

## **MEETING**

Arlington County Civic Federation, Hybrid Board of Directors Meeting, 2022/06/26  
Held at the Columbia Pike Branch Library, Drew Room and virtually via Zoom

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **OUTGOING BOARD**

- **President** Allan Gajadhar
- **Vice President** Nicole Merlene
- **Secretary** Alistair Watson
- **Membership Chair** Eric Cassel
- **Board Chair** Nicole Merlene
- **Board Member** Eric Cassel
- **Board Member** Mary Glass

### **INCOMING BOARD**

- **President** John Ford
- **Vice President** Ron Haddox
- **Secretary** David R Smith
- **Board Member** Allan Gajadhar
- **Board Member** Dave Schutz
- **Board Member** Jackie Snelling
- **Board Member** Mary Glass
- **Board Member** Scott Miles
- **Board Member** Suzanne Sundburg
- **Board Member** Todd Truit

### **OTHER ATTENDEES**

- **Allen Norton**
- **Jeff Liteman**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting notification sent June 24, 2022 via email notification

Meeting called to order at 1:00 p.m., Quorum was met with 69% of directors present.

## **ELECTION REPORT**

- All of the votes were confirmed after an audit. Action: Nicole to send out vote totals/info to Alan who will send out results via ConstantContact

## **BOARD REPORTS**

- **President's Report from Alan**
  - Welcome to the newly elected officers and board:
    - **President** John Ford
    - **Vice President** Ron Haddox
    - **Secretary** David R Smith
    - **Treasurer** Jim Todd

- Board Member Allan Gajadhar
  - Board Member Dave Schutz
  - Board Member Jackie Snelling
  - Board Member Mary Glass
  - Board Member Michael McMenamin
  - Board Member Nadia Conyers
  - Board Member Scott Miles
  - Board Member Suzanne Sundburg
  - Board Member Todd Truitt
- Discussed need to transfer some of the CivFed logistical items over to new team (email, communications director, etc)
- Bylaws call for certain things to happen: Most pressing is an audit be performed and Treasurer to transfer accounts to new treasurer
  - Action: TBR to plan for books audit
    - Context: The Audit committee, chaired by the President of the Federation, will name an Audit Team at the June meeting of the Federation to examine the books of the treasurer by July 31 and report at the regular meeting in September.
  - Action: Stacey to transfer accounts to new treasurer
- **President's Report from John**
  - July meeting will discuss who can lead the 'Candidates Night' (in September?)
  - John thanked the outgoing board/officers for their service and highlighted thanks to those members who have agreed to stay engaged with CivFed
- **Vice-President's Report**
  - No report provided
- **Secretary's Report**
  - Action: Alistair to send May minutes from the last board meeting
- **Treasurer's Report**
  - No report provided

## STANDING COMMITTEES

- **Cultural Affairs (Tina Worden)**
  - No report provided
- **DEBI (Diversity, Equity, Belonging, and Inclusion) (Alistair Watson)**
  - No report provided
- **Environmental Affairs (Mary Glass)**
  - For 2 years committee has been doing tree collaboratives to figure out how to preserve the tree canopy (nearly 100 people involved). A third round was held on May 7, with 25 participants. Have at least 15 actions to work on across four categories below.
    - Zoning
    - County Management

- Equity
    - Incentives
  - Action: Mary to send info on these actions for addition in the next CivFed newsletter.
  - Arlington Draft Forestry and Natural Resources study expected out in July, comments due Sept. This is a very short response period. Considering a letter to the County Board requesting a longer comment period.
  - Concerned that there is not a tree canopy study. The County has deferred a study until after the Forestry and Natural Resources study completes. Some notes:
    - A comprehensive study can be performed for \$17,000, but County is unwilling to do it
    - Mary is pursuing funding for the study (not via ACCF)
    - Question: can ACCF board endorse private money being raised for this study? Answer: ACCF does support Mary raising funding privately.
    - Participating in an advisory group for updates to the new Arlington wastewater treatment plan. Very impressed with people working this improvement. Will take some waste that is landfilled and make into useable products and/or natural gas substitute.
    - Noted: There was some ACCF board member opposition to this project due to off-gassing (flaring) which can release chemical pre-cursors which form Ozone
  - Question: Could ECOAction (a 501c3) support a tree canopy study? Mary is in contact; they have a focus on underserved community
  - Meeting Thursday at 6 p.m. on construction of wastewater treatment plan.
    - Action: Mary to provide the ACCF board a schedule for decisions.
- **Legislation (Ron Haddox)**
  - Ron raised a question of whether or not it would be a conflict for him to continue to be chair and thought maybe it would go to the vice chair. Answer is that it isn't a conflict and the President, with board concurrence selects the chair.
- **Public Services (John Ford)**
  - County managers draft includes a 10x increase in stormwater related money for 10-year CIP. The final approval will happen on July 16th.
    - Large increase likely driven by involvement of 25 civic associations, and over 100 members that participated in various efforts
  - Spout Run sent a letter supporting the CIP
- **Public Safety Subcommittee (Jackie Snelling)**
  - Planning an Oct presentation on the 9-8-8 which is the one stop call for emergency mental health crisis. The implementation will start in July, but will not forward to the local response crisis lines until additional infrastructure is established.
  - Police just graduated another class from training academy (12 officers). Will not get county to functional staffing requirement but helps.
  - The County Board has appointed a chair and an auditor for the community review board. The auditor and chair were featured at the last NAACP meeting and can be viewed on the meeting video.
- **Revenues and Expenditures (Suzanne Sundburg)**
  - State Budget: a lot of surplus went to tax cuts

- In April discussed tax increases, assessment increases, negative impact on vulnerable groups
  - Published a report on which CAs have 100 or more at-risk homeowners, living on fixed income and cannot afford assessment hikes
    - Related: compiled a list of owners of properties (for 20-30+ years) where homes had not been improved that would be impacted
- **Schools (Todd Truit)**
  - Sponsored meetings with APS (Dr. Duran) in February and the School Board in May
  - If anyone is interested in joining Schools committee contact Todd, currently have 6-7 members

## **SUPPORT COMMITTEES**

- **Bylaws, Community Relations, Membership and the Executive ( Adam Henderson)**
  - Action: Adam to send out new bylaws report, will send to new board members
- **Membership (Eric Cassel)**
  - Juntos por Justicia, led by Janeth Valenzuela, applied for membership
    - Group does not have by-laws (required of CivFed members)
      - Decision: Suzanne will look for toolkit 'how to forma a group...' and ACCF will encourage Juntos to establish bylaws. Note: only need 20 members and provide 1 delegate. Note: JTS is interested in forming a support group to help potential new members with by-laws

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

- **TIGER (Task Force in Governance and Election Reform) (Alan Gajadhar)**
  - Decision made with task force based on feedback to delay consideration of resolution (originally proposed in May for June vote). Discussion around rank choice voting is very complex, various committees have various opinions which will be solicited.
  - Will take summer to hold education sessions for civic associations, and solicit input, then will publish final reports and adjust resolution.
  - Planning to have TiGER representation at the ACCF fair booth

## **JUNE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING RECAP (Outgoing President's Report)**

- TiGER report
- County Missing Middle presentation
- GLUP Engagement resolution (passed with 66.5% in favor)
- Elections - covered under Election Report topic above

## **COUNTY FAIR PLANNING (from new President Report)**

- ACCF fair is in August. From Aug 19, 20, 21 ACCF will support a booth (indoor)
- Ron is leading the fair effort with support from John and Nicole
- Action: Ron is recruiting volunteers, all board members please provide input to Ron on who can support the fair and help promote CivFed

## **NEW BOARD WELCOME**

- New board and officers were welcomed to the group

## **OPEN FORUM**

- **Email issues**
  - There is a problem with email - not all people are getting emails. Action: Ron will call help desk and try to get worked out
  
- **Eric Cassel**
  - Will be a memo from 3 civic associations on events related to GLUP changes in Crystal City area
  - Spending a lot of time on Route 1 planning

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

- Alan accompanied Ester Bowring in meetings with County Board (2 x 2) meetings to discuss Missing Middle
  - Key discussion was on not having enough time to review changes
  - Public comment section (feedback link) will remain open through this fall, but form only supports 500 characters
    - Action: add link into next newsletter
- July is an important meeting for specific things that needed to be done
  - Meet/ greet
  - Strategy meeting
  - Consider a separate meet and greet meeting
- Next board meeting will be around July 10th, John will send a note around proposing the date
  - No 'regular' meeting is required
  - Decision: will assume July is a 'regular' meeting

Submitted by: David R. Smith, incoming Secretary 7/9/2022