



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

Minutes

February 21, 2021

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

Call to Order at 6:02 p.m.

Board members attending the meeting: Allan Gajadhar, Allen Norton, Tina Worden, Burt Bostwick, Eric Cassel, Mike McMenamin, John Vihstadt, Mike Cantwell, Nicole Merlene and Jesse Boeding. Others attending included Ron Haddox (Legislation Chair); Duke Banks (Parks & Recreation Chair); John Ford (Public Services Chair); Dennis Gerrity (Membership Chair); Hershel Kanter (Williamsburg); Alistair Watson (Aurora Highlands); Joseph Young (ORA); Stef Pryor (Penrose); Charles Head (ArIFiber); Detta Kissel (NAACP); Jean Ray (Arlington View) and Stephen D’Alessio (Aurora Highlands).

Meeting Format: The meeting was held virtually using Zoom. Eric was Host and Allan was Co-Host. Alistair Watson managed entry into the meeting.

Chair Intro: There will be a 2 minute break at 7:00.

Approval of January minutes: Approved unanimously.

Officers Reports

President’s Report: No Report, but do have one comment. I haven’t heard a word from anybody about serving on the Nominating Committee. Please encourage folks to volunteer to serve on the Nominating Committee.
Tina: I know one person who will reach out to you soon.

Vice-President’s Report: None

Secretary’s Report:

Dues/Contact Sheet/Organization Certification Status For Member Organizations:

Have Paid dues: 77	Emails sent to 77 organizations, 53 have responded
Submitted Contact Sheet: 45	8 Organizations haven’t paid Dues yet, but paid last year.
Submitted Certification: 30	10 Organizations didn’t pay Dues last year and haven’t paid yet this year.

The Newsletter asked Delegates to review the proposed Rules of Parliamentary Procedure. Three have requested copies. None have made any comments yet.

Treasurer’s Report: There have been no changes since the report provided to the Board earlier this month.

Burt: PayPal has been a big problem for two years. We tried to fix it by canceling the account and then creating a new account that is set up properly. For various reasons Adam Henderson, Peter Oliver and I were not able to fix it during a long call. It will take another three hour call (at minimum) to fix it. Payment by check has worked fairly well.

Allen: We should ask our members if any of them are PayPal experts and are willing to help make it work.

Eric: I have set up PayPal systems for several originations and am willing to help. (Alistair Watson also offered to help)

Note: Will resign at the end of the year, There will be a Final report with recommendations for next year.

Committee Reports:

Communications (Tina Worden): Stephen D'Alessio (Aurora Highlands) did really well as the new editor of the Newsletter. Alistair Watson and Dennis Gerrity did a great job on Check-In at the February meeting and at getting the Ballots out. We had good attendance at the meeting. We had some Ballot issues which required that the deadline be extended from Noon to 7:00pm. We finally resolved the issue with the Arlington County Little League over Constant Contact email. Have uploaded a number of documents to the shared Dropbox folder Eric set up (including a tentative Agenda for the rest of the year, the Legislative Affairs Panel Presentation and the Environmental Affairs Draft Resolution). Have created a Membership Application Template – it is in Dropbox for review.

Housing (John Vihstadt): We had a very successful Housing Committee meeting. We hosted County Staff and had a robust discussion of Housing Arlington – Missing Middle, Affordable, Housing Master Plan Update, the new Initiative to convert old Office Buildings and Hotels to Housing, Fair Housing and other housing topics. And we picked up some new members for the Committee.

P & R (Duke Banks): Jesse, John and Kari did a great job on the Presentation they gave at the meeting. Jesse made a great presentation to the County Board on the Open Equity P&R Resolution. We will be continuing the discussion about reaching out to the board for a more in depth discussion about the Open Equity resolution.

Diversity (Alistair Watson): We had our first meeting last Thursday and the attendance was solid. We are focusing on how we can add equity, inclusion and diversity within the Civic Federation. Our members include Michelle Winters (Alliance For Housing Solutions) and two members from the NAACP. We're hoping that our shared experiences can lead to greater insights and how to draw in not just more diverse people into the Civic Federation but also how to be more appealing.

AGTF (Allan Gajadhar): We had two organizational meeting and have elected officers - Chris Wimbush was elected Chair. We have two subcommittees so far: Communications and Public Engagement. Communications is Chaired by Dave Schutz and PE is Chaired by Sharon Valencia. There is also an Executive Committee which will include the Chair, Subcommittee Chairs, the Civic Federation President and some former public officials. .

Old Business:

March General Meeting:

R&E will introduce a Resolution

Public Services: CIP Mental Health (N. Merlene) (Won't have a Resolution)

Environmental Affairs – Presentation (M. Glass)

Nominating Committee will be Presented and voted on

New Member: Our Revolution Arlington

We had questions about their application at a previous meeting. Joe Young of ORA sent a letter addressing those issues to the Board. There is still some unease over this application. They have only listed 16 members who live in Arlington – need 20. Joe said some ORA members are leery of giving their addresses

Nicole: I can definitely attest that they have more than twenty people who live in Arlington.

John: How much are your dues per year? Joe: We don't have any. I ask for money as necessary.

Tina: I put a link in Chat for our Privacy Policy on our Web site.

John: We need to adhere to our standards, but at the same time the standards need to be clear and they need to be distantly and uniformly applied. Allan agreed.

Allan: Joe told us they have more than 20 members who live in Arlington and a Board member agrees with him so what criteria do we have to accept that assertion. We can decide that outside of this meeting.

Burt: We require an annual certification from the officers of the organization that they have a least 20 members. That is the criteria going forward and I don't see any reason why it needs to be otherwise for new organizations. To my knowledge, we've never required a list of members that lived and worked in Arlington before, we've relied on and trusted certification from the officers of the organization that are joining. I do have a Question, though. Do you have officers, do you have elections, do you have regular meetings and do you have bylaws? Joe: We have bylaws and a Steering Committee and the Steering Committee is elected. We don't have any other Officers.

John: Do we require our members to have a copy of their bylaws on the CivFed Web site?

Allen: We do not. It is not written, but we have traditionally required them. I don't know where they are kept.

Mike M: Addresses for 20 people was the general rule I was told by Stef Pryor and Duke Banks.

Nicole: When I helped an organization to join we were asked to certify that we had 20 members, but not asked For their addresses. Stef may know more about this. (see below)

John: Joe, can you send out a blast to your folks and find four people who live in or work in Arlington?

Tina: Our bylaws only require that they have 20 people; they do not require the addresses of those people. There is no document concerning these membership rules on the CivFed Web site.

Allan: Could these rules have been written before the bylaws were revised? Allen: They were. The Membership Committee had a greater role under the old bylaws then they do now.

John: If the Application we ask organizations to fill out doesn't provide explicit standards of living or working in Arlington, then I don't think we can apply them to ORA. I just want to make sure that we're treating every organization fairly and consistently.

Mike M: The Board approved it in the past and moving forward it became the standard. It was unwritten, but now it is probably the time to review the process and write it down.

Joe: Are there are any other concerns? I'm pretty sure I can get four more addresses.

Mike M: I have a question about partisanship. Stacy originally asked this, but I also would like to know how you will deal with the national OR organization.

Joe: ORA was formed by local activists who had worked on Bernie's campaign, but it is not a political organization. It is totally issues based. We want to promote progressive policies in Arlington.

John Vihstadt made a **motion** that we provisionally recommend the admittance of ORA, pending forthcoming documentation that demonstrates that they have at least twenty members who reside in Arlington County. Burt seconded the motion. A vote was taken. For: **7**, Against: **0**, Abstain: **3** The motion **passed**.

Burt: This discussion does point out the need to look at our application form and any standards that need to be written into the Bylaws. This should be taken up at a future date.

Resolution Procedures – Working on Wordsmithing

Eric: We aren't finished with the wordsmithing. We will present it next month.

Nominating Committee:

Allan: The Nominating Committee Protocol was approved last month.

Jesse: It was my understanding that it was a working Draft that will get us through this Nominating cycle and then we could put finishing touches on it. It puts some transparency in place and puts guiderails on the nominating process. I make a motion that Stacy be the Chair of the Nominating Committee and that there be an identification of who wants to continue so the Committee know what slots they have to fill. And we would like to know if there is anybody else who wants to serve on the committee.

Allan: Is it a good idea to vote Stacy in without her being here? Tina (and others): No

MikeC: Can Board members serve on the Nominating Committee? Dennis (and others): Yes

Tina: Does the Board choose the Chair of the Nominating Committee? Dennis: No They chose their own Chair. Stacy Meyer, Dennis Gerrity, Alistair Watson and Juliet Hiznay (Columbia Heights) are willing to serve. A fifth

person will need to be found.

Not Running Again: Burt Bostwick (Treasurer), **Tina Worden** (Vice-President), **Stacy Meyer** (Director)

Note: Allen Norton (Secretary) said he would step down if someone wanted the position.

New Business:

April General Meeting:

Public Services: Police Practices (Mike McMenamin)

Legislative Affairs: Data Privacy & Civil Rights (Confirmed)

R&E Resolution

May General Meeting:

Dr. Duran (APS Superintendant) (Confirmed)

School Board

Livability 22202

Candidates for Officers & Directors for 2021-2022 announced

Meeting Operations:

Jesse: We have to control time for Presentations.

Mike M: I agree.

Web Services:

Tina: Adam Henderson wants to have a Contract to continue working as Webmaster.

Allan and Mike C are a little leery about his terms and want to study alternatives. Jesse and Allen want to be careful about how it is handled. A final decision will be put off to the Fall.

FY 2020-2021 Dues Payment Process: 18 Organizations haven't paid Dues yet.

Jesse: We need to come up with a plan to wrap this up. It would be really helpful during The Secretary's Report if there were actual documents that are shared so we could all have transparency. I also suggest we move to a shared document system – either the one we use for this meeting or a google docs one - where everyone can put in notes about who they reached out to and when, instead of emails going back and forth. Then there needs to be a definitive date this process will end. And we really need PayPal to work by July 1st for FY 2021-2022. This should be a much more seamless process.

Tina: The latest Status Report for this has been put into the Board Member Dropbox account Eric created.

Observer Comments:

Duke Banks: Directors can be on the Nominating Committee. We have usually had one or two in the past.

Generally the first thing the committee does is to find out which Officers or Directors want to stay.

Ron Haddox: We don't have to use PayPal. There are other online payment systems.

Stef Pryor: The Address rule was written in the standard operating procedure when NORML applied. We decided on Address to determine which part of NORML was Arlington specific. You must either live or work in Arlington. They need to provide an address and a Zipcode. The clarification was made about 2015.

The March Board meeting will be a **Virtual** one and will be held on Sunday, March 21st at 6:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53

Respectfully submitted by Allen Norton

Video of the meeting is on Vimeo at: <https://vimeo.com/515115811/783bc1fda3>