

Minutes

Arlington County Civic Federation

John T. Hazel Auditorium, Arlington Hospital

March 5, 1996

The meeting was **called to order** at 7:50 p.m. by Vice President Bill Nolden. (President Scott McGeary was out of town on business.)

1. **Agenda** was approved as presented.
2. **Minutes** of the February 6, 1996, meeting were approved with the following change noted: on page 2, "Committee Report," first line, should read: "Chairman Amy Appelbaum, speaking for the Legislative Committee, informed..."
3. **Treasurer's Report** (by Treasurer John Nicholas): Current balance is \$3,266.49, with \$380.10 in outstanding accounts. Only 2 organizations have not paid their annual dues.
4. **Executive Committee Report** (by Exec. Comm. Chairman Frances Finta): February 19 meeting (changed from Feb. 15 because of schedule conflicts) included discussions of tonight's meeting, upcoming meetings, the annual banquet. County Superintendent Anton Gardner will attend the May 15 Executive Committee Meeting. Next meeting: March 21, 8:00 p.m. (Full report attached to Secretary's files.)
5. **Announcement**: President McGeary has received a letter from County Board Chairman James Hunter concerning the Board's initiative to encourage wider representation on citizen advisory groups. (Letter attached to Secretary's files)
6. **Program I: Arlington County FY 1997 Budget**

Ed McWethy, Chairman of ACCF's Revenues and Expenditures Committee, and Royce Lowry, Chairman of the Schools Committee, gave brief presentations on the County Manager's proposed budget, including a recent update by the Manager, and the proposed schools transfer, and their Committees' joint recommendations and Resolution. A short question/answer and general discussion period followed before the formal motion.

***MOTION** (by Revenue & Expenditures and Schools Committees) To adopt the Committees' joint resolution recommending a General Fund budget balanced at \$443.3M, including net program reductions of \$5.2M and increases in fees and taxes of \$3.2M (\$3M real estate taxes; \$0.2M fees and services).

***AMENDMENT #1:** (by Royce Lowry for committee minority): That the Federation support the full expansion of the all-day kindergarten program to four additional schools as provided for in the School Board's requested budget (requiring \$75,000 increase in the schools transfer figure).

*****PASSED** (27 in favor 19 opposed)

***AMENDMENT #2** (by Royce Lowry for committee minority): That the Committee's proposed increase of \$300,000 in the schools transfer be eliminated to be in agreement with County Manager's figures.

*****FAILED** (23 in favor, 25 opposed)

***AMENDMENT #3** (by Marjorie McCreery, Arlington Education Association): To increase the County transfer for school operating, capital, debt service, other , and community activities funds by \$800,000 to agree with the total amount requested by the School Board.

*****FAILED** (13 in favor, 33 opposed)

(Note: During debate on the above amendment, Delegate Robert Rackmales of Stonewall Jackson raised a **point of order** requesting the Chair to rule on the rights of delegates representing special interests to debate issues pertaining to those interests. Vice President Nolden, as Chair of the meeting, ruled that all duly appointed delegates of member organizations have the right to debate on all issues before the body, with restrictions only as stipulated in the Standing Rules. He further noted that many of the Federation's member organizations represent "special interests" and that full participation by delegates in debates on all issues is both invited and encouraged.)

***AMENDMENT #4** (by Ernest Ragland, Ballston-Virginia Square): To recommend that the School Board hire an internal auditor as an additional management control to review the School Board's future expenditure of capital improvement funds and the Board's operational revenues and expenditures on a periodic basis. (Would add \$100,000 to Schools transfer figure in resolution.)

*****FAILED** (18 in favor, 26 opposed)

***AMENDMENT #5** (by Rohan Samaraweera, Ballston-Virginia Square): To eliminate the self-sufficiency contingent (-0.3M\$) for funding six additional FTEs, which results in a reduction of the tax support required and results in an additional 0.2M\$ reduction over the resolution's recommended reduction (from 0.4M\$ to 0.6M\$ reduction).

*****FAILED** (18 in favor, 25 opposed)

***AMENDMENT #6** (by Robert Rackmales, Stonewall Jackson): To amend item 3, Human Services (p. 4) by restoring the jail-based substance abuse program (0.2M\$).

*****PASSED** (25 in favor, 15 opposed)

***AMENDMENT #7** (by Robert Atkins, Stonewall Jackson): To recommend a reduction of 0.5M\$ in the Rehabilitation and Development Program of the Department of Economic Development consistent with the Federation's FY96 recommendations.

*****PASSED** (28 in favor, 2 opposed)

***AMENDMENT #8** (by James F. Schroeder, Arlington Education Association): To increase non-departmental COLA Reserve by \$1.4M to permit a 2% COLA for school and County employees to meet the increase to the Consumer Price Index for the area.

*****FAILED** (10 in favor, 22 against)

***AMENDMENT #9** (by James Pebley, Woodlawn-Waycroft, and Rebecca Gray, Arlington Ridge): To increase reductions in Expenditures to negate the need to increase personal property or real estate tax rates above 1996 rates.

*****PASSED** (15 in favor, 14 opposed)

***AMENDMENT 10** (by David Jones, Arlington Ridge): To permit County Manager to increase Fees for Service (item 15, p. 7, Revenues) to balance the budget.

*****PASSED** (20 in favor, 9 opposed)

*****RESOLUTION as amended** (To recommend a General Fund budget balanced at \$441.5M, including net program reductions of \$7.0M below the County Manager's Proposed Budget and increases in user fees toward additional recovery of operating expenses of at least \$0.2M. The balance of \$445.5M includes a COLA of \$4.2M for county and school employees.)

*****PASSED** (voice vote)

(Copies of Resolution, as proposed and as adopted, are on file with Secretary's Minutes.)

6. Program II: VISION 2020

***MOTION** (by Revenue & Expenditures Committee) To adopt Committee's proposed Resolution on VISION 2020. (On file with Secretary's Minutes)

*****PASSED** (voice vote)

7. With no further business, the **meeting was adjourned at 11:35.**


Tommye Morton, Secretary

Date Approved: _____