

Arlington County Civic Federation

MEETING

- Arlington County Civic Federation, General Membership Meeting, 2023-02-21 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Hybrid meeting held in-person at the VHC Hazel Auditorium and virtually via Zoom, called via email invitation.

ATTENDANCE

- In-Person: Member delegates checked in and were provided voting cards
- Zoom: Member delegates registered in-advance, and were recorded via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER (John Ford)

- Called to order at 7:00 p.m. with quorum met with 1/10th of member delegates (required 25 had 80+)
- Moment of silence in honor of our Country, Pledge of Allegiance

DECEMBER & JANUARY MINUTES (John Ford)

- December 2022 Membership meeting minutes were voted on for approval

Motion: Approve December Minutes? APPROVED			
	In Room	Zoom	Total
Yes	17	33	50
No	0	0	0
Abstain	1	9	10

- January 2023 Membership meeting minutes were voted on for approval

Motion: Approve January Minutes? APPROVED			
	In Room	Zoom	Total
Yes	20	32	52
No	0	0	0
Abstain	2	10	12

PANEL ON PUBLIC'S CONFIDENCE IN ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNANCE (JOHN FORD)

A panel of community leaders was invited to discuss their views on engagement with Arlington County.
Panelists included:

- Eric Berkey – (Douglas Park Civic Association, President)
- Bryan Coleman (NAACP, 2nd Vice President) –

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- Jane Green (YIMBY's N. Virginia, President)
- Duke Banks (Former president of Civic Federation)
- Video Links:
 - Video Recording: <https://vimeo.com/user118812626>
 - Facebook: [\(20+\) Arlington County Civic Federation | Facebook](#)

STRAW POLL (JOHN FORD)

- A straw poll was taken on how members felt about the County's engagement with the community. By a show of hands it appeared that about 10 to 1 identified with having concerns about current engagement.

RESOLUTION TO RESTORE THE PUBLIC'S CONFIDENCE IN ARLINGTON COUNTY GOVERNANCE (DUKE BANKS)

- Duke Banks provided an introduction to the resolution.
 - The charts he presented can be found here: [Resolution to Restore the Public's Confidence in Arlington County Governance \(civfed.org\)](#)
 - [A video highlighting community concern was provided by Duke and the sponsors of the resolution:](#)
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BLIMpWQ4afaJJR73VIXCwwnmNudmFoAF>
- John indicated that the NAACP had offered a contrary view on the resolution, this was also noted in the February newsletter.
- Adam Henderson, CivFed Bylaws and Rules Chair provided feedback on concerns raised regarding the NAACPs wish to amend the resolution.
- Various concerns were raised about substitutions - citing that we have never had an amendment for substitution, and concern about the precedence set by such an approach.
- A [motion was made to vote on whether the members would accept Adam's interpretation of CivFed bylaws](#), the motion was moved, and seconded, the floor was opened up to a lengthy discussion. The discussion addressed many topics, including process concerns, concern about the NAACP substitution, concern with County engagement, promoting engagement, several clarifications of the parliamentary process, and many other topics. A vote was called on the motion:

Motion: 'motion to uphold the chair' and accept Adam's interpretation of the bylaws **APPROVED**

	In Room	Zoom	Total
Yes	24	28	52
No	28	24	52
Abstain	6	6	12

- It has been noted that the sum total of the vote is larger than should be possible given the total number of delegates that were in attendance. While the Zoom registrants were validated to be

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delegates, there is some concern that the in-room counting was problematic due to individuals being confused and voting both yes and then subsequently voting no.

- John asked for a **motion to vote on the public trust resolution**, the motion was moved, and seconded, and the floor was opened up to discussion. The resolution can be found here: [Resolution to Restore the Public's Confidence in Arlington County Governance \(civfed.org\)](#)
- Bryan Coleman (NAACP) requested **a motion to amend the offered resolution**, and was given time to present his amendment, which can be found here: [2023-02-12 CivFed Res Amendment in Nature of Subst NAACP.pdf](#).
- Jackie Snelling requested **a friendly amendment to the amendment**, the request made was to pull in the full resolved item #2 from the original resolution ('Support in spirit (not just the letter of the law) open-data and open-government principles and regulations...'), discussion was opened up to the amendment.
- At this point in the meeting there was much open discussion, a motion made and withdrawn, further discussion on the process being followed, expectations, etc.
- Mike McMenamin moved to defer the topic and end the meeting. Before the second was recognized, Duke repeated the motion to defer and a second was recognized and a voice vote was taken with resounding approval. Note that the Hospital was shutting down the conference room and so no online poll was taken.
- The president declared the meeting adjourned.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS (John Ford)

- No new or old business

ACTIONS

- None

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

- We are investigating the cause of the Zoom 'unmuting' issue. There was not intentional prevention of people from unmuting and we used the same Zoom template that we've used for many months without issue. Some people were able to come off of mute, others were not which suggests some other issue, perhaps a Zoom software bug.
- We had sound issues again. We have a loosely coupled audio system. We get sound to/from the Zoom audience to the auditorium speakers via an HDMI cable connecting John Ford's personal laptop and the auditorium sound system. In-Room sound is received via the laptop microphone and relayed to the Zoom audience. The microphone and speakers were successfully tested prior to the meeting's start. We believe that there was some type of cable connection issue that occurred and ultimately caused the sound issues which were then largely overcome by circumventing the HDMI cable connection. We are investigating the cause and will correct it for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:35 p.m.

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Submitted by: David R. Smith, Secretary 2/27/2023