



October 2021 Membership Meeting October 12, 2021 @ 7:00PM

Delegates, Alternate Delegates, others associated with member organizations, and the public are invited to attend this virtual meeting.

Advance Registration is required and must be completed by 12 PM, Tuesday, October 12, 2021.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlduCurz8tH9H5v41e9mR1TkMqBA3M6PY7>

A confirmation email will be sent with unique meeting log-in/phone-in details. We 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 identify participants. See "June Ballot - Update" (below) for new voting procedures.

****The [Secretary](#) must be notified of voting member substitutions by 12PM Monday, October 11, 2021.**

If you are not familiar with Zoom, here is [link to information and instructions on how to register and participate in CivFed's October 2021 Membership Meeting](#).

October 12, 2021 Membership Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 Regular Business (Pledge, Approve Minutes, Greet New Delegates etc.)
- 7:15 Expanding Housing Choice: Missing Middle Housing Study
- 8:15 Panel on Safety and Innovation Zone
- 8:50 Old Business
- 9:05 New Business
- 9:10 Adjournment

President's Corner

Fall is here and our season is well underway.

The mission of the Civic Federation is to create an Arlington that works for everyone, our purpose is to promote the general welfare of Arlington County and its vicinity.

To achieve that goal, we advocate with the

County and Schools on behalf of our member organizations and their members. We also want to ensure that we fully represent all the residents of Arlington, including those who historically have not had their voices represented. To that end, the membership last month passed a resolution from our Diversity, Equity, Belonging and Inclusion (DEBI) Committee that affirms our “commitment to make diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging evident in our organizational structure, policies, board of directors, staff, strategic goals, and program delivery”. We are taking action too in our own operations and leadership, as well as “encouraging our member organizations to embrace all communities.”



Stay tuned as we work to ensure that all communities are heard, including those whose voices have historically been predominant in the community, and those whose voices have been marginalized.

This month, we will have a presentation by County staff sponsored by the Housing Committee on the status of the County’s missing middle study: an effort to broaden the variety of housing available in Arlington.

We will also have a presentation from the County regarding the Clarendon Safety and Innovation Zone, and address data privacy and civil liberties concerns due to this type of surveillance.

Our TiGER committee has moved to the recommendation phase of their work, coming up with recommendations regarding the implementation of Ranked Choice Voting, the size and structure of the County and School Boards, and mechanisms of public input. Thanks to all who responded to our survey and attended the public forums this summer. The TiGER recommendations have the potential to recommend significant changes in the governance of the County. They will present their preliminary recommendations at the November membership meeting.

Please see below regarding how to get involved as the state redistricting commission redraws boundaries based on the 2020 census. The legislation committed has compiled this information provide by member organization Arlington Chapter of the NAACP.

I will see you all on Tuesday, October 12 for our monthly membership meeting.

Warmly,

[Allan Gajadhar](#)

Panel on Safety and Innovation Zone Demonstration Project

In June the Arlington County Board approved an MOU to create a new demonstration project that will create a “Safety and Innovation Zone” in the Clarendon area. This project is now underway. The project involves creating “smart streetlights” through the installation of sensors in the street light fixtures of the zone. The sensors will be used to detect specific data for functions such as people counting - measuring crowd occupancy - noise levels - object counting (e.g., bicycles and parked vehicles) - objects impacting crowd safety (e.g., parked vehicles impacting sidewalks) – and distress help movement and sound such as fall detection. This year-long demo project is being run by the County’s departments of Public Safety Communications and Emergency Management (PSCM), Fire, and Technology Services (DTS) in partnership with Comcast, US Ignite, and the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative (CCI). The County website identifies the purpose of the project is “to evaluate the impact of emerging technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), and more on public safety and to learn how they can benefit the County’s response times and serve as a new resource for

information.”

There is considerable community interest in the identified potential benefits, efficiencies, how the technology works, as well as concerns for privacy and cybersecurity and how these potential risks will be assessed and protected.

At the October 12 Civic Federation, we will host a presentation on the Safety and Innovation Zone by Dr. Aaron Miller, the Arlington County Director of the Department of Public Safety Communications and Emergency Management. We hope to provide an opportunity for Dr. Miller to share information with CivFed that focuses on the expected benefits, how the technology works, how the county is addressing concerns, and your priority questions. The presentation will include Dr. Miller’s presentation and his response to questions from the Civic Federation’s Public Services and Legislative Committees, followed by member questions fielded from the “chat.”

School Bond Update

The School Board has provided the update below as a followup from the School Bond Q&A at the September Membership Meeting.

In Summer 2016, the APS School Board was preparing to approve the schematic design for the Heights Building following a two-year community engagement process. In addition to the building that exists today, the planned project included a parking garage with accessible entrance to the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Program and a field above the parking garage. In July 2016, the County requested that APS allow for a temporary fire station to be located on the Heights Building site. APS staff quickly generated an “alternate site plan,” to accommodate the fire station that forced a quick-fix to the entrance to the Shriver Program. This quick-fix is ADA compliant but is not an acceptable entrance to the building for the long term.

The 2021 School Bond includes funding to complete the Heights Building project as originally envisioned. It will provide an accessible entrance to the Shriver Program, covered drop-off, parking, and lighted, turf field. As the project moves forward, the School Board and County Board will discuss any compensation owed to APS based on the license agreement signed in 2016. If APS receives any such compensation from the County, it will be carried forward and incorporated into next year's capital improvement process.

Please contact the School Board for any further questions, at atengage.apsva.us

Membership Committee Report

CivFed’s Membership Committee is looking for additional volunteers. The committee reviews new members and will meet when we get applications on our new form. Please contact the Chair, Eric Cassel, at membership@civfed.org.

Housing Committee Report

The Housing Committee has arranged a special Civic Federation Membership briefing at our October meeting on Expanding Housing Choice: The Missing Middle Housing Study Phase I Report. Learn about community concerns, priorities, and recommendations for Phase 2.

If you’d like to reserve a place on the fall tour of Gilliam Place and the La Cocina bilingual culinary arts training center on the Pike (date TBD), please write john.vihstadt@gmail.com ASAP.

State Legislative Redistricting Update

from the Legislation Committee working with Member organization Arlington Branch NAACP

Redistricting will determine political representation for the next ten years. During this process, the lines and boundaries of governing bodies are redrawn so that each district is roughly equal in population size based on the most recent census data. Beginning on Monday, October 4, the Commission will host a series of virtual public hearings for the various regions across Virginia.

During these hearings, members of the public will have the chance to share their thoughts on the election district maps being developed by the Commission.

Members of the public are encouraged to share what they think.

To access the maps under consideration, [click here -- Virginia Redistricting Commission](#)

There are a number of ways members of the public can help shape the maps as they are being developed, including the following:

- Comment on a map – [click here](#)
- Comment on the Commission’s work – [click here](#)
- Propose a map – [click here](#)
- Propose a “community of interest” – [click here](#)
- Sign up to speak at one of the upcoming Commission meetings – [click here](#)

Diversity Committee Report

The Diversity Committee understands the power of social media as a way to bring in more engagement. More unique voices is the key to diversity! We want to provide the rest of the CivFed with tips on how to boost social media presence. These metrics are from Arlington Neighborhood College. Facebook's peak hours are Tuesday 10 AM and 1-2 PM, Wednesday 11 AM, Thursday 10 AM - 3 PM, and Friday 9 AM-12 PM.

In addition, these tips are from the Energize Arlington forum from October 2018 on how to bring more people into your organizations! “Ask office building managers how you can spread the word. There was one example where an office regularly asks the custodial staff to put a flyer on every chair”.

Planning and Zoning Committee Report

The Planning and Zoning Committee has received notice that Site Plan SP #438 has requested that extended hours be allowed for on-site construction activities beyond the regularly allowable time frames dictated by the Standard Site Plan Conditions. This request warrants further review and the Planning and Zoning Committee recommends that a small Working Group be set forth to draft a Resolution to address the associated neighborhoods’ concerns. Primary anticipated impact area: Ballston.

Please contact the P&Z Chair, [Benjamin Keeney](#) with any interest you may have in supporting this possible resolution.

2021 ACCF Dues Information

On August 29, the Arlington Civic Federation Board of Directors approved the 2021 – 2022 budget which will be used to pay for administrative and web services for the organization.

Membership Dues for 2021 – 2022 are \$65 per member organization. Dues should be sent in as soon as possible, and are due by December 31, 2021.

Dues may be paid by check or by Zelle.

If paying by check:

- Send check to Arlington Civic Federation, PO Box 42091, Arlington Virginia, 22203.
- Please be sure to include the name of the organization on the check as a memo.
- Please send an updated list of delegates to secretary@civfed.org.

If paying by Zelle, please email treasurer@civfed.org including the following information:

- Name of Organization
- Name of Payer
- Phone Number for Payer (for questions)
- Zelle ID (email address or phone number)
- The treasurer will then respond with the ACCF Zelle payment information.
- Please also email secretary@civfed.org with the updated list of delegates.

If you have questions, please email treasurer@civfed.org for payment information and secretary@civfed.org for any other questions. Thank you!

The Civic Federation's Website

2021-2022 Board of Directors

Officers

President, [Allan Gajadhar](#)
Vice President, [Nicole Merlene](#)
Secretary, [Alistair Watson](#)
Treasurer, [Stacy Meyer](#)

Board of Directors

Board Chair, [Nicole Merlene](#)
Member at Large, [Mary Glass](#)
Member at Large, [Chris Wimbush](#)
Member at Large, [Julia Tanner](#)
Member at Large, [Nadia Conyers](#)
Member at Large, [Mona Steffens](#)
Member at Large, [Eric Cassel](#)

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

2021-2022 ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES

Cultural Affairs – [Chair Tina Worden](#)
Diversity Committee – [Chair Alistair Watson](#)
Environmental Affairs – [Chair Mary Glass](#)
Housing – [Chair John Vihstadt](#)
Legislation – [Chair Ron Haddox](#)
Parks and Recreation – Chair TBD
Planning and Zoning – [Chair Ben Keeney](#)
Public Services – [Chair John Ford](#)
Revenues and Expenditures – [Suzanne Sundberg \(POC\)](#)
Schools – [Chair Allan Gajadhar \(POC\)](#)
Transportation – [Co-chairs Jerry Auten and Joe Pelton](#)

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

2020-2021 ACCF SUPPORT COMMITTEES

Audit – [Chair Jay Wind](#)

Awards – TBD

Bylaws and Rules – [Chair Adam Henderson](#)

Banquet – TBD

Communications – [Chair Chris Wimbush](#)

Membership – [Chair Eric Cassel](#)

Nominations – TBD

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

- [Link to Draft September 2021 Meeting Minutes](#)

Interested in being an Arlington County Civic Federation Delegate

The Arlington County Civic Federation was founded in 1916. Today, it has 85 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.

ACCF Calendar FY2022

October 2021

- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: September 30, 2021 by 6:00 PM
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 7PM, via Zoom; Registration begins: 6PM
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Sunday, October 17, 4PM via Zoom

November 2021

- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: October 28, 2021 by 6:00 PM
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 7PM, via Zoom; Registration begins: 6PM
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Sunday, November 14th, 4PM via Zoom

December 2021

- NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: December 2, 2021 by 6:00 PM
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 7PM, via Zoom; Registration begins: 6PM
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Sunday, December 19, 4PM via Zoom

Subscribe to our
emails!