



Minutes – June 2, 2015 ACCF Membership Meeting

President Michael McMenamin called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm at Hazel Auditorium. He led the Pledge of Allegiance, approval of the agenda Treasurers report and approval of the minutes of the previous membership meeting. The Executive Committee will meet on June 10 at 7:30pm at 4805 Wilson Blvd (Fire Station 2) to coordinate committee work and plan future programs.

Election of Officers

The Nominating Committee slate was approved by acclamation. Officers for 2015-2016 are:

President: Stefanie Pryor (Penrose)

Vice President: Duke Banks (Waverly Hills)

Secretary: Dennis Gerrity (Colonial Village)

Treasurer: Pat Spann (Arlington County Taxpayers)

Executive Committee: Terri Prell (North Rosslyn), Jesse Boeding (Nauck), Suzanne

Sundberg (Bluemont), Lois Koontz (Alcova Hts.) and Alyssa Cowden (Tara-Leeway Heights)

Priorities Update

President McMenamin noted that the Federation's discussion of members' priorities will continue.

Revenues and Expenditures Committee: Arlington's Economic Development Program

Tim Wise presented the R&E Committee report, highlighting the 50/50 commercial/homeowner split in tax revenues, current commercial vacancy levels, the use of economic development funds compared to that of surrounding jurisdictions and drivers of the current economic situation. R&E recommends close attention to the County's economic development program.

Schools Committee: Resolution

The Schools Committee presented a report on enrollment growth and capacity analysis that warned of higher-than-projected growth. The full report is on the web site. The Committee introduced a resolution urging the County Board to pursue innovative approaches to providing the resources needed to meet Arlington's new school needs. An amendment to drop a reference to raising debt limits was adopted 71-9 with 4 abstentions. The amended resolution passed by a vote of 64-9 with 15 abstentions.

Housing Committee: Report and Resolution on the Affordable Housing Master Plan

The Housing Committee presented information on the draft Affordable Housing Master Plan. Additional reports were presented by the Parks and Recreation, Revenues and Expenditures (the plan's cost estimates are too low, goals are set too high, impact on services not considered, oppose use of bonus density), and Planning and Zoning Committee (framework not yet fully developed, effect of zoning changes unclear but could be negative, geographic distribution goals have been dropped). The Parks Committee offered three amendments to the resolution: A)adding "all other County services" to the impact assessment. (passed, no vote count); B)making support contingent on removing "stand-alone" from 3.5.2 referencing no stand-alone affordable housing in parks (failed by a vote of 32-34-6); C)removing the 17.7% target (failed by a vote of 31-39). A motion to remove all of Section 3.5.2 failed (no vote count). The Housing Committee resolution passed by a vote of 47-29.

Announcements

Jim Pebley announced that the CivFed 911 Scholarship Fund awarded 5 scholarships, and renewed 14 more. A full report is on the web site. Jim asked again for a replacement volunteer to run the program. Joe Pelton announced that planning continues for our 100th anniversary celebration in 2016. Gulf Branch Nature will celebrate its 49th birthday with a party on June 13.

The meeting adjourned at 10:07pm until the next membership meeting on September 1, 2015.

Respectfully submitted by Randy Swart, Secretary

The Affordable Housing Master Plan Resolution

Whereas the code of Virginia requires a housing component be developed and included in each jurisdiction's comprehensive plan which shall include:
...the designation of areas and implementation of measures for the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of affordable housing, which is sufficient to meet the current and future needs of residents of all levels of income in the locality while considering the current and future needs of the planning district within which the locality is situated. § 15.2-2223. and;

Whereas the ability to provide sufficient housing affordable to people at all income levels is increasingly important for meeting Arlington County's full economic development potential, and;

Whereas the Affordable Housing Master Plan (AHMP) was developed by staff, consultants and 18 members of various Commissions during a period of more than two and a half years and;

Whereas the AHMP establishes three goals to provide direction for the County's affordable housing policy: an adequate supply of housing, access to housing for all segments of the community, and housing that contributes to a sustainable community, and;

Whereas the Master Plan was presented for widespread community input at five public forums, to various Commissions and at more than forty meetings of civic and neighborhood organizations, including the Arlington County Civic Federation twice, and;

Whereas the Master Plan incorporates County Board policy regarding affordable housing and parkland by stating in 3.5.2:

"Consider affordable housing needs and goals when planning for major capital investment in new or redeveloping existing major community facilities, taking into account the neighborhood context. The County Board does not support the placement of stand-alone affordable housing in officially designated parks or existing natural areas."

Whereas the Affordable Housing Master Plan reflects the County's values of diversity, inclusivity, and sustainability and includes objectives in support of those values, including ensuring that low- and moderate-income individuals and families can access housing, enabling residents to age in the community and enabling persons with disabilities to live as independently as possible, therefore,

Be it RESOLVED that the Arlington County Civic Federation supports the County's adoption of the Affordable Housing Master Plan as the Housing Element in the Comprehensive Plan, provided that there is added a strategy for geographic distribution of affordable housing and for assessing the impact on neighborhood schools and County services.

Be it FURTHER RESOLVED that the Civic Federation calls on the County Board to continue community discussion of how best to expeditiously provide tools that could produce affordable housing in areas of the County which currently have little or none;

Be it FURTHER RESOLVED that the Civic Federation calls on the County Board to defer action on accepting the Implementation Framework until there has been wider community dialogue.

Adopted June 2, 2015

Schools Committee Resolution of the Arlington County Civic Federation

Whereas Arlington Public Schools enrollment grew in the 2014-2015 School Year by 1,213 students (a 5.2% increase) and has expanded by 4,296 students in the past five years (a 21% increase).

Whereas most schools in Arlington are overcrowded and this trend is interfering with the education of our children;

Whereas the 2015-2024 CIP fails to generate sufficient seats for students, 4,002 seats will be added leaving the county short by thousands of seats in 2024. Projections by the Civic Federation Schools Committee show an even greater shortage of seats.

Whereas APS already deploys 124 “relocatable” classrooms that accommodate 3,000 students; and deployment of additional relocatables comes at steep environmental, green-space and recreation costs and does not address the capacity needs of cafeterias, hallways, lockers, art rooms, bathrooms, music rooms and gyms;

Whereas APS is exploring non-capital options as described in the recently released report Master Planning Committee of APS, (http://www.apsva.us/cms/lib2/VA01000586/Centricity/Domain/110/APS%20MPC_Report.pdf), non-capital options will be necessary to help meet the future capacity needs of the school system, but will not suffice on their own;

Whereas Arlington Public Schools is approaching a County Board imposed 10% debt-service limit thereby rendering bond revenue insufficient for increasing enrollment.

Whereas Arlington County is not using options such as developer contributions (proffers), and public-private partnerships to free up resources for school construction and has not implemented temporary growth limitations on development;

The Civic Federation hereby resolves that

The Arlington County Board and the Arlington School Board must lower the cost per seat of new construction and implement non-capital options, and begin a discussion to identify new resources, financial tools, and deferments of county board investments to meet the challenge of increasing school capacity while maintaining existing infrastructure.

Adopted June 2, 2015