



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

Minutes

January 04, 2021

### 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 7:04 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. Chris Warden managed member and guest attendance for the meeting.

The Treasurer’s report for December was in the November Newsletter. Due to lack of time the minutes for the December 15th Membership Meeting were not voted on. They will be submitted for approval at the next meeting.

**Member Attendance:** Cris Worden kept roll as the Members and Observers entered the meeting. There were 97 Total Attendees with 74 Members and 22 Guests. There were representative from 48 Organizations. 21 Organizations had two or more delegates and/or alternates present: American Association of University Women, Arlington Forest CA, Arlington Little League, Arlington Tree Action Group, Bluemont CA, Boulevard Manor CA, Buckingham Community CA, Clarendon-Courthouse CA, Crystal City CA, Fairlington CA, Friends of Aurora Highlands Parks, Glencarlyn CA, League of Women Voters, Maywood CA, NAACP #7047, Opera NOVA, Penrose NA, Tara-Leeway Heights CA, Waverly Hills CA, Westover Village CA and Yorktown CA.

### Arlington County Board:

The County Board - Matt de Ferranti ( Chair ), Christian Dorsey, Libby Garvey, Takis Karantonis and Katie Cristol ( Vice-Chair ) – answered questions that had been submitted by the Civic Federation two week before.

*The 16 submitted questions are listed at the end of the minutes.*

### Old Business:

**Communication Committee:** Tina Worden ( Shirlington Dogs II )

We are having issues with Constant Contact emails. There are problems with bounces and it has suspended some email accounts. If you get CC bulk emails from several organizations they can interfere with one another and cause CC to suspend your email address. Also please open your CC bulk emails. If you don’t, CC may decide that you aren’t interested and stop send emails. Call Allan or Tina if there are problems or if you suspect that CC doesn’t send email to you.

**Diversity Equity Inclusion Committee:** Stacy Meyer (Friends of Aurora Highlands Parks)

The members are Stacy, Nicole Merlene (NORML), Alistair Watson (Aurora Highlands CA), Lori Wilkerson and others. The first meetings will be on January 13<sup>th</sup>. One of the first items of business is will be examination of CivFed Processes (Leadership, Membership, Outreach Programming, Measurability of them). Will also be sponsoring programming during the year that would continue to examine the legacy of systemic racism and inequity in Arlington. Email Stacy Meyer if you are interested.

**New Business:**

**Parks & Recreation Resolution:** “ Resolution in Support of Desired Open Space Equity in Arlington “

Jesse Boeding introduced and explained it. The resolution came from the findings of the P&R White Paper, “Equity in Arlington County Open Public Spaces”

**Arlington Residential Parking Plan:**

Bill Walls (AEFCCA) is concerned about the implementation of the plan.

John Vihstadt (TLCA) asked if the RPP PowerPoint was available and pointed out that there was a great deal of information about the RPP on the County Web site.

**February 2021 Membership Meeting:** President Gajadhar announced that the February 16th, 2021 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 8:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Allen Norton

Video of the meeting is on Vimeo at: <https://vimeo.com/497676922>

Questions submitted to the Arlington County Board before the January 4<sup>th</sup> meeting:

*1. Please explain why the County Auditor has been provided so few resources and why any savings have been minimal over the past few years.*

*3. Have you considered the Civic Federation’s Parks and Recreation bond fund allocations study and the associated resolution as guiding principles for developing future CIPs? How do you plan to use the findings to better integrate land acquisition for both open space and stormwater management? Have you considered acquiring the Rouse property to help meet Arlington’s citizens’ desires for open space and natural habitat as expressed in the 2016 Needs Assessment Survey and as a generational purchasing opportunity in the 2019 approved PSMP?*

4. Will you establish a policy that requires staff to use data in the planning process that will best use limited resources and resolve concerns about the misuse of data in County planning processes, including the PMSP, stream restoration planning, and ensuring equity when allocating public open spaces? And, more specifically to the Board's recent acclimations on equity, will you ensure that equity data is embedded in planning processes?

5. **AFFORDABLE HOUSING DISTRIBUTION:** There is a broad consensus that committed affordable housing should be more evenly and equitably distributed across the county. What steps is the Board prepared to take to implement this consensus?

6. **COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS CONVERSION TO HOUSING:** We understand that the County is looking to facilitate the conversion of aging office buildings, hotels and potentially other under-utilized commercial buildings to housing. Please provide the status of this initiative and steps for community engagement.

7. **MISSING MIDDLE:** Staff has said repeatedly that the Missing Middle Study is not about "affordable" housing. If that is true, why should we be doing the study?

9. **HOUSING AND THE COSTS/BENEFITS OF DEVELOPMENT:** The Manager said at the December Board meeting that the County is finally working on a Request for Proposals (RFP) for development modeling tools similar to that offered by the Tishler Bise firm used by the City of Falls Church and other localities, as directed by the prior County Board several years ago. What is the current timetable for this initiative and how does the County plan to utilize such a modeling tool, assuming one is adopted?

11. Can we get an update on the outlook for Metro and federal support?

12. The governor just released his proposed budget amendments. Will you be seeking any changes?

13. How is Arlington doing in reaching students with broadband? Is there full coverage and if not, on what timetable? Are the costs of subscriptions being defrayed for students where needed?

14. What objective and transparent methodology will the County Board implement with respect to potential renaming of County properties, landmarks, or roadways, to include a new County logo, that will encourage acceptance by County citizens?

15. As you are probably aware, the Civic Federation is standing up a task force to look at Arlington's form of Government. This was inspired by the success of Patrick Hope's bill enabling us to initiate use of ranked choice voting in County elections but will include a wider range of issues, e.g. the best length of term for County and School Board members, whether terms should be staggered, district versus at large elections, number of members, how best to seek and incorporate citizen input, and others. Two questions: are there issues not named here which you think should be incorporated into our review? And, what should we be aware of from your side (schedule, anything else?) so that our output is most useful to you?

16. Livability22202 has been leading broad planning activities in relation to the increase in density proposed due to Amazon HQ2 over the last two years with reports and significant community engagement to fill a need for citizen representation. What is the tradeoff between wanting additional revenue from development and negative impacts on local residents? What factors are important when you look at approving developments that produce negative impacts on local residents? Are there any changes in the process of planning when a project impacts multiple civic associations?