



[ Due To The Current COVID-19 Virus This Was A Virtual Meeting ]

**Minutes**

**May 19, 2020**

**Arlington County Civic Federation (“ACCF”) Membership Meeting**

**Call to Order:** Federation Acting-President Gajadhar noted the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. Acting-President Gajadhar led the meeting in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Meeting Format:** The meeting was held using Zoom. Acting-President Gajadhar was the Administrator to begin with and then shared the duty with Board Member Tina Worden. The meeting Waiting Room URL was listed in the email newsletter along with the password. Acting-President Gajadhar controlled entry into the meeting itself. Voting was done with Constant Contact emails sent to the Delegates.

The Treasurer’s report for April was in the May Newsletter. The minutes for the February 18th and April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 Membership Meeting were submitted and voting emails were sent. Both sets of Minutes were approved.  
February 18th minutes: 25 For, None Against and 5 Abstained  
April 21<sup>st</sup> minutes: 24 For, None Against and 5 Abstained

**Member Attendance:** Ms. Worden kept roll as the Members and Observers were allowed into the meeting. There were 84 Total Attendees with 77 Members. There were representative from 44 Organizations. 19 Organizations had two or more delegates and/or alternates present: American Association of University Women, Arlington Forest CA, Arlington Historical Society, Arlington Tree Action Group, Aurora Highlands CA, Barcroft School and Civic League, Bluemont CA, Buckingham Community CA, Columbia Heights CA, Friends of Aurora Highlands Parks, Friends of Arlington Parks, Green Valley CA, Maywood Community Association, NoVa Norml, Old Glebe CA, Opera NOVA, Shirlington Dogs II, Tara-Leeway Heights CA and Westover CA.

**Program:**

Parisa Dehgani-Tafti, “Changes In The Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office – First Quarter Progress”

Policies that have changed:

Have stopped asking for cash bail – will use other means.

Have stopped prosecuting simple marijuana possession charges in circumstances where it was not a public safety concern.

Have implemented changes to make Discovery fair and fast. (and electronic if possible (do have technical challenges in some areas, including Video ))

Are implementing a new model of prosecution. ( commonly known as Vertical prosecution )

**Questions:** ( not all )

*Do you have adequate Staffing and Resources? ( almost and no ) Simple marijuana possession cases will not be prosecuted often – are there other types of crime that may not be prosecuted? ( case by case basis ) Since the policy changes has the recidivism rate increased? ( we don't think so )*

**Program:**

Bill Browning, “White-tailed deer and Forest Health in Northern Virginia”.

Large numbers of white-tailed deer are moving back into Arlington. More than the wooded areas can handle. That is causing over-grazing which affects the health of the wooded areas and destroys habitat for smaller animals, birds and insects.

**Questions:** (not all )

*Will culling reduce Lyme disease ( culling deer does not reduce Lyme disease, but restoring habitat can ) Can we anesthetize them with a dart before euthanizing them? ( don't know-will look into it ) What are our elected leaders doing about this? ( Have briefed the Board – they have directed P&R to do a deer census with an outside consultant, but you should ask them if there are any other plans )*

**Parks Panel & Resolution:**

There was a panel made up of Duke Banks, John Huntley and Jesse Boeding.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution. A Constant Contact Voting email was sent to the Delegates. Their votes were sent to the Constant Contact Survey system for tabulation and a report was sent to the administrator.

There were 68 responses. 63 voted For the motion, 5 voted Against and 1 Abstained.

**Old Business:**

**Nominating Committee:**

Still have positions available on the Nominating Committee. Those interested in helping should contact Duke Banks. A slate of candidates for next year's leadership will be presented at the June Meeting.

**New Business:**

**Request from the Environmental Affairs Committee:**

The Environmental Affairs Committee is seeking Delegate/Alternates who would like to work on environmental topics of special interest to their constituents. This committee could cover a broad range of issues from air and water quality, natural and wildlife resources, land use, trees and others brought to attention by Civic Federation Delegates. The committee will also be in communication with the cognizant county advisory commissions throughout the area. It may be interested in projects targeted for investigation and reporting to the Civic Federation this year. First: informal workshops define tree friendly actions and regulatory options that can be developed in consensus. This scoping exercise will explore opportunities to protect and enhance the tree canopy with citizens, public officials, special interest groups and developers and report back to Delegates. Second: After the tracking and precipitation in the revision of Arlington's Urban Forest Master Plan and Natural Resources Master Plan which will be combined into an Integrated Natural Resources Master Plan over the next twelve to eighteen months. Planning is at an early stage allowing good opportunities for meaningful input. Third: monitoring the current operating capital improvement programs with an eye toward reporting back to the Civic Federation on key environmental concerns. Please contact Mary Glass if you are interested in pursuing these topics or have others you would like to suggest to the committee. ( Please send Alan Gajadhar an email if you need Mary's contact information )

**May Board of Directors Meeting:** Acting-President Gajadhar announced that the May Board of Directors Meeting would be held at 6:00 PM on May 24th. It will be a **Virtual** meeting.

**June 2020 Membership Meeting:** Acting-President Gajadhar announced that the June 16th, 2020 Membership Meeting will be a **Virtual** meeting. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. Entry to the meeting Waiting Room will start at 6:30.

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 PM.  
Respectfully submitted by Allen Norton