

CivFed General Membership Meeting Minutes DRAFT 14 December 2021

Approve Minutes

To Approve the October Membership Minutes:

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

Panel on Arlington Broadband produced by the Public Services Committee

Panelists will include:

Jack Belcher: Chief Technology Innovation Officer / Director Department of Technology Services. Mr. Belcher will provide the Arlington digital context for the Arlington Broadband including the scope of needs such as underserved and assets such as the County-owned broadband fiber-optic network, ConnectArlington.

Tim Dempsey: The Arlfiber Collective. Mr. Dempsey will provide an overview of the Arlfiber proposal and the benefits they see for creating an Arlington Broadband Authority.

Ray LaMura: Broadband Association of Virginia (VCTA), President. Mr. Lamura will provide the perspective of current internet providers and the state and Arlington-level context for establishing a Broadband Authority or other public-private options to address services including cost and access for the underserved.

Michael McMenamin moderated a Q&A. The questions were related to the following points:

Should Arlington create a public Broadband Authority? What needs would it fulfill that cannot be accomplished now? What risks should we consider? What should be the primary mission and scope? What is the extent of underserved? What are the financing options and associated costs and who will pay those costs? Who will have accountability for building and maintaining the infrastructure and providing customer services? What are other alternatives? What is the most cost-effective way to fill these needs and mission?

New Member Application and Vote

Arlington Parents for Education presented their membership to the general membership body and answered questions about their operations. They were accepted and an email regarding the vote breakdown will be sent out tomorrow.

Tree Canopy Update

Mary Glass provided an update on the Tree Canopy. Below are slides from that presentation with notes elaborating on the slides.

Benefits of trees:

2016 - "Invaluable" Ecobenefits

- ▶ Beyond providing recreation, well-being, beauty, shade and homes for wildlife, **Arlington County finds:**
- ▶ 755,400 trees, 122 species worth more than \$1.4 billion
- ▶ ↓ Rainfall runoff 10,730,168 cubic feet/year preventing flooding
- ▶ ↓ 1,235 tons of air pollution/year preventing disease and hospital visits
- ▶ Store 30,900 cars' worth of carbon emissions in 2016 plus 1,500 more cars/year (7,500 more now)
- ▶ ↓ energy costs of more than \$1 million annually

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/About-Arlington/News/Articles/2017/Arlingtonaposts-Trees-The-Benefits-by-the-Numbers>

Why Arlington could use a Tree Canopy Survey:

Need for immediate action on tree canopy/land cover studies

- ▶ Big changes since 2016 - free 2020 USFS data has better definition
- ▶ Basic foundation for urban forest management – existing conditions, benchmark for future performance
- ▶ Recognized first step in planning and prioritizing efforts, answering questions for FNRP
- ▶ Important to integrate land cover into current County GIS system
- ▶ Use to address multiple County priorities – tree canopy, stormwater, infrastructure (green and grey), open space and recreation, land acquisition
- ▶ Be responsive to the County on ACCF "Resolution on Immediate Update to the Arlington Tree Canopy Studies" 3/16/21

Next steps for the Civic Federation:

ACCF Next Steps

- ▶ Environmental Affairs Committee –
 - ▶ Continue work to develop formal resolutions for ACCF membership
 - ▶ Work with individual CA's, County, interested organizations
 - ▶ Early 2022 - conduct a public plenary session on implementation
- ▶ ACCF
 - ▶ Wide public distribution of Collaborative report as noteworthy information
 - ▶ Require a County response to ACCF 3/16/21 "Resolution on Immediate Update to the Arlington Tree Canopy Studies" *
 - ▶ Meetings with County Leaders
 - ▶ Online and Paper Petitions
 - ▶ CA/organization advocacy

* <https://www.civfed.org/newContent/2021-03/2021-03%20EnvAff%20Resolution%20Collaboratives%20Preserving%20Tree%20Canopy%20APPROVED.pdf>

Civic Federation Roundtable

Nicole Merlene provided a debrief on what happened at the Roundtable.

It included the following:

- Discussion from Civic Association Presidents about what is going on in their neighborhoods
- Thinking how to best update the Civic Association websites
- Implementing a strategy to give outreach to multifamily units in the area
- Reaching out in a multilingual fashion to residents in a Civic Association

A future Roundtable might be made to address issues that weren't discussed

Bylaws Amendment

This is the background of the Amendment:

The Nomination Committee of the Arlington County Civic Federation is an annual short-fused committee tasked with recruiting nominees from amongst the Voting and Alternate Members of ACCF to serve as Officers and Directors of the organization for the upcoming fiscal year.

In recent years, ACCF has been constrained by a strict number of Nomination Committee members under our Bylaws. As a now-incorporated organization, the Nomination Committee has also been time-constrained to recruit sufficient nominees within the short window afforded by the Bylaws. Last year's Nomination Committee, chaired by Juliet Hiznay, published an extensive list

of recommendations for future Nomination Committees based on their experiences. The ACCF Bylaws and Rules Committee (Bylaws Committee) has reviewed and updated these recommendations and is now putting forth an Amendment to the Bylaws to allow greater flexibility in the structure and service time of the Nomination Committee. In addition, the Bylaws Committee has worked with the ACCF Board of Directors to develop a standing Procedural Document to implement other recommendations of the FY2021 Nomination Committee and the best practices exemplified by their tenure.

The proposed Amendment was introduced at the November 2021 General Meeting and the amendments will receive a second reading and discussion during the December 2021 General Meeting.

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 full text of the enabling Resolution is available below:

ACTIONS:

- 4 Oct 2021: Submitted to the ACCF Board by Adam R Henderson, Chair, ACCF Bylaws and Rules Committee and ACCF delegate for the Douglas Park Civic Association.
- 17 Oct 2021: Discussed by the ACCF Board and referred by voice vote to the General Membership.
- 9 Nov 2021: 'New Business' presentation to the ACCF General Membership.

PURPOSE:

To lengthen the time of operation of the annual Nomination Committee, to enhance flexibility in Nomination Committee membership and to formalize responsibilities of the Nomination Committee to itself, the Membership of ACCF and to ACCF in general.

RESOLUTION:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION (ACCF) THAT THE BYLAWS OF ACCF AS ADOPTED 10 JULY 2018 ARE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS

(a) BY MODIFYING THE LANGUAGE IN RED AND BLUE IN SUBSECTION 3.03(A) AND REPUBLISHING SAME, and

(b) BY ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION 3.03(B), and

(c) BY RENUMBERING EXISTING SUBSECTIONS 3.03(B) and 3.03(C) to 3.03(C) and 3.03(D), RESPECTIVELY; to-wit:

Section 3.03 Nomination, Election, and Term of Office.

- Nomination.** At least ~~sixty (60)~~ **ninety (90)** and no more than one hundred ~~twenty (120)~~ days before the annual Member meeting held in accordance with ~~Section 2.06~~, the Members shall elect a Nomination Committee comprised of ~~five (5)~~ **three (3) to seven (7)** Voting Members and/or Alternate Members to handle the nomination of at least one candidate Voting Member or Alternate Member for each Director position. The Nomination Committee shall submit ~~a~~ written or electronic reports **on a regular basis** to all current Voting Members and Alternate Members prior to the annual Member meeting, at which meeting additional nominations may be made from the floor.
- Procedures of the Nomination Committee.** Members of the Nomination Committee shall follow the procedures as outlined in these Bylaws and as supplemented by the Procedural Document 'Procedures for the Nominating Committee and Elections' as may be amended and adopted by a duly authorized majority vote of the Members at an annual, regular, or special Membership meeting.
- Election.** Directors shall be elected by a majority vote of Members present and voting at the annual member meeting, provided a quorum has been established, or as otherwise provided in Section 3.07. Election of a Director does not, in and of itself, create any contract rights for the Director or the Federation.
- Term of Office.** Each Director shall serve on the Board for a term of one (1) year beginning on July 1 following their election. Each shall hold office until his or her successor is elected or until they resign, are removed or are no longer qualified to serve, whichever occurs first. There shall be no limit on the number of terms a Director may serve.

NOTES:

¹ Existing sub-sections 3.03(b) and 3.03(c) renumbered to 3.03(c) and 3.03(d), respectively.

² Current language removed shown ~~thus~~. New language shown **thus**.

The bylaw passed and the vote breakdown will be sent tomorrow.

Submitted

Alistair Watson