



Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation
April 2022 | Volume 106 | Number 9

May Membership Meeting May 10, 2022 @ 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, May 9, 2022.

When: May 10, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZUqcuygqDgiG9F-qFXcVI1QGJM2D-zQJ7xR>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

To expedite the check-in process please use your first and last name as your profile name this will help identify participants.

****The Secretary must be notified of voting member substitutions by 12 PM Monday, May 9th, 2022.**

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

May 10, 2022 Membership Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 - Regular Business, pledge, approve minutes
- 7:10 - Nominations Committee update
- 7:15 - Arlington County School Board
- 8:15 - Cultural Affairs: Plan Langston Blvd. Update
- 8:45 - Stormwater Utility Update
- 9:15 - TiGER update
- 9:30 - Old Business
- 9:40 - New Business
- 10:00 - Adjournment

Draft Minutes from April meeting

[Meeting Minutes](#)

President's Corner

Welcome,

This month we are finally resuming in-person monthly membership meetings at

the Hazel Conference Center at Virginia Hospital Center. The meeting will be hybrid, with a Zoom component for remote attendees, who will be able to vote and submit questions. Further logistical details will be sent out with the meeting reminder.



Covid has upended our lives in a number of ways in the two years since the beginning of the pandemic; and while most in-person activities have resumed, there have been a number of changes in how we live our lives and interact with each other over the past two years, and we are all adjusting. As Sen. Warner pointed out at our March 2021 membership meeting, the pandemic has accelerated the digital transformation of society. Many of us work and conduct meetings virtually; and while this has led to many efficiencies, we have all missed face-to-face in-person interaction and ad-hoc conversations.

This month we welcome the School Board for their annual visit. The ACCF Schools Committee has submitted advance questions, the School Board will also take Q&A from the membership during the meeting. This meeting will take place just before the formal adoption of the Schools Budget on Thursday May 12, so please bear that in mind when submitting questions.

[The Task Force in Governance and Election Reform \(TiGER\)](#) will present their recommendation for Ranked Choice Voting, and a draft resolution for all of their recommendations to be debated at the June membership meeting. We look forward to wrapping up the recommendation phase of the Task Force, and the advocacy and adoption phase of the recommendations that have not already been adopted.

Finally, we are close to the end of our season. The nominations committee is seeking candidates for Civic Federation officers and Board Directors for the next year. Any delegates and alternates that are interested in serving in leadership, please submit your name via the form from the Nominations Committee in this newsletter.

Warmly,

[Allan Gajadhar](#)

Cultural Affairs Committee

This month, the committee will host an update by [Plan Langston Boulevard \(PLB\)](#) and [Langston Boulevard Alliance \(LBA\)](#). Joining us to discuss the planning and answer member questions will be Paul Holland and Sandi Chesrown, PLB Community Forum chair and vice chair, respectively; Jim Lantelme, LBA president; and Ginger Brown, LBA executive director. The Community Forum involves approximately 40-50 members, 14 civic associations, business and property owners, and other stakeholders.

Questions? Please contact Tina Worden: tk.worden@gmail.com

County Board Passes \$1.5 Billion Budget

By Suzanne Smith Sundburg (R&E Committee POC)

On 4-26-2022, the County Board passed the FY2023 budget, a “7.6% revenue and spending increase over the current fiscal year, which ends on June 30.[1] The total tax and fee burden for the average Arlington household was estimated to be \$505 in additional taxes and fees, for a total of \$10,138.[2]

Prior to the budget’s passage, CivFed President Allan Gajadhar transmitted the ACCF’s

approved “Real Estate Assessment and Tax Burden Resolution”[3] as well as its supporting report[4] and FOIA attachment[5] to the Arlington County Board via a letter dated 4-17-2022.

Pres. Gajadhar reinforced the resolution’s message during public comment during the County Board’s regular meeting on 4-23-2022. The board’s response was reasonably polite and receptive. View the video here (starts at 4:34 on the time counter): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MnWNLUI4zDs>.

Below are follow-up remarks to some of the board comments:

- Arlington’s nominal tax rate may be low compared to its Northern Virginia peers, but its assessed property values (and thus its tax bills) are among the highest.[6] [Calculate your tax bill by multiplying the nominal rate by the assessed property value and then dividing that figure by 100.]

- The *effective tax rate* (the rate we actually pay) includes the impact of those higher assessments.[7] In FY2023, the effective tax rate will be 2.3 cents higher than the nominal rate—or \$1.036 versus \$1.013 per \$100 of assessed value. NOTE: These nominal and effective rates do NOT include the stormwater or transportation commercial property tax surcharges, which further increase real estate tax bills.

- Let’s compare how much Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax will spend per person in FY2023:

—Arlington = \$6,276.7

—Alexandria = \$5,265.4

—Fairfax = \$4,145.3

- Even if Arlington had lowered its nominal rate by 2.3 cents (to fully offset this year’s assessment increase), the county still would have received \$30 million more in new, ongoing revenue from real estate taxes.[8] The county also found \$27 million in excess funds (unallocated and unspent) left over from FY2022[9]—a total of \$57 million in revenue (roughly equal to 6.7 cents on the tax rate) available for new spending in FY2023.

- Arlington typically pays more in revenue to the state than it receives back, but Arlington also benefits from the \$573 million in state cash grants for Amazon’s HQ2, part of the \$1.8 billion in total government outlays to win the HQ2 sweepstakes.[10]

The Arlington County Civic Federation and the Revenues & Expenditures Committee will continue to communicate with the Arlington County Board to push for budget guidance, going forward, that will require the manager to take into account the impact of the effective tax rate increase (increased assessments) on county residents—especially vulnerable populations—and businesses in order to balance new spending with reasonable mitigation of the growing tax burden.

See End Notes, below

Public Services Committee: Stormwater Utility Update

County staff will join the ACCF public services committee in offering to members updates on the stormwater mitigation component of the 2023-2032 Arlington County Capital Improvement Plan. The CIP is still in preparation at this writing, but a public release is presently scheduled for May 14, so we should get at least a broad overview of the stormwater priorities represented in the CIP.

Additionally, the SUCAG (stormwater utility citizens advisory group) has continued to meet since our April membership meeting, and some clarification will be available to issues our members and others from the public have raised in the intervening month. Background on the County stormwater program and its current importance is repeated below.

Over the past 15 years, an escalation of heavy rainstorms has devastated Arlington homeowners and commercial interests, public infrastructure and private property, culminating in flooding in July 2019 and July 2020 and clearly exposing weaknesses and inadequacies in the county's stormwater mitigation infrastructure. County engineers and program managers have responded with a successful \$51 million bond issue in 2020; updated plans and proposals pursuant to the County's 2014 Stormwater Master Plan, and a nimble response to a stormwater crisis in the Westover area following the 2019 deluge.

The Civic Federation has encouraged such positive responses and urged greater ambition in seeking adequate funding to properly protect county residences and businesses. In several resolutions since 2019, ACCF has specifically supported the county's efforts to explore the feasibility of a stormwater utility, among many other recommendations. County response has generally been encouraging.

But County financial stormwater resources, traditionally funded by a targeted supplement to annual property tax bills, are insufficient and inequitably impose tax burdens on property taxpayers. As the result of a multi-year exploratory period, the County is moving to recommend that the County Board approve establishment of a stormwater utility to ensure a steadier stream of funding to support operation, maintenance and improvement of the County's aging and inadequate stormwater infrastructure.

The proposed utility would prospectively come online in FY 2024, and in establishing it, Arlington would bring its procedures into line with a widely accepted government model for funding stormwater remediation. A stormwater utility is presently in effect in Falls Church, Alexandria and in most major metropolitan areas in Virginia.

The Columbia Pike Documentary Project

The Columbia Pike Documentary Project work of a collection of artists who have been intensively documenting the diverse and rapidly-changing Columbia Pike since 2007. The Pike has been referred to as a "World in a Zip Code," with well over 100 languages spoken. The thousands of striking photographs of the people and places along the Pike, and the moving in-depth interviews with a range of citizens and business owners have been published in two books; Living Diversity and Transitions, displayed in numerous major exhibitions, and featured on WETA, WAMU, ArlNow, Richmond magazine, and Voice of America. The work, largely funded by Virginia Humanities and the Arlington Commission for the Arts, and sponsored by Columbia Pike Partnership, is permanently archived at the Library of Virginia in Richmond.

Our work is available for presentation to civic association groups.

We have a compelling slideshow of our striking photographs and four portable pop-up banners that serve as a mini gallery that we can share, along with our talented artists (Lloyd Wolf, Sushmita Mazumdar, Xang Mimi Ho, Dewey Tron, and/or Lara Ajami) as guest speakers.

We have successfully shown our work to the Penrose civic association and are slated to do so with Glencarlyn's.

We would be happy to share with any group in the County that is interested in our area's vibrant history, arts, culture, neighborhoods, diversity, local businesses, and local architecture.

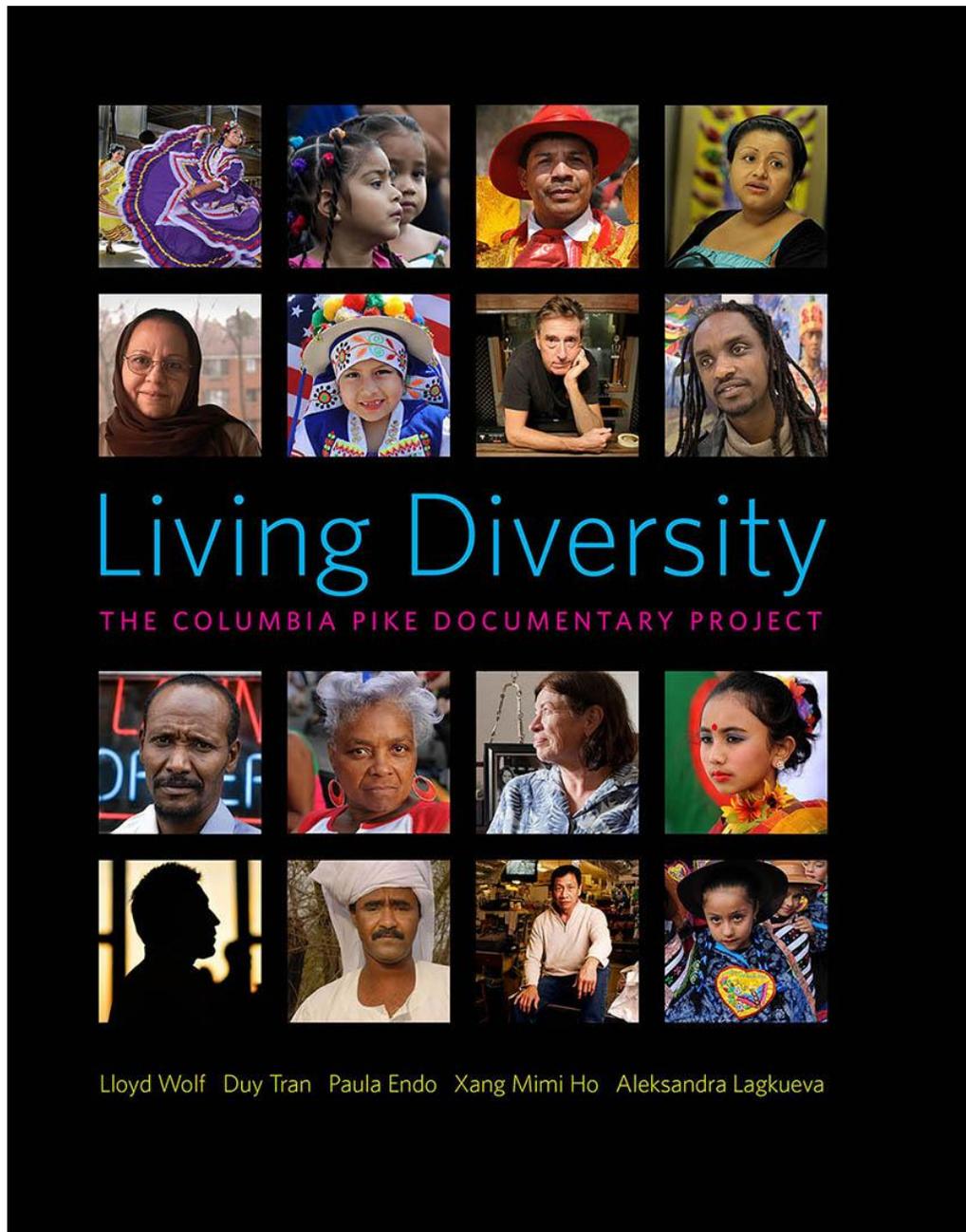
Our main blog is: <http://cpdpcolumbiapike.blogspot.com>

Our books are also available for purchase.

Transitions: <https://www.columbiapikefarmersmarket.org/product/transitions-the-columbia-pike-documentary-project/>

Living Diversity: <https://www.upress.virginia.edu/title/4894>

Please contact project director Lloyd Wolf
lloydwolf@lloydwolf.com or 703-231-6452
for further information or to schedule a talk to your organization.



Task Force in Governance and Election Reform (TiGER)

ACCF's Task Force in Governance and Election Reform (TiGER) will present an update to its final report to the general membership; to include its recommendation for Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), and a draft resolution for consideration at the June Membership meeting

Environmental Affairs

Spring 2022 Plenary Meeting – Taking Action for Trees
Save the Date!

ACCF's THIRD PUBLIC COLLABORATIVE ON PRESERVING ARLINGTON'S TREE
CANOPY

CO-HOSTED WITH THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA CONSERVATION TRUST

Background – Over the last sixteen months, the ACCF Collaborative on Preserving Arlington’s Tree Canopy has engaged public, private and community stakeholders to address the status of our urban forest and develop recommendations on how to protect it in the future. The participants worked hard to develop options to create a healthy, vibrant, sustainable, and equitable urban forest. We don’t want the Collaborative results to sit on the shelf. We want to move toward a new vision of what Arlington’s Urban Forest can be. Climate change requires that we make bold moves now.

The Environmental Affairs Committee just received approval from the County to host their meeting at the Arlington Mill Recreation Center, 909 S Dinwiddie Street, Room 527 A & B, for May 7th from 10 am to 12:30, with an open networking lunch (Covid-sensitive) until 2 pm.

Purpose – To bring together individuals and organizations who recognize the important environmental, economic, and social benefits of trees and are committed to action to preserve the urban tree canopy as Arlington continues to develop. To build broad consensus on actions the County should take to preserve and expand our tree canopy, and how private parties can support this work.

Below is the agenda:

Draft Agenda –

- 10 – 10:10 Introductions and brief overview of the results of the previous public collaboratives
- 10:10 – 10:25 Presentation on the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust in Arlington – a vision for the future
- 10:25 – 10:35 The Importance of Trees for Climate Change & County Management
- 10:35 – 10: 50 The Nature of the Challenge: Shaping Market Forces
- 10:50 – 11:10 Announce top priorities identified for further action, narrow selection using immediate voting by participants, tally results
- 11:10 – 12:10 Breakout teams meet and start detailed planning, steps
- 12:10 – 12:30 Report results and how we’ll coordinate in the future
- 12:30 – 1:30 Networking luncheon and informal discussions

If you would like more information or want to signup to participate, please contact Mary Glass at environmental.affairs.chair@civfed.org or Eric Ackerman at thurstonackerman@gmail.com

Legislation Committee

At the April 24th meeting the Legislation Committee meeting agreed to pursue the following topics for future programs/resolutions:

1. Produce a report of the Deaths in the Arlington County Jail -**Lead Juliet Hiznay (jhiznay@gmail.com)**
2. Develop information on Arlington and Virginia police force use of GPS and license plate readers to track individuals - **Lead - Ron Haddox (ronhaddox@hushmail.com)**
3. Produce a resolution advocating that the General Assembly remove the witness requirement for voting by mail - **Lead - Don Gurney (donnwren@comcast.net)**
4. Produce a resolution advocating that the General Assembly reform the FOIA criteria for accessing official records. – Long Term Effort. (**ronhaddox@hushmail.com**)
5. To combat dark money, produce a resolution advocating that the General Assembly require more transparency on the beneficial ownership of all business associations. – Long Term Effort. (**ronhaddox@hushmail.com**)

The contact email is provided for input and questions on future programs/resolutions.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

SUMMARY

REPORT DATE	SCOPE OF WORK	PREPARED BY
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30 April 2022	Nominations for FY2023 (2022-2023) Officers & Directors	Adam R Henderson, Chair
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STATUS SUMMARY

Election of Officers and Directors are held each year at the Annual Meeting. The 2022 Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2022. The ACCF Bylaws require a 3-7-person Nominating Committee selected by the general membership each year. The following individuals are serving on this committee: Adam R Henderson, Chair; Michael Beer, Member; Mike Cantwell, Member; Nadia Conyers, Member; Juliet Hiznay, Member; and Kitty Clark Stevenson, Interim Member. The Nominating Committee has met several times over the course of March and April. Establishing strong and transparent outreach has been a committee priority. The Committee adopted a communications plan that include direct e-mail, newsletter updates, General Membership meeting announcements, social media, and outreach to affiliate groups. If direct outreach by telephone proves necessary to ensure that there are candidates for all open seats, the Committee will move forward.

NOMINATIONS SUBMITTED TO DATE

POSITION	NAME	DEL/ALT	MEMBER ORGANIZATION
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President			
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Vice President			
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Secretary			
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Treasurer			
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Director At-Large	John Ford	DEL	Tara-Leeway Hgts
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Director At-Large	Mary Glass	DEL	Arlington Tree Action Group
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Director At-Large			
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Director At-Large			
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Director At-Large			
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Director At-Large			
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IMPORTANT DATES

EVENT	PERSONS RESPONSIBLE	DATE
Presentation to General Membership	Nominating Committee	May 10, 2022
Updated Nomination Report for Newsletter	Nominating Committee	June 1, 2022
Presentation to General Membership	Nominating Committee	June 14, 2022
Nominations from Floor	Delegates & Alternates	June 14, 2022
Election Ballots Issued by Comms Team	Delegates & Alternates	June 14, 2022

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This report includes only those nominations that have been submitted to date. To qualify for ACCF leadership, the nominee must be a Delegate or Alternate of an ACCF member membership organization in good standing.

Nominations continue to be accepted. To submit your nomination, please fill out the online Nomination Form at:

<https://forms.gle/XZWp6RwQNuHJVCgi6>

This link is also available on the Civic Federation home page at the Nominating Committee web page. All qualified nominees will be on the ballot. The Bylaws require that nominations be permitted from the floor during the Annual Meeting.

If there are nominations during the Annual Meeting, the ballot will need to be revised to include those names of additional nominees who qualify for ACCF leadership before it can be issued to the voting members.

Only those persons who attend the June 15, 2022 meeting will be eligible to vote. All Delegates may vote. Alternates may vote if they are voting instead of a Delegate who is not attending the meeting. Alternates who plan to vote instead of the Delegate must provide advance notice, or they will not receive a ballot.

More information about the roles and duties of officers and directors are included in the ACCF Bylaws, which are posted online at civfed.org.

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 tosecretary@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.

Thank you to the organizations that have submitted their dues payments.

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

Committee on Diversity, Equity, Belonging and Inclusion (DEBI)

If any member of the CivFed community would like to go over the diversity resolution feel free to contact chair of the DEBI (Diversity, Equity, Belonging and Inclusion) Alistair Watson. You can ask about any part of the resolution and its meaning.

Email: diversity.chair@civfed.org

General Membership Minutes April 12th

[General Membership Minutes April 12th](#)

END NOTES for "County Board Passes \$1.5 billion budget"

[1] "New \$1.5 billion county budget holds tax rate steady, creates climate office": <https://www.arlnow.com/2022/04/27/new-1-5-billion-county-budget-holds-tax-rate-steady-creates-new-climate-office/>

[2] County Manager's Proposed Tax & Fee Recommendations for Advertisement, 2-15-2022: https://arlington.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4043&meta_id=208910

[3] "Real Estate Assessment and Tax Burden Resolution, April 2022" [APPROVED 12 APRIL 2022 • 31 (93.9%) yea • 2 (6.1%) nay • 2 abstentions]: <https://www.civfed.org/newContent/2022-04/2022-04%20ACCF%20Rev&ExpComm%20Res%20FY23%20Assessment%20and%20Tax%20Burden%20APPROVED.pdf>

[4] "Impacts of Rising Real Estate Assessments/Tax Burden on Vulnerable Residents: The Arlington County Manager's FY2023 Proposed Budget Arlington County Civic Federation Revenues & Expenditures Committee, April 2022": <https://www.civfed.org/newContent/2022-04/2022-04%20ACCF%20Rev&ExpComm%20Res%20FY23%20Assessment%20and%20Tax%20Burden%20Report%20on%20Impacts.pdf>

[5] Attachment A: Response to R&E Committee's FOIA request for a list of vacant Arlington County government positions. List as of 3-9-2022: <https://www.civfed.org/newContent/2022-04/2022-04%20ACCF%20Rev&ExpComm%20Res%20FY23%20Assessment%20and%20Tax%20Burden%20APPENDIX%20A%20County%20Vacancies.pdf>

[6] Virginia Property Taxes by County, Property Tax 101 website (accessed 4-29-2022): <https://www.propertytax101.org/virginia/propertytaxbycounty>

[7] "PUBLIC NOTICE: March 31, 2022 - Notice of Proposed Real Property Tax and Tax Rate Public Hearing": <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/VAARLINGTON/bulletins/30cbe37>

[8] *ibid*: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/VAARLINGTON/bulletins/30cbe37>. NOTE: CY2021 assessed value of \$83,049,154,800 x \$1.013 ÷ \$100 = \$819,833,710 in revenue at current rate. CY2022 assessed value of \$85,840,070,900 x \$0.990 ÷ \$100 = \$849,816,702 in revenue at the lowered rate — a difference of \$30 million.

[9] County Manager's Proposed Tax & Fee Recommendations for Advertisement, 2-15-2022: https://arlington.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4043&meta_id=208910

[10] "Amazon HQ2 Will Cost Taxpayers at Least \$4.6 Billion, More Than Twice What the Company Claimed, New Study Shows": <https://theintercept.com/2018/11/15/amazon-hq2-long-island-city->

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](#)
Board Vice-Chair, Mary Glass
Member at Large, [Mary Glass](#)
Member at Large, [Julia Tanner](#)
Member at Large, [Nadia Conyers](#)
Member at Large, [Mona Steffen](#)
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 Todd Truitt](#)
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

- [April Membership 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 its 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

May 2022

- NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Tuesday 26 April 2022, 6p
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday 10 May 2022, 7p, via Zoom
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: Sunday 15 May 2022, 4p, via Zoom

June 2022

- NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Tuesday 31 May 2022, 6p
- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday 14 June 2022, 7p, via Zoom
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: Sunday 19 June 2022, 4p, via Zoom

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