

CivFed General Membership Meeting Agenda November 9th
Reminder to pay your dues! Contact the treasurer Stacy Meyer at treasurer@civfed.org

Approve Minutes

To Approve the October Membership Minutes:

- 37 approve (97.6%)
- 1 do not approve (2.4%)
- 14 abstentions

Special Election

Vote for Secretary:

- 46 for Alistair Watson (100%)
- 6 abstain

Civic Association President's Roundtable

In 2018, Nicole Merlene and then president Duke Banks, delved into issues surrounding effectively engaging multi-family buildings. Here were the key themes:



Summary of 2018 Event: Key Themes

It is important to strengthen and streamline communication across associations

There are challenges with getting neighbors to participate in associations, especially people living in multi-family buildings

There are limited resources available to help with communication and other key functions

There are often challenges navigating and communication with other agencies/organizations (e.g., VDOT, Dominion, etc.)

There is expressed interest in having continued support and connections for CA leadership.

There is an opportunity for the Civic Federation to have a larger role in facilitating communication and coordination between Civic and Condo Associations

Nicole shared new information compiled in a spreadsheet regarding the amount of multifamily buildings in each Civic Association and total population.

Nicole also shared initiatives regarding HOA (Home-owner Associations)

Process and Goals

This initiative includes three major elements:

Build organizational capacity by providing resource materials, classes, workshops, direct technical assistance, and conducting outreach to association management, prioritizing condos primarily owned by low or moderate-income owners;

Promote capital improvements by developing strategies and programs that help support maintenance and renovation needs in existing affordable condos; and

Develop programmatic approaches for direct support by establishing cost-effective methods to provide direct assistance to financially vulnerable low- and moderate-income owners in the context of rising fees and capital expenses.

Nicole asked for feedback from the room regarding what people wanted to make sure was addressed on the 29th.

This will be covered in the Civic Association President's Roundtable which will be hosted on November 29th.

The presentation used can be found here:

<https://www.civfed.org/newContent/2021-11/2021-11%20ACCF%20Civic%20Association%20and%20Condo%20Roundtables.pdf>

You can reach out to Nicole Merlene at vicepresident@civfed.org

Race and Equity Presentation

In accordance with the work plan set forth by the Diversity committee (DEBI committee) the fall program was to have the new Chief Race and Equity Officer, Samia Byrd, to lay out the work plan, next steps, and tools Samia Byrd is doing/using in the County.

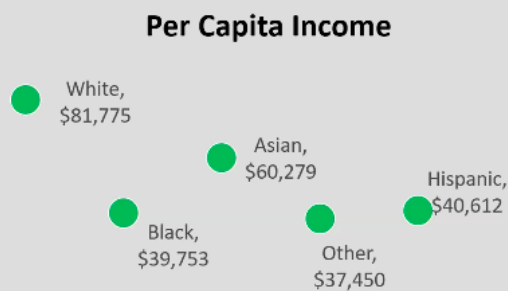
This is the definition of Racial Equity that is used:

Racial Equity Defined

**Closing the gaps
so race does not predict one's success
in any area of life
while improving outcomes for everyone;
moving beyond services to focus on policies,
institutions and structures.**

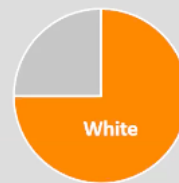
Data regarding income in regards to race in Arlington.

Income



Average wages of Black, Hispanic or Latino, and Other persons of color are more than half that of White residents

Arlington Households



Households with Incomes <\$50K



75% of households are White but only 56% of those households earning less than \$50K.

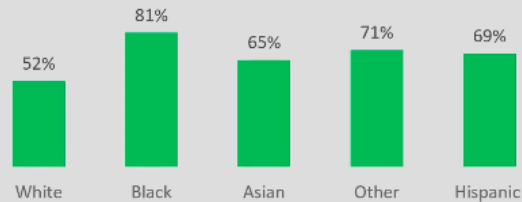
Data regarding housing type

Housing

79%

of Arlington land is zoned for residential development allows only single-family, detached housing as a matter of right.

Percent of Households that Rent



Renters are more likely to live in multifamily as opposed to single-family homes and thus Black, Hispanic or Latino, People of Color are disproportionately concentrated in development corridors and other neighborhoods with a higher proportion of this housing type.

Information you saw above, including data that has been compiled can be found here:

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Topics/Equity>

The presentation used in the meeting can be found here:

https://www.civfed.org/newContent/2021-11/2021-11%20ACCF%20RacialEquity_MasterPresentation.pdf

You can reach out to Alistair Watson at diversity.chair@civfed.org

TIGER update

Here is information about what TIGER is:

What is TiGER?

- Task Force in Governance and Election Reform (TiGER)** is a ACCF-chartered effort to re-examine our county's governing bodies and electoral system given that It has been over 90 years since Arlington established its current form of government. As a result, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve Arlington County's electoral and governance systems to help ensure that the County Board and School Board best represents our diverse community and promotes effective citizen engagement with our county government.
- Outreach** - We've kept both the County and School Boards up to date on our activities and they have cited our work in their discussions regarding the adoption of ranked choice voting.
- Areas of Inquiry**
 - The size of the County Board and the School Board
 - Alternatives to at-large elections and first-past-the-post voting systems, including district representation (utilizing either single or multi-member districts) and proportional representation (via multi-member, synchronous elections)
 - Remuneration of County Board and School Board members
 - Length of Board terms (including the term of Board Chair) and frequency of elections
 - The role of primaries and caucuses
 - The role and design of community engagement mechanisms

Our Preliminary Findings

- We believe Arlington County's Government is a good system that can be improved upon to achieve better citizen representation and improved government accountability. TiGER's work is intended to promote better citizen representation and through voting, election, governance, and citizen engagement reform.
- We've identified six challenges with our current system of government that we plan to provide recommended solutions to address.

Below are the 6 challenges

Our Preliminary Findings

- Our elected boards remain the same size as they were in 1930 despite a growing and more dense population, resulting in overworked elected officials, inadequate representation, and insufficient community engagement.
- Arlington County is not having a big enough influence in the region. Because so many of our problems such as transportation, housing, for example, are strongly determined by our regional neighbors, the fact that we have a county board chair who changes every year makes it tough to develop peer-to-peer relationships with non-Arlington leaders such as the mayor of DC, or board chair of Fairfax.
- Arlington's elected bodies do not adequately reflect the county's diversity, including but not limited to racial and ethnic diversity, socioeconomic diversity, and viewpoint diversity. As a result, many Arlington residents, particularly those outside the dominant or majority groups, may not feel represented, and the County Board and School Board may not benefit from the full and robust range of perspectives and experiences of Arlington residents.
- Our electoral system does not ensure proportional representation in Arlington, encourage the most qualified best, and most diverse candidates to run and get elected to office, or provide strong competitive races in general elections.
- The current Arlington election system's reliance on primaries and caucuses discourages candidate participation and voter turnout and presents significant barriers, including the discriminatory candidate impacts as a result of the application of the Hatch Act on federal employees
- The current system (both structures and processes) for obtaining and utilizing community input is inadequate in informing decision-makers and making many residents feel that they have been heard. The government is not transparent, leading to a lack of accountability. Participants feel that engagement is not authentic and does not make a difference in outcomes. High-time requirements for participation limit the number of people able to participate.

Below are the next steps

Next Steps



- TiGER has formed working groups to develop recommendations in response to each preliminary finding.
- We plan to have a draft report completed in February 2022.
- We will submit our final report and supporting resolution to the Civic Federation Membership for adoption.
- If approved by the Civic Federation Membership, we will begin an public advocacy phase for our recommendations.

The presentation used can be found here:

<https://www.civfed.org/newContent/2021-11/2021-11%20ACCF%20TiGER%20Committee%20Update.pdf>

You can submit comments to the following email address: tiger@civfed.org

Bylaws update

The Bylaws committee has proposed several amendments to the bylaws to help the selection of the next board.

The key elements of the Amendment are:

- Moving the creation of the Nomination Committee to a period ninety (90) to one hundred twenty (120) days before the annual Member meeting (typically June) from the current sixty (60) days.
- Modifying the membership of the Nomination Committee from five (5) to three (3) to seven (7) members.
- Augmenting the reporting requirements of the Nomination Committee to the General Membership.
- Codifying the responsibilities of the Nomination Committee to act in accordance with the Bylaws of ACCF and the Procedural Document.

The draft resolution is here which will be voted on next meeting is here:

<https://www.civfed.org/newContent/2021-11/2021-11%20ACCF%20Bylaws%20Cmte%20Resolution%20Changes%20to%20%20c2%a73.03%20DRAFT.pdf>

You can email any questions to Adam Henderson at adam@arhenderson.net

Mary Glass's presentation on Tree Canopy

The environmental affair committee came up with a Tree Canopy study. Here is the main overview for the inspiration for the study.

Public Collaborative on Preserving Arlington's Tree Canopy

- ▶ Goal: Start the discussion on underserved needs for tree canopy protection, especially from development
- ▶ Approach
 - ▶ Wide variety of stakeholders
 - ▶ Public meetings to explore issues
 - ▶ Importance of listening to all points of view
 - ▶ Mutual respect & confidentiality

Here is the report

<https://www.civfed.org/newContent/2021-11/2021-11%20EnvAff%20Collaboratives%20Preserving%20Tree%20Canopy%20Phase%20II%20REPORT.pdf>

You can reach out to Mary Glass by emailing bod.member3@civfed.org