeting was **called to order** at 7:55 p.m. by President Scott McGeary.

1. There was **no emergency business** to consider; the **Agenda** was approved as presented.
2. **Minutes** of the May 2, 1995, meeting were approved as presented.
3. **Treasurer's Report** (by Treasurer John Nicholas): Checking balance, \$2,111.44; **Banquet Report** (by Special Events Chairman Jennie Davis): Income of \$3,260 (including dinner tickets, sponsors & donations); expenses of \$2,807.93; profit of \$342.17 (complete report included with Secretary's minutes.)
4. **Executive Committee Report** (by Executive Committee Chairman Monica Craven):
 - ♦ The Committee held no meeting in May.
 - ♦ Handout available from Planning Commission on proposed Zoning Ordinance change.
 - ♦ Anne Noll's Florida address is available to interested Delegates.

5. Committee Reports

A. Revenues and Expenditures (by Chairman Royce Lowry):

***MOTION** (by the Committee): That the Committee's report be received and that the President of the Federation forward copies to the County Board for its consideration and use. It is further moved that the President be authorized to promise the Federation's cooperation in any activity that the Board may undertake as a consequence of this report. (The report contained six recommendations on the proposed Capital Improvement Program for FY 1996-2001 and is filed with the Secretary's minutes.)

*****VOTE** on Motion: **PASSED.**

B. Oral Annual Reports

Oral annual reports were provided by the following Committees: **Community Relations** (by Chairman David Foster); **Public Services** (by Chairman Evelyn Staples); **Membership** (by Chairman Frances Finta); **Scholarship** (by Frances Finta); **Parks and Recreation** (by Chairman Robert Nester). (Written Annual Reports by these Committees as well as other Federation Committees are on file with Secretary's minutes.)

6. Special Order: Report of Nominating Committee and Election of Officers and Executive Committee for 1995-1996.

*******The Nominating Committee (Timothy Wise, elected chairman by the Committee; John Antonelli; Amy Appelbaum; Frances Finta; Ernest Ragland) presented the following slate to the delegates: President --Scott McGeary; Vice President --Bill Nolden; Secretary -- Tommye Morton; Treasurer -- John Nicholas; Executive Committee -- Frances Finta; Rohan Samaraweera, Timothy Wise; Sue Zajac; Larry Zaragoza. With no further nominations from the floor, the slate was **elected as presented.**

6. Announcements (by President McGeary)

- ♦ Introduced newly elected officers and Executive Committee members.

- Expressed the Federation's appreciation to Chairman Jennie Davis and her Committee for a successful and enjoyable Banquet. He informed the delegates that **next year's Banquet will celebrate the Federation's 80th anniversary** and is scheduled for May 11, 1996.
- Reminded member organizations to submit names of officers and delegates for the coming year, as soon as available, to Membership Chairman Finta and to send annual dues of \$40 to Treasurer John Nicholas.
- Announced that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be July 19, 8:00 p.m., at the Arlington Chamber of Commerce.
- Announced availability of handouts on public hearing of the Arlington Human Services Commission scheduled June 28, 7:00 p.m., at the Career Center; and that draft report by the HSC will be available soon.
- Announced availability of the Draft Economic Development Action Plan (additional information on the Draft Plan was addressed by County Manager Gardner, below).

7. **Program: Report from the County Manager**

President McGeary introduced County Manager Anton S. Gardner who structured his presentation in four sections (Restructuring Government; the Neighborhood Service Project; Economic Development; and the Budget). He invited questions throughout his presentation.

1. Restructuring Government: He spoke briefly on Arlington's ongoing efforts toward "Reinventing Government," with an aim toward making it both responsive and affordable. Challenges include continuing rising expectations and limited resources. He pointed to positive steps taken in the last 5 years including reduction in layers of management, increased and more streamlined team work among employees, and more empowerment of employees. He described the ongoing restructuring as a "constant improvement process."

In response to specific **questions from the floor**, Mr. Gardner:

- said that "several dozen" positions had been cut;
- said that the numbers of employees making more than \$50,000 per year (a higher proportion than in Fairfax County) reflect the maturity of Arlington's work force, particularly in the public safety and police area where long-term employees are desired. This area comprises 20% of County employees.
- accepted the suggestion that the Manager's Report should include information on the restructuring process in greater detail.

2. Neighborhood Service Project (NSP): Mr. Gardner described a six-month-old multi-team effort to improve coordination of neighborhood services. The two-pronged program is designed to 1) identify problems and needs (define objectives) and 2) work toward resolutions. NSP #1, already under way, involves an area in South Arlington between Rt. 50 and Washington Blvd. and includes Nauck. In July, the County will launch NSP #2 in the Buckingham and Ballston/Virginia Square areas. By the end of the year, NSP #3, in Columbia Heights West, is planned to begin.

In response to specific **questions from the floor**, Mr. Gardner:

- said that the County's eight community-based POPs are more narrowly focused than the NSPs;
- said the coordination with POPs would remain and he anticipates good communications between the programs;
- assured that residents with problems may still call the County Manager's office;
- said that mechanisms for using volunteers in the NSP are under development;

- ♦ said that NSPs will be working with schools, but mechanisms for this coordination are still in need of improvement and they're working on this;
- ♦ said that so far no specific identified objective in NSP #1 has been resolved, but that traffic management was one area receiving a good deal of attention.
- ♦ disagreed that the NSPs were a "make work" concept that would impose County activity on neighborhoods that might not want it. He reiterated that the primary goal of the NSP is to help the targeted neighborhoods.

3. Economic Development: Mr. Gardner addressed the Draft Economic Development Action Plan which is an initiative for enticing new businesses to the County. Copies of the Draft were made available to delegates. Comments from the public will be heard at a public meeting at the Central Library on June 14, 7:00-9:15 p.m. and will be accepted through July 7. The Plan is to go to the County Board for action on September 9.

4. The Budget: Mr. Gardner stated that the range of difficulty in the FY 97 Budget can be expected to be similar to FY 96. He forecast a 5% increase in costs, assuming the same levels of services, revenues, COLA at 3%, etc. and with the factors that drive the budget such as increased numbers of children in the schools; increased debt service; and Federal demands of the Americans With Disability Act requirements such as Paratransit. With a 2% increase in revenues, this would present a gap of \$16 million. Mr. Gardner expressed the opinion that he didn't expect the Board would authorize such a gap. Although he predicted these circumstances would improve over the years ahead, he did admit that 1997 would be "difficult."

In response to specific **questions from the floor**, Mr. Gardner:

- ♦ predicted a 1% to 2% increase in assessments, an increase comparable to the rate of inflation;


5. In response to **additional questions from the floor** on general matters, Mr. Gardner:

- ♦ predicted that all rights of way for the **Quincy St. extension** would be acquired within six months and that construction would begin on the extension in the winter of 1996;
- ♦ said, in regard to traffic management controls, that the County's central light timing system is no longer "state of the art," and that, through a Federal/State grant, a consultant is being hired to advise on new lighting systems. He added that four-way stop signs are perhaps less safe than people think.
- ♦ said that the County's policy on use of County facilities is currently under evaluation.

9. There was **no unfinished business**.

10. There was **no new business**.

11. The **meeting was adjourned** at 10:10 p.m.


Tommye Morton, Secretary

Date Approved: _____