



## Minutes – March 3, 2015 ACCF Membership Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Michael McMenamin at Hazel Auditorium. He led the Pledge of Allegiance, approval of the agenda and approval of the minutes of the previous membership meeting. The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$22,735.36. Terri Prell, Executive Committee chair, announced that the Executive Committee will meet on March 8, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. at 4805 Wilson Blvd (Fire Station 2) to coordinate committee work and plan future meeting programs.

### **Arlington County School Board Visit**

Nancy Van Doren, Barbara Kanninen, Abby Rafael, Emma Violand-Sanchez and James Lander briefed us on the current state of Arlington's schools and resource needs. The budget for the coming fiscal year is \$4 million less than the previous year. Budget drivers include program costs and the rising level of enrollment. Despite achieving efficiencies, there is a \$13.6 million deficit. The School Board has identified the program cuts necessary, plus a possible increase in class size. Michael Beer and Lois Koontz asked Schools Committee questions on strategies to address rates of failing SOL tests, paying for technology advances, building cost challenges, costs vs. benefits of choice programs. Delegates asked about Schools vs. County demographic projections, adequacy of new buildings and other topics.

### **Arlington's Innovation Economy**

Sally Duran, Chair of the Economic Development Commission, briefed us on the County's economic development activities. The goal is to retain the 50/50 split in the commercial/residential share of taxes. (Many other communities have 70/30.) Metro gave Arlington a big advantage by expanding the commercial tax base, but that is slipping as others ramp up transit-oriented development. Arlington needs new strategies to combat real estate costs, lack of incentives, regulations, loss of hipness and a business perception that the community is resisting change. Her presentation with detailed recommendations for change is at:

*[http://files.arlingtonvirginiausa.com/pdfs/SallyDuran\\_2014MarketReview\\_041014.pdf](http://files.arlingtonvirginiausa.com/pdfs/SallyDuran_2014MarketReview_041014.pdf)*

### **New Business**

The Revenues and Expenditures Committee is working on several budget resolutions. One would ask the County Board to prioritize spending to balance the budget with the tax rate at 97.4 cents (the rate is now 98.3 cents).

**Announcements:** Please sign up for the Civfed Banquet on Friday, April 17. There will be meetings on the Affordable Housing Study on March 10 (County Board workshop) and March 26 (Community Forum).

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm until the next membership meeting on April 7, 2015.

Respectfully submitted by Randy Swart, Secretary