

Minutes
Arlington County Civic Federation
John T. Hazel Auditorium, Arlington Hospital
October 1, 1996

The meeting was **called to order** at 7:35 p.m. by President Bill Nolden

1. **Agenda** was approved as presented.
2. **Minutes** of the September 3, 1996 meeting. The President suspended review and approval of these minutes due to the absence of the Secretary, Tommye Morton.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** As the Treasurer had not yet arrived, the President moved the report to later in the meeting.
4. **Executive Committee Report** (by Exec. Comm. Chairman Frances Finta): A task force was established to improve communications within the Federation. David Foster is to chair this task force with the appointment of other members by the President. Frances Finta reported that a request had been received by Woodlawn to set up a system of helping civic associations to start up. She noted that Tim Wise (ACTA) and Larry Zaragoza (Colonial Village CSA) had done this before; however, the problem is getting sufficient volunteers to staff such an effort. She added that she tries to talk to new presidents to explain the ACCF. The next Executive Committee meeting is Oct. 17, the third Thursday of the month. President Bill Nolden asked for volunteers to serve on the Communications Committee. Upon seeing the Treasurer in attendance, he then called for the Treasurer's Report. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$3,939.68 and called attention to a posting on the wall outside of the meeting which indicated which member groups had paid for the year and which had not.
5. **Announcements** (by President Nolden):
 - ◆ Gail Nuchols, a former School Board member, has passed away.
6. **Program I: County Bond Referenda**. The President then welcomed the assembly to the first of the main programs of the ACCF year. Presentations would be made on each, debate would be held, and then delegates would vote on each issue within the 90 minutes allocated. First, **Ed McWethy, Chairman of the Revenues and Expenditures Committee** presented an explanation of the CIP.

***MOTION** (by Roye Lowry, Chairman of the Schools Committee): **To support the issuance of \$29.12 million of bonds by Arlington County for school improvements and renewal.** (copy of the Committee's Resolution in Secretary's files.)

In discussion: Handouts were provided, including the committee's proposed resolution in support of the School Bonds. Mr. Lowry pointed out that the bond issue included \$6.3 million for South Arlington schools to address overcrowding and that the advisory council had been reinstated to make suggestions to the school board. Discussion ensued, principle points including: the controls in place to ensure funding will be spent as allocated; questions as to why CIP-related salaries are being paid with bond money; a statement of need for more details on the School Bonds in the future; comment that non-enforcement of housing codes was creating the school overcrowding conditions; observation that increased contractual control was needed; and

a recommendation that projections of future school population be made. The President provided a point of information that the Federation has been asked to appoint a member to the New Advisory Council. **Question was called.**

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

*** MOTION** (by Robert Nester, Chairman of the Parks & Recreation Committee): **To support the 1996 Parks and Recreation Bond of \$12,920,000.** (Copy of Resolution in Secretary's files.)

Discussion: Mr. Nester pointed out that although the bond issue was approved by the committee, the committee's vote was split, which was unusual. This split was due to how the County handled the Boat House issue which led to reluctance on the part of some committee members to give the County open-ended approval for park land acquisition. He observed that part of the problem is that the County cannot reveal the location of these parcels prior to negotiating the land purchase. Discussion ensued with much debate and comment on the issue of maintaining current park land prior to purchase of additional parks. Mr. Jacob Wind was in attendance and remarked he was surprised at the numbers in the assembly stating that their parks needed attention; he recommended that Civic Associations contact him or Lisa Grindell in the County. Mr. Nester remarked that it was obvious that there are problems with the parks and to bring these problems to the Parks & Recreation Committee. **Question was called.**

****Resolution PASSED (29 in favor; 21 opposed)**

***MOTION** (by David Jones, Chairman of the Transportation Committee): **To not support the MetroRail Bond.**

Discussion: Mr. Jones pointed out that his committee recommended non-approval of the MetroRail Bond as it included \$3.25 million for maintenance that the County previously had stated would be paid with pay as you go funds. The Committee recommended that the County find other ways of funding maintenance other than by bonds. Mr. Jones then presented a resolution, not to vote for the MetroRail Bond issue as it is written at this time. Discussion ensued with the observation the County is legally obligated to provide the capital portion of the bond. The President noted a point of order and the Time Keeper noted that a motion would have to be made to extend debate. **Question was called .**

****Resolution to not support the MetroRail Bond FAILED.** (18 in favor; 28 opposed)

****Resolution to support the MetroRail Bond** (by R. Lowry, Forest Glen). **PASSED** (28 in favor; 14 opposed)

***MOTION** (by David Jones, Chairman of the Transportation Committee): **To not support Bond Issue #4, Streets, Highways, Storm Drainage, and Community Conservation.**

Discussion: Mr. Jones presented the Committee's recommendation that the bond issue not be supported because obsolete lighting technology was to be used to replace obsolete lighting technology, the funds from this bond were not proportionately allocated across the County, and bond money was being used for maintenance. Discussion ensued pointing out issues such as "over paving" the County and the need for NCAC funds in order to preserve neighborhoods. **Question was called** (by A. Appelbaum, Leeway).

****Resolution to not support Bond Issue #4 FAILED** (33 opposed; 17 in favor).

**** Resolution to support Bond Issue #4. PASSED** (33 in favor; 15 opposed).

PROGRAM II: State Constitutional Amendments. Amy Appelbaum, Chairman of the Legislative Committee presented information on the five amendments to the Virginia Constitution that will be on the Nov. 5 ballot.

- #1 Proposes that the state employee retirement funds be independent trust funds and kept separate from other public funds;
- #2 Rights of Victims of Crime states that the General Assembly may provide by law that victims of a crime will have certain rights--to be defined by the General Assembly.
- #3 Commonwealth's Right of Appeal provides the Commonwealth with the right of an appeal in certain cases. This passed the VA Senate 40-0. The House passed it 85-15 provided that it would not violate the VA nor US Constitution.
- #4 Voting & Voter Registration. Passed the Senate 25-14; passed the House 91-7. This bill makes voter registration conform to motor voter registration act.
- #5 Incorporation of Churches & Religious Denominations enables churches to incorporate.

PROGRAM III: County Budget Planning Factors.

***MOTION** (by Ed McWethy, Chairman of the Revenues & Expenditures Committee) **To adopt Resolution recommending policy, process and presentation improvements for the preparation of the Arlington County Manager's Proposed FY 98 Budget** (complete Resolution with specific improvements listed is included in Secretary's files).

* **Amendment #1:** (proposed by H. Kanter, Williamsburg) To strike item #7 under **2. Process**. (Item #7 withdrawn by agreement).

* **Amendment #2:** (proposed by S. Super, Aurora Highlands) to strike "for specific program offset(s)" in item #2 under **2. Process**. (Debate was extended 5 minutes at this point.)

* **Amendment #3:** (proposed by L. Zaragoza, Colonial Village CSA) to strike "to provide" in item #6 under **2. Process** and replace with "and explain these."

* **Amendment #4:** (proposed by several) to insert "major" between "all" and "information" in item #4 under **3. Presentation**.

Question was called.

****Resolution as amended PASSED** (voice vote, unanimously)

7. Consideration of Proposed Amendments to Federation ByLaws.

***MOTION:** (by Bill Munson, Chairman of the By-Laws Committee) **To adopt proposed amendments to the Federation ByLaws.** (Copies of the proposed changes were available at this meeting and had been advertised and made available at previous meetings.)

****Motion to Amend ByLaws PASSED** (voice vote, unanimous)

8. There was no Unfinished Business.

9. New Business. The President introduced the item of New Business: Barcroft's request for a resolution for an ACCF position on the relocation of Demeter House to the Barcroft Civic Association area. Mr. Randy Swart, Barcroft delegate, addressed the assembly and presented the position of the Barcroft School and Civic League in opposition to the placement of a 22 person (plus staff) group house in their community. Much discussion was held which

centered on the "precedent" setting aspects of this project for other neighborhoods and how this could change current County housing codes and zoning.

- * **Resolution** (by D. Jones, Arlington Ridge Civic Association; seconded by L. Zaragoza, Colonial Village CSA): **To oppose the placement of a 22 person group house in the Barcroft community because it is counter to Arlington County's General Land Use Plan.**

- * **Motion to postpone** vote on the resolution (by R. Nester, Bellevue Forest; seconded by J. Antonelli, Columbia Heights)

A Barcroft representative spoke out against postponement. R. Lowry pointed out that the issue was to go before the County Board on Saturday and, therefore, it was inappropriate to defer the resolution. **Question was called**

- * **Motion to postpone FAILED** (voice vote).


Additional discussion ensued. By agreement, the Resolution was reworded to read:

"That the ACCF opposes the use permit requesting the siting of Vanguard services at the Barcroft location as it is inconsistent with the spirit and intent of the General Land Use Plan and inconsistent with the R-6 zoning." Question was called.

****RESOLUTION as reworded PASSED** (voice vote).

10. With no further business, the **meeting was adjourned at 11:15 p.m.**

In the absence of the Secretary, Minutes were recorded by **Rebecca Gray**


Final copy of Minutes prepared by Secretary

Date Approved: _____