

Arlington County Civic Federation

MEETING

Arlington County Civic Federation, Executive Committee Meeting, 2023/02/26 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Held virtually via Zoom, called via email invitation.

ATTENDEES

Quorum Members

- John Ford, President
- Ron Haddox, Vice President, Legislation
- David R Smith, Secretary
- Jim Todd, Treasurer
- Jackie Snelling, Board Chair
- Mary Glass, Board Member, Environmental Affairs
- Alan Gajadhar, Board Member
- Dave Schutz, Board Member
- Suzanne Sundburg, Board Member, Revenues and Expenditures
- Todd Truitt, Board Member
- Scott Miles, Board Member
- Mike McMenamin, Board Member, Public Safety

Additional

- Allen Norton
- JD Spain
- Adam Henderson
- Tina Worden
- Nicole Merlene
- Eric Berkey
- Duke Banks
- Anne Bodine
- Chad S
- Stef Pryor
- Kari Klaus
- Mary McKee
- Armand Ciccarelli
- Ben Watts
- Jesse Boeding
- Terri Armao
- Joel Yudken

Arlington County Civic Federation

- Eric Cassel
- Dima Hakura
- Adam Henderson
- Donald Gurney
- Jacquelyn Jackson
- David Cheek

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER (Jackie Snelling)

- Meeting called to order on 2/26/2023 at 4:00 p.m. by the Board Chair, Jackie Snelling, Quorum of Directors (50% or more required) was established with 85% of Directors present (11 of 13)

CIVIC BACKGROUND – RULES OF CONDUCT, ROLES OF BOARD AND PRESIDENT (Jackie Snelling)

- Jackie re-capped the bylaws regarding roles of the board and officers and clarified that our goal is to follow our bylaws and procedures but also to work with our various organizations and board members to find a path to have a conversation amongst people with different points of view.
- The role of the president was read from the bylaws, section 5.04. Jackie clarified that the board delegates executive function to the president except where the bylaws provide other specific direction.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (John Ford)

- **March**
 - Significant discussion was held regarding plans for the March meeting. John clarified that we would have a panel discussion regarding Crime in Arlington and also hold a vote on the Public Confidence resolution.
 - There was considerable discussion about the Public Confidence resolution as well as the amendment.
 - The discussion centered around a path forward for the March meeting and the idea of leveraging a suspension of the rules to allow a vote on both documents was contemplated.
 - The pros/cons of this suspension approach as well as other discussion on various aspects of related parliamentary procedure were discussed. The Board agreed that the President would pursue agreement of the parties for this option.

Arlington County Civic Federation

- A request was made from a non-board member to make use of a moderator for the March meeting and to add additional charts to clarify the details of the amendments and proceedings of the meeting.
- **Scott Miles raised a motion** that we seek a neutral party to run the March meeting (Public Confidence discussion and vote), **The motion failed with 3 yes, 8 no, and 0 abstentions.**
- **Suzanne Sundburg raised a motion** that we allow the Parliamentarian to guide the Public's confidence discussion, the **motion passed with 12 of 12 in favor.**
- **April**
 - John indicated that the April meeting would focus on hosting a panel for the County and School Board candidates. It was noted that the June 20th County Board primary would use a rank choice voting system.
 - A suggestion of offering a tutorial on rank choice voting was proposed and well received by the board members. It was understood that the League of Women Voters may be offering a seminar and CivFed would look to co-sponsor this tutorial on 'how rank choice voting works' and 'how it will be applied to the election for the County Board and Caucuses.' The President, Dave Schutz and Don Gurney of the League of Women Voters will pursue a co-sponsored virtual presentation.
 - A challenge was raised by a non-board member on why we would host a panel for the County and School board candidates. Board Members resoundingly supported the plan for the candidate forum.
- **May**
 - John indicated that the May meeting would focus on the Sheriff's election and contested House/Senate races and he indicated that we would consider the Commonwealth's Attorney race.
 - John also clarified we would most likely have the Superintendent's visit in May.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (David Smith)

- **General Membership Vote re-cap**
 1. **Vote on whether the members would accept Adam's interpretation of CivFed bylaws**
VOTE PASSED: 52 YES, 52 NO, 12 ABSTAIN
- **Newsletter**

Arlington County Civic Federation

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- March 1 is the deadline for the March Newsletter which will go out March 4th.
 - **APS Student Volunteers**
 - We will reach out to members for student volunteers to help with audio/video tuning, but also meeting setup/teardown/check-in.
 - **General Membership Run-Rules**
 - The Secretary will not allow presentation of materials without pre-meeting coordination. There will not be any exceptions going forward.
 - Presenters will not be given Zoom co-host capability under any circumstances.
 - The board members were in agreement with this stated approach to meeting materials and co-host capability.
 - **Updates to Registration and Voting**
 - As many observed, voting at the February General Membership meeting took considerable time. This was because the vote was close, and the certified result was necessary to move the meeting forward. Despite how it probably came across, we did do a few things in-advance to speed up the February vote count:
 1. We requested delegate swaps on Monday instead of the usual Tuesday. Note that one member was very upset by this change.
 2. We verified the online delegates on Monday to create a master list ahead of the Tuesday meeting.
 - Observed issues:
 1. Many members did not honor our delegate swap due date/time and several were asking to swap delegates in the hours/minutes prior to the meeting. This swap may seem easy, but it requires updates to several artifacts, all challenging when also trying to prep for the meeting start which takes 2 solid hours.
 2. We had about 20-30 new registrants come in on Tuesday which required manual validation during the meeting.
 3. Registrants online don't always use credentials that exactly match what we have on file, this necessitates a manual check.

Arlington County Civic Federation

4. Many registrants online claimed to be delegates when in fact they were not.
 5. In-Room counting using the blue delegate voting card appeared to result in numbers that are not probable. David indicated that he believed some individuals voted twice: 'yes' and 'no'.
- Options to Improve:
 1. Require registration and delegate swap by Sunday afternoon which will allow time to validate all the delegates before the meeting starts.
 - Downside: It is guaranteed that some members will claim this is impactful to their lives or impacts democracy or community engagement in some way.
 2. Send delegates to a separate room to vote – note that this requires Option #1 to be completed.
 - Downside: non delegates will be left on a 'pause' for several minutes and this will cause confusion
 3. Require voters to be in-person
 - Downside: some members with mobility issues, COVID concerns, etc. will not be able to vote unless we set up some type of proxy for them which would be another layer of complexity to manage.
 - Considerable discussion ensued on issues with registration and polling with various ideas brought forward by board members to include use of ConstantContact polling, using Facebook live only, etc.
 - **Dave Schutz raised a motion** to allow the Secretary to develop an approach for Zoom registration and polling for use at the March meeting. The **motion passed with 10 yes, 1 no, and 0 abstentions.**

VOTE TO APPROVE 1/22/23 MINUTES (Jackie Snelling)

- Discussed and voted to approve the 1/22/23 Board Meeting minutes. See minutes at: [Board of Directors Minutes - Arlington County Civic Federation \(civfed.org\)](#)
- VOTE: Approved
 - 10- yes
 - 0 - no
 - 0 - abstain

Arlington County Civic Federation

TREASURER'S REPORT (Jim Todd)

- In the interest of time Jim offered to defer the bulk of the Treasurer's report to the newsletter, however he noted that we continue to get some donations and that we are in good financial shape.
- It was noted that the board members approved, by an electronic vote, to authorize the Treasurer to transfer the funds out of the two existing CDs and into a higher interest-bearing account.
- Jim indicated that printing costs must be approved in advance and that we have very little budget allocated to printing costs, however Suzanne noted that if we have more than 1 version of the resolution, we should have some hard copies for people to review.

BOARD REPORTS

- **Fundraising Options (Mary Glass)** – In the interest of time this topic was deferred.
- **By-laws (Adam Henderson)**
 - Adam indicated that a request was made to the Bylaws Committee to examine section 2.03 regarding how members are certified, and dues paid with a request to align those dates. The Bylaws Committee met and has recommended an amendment to section 2.03a to show Nov 20th as the date for dues and certification.
 - **Resolution:** <https://files.constantcontact.com/9b2b0a78501/f1ff5223-3cf7-4fae-a5cb-a4a7e639493a.pdf?rdr=true>
 - **A motion was made to approve the Bylaws Committee recommendation on moving the dues and certification date to Nov 20, and bring requested change to the General Membership for a vote by the members.** *The motion passed with 11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.*
 - Adam presented an 'Arlington Civic Association Boundary Adjustment' draft procedure:
 - **Procedure:** <https://files.constantcontact.com/9b2b0a78501/adedf444-41ad-402e-bd7d-22acdb455995.pdf?rdr=true>
 - **Memo:** <https://files.constantcontact.com/9b2b0a78501/434e31a0-756e-4584-9b54-a2465905324a.pdf?rdr=true>

Arlington County Civic Federation

- Traditionally CivFed has had authority over civic association boundary disputes, however, research has been unable to identify a formal County Board record on this topic.

The Board Chair and President will reach out to Arlington County for potential written clarification.

- **Public Safety (Mike McMenamain)**

- Mike noted that the March general membership meeting will include an Arlington Crime panel with three panelists and were invited to participate for 90 minutes, to start at around 7:05 p.m.
- Some discussion ensued regarding meeting completion time and Virginia Hospital/Hazel Auditorium rules. **Mary Glass made a motion to let Mike and John research start times and make a decision.** [The motion passed with 11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.](#)

- **Nominating Committee (Jackie Snelling/John Ford)**

- A discussion was held about the timing of election of the nominating committee. John Ford proposed the following candidates. Jackie requested South Arlington representation. [The proposed group was approved by acclamation](#), to put the candidates forward at the March General Membership meeting:
 - David Smith
 - Kathleen Trainor
 - Mike Weinsten (Mike later withdrew his name)
 - Note: additional candidates were added after the meeting and were part of the March 14 GM meeting vote. The additions were: Jim Todd, Adam Henderson, and Ron Haddox.

- **Awards Committee**

- Awards Committee nominees were brought forward at the January 22 Board meeting. The final list put forward at the March meeting were: Dave Schutz, Diane Kelly, John Ford, Lois Koontz, and Todd Truitt.

- **Environmental Committee (Mary Glass)**

- Motion made to sponsor a Tree Canopy workshop on March 25th. No financial contribution required. It was noted that the newsletter would include an article on this workshop. The motion was approved by acclamation.

Arlington County Civic Federation

- **Parks & Recreation (Dave Schutz)**

- Dave reported that he has been trying to be aware of the pickleball discussion and begin to represent CivFed in the topic. Dave welcomed the idea of new members. Agreement was to include a March newsletter article.

OTHER BUSINESS

- **Newsletter Plan (David R Smith)**

- David walked through the outline for the March Newsletter and the Board provided input and agreement on the planned content.

- **Pickleball (Armand Ciccarelli – guest)**

- Armand discussed his concerns with pickleball court expansion at the Walter Reed recreation center and he requested CivFed engagement on the topic. Jackie suggested Armand join the Parks/Rec committee and that Parks/Recs begin work on a resolution. Armand highlighted his concerns:
 - Did not believe there was a transparent process to choose the Walter Reed facility for the court expansion.
 - Conveyed concern that Walter Reed is supposed to be able to be used for a range of different activities, but he suggested that Pickleball is already, and will further dominate the offerings available to the public.
 - Indicated that there are 19 courts county wide, and they are planning to build more at Walter Reed, which already has 9 courts.
 - Counties surrounding Arlington have now restricted pickleball court use, but Arlington appears to be creating more options. Right now pickleball is played at the Walter Reed facility 15 hours a day, 7 days per week. Armand indicated that he believes this demand was unfair to the community surrounding Walter Reed and would prefer to see the demand spread out in Arlington.
- Jacquelyn Jackson, a pickleball player, spoke and indicated that demand is coming from across the region. Essentially making Walter Reed a 'regional center', not a local Arlington facility as it was intended.

- **Public Confidence Resolution (Ben Watts – guest)**

Arlington County Civic Federation

- Ben indicated his interest in next steps for the Public's Trust resolution. Jackie indicated that the two sides (past presidents and NAACP) are planning to work together on the resolution and indicated more meetings may be coming, as needed, to support the effort.

ADJOURN – 7:00 p.m.

Jackie approved, by acclamation, that the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: David R. Smith, Secretary 3/18/2023