



Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation
June 2022 | Volume 106 | Number 10

June Membership Meeting June 14, 2022 @ 7:00PM

HYBRID: via Zoom, and in-person at Hazel Auditorium, Virginia Hospital Center.

On 14 June 2022, the ACCF will conduct a Membership Meeting, **both in-person**, and virtually using Zoom, a videoconferencing platform.

Delegates, Alternate Delegates, others associated with member organizations, and the public are invited to attend this virtual meeting; **or join in-person.**

Advance registration for the **online** meeting is required and must be completed by noon on Tuesday 14 June 2022.
No registration is needed to attend in-person.

When: June 14, 2022 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for the virtual meeting:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclde6sqjsgG9MBQirsS_E7DBhV3Kz_lNr7

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

****The Secretary must be notified of voting member substitutions by 12 PM Monday, June 13, 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.](#)

June 14, 2022 Membership Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 - Regular Business, pledge, approve minutes
- 7:10 - Elections
- 7:30 - Housing Committee/Missing Middle Presentation
- 8:15 - Awards
- 8:30 - TiGER Report
- 9:15 - DEBI presentation
- 9:30 - Old Business: GLUP
- 9:50 - New Business
- 10:00 - Adjournment

President's Corner

Welcome,

This month we will again conduct 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.

This is my last newsletter as President, and I would like to take a moment to reflect on the past two-plus years. I took over as acting president when Sandy Newton stepped down in March of 2020. As you all know, that is the month the pandemic really took off, and life has not been the same since. The Civic Federation moved to online meetings, as did the rest of society. That summer, riots and protests swept the country, followed by a contentious election and transition of power.



Here in Arlington, we have continued our civic work, working to promote civil rights and diversity, stormwater mitigation, housing fairness, budgetary discipline, and environmental issues based on the priorities of our membership and community. We have also created a Task Force to look at the size and structure of the County Government, the School Board, and election reform. In each of these areas, we have worked for the general welfare of Arlington and its citizens, for an Arlington that works for everyone.

I am proud to have led the Civic Federation during these last two years, and I want to be clear that all of this work has been done by the committees and membership, where the true power and effectiveness of our Civic Federation lies.

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, see below for details.

Warmly,

[Allan Gajadhar](#)

Public Services Committee

On behalf of its stormwater group, the Public Services Committee is pleased to offer an interim report on the county's ambitious plans to fund improvements and enhancements in its stormwater mitigation and remediation capabilities.

The county manager's draft 2023-2032 Capital Improvement Plan offers hope for the many areas in Arlington's numerous watersheds that have been subject to chronic flooding. Around half of ACCF's civic federations have participated in active engagement with county planners in this effort.

Nominations Committee

The 2022 Nominating Committee continues its work to find candidates for the upcoming election. As of 9 pm, Sat 4 Jun 2022, we have received twelve nominations for officers and board positions. Of those 12, eight have confirmed they will serve if elected, one has declined, and three others have yet to confirm or decline. In addition, the Committee has received several suggestions for nominees and the Committee is reaching out to those and other individuals to gauge interest.

We encourage all delegates and alternates to nominate qualified delegates and alternates to ALL officer and board positions; we currently have no confirmed candidates for Vice-President and Treasurer and only one candidate each for President and Secretary. When considering nominees, we urge all delegates and alternates to keep in mind the Federation's DEBI principles. Keeping these principles in mind will help to generate a diverse slate of candidates and continue our journey towards a stronger and more inclusive organization.

The Committee will accept nominations through the Nomination Form at <https://forms.gle/XZWp6RwQNuHJVCg6>

through the end of the day Friday, 10 June 2022.

This link is also available on the Civic Federation home page and 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.

Our full interim report is available at:

<http://www.civfed.org/newContent/2022-06/2022-06-04%202022%20ACCF%20NomComm%20Report.pdf>

and on the Nominating Committee page at civfed.org

Public Services Committee

DRAFT Resolution to Improve Public Input for Planning, GLUP and Zoning Change Processes

June 14, 2022

RE: GLUP/Zoning Amendment & Sector Plan Community Engagement

WHEREAS Arlington County has an established a General Land Use Plan (GLUP) that allows for existing single-family residences and high-density, mixed-use development along the high-density, mixed-use corridors;[1]

WHEREAS Arlington County Planning states, “Planning decisions are informed by extensive research, professional expertise and community input.” And the planning process “relies on extensive community input. Individual residents can have a say on the decisions that affect their neighborhoods and the County as a whole”;[2]

WHEREAS the Covid-19 pandemic spurred changes in technology, increasing remote telework options and altering historic commuting patterns with populations migrating from urban counties to suburban and exurban counties;[3]

WHEREAS there are numerous ongoing GLUP studies and amendments, including but not limited to the Crystal City Building Heights Study,[4] Melwood GLUP amendment,[5] the Eads Street Residential GLUP Amendment;[6]

WHEREAS in at least two recent sector-plan-update processes, residents and commissions have raised concerns about community priorities that were not addressed;[7]

WHEREAS the impact of these GLUP studies and amendments and their subsequent up-zonings will affect not only housing density but also parking, public school enrollment, stormwater management and tree canopy preservation in residential neighborhoods countywide;

WHEREAS up-zoning frequently entails encroachment into lower density residential

neighborhoods (sometimes referred to as “edge” development),[8] where residents have no approval rights and little leverage for negotiation when proposed up-zonings will affect the use of their own properties;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF) asks the Arlington County Board to request the County Manager and staff to seek agreement from adjacent-neighbors and the applicable civic association(s) when reviewing proposed GLUP amendments and up-zoning requests, (similar to the Board of Zoning Appeals [BZA] process, which considers adjacent neighbors’ input before deciding residential requests for an exception to a rule in the Zoning Ordinance.)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ACCF asks the Arlington County Board to authorize a more robust process that provides for more meaningful and active public participation in formative land-use planning and zoning processes, including GLUP amendments and studies, Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) reviews of proposed GLUP and zoning studies and amendments, sector plan updates and amendments and similar planning efforts. Such active public participation should:

- a) Give members of affected civic associations and HOAs (if not represented by a civic association) a formal, voting seat at the table for all significant GLUP, sector, and other planning and zoning processes that will amend or change planning and density parameters.
- b) Schedule feedback timelines to avoid conflicts with major holidays and the summer break, when staff, board members and the public are likely to be traveling.
- c) Recognize that community members are volunteers with limited time to devote to planning activities—make technical information clearly understandable in layman's terms and readily available online in a timely manner.
- d) Include basic impact analysis of the proposed changes to give the public clear and accurate projections of the proposed changes' impacts on school enrollment, capacity and staffing; public safety response times and staffing; natural resources/infrastructure (parks, pervious green space, existing tree canopy); impervious surfaces, stormwater management and flood risk; infrastructure (road capacity, additional transit needs, land acquisition to expand public services in relation to population changes, etc.) as well as human capital/FTE needs; and fiscal impacts (revenues and expenditures, especially when resulting in an increase in the tax burden).
- e) Ensure mechanisms for two-way communication between members of the public and decision makers as plans are prepared, assuring that responses to public inquiries and input are timely and meaningful.

See End Notes, below

Missing Middle Update – Thirteen Civic Associations Meeting with County Board Members

Thirteen Civic Associations have written to the County Board requesting meetings with county board members to discuss the Missing Middle housing proposal. The Board has responded and is scheduling meetings in early June. If you are a civic association president and your civic association is interested in joining the group, please contact either Esther Bowring, President of the Arlington Forest Citizens Association (erbowring@gmail.com) or Julie Lee, President of the Glencarlyn Civic Association (jfblee@aol.com).

Full text of letter below

May 26, 2022

Dear Members of the County Board,

As you are aware, many residents in Arlington have questions about the proposed Missing Middle Framework and are concerned about the limited time available before decisions will be made.

We, the leaders of our communities, respectfully request a meeting with County Board members to discuss Missing Middle and the need for more time for community engagement. Some of us have received email responses from Chairman Cristol. However, we continue to have questions about process. We would also like to discuss substance. We recognize that the open meetings law prevents more than two Board members from meeting with us at any one time. Therefore, we are proposing to hold three separate meetings, or more, so that we can speak directly with all County Board members. These meeting can be in person or virtual.

We are proposing the following dates and times for these meetings:

Monday June 6th , evening
Tuesday June 7th , evening
Thursday June 9th, evening
Friday June 10th, morning or afternoon
Monday June 13th, afternoon

If none of these dates/times work for you, please suggest some alternatives in June. We appreciate your consideration of this request to meet and have a conversation about a proposed change that will permanently change our neighborhoods. We look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Respectfully,

- Julie Lee
- Glencarlyn Civic Assn
- Esther Bowring
- Arlington Forest Civic Assn
- Scott Sklar
- Ashton Heights Civic Assn
- Laura Kirkconnell
- Bluemont Civic Assn
- Cory Giacobbe
- Aurora Highlands Civic Assn
- Matthew Phillips
- Boulevard Manor Civic Assn
- Paul Eglin
- Chain Bridge Forest Civic Assn
- Howard Solodky
- Old Glebe Civic Assn
- Bill Richardson
- Donaldson Run Civic Assn
- Mona Steffen
- Rivercrest Civic Assn
- Katie Hays
- Gulf Branch Civic Assn
- Ruth Shearer
- Williamsburg Civic Assn
- John Carten
- Lyon Village Civic Assn

Task Force in Governance and Election Reform (TiGER)

ACCF's Task Force in Governance and Election Reform (TiGER) will present its final report to the general membership; to include its recommendation for Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). The full text of the report will be released in a special newsletter this Wednesday June 8th. The current version of the draft [resolution is linked here](#).

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.

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

END NOTES for "DRAFT Resolution to Improve Public Input for Planning, GLUP and Zoning Change Processes"

[1] Arlington County Planning web page (accessed 5-5-2022):
<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Planning>

[2] Arlington County Planning web page (accessed 5-5-2022):
<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Planning>

[3] "Americans are moving out of urban counties like never before," 4-28-2022:
<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/americans-moving-urban-counties-141924038.html>

[4] Crystal City Building Heights Study web page (accessed 5-5-2022):
<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Plans-Studies/Land-Use/Crystal-City-Building-Heights-Study>. See also APA Airports in the Region Case Study, "Crystal City Plan Feasibility Study Arlington, Virginia – Planning for Redevelopment near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport" (2010): <https://www.civfed.org/newContent/2016-04/2016->

04d%20APA%20Airport%20Case%20Study%20for%20Crystal%20City%20Development%20Plan%20Feasibility%202010-11.pdf and “Arlington County Staff Response to Arlington County Civic Federation Draft Resolution on FAA Navigation Hazard Evaluation Rulemaking Change for Consideration at October 7, 2014 Meeting”: <http://www.civfed.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/10072014-Staff-Response-to-Civ-Fed-Resolution-OEI-Policy.pdf>

[5] 750 23rd St. S. (Melwood) GLUP amendment initial review web page (accessed 5-5-2022): <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Plans-Studies/General-Land-Use-Plan/Studies/Melwood>

[6] Special Land Use Study – South Eads Street Residential/GLUP Amendment Change web page (accessed 5-5-2022): <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Plans-Studies/General-Land-Use-Plan/Studies/South-Eads-Residential>

[7] Pentagon City Sector Plan update: AHCA Representative on the Pentagon City Study Focus Group memo dated 1/22/2022 (see Outstanding Concerns section): <https://livability22202.org/wp-content/uploads/Summary-of-Pentagon-City-Plan-and-AHCA-comments.pdf> and “The Pentagon City Planning Study Reduces Open Public Green Space” analysis: <https://www.arlington-analytics.com/papers/OPS22202.pdf>. See also Public Spaces Master Plan, Priority Action 1: “Add at least 30 acres of new public space over the next ten years”: <http://arlingtonparks.us/psmp/main/mobile/index.html>

Clarendon Sector Plan update: Park & Recreation Commission letter dated 12-22-2021: https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/content/public/government/commissions-and-advisory-groups/parks-recreation-commission/clarendon_10th-st-letter_final_122221.pdf and Ashton Heights Civic Association letter to Long-Range Planning Commission Chair James Schroll dated 10-27-2021: https://arlington.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=4070&meta_id=209825

<https://livability22202.org/wp-content/uploads/Summary-of-Pentagon-City-Plan-and-AHCA-comments.pdf>. See also CivFed 2021 white paper, “Equity in Arlington County Open Public Spaces”: <http://www.civfed.org/newContent/2021-02/2021-02%20ParksRec%20Open%20Space%20Equity%20Resolution%20White%20Paper.pdf>.

[8] “Neighborhood Edge Re-Development Interim Report from the Planning & Zoning Committee” (5-1-2012): <http://www.civfed.org/presedgeredevel1103.pdf> and remarks from then-County Board Chair Mary Hynes regarding “edge development” at 2:34:46 / 3:58:21 on the time counter for the October 17, 2015, County Board Meeting: “We cannot lose sight of the fact that that is our goal every time we approve redevelopment — to create a great place for people; people who live here now and people who might come to live or work in this place.”

[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](#)

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](#)
- [May General Membership 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

June 2022

- GENERAL MEETING: Tuesday 14 June 2022, 7p, via Zoom
 - BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING: Sunday 19 June 2022, 4p, via Zoom
-

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