



THE Civic Voice

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation

Volume 99, Issue 6 February 2015

County Board Program

The County Board will be our guest at the Federation’s February meeting. The Board will give opening remarks for 20 minutes. Following opening remarks, the Board will be asked questions submitted in advance by the Federation’s committee chairs. Please see the questions on page 4 for the County Board.

After these prepared questions are answered, the floor will be open for member delegate questions for the remainder of the program. This program will be 60 minutes in length.

Member delegates and alternates are reminded that their questions should be actual questions and that position statements are not questions. In addition, questions shall be thirty seconds in length. Finally, in the interest of fairness, and in an effort to make sure that all member delegates may ask a question, follow up questions will not be allowed.

VDOT Program

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) staff will be presenting with additional time for questions at our February 3rd meeting. The Northern Region Landscape Architect and at least one Project Manager are expected for the myriad of Arlington County specific items. We requested overview of items ranging from I-66 to recent changes in landscaping policies. As of newsletter deadlines, main topics still to be determined.

VDOT has a new and improved website: <http://www.virginiaroads.org/> The site covers snow plow status on Glebe and the other remaining VDOT managed roads. You can also see the latest maps and road closures via the Projects link. For example, Phase 2 of the Old Dominion Drive improvements for pedestrian safety is expected to cost \$5.5m and complete later this spring. Requests to fix potholes or remove debris from the road can be sent to VDOT <http://virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp> or call the VDOT Customer Service Center 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 1-800-FOR-ROAD (800-367-7623).

Their website lists multiple I-66 projects underway, from sound walls on the western end of the county to upcoming North Glebe to Lee Highway changes. <http://virginiadot.org/projects/northern%20virginia/default.asp> Older documents include the 2013 multimodal study: http://virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/i-66_multimodal_study.asp

GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, February 3, 2015

7:30 p.m.

Hazel Auditorium
Virginia Hospital Center
1701 N George Mason Drive
Arlington VA 22205

Agenda

- 7:30 Meeting called to order
- 7:40 VDOT
- 8:20 County Board
- 9:20 Old Business
- 9:25 New Business
- 9:40 Adjourn

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From the President

Mike McMenamin

The Arlington County Board will be our guests for our next meeting.

They will present a prepared presentation and there will be time allowed for questions and answers. So please come and hear what the Board's plans are in the coming year.

We will also have a presentation from VDOT and it will be interesting to hear their thoughts on I-66 and other transportation issues in Arlington.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

News From the Executive Committee

Terri Prell, Chair Terri@civfed.org
The Executive Committee met on January 11, 2015, to plan the agenda for the February 3, 2015 general meeting and future meetings.

The Executive Committee will meet on February 8, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. at 4805 Wilson Blvd, Arlington VA 22203 (Fire Station 2) to coordinate committee work, and plan future meeting programs. Elected officers and Executive Committee Members should attend. In addition, we would like for Committee Chairs to attend this meeting.

Banquet Chair Needed ASAP

As this newsletter goes to press, we do not have a Chair for this year's banquet that will occur on April 17, 2015. If you are interested, please contact me at mike@civfed.org or Peter Olivere at peterolivere@civfed.org.

Awards Committee

Pursuant to subsection (ii) of Section 7 of Article VII of the Federation's By-laws, the Federation shall elect five delegates to serve as the Awards Committee. It shall be the duty of this committee to seek and make recommendations for persons,

committees, or members to receive the Sun Gazette Cup and Certificates of Appreciation. The awards committee consists of the following members: Joe Pelton (Chair), Randy Swart, Jesse Boeding, Michael Beer, Stefanie Pryor .

New Home Needed

A new home is needed for the Federation's County Fair booth materials (Long poles, rug, map in two pieces, a few boxes with drapes and supplies). We haven't participated in the fair for a few years, but it may be something that the Federation may want to consider in the future. If you are interested in storing the materials, please let me know or they will be thrown out in a couple of weeks.

Articles for the Newsletter

If you have information which should be included in the Civic Voice, sent it to CivFed@gmail.com.



ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Arlington-County-Civic-Federation/519681588064729>

<https://twitter.com/CivFed>

<http://feeds.feedburner.com/CivFed>



Resolution of the Arlington County Civic Federation in Opposition to the Proposed Arlington County Retail Plan (ACRP)

WHEREAS, the 2008-09 Arlington Retail Task Force reviewed Arlington’s retail development policies and practices and recommended that Arlington “rethink and revise” Arlington’s 2001 Rosslyn-Ballston Corridor Retail Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, on November 15th 2014, the County Manager proposed to replace the 2001 plan with a countywide, comprehensive policy operations guide, the *Arlington County Retail Plan (ACRP)*, and the County Board voted to advertise it for possible adoption on February 21st 2015; and

WHEREAS, Chapters 1 and 2 of the ACRP contain helpful analysis of past and existing retail conditions and evolving trends, challenges and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 3 of the ACRP purports to set forth Arlington’s “Retail Vision, Principles & Policies” and Chapter 4 contains specific implementation elements including retail street maps and recommendations to amend the Zoning Ordinance and administrative regulations;

WHEREAS, the ACRP policy prescriptions include some systemically flawed approaches, including:

- (1) Moving away from a sector-based policy approach to a “one size fits all” countywide approach that does not accommodate the specific needs of individual sectors or neighborhoods. (For example, some neighborhoods need more planned anchor retail, while others need more flexibility for service establishments).
- (2) Employing a limited number of options for street activation (such as preferring restaurants while banning personal services) from prime locations.
- (3) Proposing an 18-20 hour retail street concept with “lively, noisy, energetic, and sometimes, messy environment created by night life uses” [page 69] near residential buildings without providing policies for nuisance mitigation and compatibility of retail operation in mixed use and residential districts.
- (4) Using detailed maps specifying a small set of retail uses supposedly appropriate for each indicated spot on the map, while offering no discernible demographic or economic analysis to support the designations; and

WHEREAS, the ACRP would become the controlling policy document for retail in Arlington County, and its retail street maps would govern the types of ground-floor retail permitted or prohibited, taking precedence over sector plans and other provisions developed with vigorous community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the ACRP resulted not from a countywide, stakeholder-based policy development process in which staff clearly explained all the advantages and disadvantages of the significant policy changes to all stakeholders—including targeted commercial and residential property owners, affected and adjacent neighborhoods, and the business community—or in which stakeholders had a meaningful opportunity to interact directly with one another to achieve understanding or compromise; and

WHEREAS, rather than making restrictions governing specific retail uses more flexible, as recommended by the Arlington Retail Task Force, the ACRP is unduly prescriptive and — particularly as retail commerce evolves in response to future economic and demographic changes — would very likely inhibit healthy adaptation to such changes; and

WHEREAS, there are dozens of retail related Zoning Ordinance changes also proposed for adoption in February that have never been separately identified, explained, and discussed outside of County staff as to how the changes relate to the proposed retail policies; and

WHEREAS the ACRP policy prescriptions include revisions to other policies, rules and ordinances (such as governance of outdoor cafés, changes to the site plan process and its standard conditions) not yet considered by the community; and

WHEREAS, County staff have already begun to use the draft ACRP as a policy guidance tool before the County Board has considered it;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Arlington County Civic Federation:

Opposes the overall policy framework of the ACRP in its current form and recommends that the County Board ***not adopt*** the ACRP or use its policy approach and ***not adopt*** any regulatory or policy changes or take other actions that are based on the ACRP.

Recommends that the County Board initiate development of a revised policy framework that:

- Better accommodates individual neighborhoods' retail needs and impacts;
- Allows more policy flexibility among and within sectors;
- Uses appropriate policy tools to ensure successful retail nodes;
- Streamlines the approval processes for diverse retail when it is in line with neighborhood needs; and
- Considers Arlington's current/changing economic competitiveness.

Calls for a public process, to develop the revised policy framework, that:

- Ensures that all stakeholder groups are actively engaged;
- Presents to all stakeholders both the advantages, costs, and disadvantages of key policy recommendations, as well as their reasonable alternatives; and
- Provides opportunities for stakeholders to communicate directly with one another regarding the key policy questions so they can learn from one another and jointly identify their own proposed areas of consensus or compromise.

Questions for the County Board

1. What is planned for Columbia Pike and Crystal City in the wake of the streetcar decision? What's the timeline for the staff report on the impact of the cancellation of the streetcar for the Columbia Pike Neighborhood Plan, especially the goal of retaining 6200 affordable housing units? In addition, what is the vision for Arlington development over the next 20 years? Also, what is the county's vision for the Lee Highway corridor?
2. What is your vision for Arlington's future economy including types of business that we can attract, and any promising strategies for broadening the base for more resilience in the business community?
3. What level of population growth-resident and workers-will our current water and sewer capacity handle without degradation in services
4. Can you please update us on the hiring of an internal auditor and your thoughts on the potential legislation by Delegate Hope in Richmond?

5. How will your staff take advantage of civic leadership in the community to advance County policies? Do you think partnership with civic leaders is important? Please explain in what manner you would suggest for civic leaders to best partner with the County government. In addition, the County government sometimes relies on Civic Associations to communicate with citizens. In light of this, do you think that the County government has a role in directly supporting civic associations in their operations, e.g. assisting civic associations with training, logistical support and outreach? Do you also think the County Manager has responsibility for identifying and addressing the public's concerns with County policies and activities, or is that solely the responsibility of the elected officials? Do you also think the County Manager has responsibility for creating and sustaining public support for County policies, or is that solely the responsibility of the elected officials? Finally, what does the Federation need to do to enhance its role in Arlington's civic affairs?
6. How can the County increase the low percentage of Police, Firefighters, School employees and other County employees who live in Arlington since they may earn above 60% Area Median Income which is the maximum for virtually all the Committed Affordable units developed.

Call for 2014 ACCF Annual Award Nominees

The Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) is fortunate to comprise many actively engaged citizens who are working to foster a better Arlington. Each spring at our Annual Banquet, we recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond in their service to our county. Their service may be related to a specific project or to a body of work spanning a substantial period of time. Awards may be presented to active ACCF volunteers, to public servants and officials, or to other individuals or organizations that have made an outstanding contribution to the community.

Do you know someone who should be nominated this year? Please send an email to awards@civfed.org no later than February 14 with

- the individual's or organization's name and contact information,
- why you believe the individual or organization should be nominated,
- specific information describing the impact on Arlington and its scope, and
- your name and contact information. **The Order of Distinguished Meritorious Service**

This award, not necessarily presented every year, is given

for sustained exceptional service over many years. It is awarded to a person who

- (a) is a current or former active delegate to the Federation,
- (b) has made an outstanding contribution to Arlington County over an extended period of time, and
- (c) exemplifies the citizen activist as a positive element in community life.

Civic Hero Awards

This award is occasionally given for particularly outstanding civic service to the community, most typically to a civil servant who deserves a higher level of recognition than a certificate of appreciation.

Sun Gazette Newspaper Trophy

This annual award is presented to an individual or organization to recognize many years of service to the ACCF or the community.

Certificates of Appreciation

These certificates are awarded for exceptional service to the ACCF or the community in the previous year. Typically, they are presented to a committee or a committee chair who has done extraordinary work. Multiple certificates of appreciation may be presented in any year.

Other Awards

President's Award

The ACCF president, at his/her discretion, selects the winner of this award to recognize exceptional service by an individual or group. It is given periodically at the Annual Banquet.

The Honorary Delegate Award (awarded by ACCF delegates at a meeting)

This award is presented to individuals who have rendered especially valuable service to Arlington or the ACCF. It requires a vote of two-thirds of the delegates present and voting to select an honorary delegate for a period of time designated in the award resolution. Honorary delegates are entitled to attend ACCF meetings and to participate in deliberations, but they are not entitled to vote.

Civic Federation Tentative Meetings Schedule and Programs for 2014 - 2015

Meetings are the 1st Tuesday of each month (except November)

February 3, 2015- County Board and VDOT

March 3, 2015- School Board, Economic Development Commission, Civ. Fed . Priorities

April 7, 2015- Community Energy Plan, Budget and Schools Resolution

(Note - Friday, April 17 - Civic Federation Award Banquet)

May 5, 2015- State Delegation

June 2, 2015- Election of officers

Arlington County Civic Federation

The ACCF is dedicated to advocacy and community involvement. Its purpose continues to be promoting the general welfare of Arlington County and vicinity in a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-sectional, and non-political manner.

Committees of the Civic Federation

The committees provide the basis for most actions of the Federation. We strongly encourage every delegate and alternate to serve on at least one committee. If you have an interest in any topic please contact the chair. If a chair is not listed, contact our President Mike McMenamin at mike@civfed.org

Committee	Chair(s)	Email Address
Executive	Terri Prell	terri@civfed.org
Awards	Elected at the December 2013 membership meeting	
Audit	Chair Needed	
Bylaws	Sarah Shortall	sarah@civfed.org
Community Relations	James Schroll (POC)	james@civfed.org
Cultural Affairs	Chair(s) needed	TBD
Emergency Preparedness	Jackie Snelling	jackie@civfed.org
Environmental Affairs	Joe Pelton	joepelton@civfed.org
Housing	Kathryn Scruggs	kathryn@civfed.org
Legislation	Chair(s) needed	TBD
Membership	Kim Klingler	kim@civfed.org
911 Scholarships	Jim Pebley	jim@civfed.org
Nominating	Elected at the April 2014 membership meeting	
Parks and Recreation	Jay Wind	jay@civfed.org
Planning and Zoning	Martha Moore, Larry Mayer	martha@civfed.org larrymayer@civfed.org
Public Services	Jackie Snelling (POC)	jackie@civfed.org
Revenues and Expenditures	Chair(s) needed, Burt Bostick (POC)	burt@civfed.org
Schools	Michael Beer, Sandy Munnell	michaelbeer@civfed.org smunnell@gmail.com
Special Events	Chair Needed	
Transportation	Jerry Auten	jerry@civfed.org