



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

Minutes

June 16, 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 7:03 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 May was in the June Newsletter. The minutes for the May19th Membership Meeting were submitted and voting emails were sent. The May Minutes were approved

Member Attendance: Ms. Worden kept roll as the Members and Observers were allowed into the meeting. There were 100 Total Attendees with 72 Members. There were representative from 41 Organizations. 24 Organizations had two or more delegates and/or alternates present: American Association of University Women, Arlington Forest CA, Arlington Historical Society, Arlington Ridge CA, Arlington Tree Action Group, Aurora Highlands CA, Ballston-Virginia Square CA, Bluemont CA, Buckingham Community CA, Cherrydale CA, Glencarlyn CA, League of Women Voters, Leeway-Overlee CA, Little League, Maywood CA, NoVa Norml, Organized Women Voters, Shirlington Dogs II, Tara-Leeway Heights CA, Waverly Hills CA, Westover Village CA, Williamsburg CA, Woman’s Club and Yorktown CA.

Candidates Forum:

Takis Karantonis (D), Bob Cambridge (R) and Susan Cunningham (I) participated in the forum. After giving their positions they took questions.

Questions:

Should resources be shifted from the Police to Human Services? What are your top two priorities for the coming year? What should be the role of the County Board in supporting safe and secure elections? With license plate readers, police body cameras, facial recognition and cell phone trackers becoming more common what actions should the County take with respect to data privacy and law enforcement oversight? What is your view of density and zoning changes as they relate to housing affordability and availability? Will a really dynamic process be incorporated into decision making? What would you do to control growth to make sure the County has the infrastructure including green open space available to make sure the quality of life for existing residents is not only sustained, but improved? Should the WO&D Trail widening project be done or not? What’s your position on developers offering community benefits in exchange for bonus density; have you thought about what your exchange rate is going to be?

APS Superintendent Program:

Dr. Francisco Duran

School reopening: Safety and health considerations of students and staff come first, must have access to technology and Internet, must do so in a way that students and staff that can't come back due to health risk can be supported, must be flexible. Received CARES Act funds (~1.8M): Bought devices for K to 2 students. Will purchase 1 year of Comcast Internet service for families that qualify. Planning for several models of reopening depending on the Governor's phasing decisions.

Questions:

What does the purpose of the public school system mean to you? How do you plan to provide equitable distance learning to all students should schools remain closed? What support is planned for Teachers (particularly for training for distance learning)? What is your vision for the delivery of services, particularly for the gifted, in elementary schools? What is your vision for environmental literacy and is it important to have an outdoor learning program? What is your approach to students who don't want to go to college, but want to leave high school with marketable skills? What about Events, Clubs and other Extracurricular Activities?

Awards:

Certificate For Exemplary Civic Service: **Eric Gutshall**
Certificate For Exemplary Civic Service: **John Seymour**
Certificate For Exemplary Civic Service: **Theo Stamos**
Certificate For Exemplary Civic Service: **Tina Worden**
President's Award: **Jackie Snelling**
Sun Gazette Cup: **Sandy Newton**

Note: These awards are normally given at the Banquet, but it wasn't held this year.

Officer Elections: The Nominating Committee presented a slate of candidates:

Allan Gajadhar, President
Tina Worden, Vice-President
Allen Norton, Secretary
Burt Bostwick, Treasurer

Eric Cassel, Member at Large
Stacy Meyer, Member at Large
John Vihstadt, Member at Large
Michael Cantwell, Member at Large
Mike McMenamin, Member at Large

They were elected by Acclamation

Old Business:

There wasn't any.

New Business:

Public Service Committee: A new Chair, **John Ford**, was appointed for the committee. Mr. Ford asked that anyone who wanted to serve on the Flood Water Working group should contact him.

PSA: Arlington County is offering free COVID-19 testing at the Barcroft Sports & Fitness Center on Friday, June 19th. Will start at 8:00am and go until the tests run out. Will be Drive Through or Walk Up with no Doctor's referral, no appointment or no identification needed.

Schools Committee: They will be very busy this summer and the Chair, **Michael Beer**, is looking for people to join the committee or help out. Contact him if you are interested.

Voting: Constant Contact voting is anonymous with no record, but it is labor intensive and has speed and technical problems. Zoom voting is faster, but it is not anonymous and is recorded.

The Board discussed this and voted that we, "bring the question of voting anonymously or openly, depending on the ability of the technology, to the membership for a vote".

Stacy Meyer made a motion that we should use an open and recorded voting methodology.

The motion (with Whereas clauses) was read to the Delegates.

Motion only:

Be it resolved that the Arlington County Civic Federation use technologies or methods beginning at the September 2020 meeting which allow for open voting and each Delegate's vote is known and counted.

June Board of Directors Meeting: Acting-President Gajadhar announced that the June Board of Directors Meeting would be held at 6:00 PM on June 28th. It will be a **Virtual** meeting.

September 2020 Membership Meeting: Acting-President Gajadhar announced that the September 15th, 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 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Allen Norton