



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

## Minutes

November 17, 2020

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

**Call to Order:** Federation President Gajadhar noted the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. President Gajadhar led the meeting in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Meeting Format:** The meeting was held virtually using Zoom. President Gajadhar was the Administrator to begin with and then shared the duty with Vice President Tina Worden. The meeting registration URL was listed in the email newsletter and posted on the ACCF Facebook event page. Dennis Gerrity managed member and guest attendance for the meeting and voting process. Voting was done using Constant Contact by electronic ballots issued to voting members in attendance.

The Treasurer’s report for October was in the November Newsletter. The minutes for the October 20th Membership Meeting were submitted and a voting email was sent. The vote was: **46 For, 0 Against, 7 Abstentions and 2 Did Not Respond.** The October Minutes were approved.

**Member Attendance:** Mr. Gerrity kept roll as the Members and Observers entered the meeting. There were 110 Total Attendees with 81 Members and 29 Guests. There were representative from 47 Organizations. 25 Organizations had two or more delegates and/or alternates present: American Association of University Women, Arlington Forest CA, Arlington Heights CA, Arlington Historical Society, Arlington Tree Action Group, Aurora Highlands, Ballston-Virginia Square CA, Bluemont CA, Buckingham Community CA, Clarendon-Courthouse CA, Columbia Heights CA, Crystal City CA, Friends of Aurora Highlands Parks, Friends of Arlington Parks, Green Valley CA, NAACP #7047, North Highlands CA, NoVa NORML, Penrose CA, Shirlington Dogs II, Tara-Leeway Heights CA, Waverly Hills CA, Waycroft-Woodlawn CA, Westover Village CA and Yorktown CA.

**Qualified Immunity Discussion** - Juliet Hiznay (Legislative Committee) moderated a panel composed of: Jay Schweikert (Cato Institute), Jeffrey Bourne (Del, 71<sup>st</sup> District), Victor Glasberg and John Jones (Dir. Virginia Sheriffs’ Assoc.)

Each made opening remarks and took pre-written questions.

*Does reforming Qualified Immunity create a risk of excessive and inappropriate litigation? Can you distinguish between general Tort liability and Civil Right liability? Are there any circumstances under which you would support holding law enforcement officers accountable for deaths or injuries to members of the public? Are there ways that legislation across this country have created some buffers for law enforcement agencies that would address their concerns with regards to personal liability? How, if it all, do many of the criminal justice reforms that passed the 2020 General Assembly relate to the need for the Bourne legislation? Will anyone cover cases specific to Arlington County?*

**GMU Arlington Campus Expansion** – Liza Wilson Durant, GMU Associate Provost

Ms. Durant gave a Presentation on the Campus Expansion and then took questions.

*Could you help us understand how GMU defines diversity or more context on the rankings? Is this initiative connected with the prospective Potomac Yard VT Campus? What should Arlington do from a zoning perspective to make sure we are making room for the additional students and faculty to live nearby? Do we need more apartments in the surrounding areas? How are you planning to serve people with disabilities, including those with communication barriers? Will the building satisfy the LEED bird-safe design standards? Will there be added green space on the rooftops to offset what is lost in the construction? Will you be building any onsite parking, leasing spaces nearby, or relying on folks to use public transit almost exclusively?*

**County DES: Parking Permits Review Report** – Stephen Crim

( Parking Program Manager for DES Transportation Engineering and Operations Bureau )

Mr. Crim gave a Presentation on the Parking Permits Report and then took questions.

*Please say more, or provide info, about “limited” permits for school staff. Are neighborhoods with current RPP grandfathered in terms of qualification to retain it? I have a driveway which I pay taxes on, do I get some credit on my assessment for contributing my private property to the overall parking assets of the county? Are you including curb cuts without driveways, driveways, or garages? What about people with two car garages? Would a person living in Zone 9 be able to park near the EFC metro Zone 9?*

**Governance Task Force: Member Slate and Election** – President Gajadhar announced that the name had been changed to **Task Force in Governance and Election ( TIGER )**.

President Gajadhar presented the Member Slate ( selected by him with help from Michael Beer (Maywood), Dave Schutz (Ashton Heights) and John Vihstadt (Tara-Leeway) ). The slate will be voted on by email ballot.

There were questions asked.

*Are all of these individuals Delegates or Alternates? Why are we not able to select from a larger pool of prospective members so that the selection ultimately is in the hands of the membership? What did the selection criteria look like for the Taskforce? Will the group get a generic email to assist with questions from member organizations? Will this group make a recommendation to the membership so that it may be voted on?*

David Hughes (Bluemont) made a **motion** to approve the slate. John Tuohy (AHS) seconded it.

There were more questions asked.

*We should discuss the motion first before we vote on it. Will any recommendations go through committees before going to the membership for a vote? Wasn't the slate supposed to be shown to the Board first? Was diversity considered when the slate was selected? How many people applied to join this group to begin with? (~20) Why can't all the people who applied be in the group? Why were all the selectors men and why was it done in private? Why were we not told anything about these people before being asked to vote on them?*

David Hughes (Bluemont) **withdrew** his motion.

Chris Hoh (Barcroft) **moved** that the election be deferred. Bernard Berne (Buckingham) seconded it.

A Zoom vote was taken. 36 hands were raised ( out of 67 possible ) to **defer** the election.

President Gajadhar said that the Task Force selection process would go back to the Board for discussion and review. The resolution itself may be reviewed also.

## Old Business:

### **Boundary Clarification – Agreement between the Columbia Heights and Green Valley Civic Associations**

Jackie Snelling (Lyon Village) made a **motion** to approve the Boundary Clarification and to have the ACCF send a letter to the County Board and Manager indicating that approval. Juliet Hiznay (Columbia Heights) seconded it. An email vote was taken ( 55 Ballots ). The vote was: **50 For, 0 Against, 3 Abstentions and 2 Did Not Respond.**

## New Business:

**Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws to Accommodate Virtual Meetings** – Deferred to a later meeting.

**Awards & Banquet Committee Status Update** – There is nothing to report on the Banquet as is not likely to be held. Awards will be given out virtually via Zoom at the June meeting ( same as last year ).

**A Resolution Was Introduced** by Bernard Berne (Buckingham Community CA) to invalidate the membership of the NAACP (Arlington Branch #7047) because the vote at the September meeting to approve their membership application had not been taken in the proper fashion and that a new vote needed to be taken at the next meeting. It also said that Robert's Rules of Order needed to be followed at that vote and that the Bylaws should be amended to require the use of Robert's Rules of Order.

The President decided to assign this resolution to the Board and not to a committee. He reminded the audience that the ACCF does not follow Robert's Rules of Order. ( The Bylaws do not require any rules of order )

Much discussion ensued.

*Is there a way to have a motion to not entertain this because it is really insane? Is there a way to dispose of this so the Board will not have to spend time on it? Are we voting to kick the NAACP out of CivFed on a technicality? I'm extremely disappointed with CivFed. I honestly can't believe what I'm hearing. Since we have a quorum can we vote not to entertain the resolution?*

**November Board of Directors Meeting:** President Gajadhar announced that the November Board of Directors Meeting would be held at 6:00 PM on November 22nd. It will be a **Virtual** meeting.

**December 2020 Membership Meeting:** President Gajadhar announced that the December 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 6:00.

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 PM.  
Respectfully submitted by Allen Norton

Video of the meeting is on Vimeo at: <https://vimeo.com/481244444>

## **Member Slate - Task Force in Governance and Election ( TIGER )**

Name	Affiliation
Nancy Tate	League of Women Voters (former President)
John Vihstadt	Arlington County Board (former)
Michael Beer	ACCF Schools Committee
Dave Schutz	Ashton Heights CA
Chanda Choun	Buckingham Community CA
Sangita Sigdya	FairVote
Keith Fred	Barcroft/Shirlington Dogs
Sharon Valencia	Ballston/Virginia Square CA
Beth Grossman	Arlington Tree Action Group
Kris Brown	Brady: United Against Gun Violence
Kevin Appel	ACDC Chair (former)
Whytni Kernodle	Black Parents of Arlington
Tannia Talento	Arlington County School Board
Duke Banks	ACCF President emeritus
Chris Wimbush	Crystal City CA

### **Introduced at the Nov 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting by Bernard Berne (Buckingham Community CA):**

#### **RESOLUTION REGARDING VOTE TO ADMIT NAACP AS MEMBER OF CIVIC FEDERATION**

WHEREAS, at its September 8, 2020, virtual membership meeting, the members of the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) voted to accept the application that NAACP (Arlington Branch #7047) submitted to become a member of the ACCF; and,

WHEREAS, the membership vote was not unanimous; and,

WHEREAS, the ACCF bylaws no longer provide for the use of Roberts Rules of Order; and,

WHEREAS, there was no motion on the floor to bring business before the members at the time that the ACCF voted to accept the NAACP (Arlington Branch #7047) into membership in the organization, as required when following Roberts Rules of Order; and,

WHEREAS, the President of the ACCF, who was presiding over the meeting, did not call for a discussion on the acceptance of the NAACP (Arlington Branch #7047) into membership in the organization before calling for a vote on the matter; and,

WHEREAS, the absence of an opportunity to discuss the acceptance prevented members from expressing their views on the matter at hand before the ACCF President called for a vote on the matter;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the ACCF membership vote to accept the NAACP (Arlington Branch #7047) as a member organization is null and void; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ACCF place its consideration of the application that the NAACP (Arlington Branch #7047) submitted to become a member of the ACCF on the agenda for the next scheduled ACCF membership meeting following its vote on this resolution; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ACCF follow the procedures set forth in Robert's Rules of Order when conducting its vote on the acceptance of the application that the NAACP (Arlington Branch #7047) submitted to become a member of the ACCF; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ACCF consider amending its bylaws to require the use of Roberts Rules of Order in all instances except when the membership votes to suspend such use.