



THE Civic Voice

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation

Volume 99, Issue 7 March 2015

School Board Program

The School Board will be our guest at the Federation’s March 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 Schools Committee, please see questions on page .

After these prepared questions, the floor will be open for member delegate questions for the remainder of the program. This program will be 45 minutes in length.

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

Economic Development Commission-Arlington’s Innovation Economy

Sally Duran, a member of the Arlington County Economic Development Commission, will give a presentation at the March 3 Federation meeting on the role of economic development in helping Arlington accomplish its vision of being a diverse and inclusive world-class urban community with secure, attractive residential and commercial neighborhoods, great schools and quality of life. In particular, Ms. Duran will discuss the contribution of the commercial and business sector to Arlington’s tax base and the EDC’s Innovation Economy Strategy to address the decreasing federal presence, 20% office vacancy, changing office market and increased competition at the local, regional, national and international level.

The Civic Federation plays a key role in studying community issues and providing thoughtful analysis and comment to civic leaders. The EDC is interested in sharing it’s strategies with the Civic Federation and welcomes questions and comments to inform our work and we move forward in 2015.

GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, March 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 School Board
- 8:30 Economic Development Comm.
- 8:45 Old Business
- 8:50 New Business
- 9:00 Adjourn

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From the President

Mike McMenamain

The Arlington County School Board will be our guests for our next meeting. They will present a prepared presentation and then questions and answers will follow. So please come and hear what the School Board's plans are in the coming year, as there are a lot of issues confronting our community relevant schools.

We will also have a presentation from the Economic Development Commission on Arlington's Innovation Economy initiative that is a hot issue in the county given the erosion of the county's commercial tax base.

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 February 8, 2015, to plan the agenda for the March 3, 2015 general meeting and future meetings.

The Executive Committee will meet on March 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.

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 .

Community Forum on Draft Affordable Housing Study March 28

A Community Forum on the draft Affordable Housing Study will be held Saturday, March 28 from 9:30 am - 12:30 pm at Washington-Lee High School. After two and a half years of study, planning and discussion among consultants, County staff, and the 15 community members of the Study Group both the draft Master Plan and Implementation Plan will be presented. This is the third Community Forum following two in the fall of 2014 seeking participation and feedback from Arlingtonians.

Articles for the Newsletter

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



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ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

ACCF
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www.civfed.org

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

<https://twitter.com/CivFed>

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



Federation Letters to the County Board

February 15, 2015

Arlington County Board
1 Courthouse Plaza
Suite 300
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Re: *Arlington County Civic Federation Letter Seeking a Delay of Action on the County's Zoning Ordinance*

Dear Chairman Hynes:

As you know, the Arlington County Civic Federation ("ACCF") has presented resolutions to the County Board and the County Manager that convey our concerns and recommendations about various issues during my term as President. Those issues have encompassed:

- The County's Noise Control Code;
- The FAA's proposal to revise its aeronautical study guidelines to include one engine inoperative situations for northbound flights from Reagan National Airport;
- The County's "Public Lands for Public Good" Initiative;
- AED's Retail Action Plan;
- Establish an Independent Authority to Review the Arlington County Budget and Selected Programs and Projects;
- Reaffirmed Use of the Wilson School Grounds;
- Cut Real Estate Tax Rate;
- Planning for New School Construction; and
- Reaffirmed Long Bridge Park Resolution.

Recently, the County Manager spoke at our January meeting where she stated that community engagement was an essential element in her employee evaluations regarding issues confronting the county. ACCF is encompassed by more than 80 member groups and we offer the county an important vehicle for engaging the community on issues that are relevant to the county's plans and initiatives. With that in mind, we would like to learn more about existing guidelines for community engagement that would provide outreach early in the process to ensure an opportunity for ACCF input and adequate time to review and comment on the issue.

Unfortunately, some recent experiences have not met expectations and has made it difficult for the ACCF to convey its concerns and recommendations. For instance, the stormwater management ordinance that affects the design and cost of new homes and the ultimate home owner who must continue to abide by the ordinance. It appears that county outreach was only made to the builder community. I believe that our members would have put forth some

alternatives that would have benefitted the county in its decision making, especially for the new home owner. Likewise, we believe that the county would have benefitted in our thoughts on the recent Retail Action Plan, which we were not made aware of until it was a finished-product.

Given recent history, ACCF asks the County Board to delay action on the Zoning Ordinance revisions that were advertised on January 27th. Like other ordinances, the proposed Zoning Ordinance has had a tremendous impact on our quality of life in Arlington. While the Zoning Department has shared its goals and summarized the changes, we feel that a review of the document with marked revisions in its original context is important in order to see the proposed changes to the ordinance. In addition, we have questions about the precedential nature of other county plans (such as Sector Plans) that have been referenced or incorporated into the Zoning Ordinance, as well as the many renovation limitations on legally nonconforming homes in Section 16 of the advertised revisions to the Zoning Ordinance.

As always, we appreciate the consideration of our views, resolutions, and positions. Please feel free to contact me via telephone at 571.213.4827, or email at mike@civfed.org, if you should require any additional information pertaining to this letter.

Sincerely,



Michael McMenamin
President, Arlington County Civic Federation

ACCF 99th Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony

The Arlington County Civic Federation's 99th Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony is Friday, April 17, 2015.

Our guest speaker is Congressman Don Beyer who is serving his first term as the U.S. Representative from Virginia's 8th District, representing Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church, and parts of Fairfax County. He serves on the House Committee on Natural Resources and is a member of the New Democrat Coalition. He was the Lieutenant Governor of Virginia from 1990 to 1998, and was Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein under President Obama. (cont'd)

Invitations to the banquet will be mailed to every member association's president, delegates and alternates by the end of February. If you do not get an invitation you can print one from our website: go to Latest News - Arlington County Civic Federation's 99th Annual Banquet. **Your RSVP with a check MUST be received no later than April 3rd. If you have questions please contact Jesse Boeding at jesse@civfed.org.**

Questions for the Arlington County School Board

1. Academic Performance & Achievement Gaps

In 8th grade, according to our latest report card <https://p1pe.doe.virginia.gov/reportcard/report.do?division=7&schoolName=All>, 25% of our 8th graders are failing the math SOL. Over 40% of our 8th grade students who have disabilities, are economically disadvantaged and/or have limited English proficiency are failing the math SOL—all with much higher failure rates than in 4th grade. We have similar results in Science. What is going wrong between 4th grade and 8th grade and how are you addressing it? How do you square increasing class size with narrowing achievement gaps?

2. Budget

- a. How do you anticipate adapting the APS budget to contend with the projected 2016 \$23.8 million budget deficit? What options are and are not on the table?
- b. How is the technology initiative for laptops and tablets sustainable over time and increased enrollment? How do you plan to source the required revenue?

3. Capacity

- a. How much does Net Zero Energy building add to the cost of new construction? How much money do you expect APS to save per year on utilities costs as a result? Regardless of those savings, can we afford it right now?
- b. Construction Budgeting
What do you think APS can and should do to stretch the remaining capacity construction dollars it can get through bond financing over the next 10 years? Do you think that bonds will prove sufficient in the next 10 years to cover the cost of the seats needed to maintain a quality education for all APS students? If not, how can we bridge that gap?

4 Teachers

The School Board noted in its September 25, 2014 minutes that in the 2014 APS Community Survey, staff's "level of satisfaction with APS was noticeably lower than parents and students." What are the causes of the dramatic reduction in teachers' grades of APS since 2009, and how are you intending to address it?

5. Foreign Language Instruction and Early Release Wednesdays

Fairfax eliminated early release elementary school this year <http://commweb.fcps.edu/newsreleases/newsrelease.cfm?newsid=2569>

Why is APS taking so long to provide full day instruction at the five schools where it's still lacking, which creates an imbalance in the amount of foreign language and other instruction these kids receive and places them at a disadvantage relative to other children?

6 Choice and other special programs:

One of the attractive aspects of APS is the availability of choice programs. However, it is challenging to determine their full budgetary cost and academic benefits. What are the full and per-pupil costs of choice programs, including the costs of busing?

Parliamentary Maneuvers

Sarah Shortall, By-laws Committee Chair

Whenever I mention the words "parliamentary procedures" or "by-laws," I actually can see people's eyes glaze over. Many zone out because the topic is way too boring while others find the whole thing is too confusing and complicated.

That said, this is the first of a series of articles about parliamentary procedure that the Arlington County Civic Federation Executive Committee has requested. I can't promise these articles won't make your eyes glaze over, but hopefully they will make parliamentary procedure process more accessible and easier to understand.

In the broadest sense, an organization's rules of governance and parliamentary procedure serve two purposes:

- 1. They give the organization a basic structure and manner of operation to successfully transact business, run meetings, and conduct deliberations; and
- 2. They protect and balance the rights of the organization's membership (i.e., the majority, the minority, and individual members). (cont'd)

The Federation has three sources of authority that, in combination, have established a structure and procedures that govern its actions. These sources are:

- The By-laws of the Arlington County Civic Federation,
- Arlington County Civic Federation Standing Rules, and
- The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

ACCF By-laws

In simple terms, the ACCF By-laws are the Federation's constitution. The By-laws are the Federation's highest and controlling source of authority and supersede all the other Federation rules.

Generally, by-laws define the basic purpose (objective) and principal characteristics of an organization. They also establish the basic framework for how the organization functions and set forth the rules and practices that are so important to the organization and its members, individually and collectively, that they cannot be changed on a whim or in the heat of the moment or be suspended. To ensure that, by-laws generally, and the Federation's By-laws specifically, cannot be changed without previous notice and the vote of a super majority (2/3rd) of members.

This year our By-laws, like the Federation itself, celebrate its centennial. The Federation's Founding Fathers and Mothers adopted them in 1916. Since then, the Federation has amended the By-laws 14 times, most recently in 2004, and revised them once in 1988. (According to Robert's Rules, amendments are isolated changes to by-laws. Revisions, on the other hand, might be viewed as an overhaul or mid-course correction of the by-laws. That is, they change a number of provisions throughout the by-laws and to the extent that a new by-laws document is proposed as if the organization were adopting them for the first time. More about amendments v. revisions in a future article).

ACCF Standing Rules

One step down on the hierarchy are the ACCF Standing Rules. Standing Rules address administrative details and issues, such as procedures for handling resolutions that members introduce and how long or how many times delegates may speak during the debate on a resolution.

Unlike by-laws, organizations usually do not adopt Standing Rules at the time they are first organized. Instead, Standing Rules usually are adopted on an "as needed" basis. During its first 72 years, the Federation did not find it necessary to have any Standing Rules. It wasn't until 1988 that the Federation adopted any Standing Rules.

Since Standing Rules pertain to an organization's administrative practices rather than its fundamental principles, the organization generally can adopt, amend, revise and even suspend them without previous notice and by majority vote. An executive committee or board can propose Standing Rules, but they are effective only when the membership approves them.

Robert's Rules of Order

Finally, Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised fill out the bottom of the Federation's power grid and fills in the gaps in its operational procedures. Robert's Rules primarily pertain to the orderly transaction of business in meetings.

Army General Henry Martyn Robert published the first edition of Robert's Rules in 1876 after a church meeting he was asked to chair in 1863 erupted into chaos over the issue of slavery. The meeting lasted 14 hours and, in the end, accomplished nothing. After that disaster, Gen. Robert vowed never to attend another meeting until he knew something about parliamentary law. His first effort was a 16-page pamphlet on parliamentary procedure. The 11th edition of Robert's Rules is 717 pages.

In its By-laws (Article VIII), the Federation adopted Robert's Rules as its "parliamentary authority" to help ensure that its meetings do not devolve into chaotic 14-hour marathons. However, the By-laws specify that Robert's Rules govern only in those cases in which they are applicable and only to the extent they are not inconsistent with the Federation's By-laws, Standing Rules and any other special rules of order the Federation has adopted. I note that the Federation could have adopted other rules as its parliamentary authority, such as the rules of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives; however, but I'm not sure those rules would have done much to prevent 14-hour meetings.

Future "Parliamentary Maneuvers" articles will cover:

- Purposes, principles and myths about Robert's Rules,
- Frequently-used motions – uses, requirements and limits,
- Privileged motions – what are they and when are they appropriate, and FAQs about parliamentary procedure.

If all this talk of parliamentary procedure intrigues you, consider volunteering for the By-laws Committee. The Committee examines the structure and function of the Federation and drafts proposed amendments to the By-laws for the Federation's consideration and approval (Article VII, Section 6(i)). The Federation has not updated its By-laws in over 10 years and the Committee recently identified some provisions that need revision. If you would like to participate in this project, contact Sarah Shortall, By-laws Committee chair, at sarah@civfed.org.

Update from the Environmental Affairs Committee

The Environmental Committee met with the new Deputy County Manager Carol Mitten and Director of Environmental Services Greg Emanuel on February 12, 2015. At this meeting we discussed the Organic Waste Program and its status. This program is being re-competed and the results will be in relatively soon. It was agreed to meet again on March 19th to get an update on the Organic Waste/Green Cart program and to have a chance to ask questions about its structure, cost and effectiveness. The question of whether it was efficient to run this program year round or on a 8 or 9 months a year basis was raised. It was agreed that other environmental issues such as the storm water and storm water retention program were on track and being adequately funded would be discussed as well as any budget, paygo or CIP issues that involved Environmental Affairs as the March 19, 2015 meeting.

The Environmental Affairs Committee has arranged for an update on the Community Energy Program (CEP) with Rich Dooley for the April 2015 ACCF Meeting and may arrange for other programs at future meetings such as on the Organic Waster and Recycling Program and on storm water and sewage issues that would be later in the year after the Summer break. Finally as of September 2015 John Seymour will take over from Joe Pelton as the new Chair of Environmental Affairs.

Civic Federation Tentative Meetings Schedule and Programs for 2014 - 2015

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

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