

## **September 2018 Membership Meeting Minutes**

Secretary Maureen Coffey noted that we reached a quorum, and President Duke Banks gave a brief introduction, thanking Virginia Hospital Center for their space and providing their contact information for questions and comments on the expansion project. Duke also highlighted last year's 11 Civic Federation All-Stars and the 13 with perfect attendance. Vice President Nicole Merlene called the meeting to order at 7 pm, and thanked Arlington Independent Media (AIM) for filming.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Sarah Shortall reminded those in attendance that membership verification forms must be submitted by October 31. Organizations that do not submit their membership forms, including a verification of 20 members and their list of delegates and alternates, will not be able to vote.

Vice-President's Report: Vice President Nicole Merlene gave an overview of the strategic planning process that the Board of Directors undertook at our August meeting. She introduced one of the results of this process, which is the addition of an open mic session to the end of meetings. Each delegate or alternate will get 30 seconds to provide productive comments.

Candidate Forum: Vice Chair Lois Koontz introduced the candidate forum. AIM provided raw footage of the forum, available at our website [CivFed.org](http://CivFed.org), and will provide an edited version in the coming weeks.

County Board Candidates: Matt de Ferranti and John Vihstadt

- Each candidate gave brief opening remarks
- Questions asked focused on the development of Lee Highway; why they were each running; and increasing the accessibility of voting in Arlington County.
- Each candidate gave a closing statement

School Board Candidates Barbara Kanninen and Audrey Clement:

- Each candidate gave brief opening remarks
- Questions asked focused on the Mongolian School and rising facilities costs; how Arlington Public Schools (APS) can protect the environment and tree canopy; the school construction costs report and the rising cost of APS; and the re-segregation or lack of diversity in some APS schools.
- Each candidate gave a closing statement

US Congress, Virginia's 8th District Candidates Don Beyer and Thomas Oh:

- Each candidate gave brief opening remarks

- Questions asked focused on the separation policy at the border; the ways that the tax burden has been shifted to local and state taxes and how to meet needs with fair allocation; and the potential threat to democracy that is posed by the current Presidential Administration.
- Each candidate gave a closing statement

Open Mic: This meeting's open mic featured a guided topic: how can the Civic Federation better help its member organizations? Feedback received included: helping civic associations with bylaws/incorporation; better sharing with the community as a whole what the organization is doing; listen more directly to member organizations; bridging the gap between PTAs and the Federation; provide greater opportunity for the civic association presidents to interact, present interests or concerns; create and share best practices; shift demographics to be more reflective of Arlington County; provide more online options; give space to non-civic association member organizations; reach out to organizations rather than expecting them to come to the Federation on their own; focus on non-voting communities to provide an advocacy outlet; and have a clear vision on what the Federation can provide for member organizations.

Next Meetings: Board of Directors will meet on September 9th, 6:30 pm at the fire station. The next general membership meeting will be October 2nd.

Resolution in Support of Parks and Recreation Bond Fund: Jay Wind presented a resolution in support of the Parks and Recreation Bond Fund and answered questions on the change from \$29,330,000 to \$30,330,000 which occurred because the County Board increased it during their meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.

## **AGENDA – ACCF October 2, 2018**

1. Regular Business
  - a. Call to order
  - b. Approve Agenda
  - c. Adopt September Membership meeting minutes
  - d. File September Treasurer's reports
2. Bond Initiatives panel
3. Listening Session with Board Chair
4. Park Bond Resolution – discussion and vote
5. "Open Mic"
6. Closing Business
7. Adjourn