



May 19, 2020 Virtual ACCF Membership Meeting

The May 19 2020 ACCF Membership Meeting will be conducted on a virtual basis using Zoom, a video conferencing app. Delegates; Alternate Delegates; others associated with member organizations; and the public may attend the meeting if they register for the meeting on May 19 between 6:30PM and 7PM. Registration for the meeting requires using Zoom's sign-in process. If you are not familiar with Zoom, here is a link for information and instructions on [how to register and participate in CivFed's May 19 Membership Meeting](#).

Civic Federation May 2020 Virtual Membership Meeting

May 19, 2020 06:30 PM Eastern Time

Use this link to join this Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81612996398?pwd=aWhFQ2Z1eDkzcndVKzRRanVoNzM3Zz09>

You can join the meeting by logging onto Zoom's website and entering

Meeting ID: 816 1299 6398 Password: 022699

You can join the meeting by calling +1 301 715 8592 and use this information to answer prompts:

Meeting ID: 816 1299 6398 Password: 022699

There is also a one tap mobile option:

+1646588656,,81612996398#,,1#,022699#

Agenda

May 19, 2020 ACCF Membership Meeting

6:30 Sign-in opens

7:00 Call to Order

- Pledge
- Minutes

7:20 Program

· Parisa Dehgani-Tafti, "CHANGES IN THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE—First Quarter Progress"

- Questions

7:55 Program

- Bill Browning, "White-tailed deer and Forest Health in Northern Virginia"
- Questions

8:15 Parks Resolution

8:40

· Old Business

· New Business

9:00 Adjourn

President's Corner

This month we are conducting our second virtual Civic Federation meeting. Virtual meetings for many public organizations, including Arlington County, are a new normal, and we will be doing this for the foreseeable future. For our meeting this month, we will be hosting Parisa Dehgani-Tafti, the Commonwealth's attorney. She will be discussing her progress during her first months in office.

Also on the agenda will be a resolution and white paper by our Parks and Recreation committee about the allocation of bond funds, "Recommending a Balanced Allocation of Bond Funds for Park and Recreation Uses." This represents months of hard work by all the committee members. More details can be found further on in the newsletter.

Our program will conclude with a presentation on managing the impact of deer in our neighborhoods and a balanced ecosystem.

In community news, there will be a special election for the County Board, to fill the seat of the late Erik Gutshall. The special election will be held on Tuesday, July 7, 2020.

[APS has appointed](#) Dr. Francisco Duran as Superintendent of Schools. Filling both offices are essential to the ongoing governance of the county and our schools. We wish them the best and offer our support as they begin their terms.

The Board of Directors has determined the need for a Code of Conduct for the Civic Federation, including committee work, membership meetings and board meetings. Stacy Meyer and Lois Koontz have come up with a draft for discussion by the Board of Directors. We plan to present this at the June membership meeting.

In committee news, Jackie Snelling has announced her retirement as chair of the Public Services committee. Jackie has been at the forefront of civic federation initiatives for decades. Her work has led to a better run, more accountable county government. We extend our sincere appreciation for her service and dedication to the public good.

This leaves a vacancy as chair of the public services committee. If anyone is interested in serving on this, or any other committee, please reach out to me.

Warm Regards,

Allan Gajadhar

Nominating Committee 2020-2021 ACCF Officers and Board of Directors

If you would like to serve on the Nominating Committee for CivFed's 2020-2021 Officers and Board of Directors, please contact the Federation's Acting President [Allan Gajadhar](#)

Preparing for and Responding to COVID-19

- [Steps to Slow the Spread of COVID-19](#), which tells residents what to do if they or family members are sick or have symptoms. In addition, the guide provides instructions about how to identify people who came into close contact with you while you were sick.

- The [Arlington Community Corps](#) includes listings by Arlington neighborhood and is designed to link people who need help with nearby volunteers willing to help out—by delivering groceries and medication to other residents at higher risk from COVID-19. For more information or questions, email arlingtoncommunitycorps@gmail.com.

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) updates from Arlington County](#)

- This includes County Resources for food, financial and medical assistance
- Business Resources for small businesses, property owners
- Info from the CDC, VA Dept of Health and Arlington County

- [Virginia's stay at home order FAQ](#)

The links below are taken from a list provided by the Arlington County Public Library

- The Department of Human Services has an extensive [resource page](#) for mental wellness and self-care, including:

- Find a support hotline
- Keep your kids engaged while teleworking
- Take a free mindfulness class
- Build greater capacity to face challenges ahead

- The [Public Library](#) has [free resources](#) that can help get you through these stressful times.

- The [Department of Parks & Recreation lists](#) fun and safe activities for you to do at home and outside while practicing social distancing, including:

- Make your own ice cream
 - Try origami
 - Take a Zumba class
 - Start a garden
-

Changes In the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office *First Quarter Progress*

A Presentation by Parisa Dehghani-Tafti

Parisa Dehghani-Tafti is the Commonwealth's Attorney for Arlington County and the City of Falls

Church. Parisa was first elected to a four-year term in November 2019. Parisa comes to the office of Commonwealth's Attorney with a twenty-year record of criminal justice reform as an innocence protection attorney, a public defender, and a law professor. [More about Parisa](#)



White-tailed Deer and Forest Health in Northern Virginia

A Presentation by Bill Browning

Mr. Browning has been a certified Virginia Master Naturalist (a Virginia Cooperative Extension program) since 2013. He completed the Audubon Naturalist Society Natural History Field Studies program in 2018. He is passionate about working to help rehabilitate our local forests and making them better habitats for native flora and fauna.

[More about Bill](#)



Parks and Recreation Committee Resolution Recommending a Balanced Allocation of Bond Funds for Park and Recreation Uses

Duke Banks, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee, will lead a panel to discuss the White Paper and resolution. Joining Duke will be Jon Huntley, who will provide information on the analysis that was done of 4 CIP cycles since 2012 including developing the spreadsheets that are an integral part of the White Paper. Jesse Boeding will provide background information on the resolution itself.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Arlington County Civic Federation recommends the following:

1. That the County balance its fiscal year (FY)2021 and FY2022 CIP investments to fund passive park features (including wildlife habitat and open space), trails, and park land acquisition on a more equitable basis with respect to its recreational investments so that these investments more closely align to the public's demonstrated needs beyond mandated elements such as rain gardens and other environmental mitigation.
2. That the County should demonstrate more forward thinking and commitment to land acquisition for passive park use, as reflected in the PSMP, by purchasing the 9-acre Rouse property at the corner of Wilson Boulevard and N. McKinley Road since it is identified as a "Generational and Unique Opportunity" site in the strategic plan.
3. That the County should consider as a high priority dual-purpose sites that can be used for flood mitigation and Open Space–Natural Habitat, as mentioned in the Stormwater Master Plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the accompanying report should be

considered a follow-up to the 2016 Civic Federation white paper concerning park land acquisition ([link to the 2016 White Paper](#)). The accompanying report also falls under the auspices of the 2016 Civic Federation resolution asking the County Board to acquire a minimum of 3 acres of park land per year, on average, over the coming decade, which was passed by a vote of 63-1-1 in February 2016 ([link to the 2016 resolution](#)). The county subsequently adopted this recommendation in its approved PSMP in 2019.

[Link to the complete 2020 Resolution on a Balanced Allocation of Bond Funds for Park and Recreation Uses and its Report](#)

[Link to the 2020 White Paper on the Allocation of Bond Funds for Parks and Recreation](#)

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Draft Public Services Committee Flood Workgroup Statement.

The Civic Federation's Public Services Committee Flood workgroup supports the Parks & Recreation Committee's May 2020 resolution "Recommending a Balanced Allocation of Bond Funds for Park and Recreation Uses." Specifically, we support recommendation #3:

"That the County should consider as a high priority dual-purpose sites that can be used for flood mitigation and Open Space–Natural Habitat, as mentioned in the Stormwater Master Plan."

This recommendation addresses a disconnect between the Stormwater Master Plan and the Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP): Although the Stormwater Master Plan recognizes that park land has been acquired explicitly for flood mitigation in areas near streams, the PSMP lacks a similar priority recommendation to identify dual-use properties both for flood mitigation and natural open space.

It is noted that the county includes some Arlington Public School property and facilities in its acreage total for public park land. Wherever natural open space occurs (on public property owned either by the County or School Board), it is important to recognize the potential dual use of these spaces for flood mitigation. Flood mitigation tools on these sites include the preservation of mature tree canopy in concert with the planting of new trees, the minimizing of impervious or semipervious surfaces, and the use of other natural or gray infrastructure to maximize the land's capacity to absorb and retain rainfall and stormwater runoff on site instead of contributing more water to our already overburdened stormwater management system, which includes Arlington's streams.

Cultural Affairs Committee - May 2020

During these challenging times, it is heartening to hear stories of incredible efforts to bring our community together. Embracing Arlington Arts has been the only resource creating direct programming to unify and support our arts community during these uncertain times. Each week they program free virtual meetings and seminars that address relevant topics to the arts sector.

On April 30th, Arlington County Board member Katie Cristol joined them. She listened as they shared their experiences navigating *PPP and **SBA grant

processes and efforts to transition arts programming online. While no formal guidelines for re-opening have been adopted, Katie followed up with more information about how Arlington will approach re-opening as a National Capital Region. See [Embracing Arlington Arts](#) for more information and contact details.

Each year since FY 1992, The Arlington Commission for the Arts has been administering the Arlington Arts Grants Program. The grant program is an important way that the County addresses its investment in our arts infrastructure. In the FY 2020 Budget, the FY 2021 Grant Program was funded with \$215,810. Arlington artists and arts organizations began the competitive application process in November. The Arts Commission met last in February and will convene virtually to discuss Grant applications on May 27th at 7p. Visit the [Commission for the Arts](#) website for more details.

Committee members interested in contributing topics/ideas to June's committee report are encouraged to contact the chair. Please email Tina Worden: tinaw@civfed.org

**PPP abbreviation for the Payment Protection Program. PPP is an SBA loan that helps businesses keep their workforce employed during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis.*

***SBA abbreviation for the the U.S. Small Business Administration created in 1953 as an independent agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation.*

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Emergency Response Team Training: May Update

Founded in 1993, the global Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program is comprised of trained volunteers who assist their communities when disaster strikes. Since 2002, Arlington County has offered free CERT classes to train people who live, work, or attend school in Arlington County-on how to be the help until help arrives.

The Arlington CERT basic training program is approximately 30 hours of classroom and hands-on training and concludes with a final training exercise before graduation. In the CERT Basic Training program, participants learn disaster preparedness, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, team organization, disaster psychology, fire suppression and terrorism. Since all in-person activities have been canceled indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Arlington CERT is hosting CERT Basic Training online starting May 7. Enrollment is still possible until May 21. Participants will complete hybrid training through weekly Zoom sessions, independent study, YouTube and online FEMA courses. To complement the online training,

Arlington CERT will conduct practice sessions then the final exercise at the ACFD Fire Training Academy (FTA) in Shirlington when in-person activities resume.

The fall sessions will start in September presumably at the FTA. The classroom sessions are taught by Arlington County Fire and Police Departments and active duty CERT members.

The benefit of CERT basic training became evident, once again, in July 2019 after severe weather caused widespread flooding and significant damage to public facilities, roads, businesses and homes. Volunteers from Arlington CERT, the Arlington Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and Team Rubicon trained and mobilized to go door-to-door to assist with damage assessments in the County.

Are you ready to join the over 850 volunteers trained by Arlington CERT? You can still join the spring training session, which started May 7, and the fall sessions in September.

For more information about the Arlington CERT and to register, please visit <https://emergency.arlingtonva.us/get-involved/cert/>.

Arlington County Public Schools

[APS Update on the Coronavirus](#)

[The Civic Federation's Website](#)

2019-2020 Board of Directors

Allan Gajadhar, Acting President
Vice President, Vacant
Allen Norton, Secretary
Burt Bostwick, Treasurer

Board of Directors Acting Chair, Eric Cassel
Board of Directors Vice Chair, Vacant
Member at Large, Allan Gajadhar
Member at Large, Tina Worden
Member at Large, Dennis Gerrity
Member at Large, Mike McMenamin
Member at Large, Stacy Meyer

Here is a [link](#) to Board members bios to learn about their backgrounds.

2019-2020 ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES

Cultural Affairs – Chair Tina Worden – tinaw@civfed.org
Environmental Affairs – Mary Glass – mary@civfed.org
Housing – Chair John Vihstadt – housing.chair@civfed.org
Legislation – Chair Ron Haddox – ron@civfed.org
Parks and Recreation – Chair Duke Banks – duke@civfed.org
Planning and Zoning – Chair Ben Kenney – ben@civfed.org
Public Services - Chair Jackie Snelling – jackie@civfed.org
Revenues and Expenditures – Burt Bostwick (POC) – burt@civfed.org
Schools – Chair Michael Beer – michaelbeer@civfed.org
Transportation – Chair Jerry Auten – jerry@civfed.org

2019-2020 FEDERATION SUPPORT COMMITTEES

Audit -- Chair Jay Wind – jay.wind@att.net
Awards – Chair – Tbd
Bylaws and Rules – Chair Allen Norton – allen.n@civfed.org
Banquet – Chair – Tina Worden – tinaw@civfed.org
Communications – Chair Tina Worden – tinaw@civfed.org
Membership – Chair Dennis Gerrity – membership@civfed.org

Any Delegate, Alternate or member of a Member Organization may participate on any Public Interest or Support Committee (Please contact the Committee chair or point of contact or [Acting President Allan Gajadhar](#) if you are interested participating on ACCF Committees.)

LINKS TO MEETING DOCUMENTS

[Draft February 2020 Membership Meeting Minutes](#)
[Draft March 2020 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes](#)
[Draft April 5, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes](#)
[Draft April 2020 Membership Meeting Minutes](#)
[Draft April 26, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting](#)
[April 2020 Treasurer's Report](#)

!Please Remember!

The Civic Federation has changed the day and venue on which it holds its monthly meetings.

Effective October 2019, the Federation's General Membership Meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of the month.

Effective April 21, meetings are being held on a virtual basis using the Zoom video conferencing app until further notice. You must register for Zoom meeting. You can do between 6:30 PM and 7 PM on the day of the meeting.

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pwd=aWhFQ2Z1eDkzcndVKzRRanVoNzM3Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81612996398?pwd=aWhFQ2Z1eDkzcndVKzRRanVoNzM3Zz09)

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