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The Civic Voice



Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation | December 2020 | Volume 105 | Number 4

December 15, 2020 Virtual ACCF Membership Meeting

On December 15, 2020, the ACCF will conduct a virtual Membership Meeting using Zoom, a video conferencing platform. Delegates, Alternate Delegates, others associated with member organizations, and the public are invited to attend.

Advance Registration for the meeting is required and must be completed by 12PM on Tuesday, December 15, 2020.

***If voting members register after this deadline, receipt of an electronic ballot cannot be ensured. Due to the fluid nature of live virtual meetings, we must request that voting members adhere to this deadline.*

Please use the following registration link:

https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJotdOyhqzwtGNT0jdfcay1wPsEgP-fs4_EW

A confirmation email will be sent with unique meeting log-in/phone-in details. We ask for your cooperation and strongly encourage early check-in, which starts at 6 PM.

To expedite the check-in process, please use your first and last name as your profile name, this will help our team ensure delegates receive their electronic ballots.

If you are not familiar with Zoom, here is a [link to information and instructions on how to register and participate in CivFed's December 15, 2020 Membership Meeting](#).

December 15, 2020 Membership Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 Regular Business (Pledge, Approve Minutes, etc.)
- 7:10 Board Candidates Open Mike
- 7:25 Airport Noise Mitigation Study: County Staff Richard Roisman
- 7:55 Q&A on Airport Noise Mitigation
- 8:05 VHC Trauma Center
- 8:35 Announce Electronic Ballots emailed
- 8:40 Old Business
- 8:50 New Business

9:00 Adjourn

President's Corner

Welcome,

The holiday season is in full swing. We have many reasons to be thankful, and many reasons to celebrate this month. There is a light on the horizon that this pandemic will be behind us sometime in the next year now that vaccines will soon be available.

Our last membership meeting has identified gaps in our documented procedures since the change in the bylaws a few years ago, we are in the process of documenting our procedures around how resolutions are proposed and discussed at membership meetings.

Our goal is to promote open, balanced discussion of issues important to Arlington, and we need to have appropriate, documented procedures in place to ensure that every voice is heard.

Ensuring that all voices are heard inevitably means that there will be disagreement. The Civic Federation strives to ensure a balanced perspective on all issues that are under discussion. We also need to ensure that discourse is conducted in a civil manner, and appropriate standards of conduct are followed. This applies to all Civic Federation membership, committee, and board meetings.

Also in this newsletter is the slate of nominees for the Governance Task Force that was proposed at the last meeting. I trust that publishing the names and brief bios of each member will provide the requested transparency into the nominees as was requested at the November membership meeting. We will have a discussion and vote on this slate at the December meeting.

Finally, please be safe and follow public health guidance.

Warmly,

[Allan Gajadhar](#)

January 2021 Membership Meeting

Our first membership meeting in 2021 will feature members of the Arlington County Board. It will be held beginning at approximately 7:00 PM on January 4th. It will be a virtual meeting using Zoom, a video conferencing platform. It will follow the County Board's annual organizational meeting. More details will follow in the January newsletter.

December Ballot

In accordance with our Bylaws, voting delegates must be present at the meeting to receive a ballot. Electronic Ballots will be emailed shortly before the end of the meeting. Ballots will be sent to the email addresses used at registration.

Delegates and alternates are designated by the member organization. Please contact your organization if you are unsure if you are a delegate or to designate an alternate in your absence.

The [Secretary](#) must be notified of alternates acting as substitutes for voting delegates by Noon, Tuesday, December 15, 2020.

The Main Ballot will be introduced and distributed to voting members shortly before the the meeting is adjourned. Voting will close at noon on Wednesday, December 16. Results will be announced via email to the membership at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, December 16, 2020.

Voting members will receive a ballot to vote on the following:

- [Slate of Candidates for the Governance Task Force](#)
- [The Draft November 17, 2020 Membership Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Candidates for ACCF Board of Directors](#)

If you are a voting delegate and do not receive a ballot, please contact [Allan Gajadhar](#).

Governance Task Force Nominees

- Nancy Tate is a longtime Arlington resident. She is a former National CEO of the League of Women Voters, and a delegate to the Civic Federation from the Arlington branch of the League of Women Voters.
- John Vihstadt is a resident of Tara/Leeway Heights. He is a delegate from the Arlington Historical Society (AHC), chair of the Civic Federation Housing Committee, member of the Civic Federation Board of Directors. He is also a former member of the Arlington County Board.
- Michael Beer is an Arlington resident and Civic Federation Delegate from Maywood. He is chair of the Civic Federation Schools Committee, and Executive Director of Nonviolence International.
- Dave Schutz is a longtime Arlington resident; he is a resident of Ashton Heights and serves as as one of Ashton Heights' ACCF delegates .
- Chanda Choun is a resident of Buckingham, a Civic Federation delegate, and a former member of the Civic Federation Board. He is an Army reservist, and a cyber security professional. He serves on several organizations and commissions in Arlington, including the Arlington County Fiscal Affairs Advisory Commissioner, Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth & Families, Vice President of the Buckingham Community Civic Association, and Board Director of Arlington Independent Media,
- Sangita Sigdya is a resident of Westover. She is Executive VP of FairVote, a nonpartisan champion of electoral reforms, including ranked choice voting.
- Sharon Valenciais is a resident of Ballston/Virginia Square. She is a Management consultant with a focus on governance and process improvement for government organizations. She currently serves on the Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission and is participating in the Clarendon Sector Plan update.
- Keith Fred is a resident of Barcroft, and a delegate from Shirlington Dogs. He has served on the Four Mile Run Valley Initiative Working Group, the Shirlington Dog park Working Group, and the Columbia Pike Form Base Code Advisory Working Group.
- Beth Grossman is a long-time resident of Lyon Village, and a delegate from ATAG. She currently works as an attorney with the Federal government.
- Kris Brown is a long-time resident of Ashton Heights. She is the President of Brady United, and brings a lifelong background in policy and grassroots activism and strategic management expertise.
- Kevin Appel is a lifelong Arlington resident, currently in Madison Manor. He is a past chair of the Arlington County Democratic Committee.
- Whytni Kernodle is a resident of Radnor/Ft. Meyer Heights. She is an attorney, and co-founder of Black Parents of Arlington.
- Tannia Talento is a resident of Cherrydale. She is a member of the Arlington County School Board, where her term ends this month.
- Duke Banks is a long-term Arlington resident. He is a delegate from the Arlington Historical Society, Chair of the Civic Federation Parks and Recreation committee, and a past president of the Civic Federation.

- Chris Wimbush is a resident of Crystal City, where he is vice-president of the civic association, and delegate to the Civic Federation. He is an attorney for the federal government and has clerked for several federal judges.

Slate of Candidates for ACCF Board of Directors

ACCF Secretary Allen Norton received two nominations for two additional board seats approved by the membership in October, 2020. The deadline to submit nominations ended on December 1, 2020. Candidates were invited to submit personal statements and also offered an opportunity to introduce themselves to the membership at the December Member Meeting. Attending voting delegates will receive an e-ballot to cast their votes for their candidates after the meeting. To read their personal statements, click on each candidate name: [Jesse Boeding](#) and [Nicole Merlene](#).

Airport Noise Consultant Study Sponsored by Arlington and Montgomery Counties

This study has been underway since April 2020. ABCx2 Consultants will join Rich Roisman, the study manager for Arlington County to report on potential northern route changes for departures from and arrivals to National Airport (DCA). Attending for ABCx2 are: Jim Allerdice, Chief Consultant for Terminal Operations and Managing Partner, and Jason Schwartz, Chief Consultant for Airports, Community, and Environment. Since the Arlington County Board Meeting is also being held on December 15th, Chair Garvey or Matt De Ferranti may make a brief appearance. Joseph Pelton, ACCF Co-Chair of the Transportation Committee and Chair of the Airport Noise Committee has prepared selected questions for this panel. Follow this [link](#) to learn what questions will be asked. Other questions will be taken as time allows.

For more information about the study, go to <https://departments.arlingtonva.us/cmo/airport-noise/>

Virginia Hospital Center Trauma Center

Virginia Hospital Center is in the process of qualifying to operate as a Level II Trauma Center. The official Level II Trauma Center designation means that the Arlington hospital is equipped to handle serious trauma cases — everything from falls to crashes to gunshot wounds — with properly-trained staff (including board-certified trauma surgeons) and necessary equipment on hand 24 hours a day. To become a Level II Trauma Center, the Virginia Hospital Center must receive the approval of the Commonwealth of Virginia. As part of the application process, VHC is doing community outreach to explain its trauma resources. VHC's Mindy Carter and Dr. Megan Quintana will give a presentation on the Trauma Center's resources and answer questions about the hospital's Trauma Center.

Promoting Arlington's Forestry and Natural Resources Plan

Arlington County has requested that members of the Civic Federation and other Arlington organizations promote Arlington's Forestry and Natural Resource Plan by making their views known during the public engagement phase of the project by going to the [public engagement website](#) and following the links on it before **DECEMBER 10th**. Time is short, so please participate right after reading this article.

The Federation has passed several resolutions on the lack of open space in Arlington County during the past twenty years. See the bulleted list below for more details.

- In 1998, and reaffirmed in 2019, the Civic Federation passed resolutions concerning the boathouse in Arlington and the uncertain land use for the tract of land on Lee Highway that would support the boathouse because of potential negative impacts on Open Space. See [2019 Resolution](#). The 1998 Resolution is referenced in the 2019 Resolution.
- In 2016, because of concern of lack of land acquisition for open space, the Civic Federation passed a [Resolution](#) suggesting that the County establish a land acquisition goal of three acres per year for the next ten years. This was incorporated into the County's 2019 [Public Spaces Master Plan](#) but the land acquisition component of the plan has yet to be funded.
- In May 2020 the Civic Federation passed a [Resolution](#) recommending a more balanced approach towards allocation of bond funds for park and recreation uses after conducting an analysis of the past four bond cycles where it was documented that total bond fund allocations of \$126,254,387 were not in sync with the [2016 "statistically valid" survey](#) (page 7) of citizen's needs. Their needs showed that Arlington needed more trails, natural areas, and wildlife habitat. The analysis showed that bond funds were allocated as follows:
 - Recreation – 86.17%
 - Parks – 6.85%
 - Unallocated Land Acquisition – 4.75%
 - Open Space – Natural Habitat – 1.6%
 - Open Space – Urban – 0.63%

As noted in the resolution, this allocation is not in sync with citizen needs.

Juvenile Justice Reform Arrives in Arlington CYFA launches PEER

Arlington nonprofit CYFA (Center for Youth and Family Advocacy) has partnered with ACPD, APS, Arlington Juvenile Court Services Unit, Arlington Department of Human Services, and other agency and community stakeholders to implement PEER (Promoting Empathy through Equitable Resolution), a restorative practice program that promises fair, effective, and consistent outcomes in delinquency and school discipline cases. PEER addresses harmful adolescent behavior through facilitated dialogue, bringing together the adolescent, the victim, and the community in a peer-to-peer setting. The process affords victims a voice in the outcome and an opportunity to heal, enables adolescents to learn from their mistakes and make amends, and allows the community to affirm its values and re-invest in its members.

PEER differs from other restorative justice programs because it empowers our youth to resolve disputes in a peer-to-peer environment focused on reconciliation over punishment. While PEER assigns restorative practice professionals to support its youth practitioners, young people will play a primary role in the program. PEER, a true diversion program, accepts participants between the ages of 10 to 18 (or 19-year-old seniors) who may face certain criminal charges or school disciplinary proceedings. Currently, CYFA anticipates most referrals will come from local law enforcement or public schools; however, as a prevention program, PEER encourages community referrals in an effort to achieve a cultural shift in our collective response to harmful adolescent behavior.

To learn more about PEER, please visit <https://cyfadvocacy.org/prevention/peer/>

[The Civic Federation's Website](#)

[ACCF Treasurer's Report – November 1, 2020 – November 30, 2020](#)

2020-2021 Board of Directors

Officers

President, [Allan Gajadhar](#)
 Vice President, [Tina Worden](#)
 Secretary, [Allen Norton](#)
 Treasurer, [Burt Bostwick](#)

Board of Directors

Board Chair, [Eric Cassel](#)
 Member at Large, [Michael Cantwell](#)
 Member at Large, [Mike McMenamin](#)
 Member at Large, [Stacy Meyer](#)
 Member at Large, [John Vihstadt](#)

Voting delegates and alternate delegates who are interested to serve on the Civic Federation's Board of Directors should contact [President Allan Gajadhar](#).

2020-2021 ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES

Cultural Affairs – [Chair Tina Worden](#)
 Environmental Affairs – [Chair Mary Glass](#)
 Housing – [Chair John Vihstadt](#)
 Legislation – [Chair Ron Haddox](#)
 Parks and Recreation – [Chair Duke Banks](#)
 Planning and Zoning – [Chair Ben Keeney](#)
 Public Services – [Chair John Ford](#)
 Revenues and Expenditures – [Burt Bostwick \(POC\)](#)
 Schools – [Chair Michael Beer](#)
 Transportation – [Co-chairs Jerry Auten and Joe Pelton](#)

- Airport Noise Subcommittee – [Chair Joe Pelton](#)

2020-2021 ACCF SUPPORT COMMITTEES

Audit -- [Chair Jay Wind](#)
 Awards – Chair – TBD
 Bylaws and Rules – [Chair Allen Norton](#)
 Banquet – TBD
 Communications – [Chair Tina Worden](#)
 Membership – [Chair Dennis Gerrity](#)

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

LINKS TO MEETING DOCUMENTS

[Draft November 17, 2020 Membership Meeting Minutes](#)
[Draft November 22, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes](#)
[Approved October 25, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes](#)
[November 2020 Treasurer's Report](#)

Interested in being an Arlington County Civic Federation Delegate

The Arlington County Civic Federation was founded in 1916. Today, it has more than ninety member organizations dedicated to advocacy and community involvement. The Federation membership reflects the broad array of interests and talents found in the County and is open and welcoming to all groups within Arlington, firmly believing that a broader range of groups creates better problem-solving outcomes for Arlington and its residents. Our purpose continues to be promoting the general welfare of Arlington County and vicinity in a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-sectional, and non-political manner.

Arlington County Civic Federation Delegates enjoy the full benefits of participation, voting and serving in Civic Federation leadership positions. If your organization is a member of the Civic Federation, ask if it has open slots for delegates. If it is not a member organization of the Civic Federation, encourage it to join. Here is a [link](#) to our website for more details.

Delegate Participation in Crafting Resolutions

Amending and correcting resolutions can not be done during Virtual Meetings in a timely manner. To ensure opportunities to participate in crafting resolutions, offering comments, questions or changes proposed for consideration **by delegates, please** email communications to the sponsoring committee's point of contact by Friday, December 11. Please copy all correspondence to Tina Worden: vice.president@civfed.org. A confirmation email will be sent to acknowledge receipt.

All delegate communications including proposed changes will be considered by the sponsoring committee and documented with any action taken, if applicable.

ACCF Calendar FY2021

December 2020

- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 7PM, via Zoom; Registration begins: 6PM
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Sunday, December 20, 2020, 6PM, via Zoom

January 2021

- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Thursday, December 19, 2020
- GENERAL MEETING: Monday, January 4, 2021 at approximately 7PM (after the County Board's Annual Organizational Meeting), via Zoom
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Sunday, January 24, 2021, 6PM, via Zoom

February 2021

- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Thursday, February 4, 2021
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 7PM, via Zoom; Registration begins: 6PM
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Sunday, February 21, 2021, 6PM, via Zoom

March 2021

- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Thursday, March 4, 2021
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 7PM, via Zoom; Registration begins: 6PM
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Sunday 21 March 2021, 6p, via Zoom

April 2021

April is Civic Month by Arlington County Board Proclamation

- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Thursday, April 8, 2021
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, April 20, 2021, 7PM, via Zoom; Registration begins: 6PM
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Sunday, April 25, 2021, 6PM, via Zoom

May 2021

- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Thursday, May 6, 2021
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, May 18, 2021, 7PM, via Zoom; Registration begins: 6PM
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Sunday, May 23, 2021, 6PM, via Zoom

June 2021

- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Thursday, June 3, 2021
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, June 15, 2021, 7PM, via Zoom; Registration begins: 6PM
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: *TBD*

!Please Remember!**Advance Registration for the December 15, 2020 Membership Meeting is required and must be completed by 12PM, Tuesday, December 15.**

To register in advance for this meeting use the following link:

https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJotdOyhqzwtGNT0jdfcay1wPsEgP-fs4_EW

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After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing unique log-in/phone-in details for the meeting. We encourage you to check-in **between 6 PM and 7PM**. To expedite the check-in process, please use your first and last name as your profile name so that we can confirm electronic ballots for delegates. The check-in process may take some time and we ask for your patience.

If you are not familiar with Zoom, here is a [link to information and instructions on how to register and participate in CivFed's December 15, 2020 Membership Meeting](#).