



THE Civic Voice

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation

Volume 100, Issue 9 May 2016

May 3 Overview: Virginia Legislature Panel and Revenues & Expenditures Resolution Vote

Stefanie Pryor

Our Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) meeting Tuesday, May 3 provides a forum for our elected Virginia Delegates and Senators. They will be presenting an overview of the recent session with a question and answer session. As of publication, Senator Adam Ebbin (30th), Senator Barbara Favola (31st), Delegate Janet Howell (32nd), Delegate Mark Levine (45th), Delegate Alfonso Lopez (49th), and Delegate Rip Sullivan (48th) have confirmed they will attend the May 3rd meeting. Delegate Patrick Hope's (47th) office is expected confirm his availability soon.

After the legislative forum, ACCF Revenues & Expenditures (R&E) Committee will present the resolution on General Fund Available Balances Allocations followed by a vote. This resolution was introduced at last month's meeting. See article later in the newsletter for more details.

If you missed last month's session by Arlington County School Board, the R&E tax rate presentation and vote, watch it at: <https://vimeo.com/163875465>

The meeting was filmed by Arlington County Career Center students, Alex Pageotte and Christian Porter filmed. Alex Pageotte edited. Oversight provided by their advisor, Tom O'Day, and Duane Parsons.

The Nominating Committee approved at our April meeting continues to search for candidates for our Executive Committee, officers and open committee chair positions. Because ACCF is a non-partisan, non-sectarian organization, we are searching for candidates who can continue the work of ACCF, such as in-depth research on topics, organizing educational programs to highlight that research, while maintaining a balanced and open manner which respects the diversity of opinion in Arlington. The 2016-2017 session will be our 101st, so this group will lead us into our next century. Contact Dennis Gerrity at membership@civfed.org if interested in serving next year. Additional nominating committee members are Stan Karson, Michael Beer, Amy Levin and Kelly Alexis.

GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

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 Virginia Legislative Panel
- 8:40 R&E Resolution Presentation and Vote
- 9:00 P&Z Open Air Markets
- 9:20 Unfinished Business and Announcements
- 9:30 New Business
- 9:35 Adjourn

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Open Air Markets Planned for Residential Zones

Martha Moore

Arlington County staff is considering amending the Zoning Ordinance to allow an “open-air market” use in residential (R), multi-family (RA), and some mixed-use/commercial districts (RA4.8, R-C, RA-H, and RA-H-3.2). The use will be subject to Special Exception Use Permit approval by the County Board.

Potential issues related to traffic generation, parking availability, and other possible impacts to abutting properties and the surrounding neighborhood will be mitigated by the following:

- Restricting open-air markets in R and RA Districts to sites occupied by public, civic, or institutional uses such as recreation centers, religious institutions, colleges, government facilities, parks and open space, and schools.
- Requiring open-air markets in R and RA Districts to be located on sites that have frontage on streets designated as principal arterial, minor arterial, or local principal street as designated in the Arlington County Master Transportation Plan.
- Requiring that no open-air market be located within 100 feet of an abutting R district property. (However a modification can be granted by the County Board if it is demonstrated that there will not be an adverse impact on the surrounding community.)

Staff will present additional details and answer questions at the May ACCF meeting. See the map of potential eligible sites at http://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2016/04/ZO_Studies_03-29-2016_OpenAirMktZOA_Proposed.pdf. Note that the map can be enlarged to show streets by using the Zoom feature. For more information about the Zoning Ordinance proposal, please visit the Zoning Studies page <http://projects.arlingtonva.us/plans-studies/land-use/zoning-studies/#openair>.

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ACCF
PO Box 42091
Arlington, VA 22204
www.civfed.org

Now Accepting PayPal!

<http://www.civfed.org/pay-dues/>

Membership Committee: Newsletter Mailing List

The Membership Committee continues to clean up our distribution lists. If someone you know wants to receive our newsletter directly via email, please send a message to membership@civfed.org. You do not need to be a delegate or alternate to receive the newsletter.

Executive Committee

Jesse Boeding

The Executive Committee met on Sunday, April 10, 2016 to plan the agenda for the May 3, 2016 general meeting and discuss future meetings.

The Executive Committee will meet on Sunday, May 8, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. at 4805 Wilson Blvd, Arlington VA 22203 (Fire Station 2) to coordinate and plan future meeting programs. Please note that the date does conflict with Mother’s Day holiday.

The deadline for newsletter articles is Thursday, May 26, 2016 due to the meeting date of Tuesday, June 7. Newsletters are published approximately 1 week before the meeting. Please note that Monday, May 30 is a federal holiday, so early submissions are appreciated as the editor and key staff are on travel.

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWA) Report on Reagan National Airport Issues

Joe Pelton

The rescheduled meeting of the MWA Noise Committee was held on April 14th at Reagan National Airport. This meeting focused on take-off and landing patterns from Reagan National Airport to the south. No specific progress has been made other than the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is studying the practicality of the so-called Lazir B take-off pattern to the north.

The following report has also been received from Senator Warner with regard to the FAA Authorization Bill. "Finally, the Senate finished work this week on a long-term reauthorization bill for the Federal Aviation Administration. I am pleased to report we successfully pushed-back on last-minute efforts to add additional long-haul flights out of Reagan National Airport. Maintaining the existing perimeter rules protects the balanced business plan which governs the flow of passengers and flight traffic at each of the three major airports serving our region. This careful balance also has allowed a thriving economy to grow around the international gateway that Dulles Airport provides. I'll remain vigilant in opposing harmful changes as the FAA bill moves toward final passage."

The Working Group on Airport Noise and Reagan National has agreed to the following text for its recommendation with regard to South Flow operations. This will likely alter noise for Crystal City very little but may provide some relief to Old Town Alexandria. It is essentially parallel to that being recommended for study in the North Flow patterns which will presumably provide some relief to Arlington's Northern neighborhoods, but again not provide any relief to Rosslyn.

The Working Group endorses the concept of the FAA modifying flight paths south of Reagan National Airport to keep aircraft more centered over the Potomac River on departures, as well as modifying waypoints to move departing aircraft farther down the Potomac River before turning

east or west. A vote on a firm recommendation for the FAA to pursue such changes is pending consultation with Working Group members representing communities that would be impacted by these adjustments, as well as consultations with the airlines serving Reagan National Airport.

Motion carried 5-0-3, with eight Working Group voting members present.

Arlington County Civic Federation 100th Anniversary Gala and Symposium

Joe Pelton

The Gala on April 8th and the Symposium and Tree Planting on April 14th marked key milestones in the history of the Arlington County Civic Federation. In four years time, we will help celebrate Arlington County's formal founding since the Federation actually preceded the County being renamed Arlington County in 1920.

Approximately 260 people attended the Gala April 8 to hear remarks from our Master of Ceremonies, Paul Ferguson, Clerk of the Courts; Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Manager; Barbara Favola, Virginia Senator; Eric Schaeffer, Signature Theater; and Joe Pelton, past Civic Federation President.

Scott McCaffrey, editor of the Sun Gazette, presented Martha Moore with the Sun Gazette Cup [Award](#) for her many contributions to the Civic Federation and the Community. The audience rose for a standing ovation as she approached the podium. Martha previously received the Distinguished Order Award and the President's award.

Elizabeth Campbell received posthumously the Federation's ["Historic Centennial Award"](#) This was presented by Rick Schneider, COO of WETA who introduced a special video presentation about Elizabeth Campbell narrated by Sharon Rockefeller, President of WETA. The 4 minute video noted the many ac-

100th Anniversary Events (cont.)

complishments of Elizabeth Campbell, the first President of the WETA and the leader with her husband Ed Campbell of the movement to desegregate Arlington Schools. The evening ended on a lively note with the Arc Cats band playing dance music.

Anyone wishing copies of the special commemorative program from the Gala should contact Jesse Boeding at jesse@civfed.org. She deserves special commendation for all of her hard work on both events.

The [Symposium on April 14th](#) kicked off by the planting of a centennial tree by Congressman Don Beyer, County Manager Mark Schwartz, Arlington Economic Development Director Victor Hoskins, ACCF President Stefanie Pryor, ACCF Vice-President Duke Banks, Executive Committee Chair Jesse Boeding, ACCF Past President Joe Pelton, and Sun Gazette Cup winner Martha Moore. Patrick Wegeng provided excellent site for the new Princeton elm tree located at the end of the surface parking lot near the garage entrance.

The main acknowledgement of our program ensued with presentation of special historical awards to

- The Arlington Parks Coalition
- The Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment
- The Arlington Historical Society
- The Committee of 100
- The Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall
- Opera NOVA
- Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church
- The Virginia Hospital Center
- The Newcomer Award to New District Brewery Co

An interesting program about Arlington's long term future ensued with presentations by

- United States Congressman Don Beyer;

- Adrian Stanton, Virginia Medical Center;
- Victor Hoskins, Director of Arlington Economic Development;
- Jack Belcher, Director of Technology Services and Connect Arlington; and
- Mark Schwartz, County Manager .

The Gala and Awards Committees wish to thank all that supported these events and especially those who participated as "Friends" "Individual Sponsors", bought tables for the Gala, and especially WETA that served as a Platinum Sponsor and the Virginia Hospital Center that was a Silver Sponsor. The final tally will be made to see what donations can be made to the Arlington Community Fund for the 911 Scholarship and a tree planting fund.

Additional photographs will be posted to our civfed.org website. Arlington TV links will be provided soon, as well. Please also refer to the Sun Gazette for significant coverage over the past few weeks.

Free Workshop on Parliamentary Procedures hosted by the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters of Arlington is hosting a free workshop on parliamentary procedures. The event, *How to Run Meetings Like a Parliamentarian*, will be at Arlington's Central Library on Sunday, May 22 at 4 p.m. Please let Board members with whom you are acquainted, your friends, family, and fellow community activists know about this workshop. The link to RSVP for this free event is <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/workshop-learn-to-lead-a-meeting-like-a-parliamentarian-tickets-21314081993>

The ACCF also is planning an event for Robert's Rules and bylaws later in July. If interested, please contact sarah@civfed.org.

Parking Reminder

Remember to park in the GOLD LOT . On nights of the Civic Federation meeting, the gates of the GOLD Parking lot, which is located under the 1635 Medical Offices, will be open and there is no charge for parking. If you use another lot, you will have to pay the regular rate to exit.



Gulf Branch Nature Center Silver Anniversary 1966—2016

Duke Banks

Right on the heels of the Arlington County Civic Federation's 100th Anniversary, we are now gearing up for the Silver (50th) Anniversary of Arlington's first Nature Center – Gulf Branch. Under the leadership of former County Board Chair Tom Richards, Gulf Branch was acquired as open/green space in anticipation of the commercial development of the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor, plus the anticipated building of I-66. This policy of acquiring open space before commercial development was the “keystone” to the Smart Growth policy at the time, and Gulf Branch became the spark for creating additional green space and other nature centers in Arlington.

Friends of Gulf Branch Nature Center is organizing several activities to commemorate this milestone:

- Beginning in Mid-May, the Central Library lobby will host an exhibit on Gulf Branch curated by Library and Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) staff and volunteers.
- A Symposium is planned for Thursday, June 2, at 7:00 p.m. at the Central Library auditorium to provide an overview of Gulf Branch's contribution to Arlington. The one-hour event titled Gulf Branch Nature Center: The Birth and Future of Arlington Parks will include:
 - * **Past:** A history of Gulf Branch, and how it sparked the larger movement for protecting greenspace in Arlington.

- * **Present:** An overview of the role of nature centers in Arlington's parks, how volunteer efforts have contributed to Gulf Branch, and what DPR has on the drawing boards.
- * **Future:** The challenges of creating and protecting park land in an urbanized environment.

Presenters will include local author and history expert Charlie Clark; Jane Rudolph, director of Arlington DPR; and Peter Harnick, director, City Park Excellence, The Trust for Public Land.

The Birthday celebration will be held on the actual anniversary day—Sunday, June 12th, from 1:00–4:00 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road, Arlington, VA 22207. Come witness demonstrations by the Raptor Conservancy of Virginia (include live owls, hawks, and falcons); blue grass music; Native American groups; the Blacksmiths' Guild of the Potomac showing their skills at the forge; and a free Birthday Cake! The exhibit at the Library will be transferred to the Nature Center for the festivities, plus proclamations by the Commonwealth of Virginia and the County Board will be available for review.

We encourage all Civic Federation delegates to come to the festivities. Additional efforts to get the word out for past, present, and future events appreciated. For up to date information, check out [Friends of Gulf Branch Nature Center web page](#), and [FOGBNC Facebook page](#).

Revenues & Expenditures Committee Resolution on General Fund Available Balances Allocations

WHEREAS Arlington County has generated annual budget surpluses averaging almost \$29 million per year over the last 5 years.

(\$ in millions)

End of Fiscal Year	General Fund Balance*	Restricted Balance **	Available Balance (Surplus) [1]
2015	\$200.3	\$178.5	\$21.8
2014	\$233.1	\$203.3	\$29.8
2013	\$199.6	\$174.0	\$25.6
2012	\$191.5	\$155.0	\$36.1
2011	\$160.8	\$129.0	\$31.8
		Total	\$145.1

*General Fund Balance = balance at beginning of fiscal year + revenues received – fiscal year's expenditures.

**Restricted Balance: Specific funds, reserves, encumbrances and obligations previously approved by the County Board.

The accounting above is derived from the County's annual audited financial statements ("CAFR") and uses the same methodology as the County for determining 'available balances'.

WHEREAS these surplus funds are available to support any item in the General Fund budget.

WHEREAS there is little transparency associated with apportionment of surplus amounts;

WHEREAS Arlington County holds cash reserves equal to at least 5% of general government expenditures totaling in excess of \$104 million as of FY2015;

WHEREAS residential real estate/property taxes on an average single-family home in Arlington County have risen from \$4,397 in 2007 to

\$6,011 in 2016[2]—an increase of \$1,614 or more than 3.5% per year at an average compound rate.

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Arlington County Civic Federation urges the Arlington County Board to annually set aside a fair and reasonable amount of any surplus for the reduction of real estate taxes. (Using the \$21.8 million FY2015 closeout balance as an example, an allotment of approximately \$7 million for tax relief would have allowed roughly a 1-cent reduction in the real estate tax rate.)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Arlington County Civic Federation urges that any apportionment of any annual available balance be subject to a transparent and robust public process, including written proposals by the County Manager sufficiently in advance of any final decision, one or more public hearings before the County Board and adequate opportunity for written comment, and final decision by the County Board at one of its monthly meetings.

[1] County Manager's Fiscal Year 2017 Proposed Budget, p. 113 (book)

[2] Closeout Reports in County Board Meeting Agendas: November 19, 2015, Item 42; November 18, 2014, Item 31; November 13, 2013, Item 29; November 17, 2012, Item 28; November 29, 2011, Item 41; "Search Archives" at http://arlington.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2

The amended resolution was approved by the members of the Revenues and Expenditures Committee by a vote of 7 for, one against and one abstention, as follows:

For: Burt Bostwick, Suzanne Sundburg, Duke Banks, Tim Wise, Frank Emerson, Roger Morton, Terry Showman

Against: Paul Holland

Abstaining: Jerry Auten

Resolution presented at the April 2016 meeting. ACCF President, Stefanie Pryor, referred the resolution to the Parks & Recreation Committee and the Schools Committee. Neither committee presented any amendments or other modifications in the past month. One minor change was made per request of an individual from the initial presentation.

Civic Federation Meetings Schedule and Programs for 2015 - 2016

Meeting are the 1st Tuesday of each month (except September and November)

May 3: Legislative Panel for Virginia Senators and Delegates; Revenues & Expenditure General Fund Available Allocation Presentation and Resolution Vote; and Planning & Zoning Presentation on Open Air Market Changes

June 7: Election of officers; Community Facilities Study; and Arlington Environmental Sustainability Profile Panel Presentation & Q&A

Arlington County Civic Federation Mission

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 Stefanie Pryor at stefanie@civfed.org

Committee	Chair(s)	Email Address
Executive	Jesse Boeding	jesse@civfed.org
Awards	Elected at Dec 2015 Membership Mtg	See listing in newsletter
Audit	Jay Wind	Jay@civfed.org
Bylaws	Sarah Shortall	sarah@civfed.org
Community Relations	Duke Banks	duke.banks@gmail.com
Cultural Affairs	Chair(s) needed	TBD
Emergency	Jackie Snelling	jackie@civfed.org
Environmental Affairs	John Seymour	john@civfed.org
Housing	Chair(s) needed	TBD
Legislation	Chair(s) needed	TBD
Membership	Chair needed	membership@civfed.org
911 Scholarships	Chair(s) needed	TBD
Nominating	Elected at April 2016 Membership Mtg	See listing in newsletter
Parks and Recreation	Michael Thomas	michaelthomas@civfed.org
Planning and Zoning	Martha Moore	martha@civfed.org
Public Services	Jackie Snelling (POC)	jackie@civfed.org
Revenues and Expenditures	Chair(s) needed,	TBD
Schools	Michael Beer	michaelbeer@civfed.org
Special Events	Joe Pelton	joepelton@civfed.org
Transportation	Jerry Auten	jerry@civfed.org