



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

Minutes

March 21, 2021

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

Call to Order at 6:05 p.m.

Board members attending the meeting: Allan Gajadhar, Allen Norton, Tina Worden, Burt Bostwick, Eric Cassel, Stacy Meyer, John Vihstadt, Mike Cantwell, Nicole Merlene and Jesse Boeding. Others attending included Ron Haddox (Legislation Chair); Duke Banks (Parks & Recreation Chair); Dennis Gerrity (Membership Chair); Hershel Kanter (Williamsburg); Alistair Watson (Aurora Highlands); Wanda Younger (NAACP); Julius Spain (NAACP); Sharon Valencia (Ballston-Virginia Square); Detta Kissel (NAACP); Juliet Hiznay (Columbia Heights); Kirit Mookerjee (Westover Village) and Adam Henderson (Douglas Park).

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 February minutes: People had insufficient time to read them. Approval put off until April.

Officers Reports

President’s Report: Overall, last Tuesday’s membership meeting had a great program - Senator Warner, Nicole’s Mental Health presentation, Mary Glass’s Tree Preservation presentation, a New Member - ORA.

1. The vote on ORA had problems. Our Zoom voting process has a lot of difficulties. (details in New Business)
2. ORA Membership required a 2/3 majority. Voting emails were sent out. Once the results were 0:24:49 in, Constant Contact calculated the percentages. The raw percentages (40Yes,11No,9Abstain,1No Response) said ORA didn’t make it, but the actual count (once Abstentions and No Response were thrown out) showed it did. As presiding officer I sent out a corrected ballot-results email.

Allen: I worked backwards from the percentages and got the same result.

Stacy: We need a Parliamentarian. It would be great to have someone who knows these things inside-out.

Burt: Clearly we are following the bylaws here and I’m not sure we need to do anything else other than that. An Abstention is not a vote. I don’t care what we have done in the past. We should strictly follow the bylaws.

Jesse: The timing is a little bit off. In the future my recommendation is if there is a misstep in calculation that it comes back to the board. The Board has a discussion, comes to an agreement and then it gets pushed out. It is strange that the error was identified more than 48 hours ago, but the correction only came out a couple of hours before this meeting. It could have been held until after the Board meeting.

Allan made a **motion** that the analysis I submitted be endorsed by the Board. Burt seconded it
A vote was taken. For: **8**, Against: **1**, Abstain: **1** The motion **passed**.

Jesse: Are we going to talk about what happened Tuesday night to make sure we are all aligned on how people can be considered members so we do not have the debacle that we had on Tuesday?

Eric: That's going to be in part of the new Member policy under c, if it is specific to new members. I'd like to talk about it then.

Vice-President's Report: The Membership Application template is in Dropbox. It looks like someone made some comments on it. I want to move it forward. Are we going to talk about the Board matrix? The Board Matrix is just a helpful way to document leadership needs and compare them to the Board's current composition. It was sent out initially to the Nomination Committee as a tool for them to use, but it makes more sense that the Board do it, and give them the results. It came from another source so was given to Eric and Allan for review, customization and then given to the Board. I want to find out how we stand on it today.

Eric: Allan, myself and others interested will do more work on it and send it out within the next few weeks.

Tina: We will need it quicker than that – a week.

Secretary's Report:

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

Have Paid dues: 85 9 Organizations haven't paid yet, 1 Org left & 1 went Dormant

Submitted Contact Sheet: 45

Submitted Certification: 30

4 Delegates have asked for copies of the proposed Parliamentary rules in the last two months. Other than MikeC no comments have made by anyone.

Jesse: What happens now? Will those organizations be completely expunged so we can start with a clean slate? Didn't we decide in January to give them two months? It hasn't been resolved so why don't we let them go and not have an outstanding list anymore? Shouldn't this be closing the books on the year?

Allen: No one has been able to contact these organizations, so in a practical sense you are right.

Jesse: We should have a plan for the next meeting to wrap this up and move on.

John: Put a final warning in the next Newsletter. It's sad to cut people adrift, but there must be consequences.

Burt: The bylaws are clear on this. We need to wrap it up this year and put out specific guidance next year.

Tina: They will continue to get emails, but won't be able to vote or participate in leadership positions.

Treasurer's Report: We have a balance of a little over \$21,000 which is what we started the year with. There has been little change since the February report. I don't anticipate any changes for the rest of the fiscal year. I will be submitting a proposed budget for the Board to consider as well as a way to deal with recalcitrant dues payers in the coming year.

Committee Reports:

Nomination: Eric: We have a proposal going out. Is there anything else?

Juliet: We haven't met yet. Has a meeting been set by anyone? Eric: That would be the Chairs responsibility.

Juliet: We don't have a Chair. We haven't voted on one yet. That is a problem in the bylaws. There should be a Presidential designee to launch the nomination process. Otherwise no one is in charge to begin with and nothing happens.

MikeC: What is our procedure for designating the Chair of the committee? Allan: It is not explicitly covered in the bylaws, but we agreed that the President would schedule a meeting and they would select a Chair.

Diversity (Stacy Meyer):

Stacy: We had a great meeting. We are working towards a presentation in the June meeting. It will be primarily on the work of the Diversity Committee, but there may be more to it than that..

Burt: We need a strong outreach and recruitment process so please add that to what you do.

P & R (Duke Banks): Jesse, Kari & Jon did a great job putting together our Open Space Equity report.

Jesse: We have made presentations to several civic associations and will met Katie and Libby next week.

Old Business:

April General Meeting:

1:31:05

Public Services: Law Enforcement - PPG (Supposedly ready. MikeM not here to tell us who the panelists are)
LA Affairs: Data Privacy & Civil Rights (Ron Haddox-just about ready & the panel has been selected)

Policies and Procedures – All to be Completed Before June.

Resolutions Procedures:

Will put in Newsletter and mention it at April member meeting – Board will vote on it in April.

Meeting Rules of Order:

Allen: The proposed parliamentary rules have been sent to the Board, all committee chairs, five dozen members and have been mentioned in the Feb and Mar newsletters. Little feedback received.

It will be mentioned in the April Newsletter and some details presented at April Member meeting.

New Member Policy:

John: Need to do some more work on it.

Bylaw's Concerning Civic Associations:

Adam Henderson's Bylaws Change differentiating Public Interest Organizations and Civic Associations will be introduced in April and voted on in May. It will be put into the April newsletter.

Improving CivFed's Impact On County Board:

0:57:45

Jesse: What do we do if the County Board ignores our resolution? What are the next steps from here?

Burt: We don't follow-up very well. It's been that way for years. We need to ask the County Manager to schedule a meeting between the appropriate CivFed committee and the County government and discuss the Resolution. Our turnover and lack of institutional memory allows things to be forgotten.

John: The Resolution should go to more than the County Board and the Manager. They should also go to the appropriate advisory commissions and media. We need a multi-prong approach.

Eric: We can ask our Members to talk their Organizations into actively supporting our Resolutions.

Burt: Should consider also using ARLnow.com and Nextdoor.

New Business:

May General Meeting:

APS Superintendant : Dr. Duran (Confirmed)

School Board

Livability 22202:

June General Meeting:

Diversity: Program not finalized

LA Affairs: Education Program on School Climate

Arlington Chamber of Commerce: Nicole: CivFed is not currently a member. It should be.

1:22:50

A membership is \$522 a year. Nicole made a **Motion** to join. Burt seconded it

A vote was taken. For: **9**, Against: **0**, Abstain: **1**

The motion **passed**.

Constant Contact Voting vs. Zoom Polling:

0:01:50

The vote on ORA had problems. There have been a lot of difficulties with this voting process. We are constrained by the Bylaws: votes must be by members who are present. A list of them is prepared for the Constant Contact ballot emails. But, Constant Contact has unsubscribed people using its own criteria and people

have been missed by logging in, out and in again. And there have been other problems. Propose that we use the polling feature of Zoom. Get immediate results, but can't determine right away if they are Delegates. Zoom Polls will be difficult in member meetings. Further testing is necessary.

Tina: Board members need to be present for this testing.

Jesse: Really need two people – one to run the meeting and one to handle Zoom administration.

MikeC: Let's not over-complicate it. Keep it simple and repeatable

Eric: Send this to a Sub-Committee. There is too much to this to fix at a Board meeting. It's time to move on.

Allan: A Board discussion on this is needed.

Observer Comments:

0:20:40

Adam Henderson: At Douglas Park the people who are Delegates tend to be more informed on the operation of the civic association and know it's position if there is an issue we're interested in. I would not say the same with Alternates. Our policy is that if an Alternate were to take the place of a Delegate we would inform them of that position. It runs the risk of someone speaking on behalf of the organization that isn't authorized to do so.

Jesse: That's crazy.

0:30:58

Duke Banks: Even with the new bylaws, we've always counted abstentions as part of the vote total. We have never omitted Abstentions from the vote totals. Your interpretation is a bit on the fringe. Something of this magnitude should be discussed by the entire Board before sending out the corrected ballot-results email.

0:52:44

Duke Banks: When we wrote the new bylaws the President was deliberately isolated from the Nomination Committee to ensure there was no undue influence.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20

Respectfully submitted by Allen Norton

Video of the meeting is on Vimeo at: <https://vimeo.com/527249955/c972c1fe13>