



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

**Minutes**

**September 20, 2020**

**Arlington County Civic Federation (“ACCF”)  
Board of Directors Meeting**

Call to Order at 6:00 p.m.

Board members attending the meeting: Allan Gajadhar, Burt Bostwick, Allen Norton, Stacy Meyer, Tina Worden, Eric Cassel, Mike McMenamin, John Vihstadt and Mike Cantwell. Others attending included Dennis Gerrity (Membership Chair); Duke Banks (Parks and Recreation Chair); John Ford (Public Services Chair); Ron Haddox (Legislation Committee Chair); Michael Beer (Schools Chair); Jackie Snelling (Lyon Village); Lois Koontz (Alcova Heights); Dave Schutz (Ashton Heights); Elfreda Baptist (Clarendon-Courthouse); Connie Ericson (Forest Glen); Bernard Berne (Buckingham); Richard Epstein (Arlington Forest); Benjamin Keeney (North Highlands ); Norma Kacen (AAUW) and Darcy Cuffman (Penrose).

**Meeting Format:** The meeting was held Virtually using Zoom. Eric was Host and Allan was Co-Host. Tina and Dennis controlled entry into the meeting.

**Base Reports**

1) **Chair Intro:** There is a great deal of work going on in Livability 202.  
There will be a 2 minute break at 7:00.

2) **Approval of minutes:** Burt made a motion to accept the minutes. Dennis seconded it. The vote was unanimous to accept the August 23rd Board Meeting minutes as written

3) **Officer’s Reports:**

**President’s Report:**

**Candidates Night Follow-Up:** This meeting went off very well. There were 1,407 views on the Facebook Video and there was a lot of coverage (about 10 articles in the Sun Gazette alone). Senator Warner’s office called and asked if he could speak to us. The October meeting is a possibility. A number of people thought it would set a bad precedent to give him a platform just before the election. The consensus was that it would be OK for him to come after the election and participate in a panel.

**December Meeting Date:** The third Tuesday conflicts with County Board meetings. We would like Mark Schwartz (County Manager) to come to the meeting, but he won’t be able to. Allan suggested we move that meeting to the second Tuesday ( 12/8/20 ) which was accepted. Eric suggested we ask the members if they want to continue using the second Tuesday ( the date change wouldn’t take effect until Fall 21’, though ).

**Civic Association “Toolkit“:**

The “Toolkit” page on our Website contains a number of out-of-date references. It needs to be refreshed. A committee will be formed to do that and ( Ron’s suggestion ) look at the structural deficiencies of the Web site (Tina, Ron, Adam, Burt, Allen).

**Logo:**

There is a lot of pressure on the County to change its logo. Should we do so also? The consensus was that the members should be asked whether we should. A Resolution will be written and introduced at the next meeting. John suggested that we tell the County that CivFed should have a representative on the Working Group they are planning to review the issue. Eric suggested that if we change our logo there should be a design contest.

**Vice-President's Report:**

**CivFed Email:** Have been working with Adam Henderson to find and remove old unused CivFed email accounts. Found over fifty we thought were dead. They had had no traffic for some time. On track to eliminate them by the end of the month

**Secretary's Report:****Dues/Contact Sheet/Organization Certification Status For Member Organizations:**

Have Paid dues: 28                      Emails sent to 71 organizations, 32 have responded  
Submitted Contact Sheet: 24  
Submitted Certification: 13

Allen: Who are all the Representatives that CivFed currently has? The Secretary is supposed to maintain a list of them, but doesn't know who they all are. A request for names will be put in the Newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Have submitted the RS report to the boards. Have over \$22,000 in Checking. Just got through our Annual report for the previous fiscal year, a proposed budget and an Audit. PayPal still doesn't work. May have more trouble shutting it down than registering it. Will work with Adam Henderson to finish it.

**4) Committee Reports:**

**P & R** – Duke Banks: P & R is reviewing a Resolution from the Friends of Arlington parks and the Stormwater Resolution.

**Public Services** – John Ford: The Stormwater Resolution was sent to the Stormwater Committee for review.

**Schools** – Michael Beer: Want time to present a Resolution on the School Bond in October.

**Legislation** – Ron Haddox: The Civil Rights committee has a fully engaged group and is moving forward.

**Old Business:**

**Next General Meeting:** Resolution discussion and amendment – One or more of the resolutions brought up in October may be discussed and amended. How do we do motions or amendments in Zoom? We used Robert's Rules for procedure for In-Person meetings, but there are feasibility problems with doing that with Zoom. Zoom can do Raised Hand and Polling voting. Constant Contact can do private voting.

Eric: Use the Raised Hand feature in Zoom – unless the vote is close ( need Constant Contact voting then ).

Dennis: Zoom voting during a meeting can be disruptive. A template can be made in Constant Contact that will allow voting emails to go out quickly. Unfriendly amendments can take a lot of time for little gain ( Stacy, Allan & Eric agreed ). Vote the Resolution up or down and be done with it.

Duke: Our Incorporation lawyer said that Robert's Rules should not be referenced in the bylaws ( there was a conflict with incorporation ). Tina agreed. There are state laws that must be reviewed before a decision can be made on this.

Allan: Unfriendly amendments with lengthy debate can not be handled well in Zoom meetings. Time limits will have to be imposed. Given its questionable status, Robert's Rules will not be strictly followed.

None of the Board was for Unfriendly Amendments ( except for time-sensitive resolutions ).

Duke: Explain in the Newsletter why Unfriendly Amendments will not be accepted in Zoom meetings and request that concerns be sent to the Board ( numerous Board members agreed with this ).

Allan: An Ad-Hoc committee will be set up to look for a way we can address this in the future.

**October Meeting:** School Bond,Legislative,R&E,COVID,Governance Task Force,Expansion of the Board, Stormwater Bond ( P&R depending on time )

**Diversity Discussion – Stacy**

Request that article be placed in the Newsletter asking for volunteers to work on this initiative. One area is the make-up of the Civic Federation. An Ad-Hoc committee may be created for this initiative.

**Arlington Governance Task Force: Formation of new committee**

Dave: Not withstanding some political opposition, it will be voted on at the October meeting.

Mike C.: Are we forming a Committee or a Task Force? Stacy: It's a Task Force. There was a committee to put the Resolution together.

Allen: The Board should not create this as a committee. Committees have restrictions on who can be selected as members. If the membership creates this Task Force at a meeting, though, it can have whatever member selection policy the membership deems appropriate.

**New Business:**

**Missing Middle Study:**

Rick Epstein: There is a Process issue with this important County study. Public engagement is lacking. There should be a Working Group, but there is no indication that there will be one. The County Board will decide on the MMS plan this Tuesday.

John Vihstadt made a **motion** that we should send a letter to the County Board asking them to include a diverse Working Group in the MMS. It was seconded and voted on. All approved.

Allan will write one.

**Stormwater and School Bonds:**

The Stormwater and School Bond Resolutions will be submitted to the membership for a vote at the October meeting. They were not introduced at a previous meeting, but Dennis pointed out that there were many precedents for time-sensitive resolutions being introduced by the Newsletter and then voted on.

Tina made a **motion** to introduce the Stormwater Bond resolution by way of the newsletter. It was seconded by John and voted on. All approved.

John made a **motion** to introduce the School Bond resolution by way of the newsletter. It was seconded by Allen and voted on. All approved.

**Scholarship Idea:** Put off to Next Month due to lack of time.

**November, December, Winter Tentative Meeting Topics - Tina:**

**November:** Wide Open.

**December:** APS Superintendant and County Manager, Airport Mitigation Study

**Late Fall-Early Winter:** Parks & Recreation

**Other Possible topics:** Virtual vs. In-Person learning, Legislative Affairs

The Board Put off Scheduling decisions to Next Month due to lack of time.

The October Board meeting will be a **Virtual** one and will be held on Sunday, October 25th at 6:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16  
Respectfully submitted by Allen Norton

The Full Motion to ask the County Board to include a diverse Working Group in the MMS:

*The County is about to launch its Missing Middle Study that may propose adoption by the County Board of changes in zoning in the neighborhoods of various of our member organizations that are currently zoned exclusively for single family housing. This study and its potential impact are of considerable concern and importance to our member organizations as well as our community generally. Staff has stated in the draft study scope that this study warrants the highest level of public engagement which can include creation of a resident working group. Recognizing the many instances of past use of working groups by the County for policy initiatives of this scope and importance, and the need for diverse representation and ongoing public engagement in the study process, we ask that you establish a diverse working group as part of this Missing Middle Study.*

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