



Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation
February 2023 | Volume 107 | Number 06

February General Membership Meeting

Location: Hazel Auditorium, Virginia Hospital Center

Date: February 21, 2023 @ 7:00 PM

Format: In-Person and Zoom. ACCF will also stream to the [ArlCivFed Facebook page](#).

Invitation: Delegates, Alternate Delegates, others associated with member organizations, and the public are invited to attend this meeting.

In-Person Registration: No registration is needed to attend in-person.

Zoom Registration: If you plan to attend by Zoom, please [register in advance](#) by noon on February 20th to ensure we enable enough participants slots for the meeting. Registration after this date will be authorized only if enough slots are available.

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

****The secretary@civfed.org must be notified of voting member substitutions by 12 PM Monday, Feb 20.** Note that this date (2 days prior) is a change from previous requests and will be strictly adhered to in order to be able to validate eligible votes during the meeting.

Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 - Welcome and Pledge
- 7:05 - Approve January [minutes](#)
- 7:10 - Public's Confidence Resolution
- 8:45 - Old Business
- 9:00 - Adjournment

President's Message

Someone once said that democracy can be quite messy. I think about that as I am writing to you now. Our Civic Federation is a big tent, with over 80 different member organizations. They don't always agree. But it's our job to do our best, within our agreed rules and procedures, to afford to our member organizations the opportunity to get a hearing for their views and to respectfully discuss how best to improve our community. Then the membership can decide what course will best meet our common objectives. This will be your task next Tuesday evening at Virginia Hospital Center's Hazel Auditorium, or via Zoom. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:00 p.m.

At our upcoming February 21 meeting, we will consider a [Resolution to Restore the Public's Confidence in Arlington County Government](#). This resolution is co-sponsored by five recent ACCF presidents.

Another document, presented under our rules and procedures as an [amendment in the](#)

[nature of a substitution](#),” has been offered by the Arlington chapter of the NAACP. Almost since the first introduction of the public confidence resolution last fall, the NAACP chapter has disagreed with some elements of the resolution. NAACP 2nd Vice-President Bryan Coleman will be with us Tuesday to present the NAACP proposed amendment.

I urge all delegates, alternates and members to familiarize yourselves with these two documents. Our February meeting will be devoted to discussing them.

Although there are differences, I think it is also important to note that the actions proposed by these documents share considerable common ground. Both indicate that there are significant flaws in the current County engagement process, and both indicate that their objective is to call on the County to work with the Civic Federation and the community to make changes to address these flaws. I believe that, working together, despite the differences, we at the Civic Federation can come together to leverage our common objective to improve civic engagement.

We aim for a thorough, civil discussion of the issues. To ensure that as many members as possible may be heard, we will enforce 30 second limits on questions and 60 seconds for comments. Our ACCF Bylaws Committee chair, Adam Henderson, will act as Parliamentarian and adjudicator for all procedural questions. Others will assist to ensure a smooth, equitable process.

I hope you will attend, either in person or virtually.

Let’s briefly look ahead. In March, our Public Safety Committee will facilitate a panel discussion on Crime in Arlington featuring the County Chief of Police, Commonwealth’s Attorney for Arlington and Deputy Director of Human Services. In April, we plan to sponsor a forum including all declared candidates for the two County Board seats on the November ballot. In May, we aim to sponsor a Q & A with our Superintendent of Schools in addition to a forum for candidates for County Sheriff and the House of Delegates. More details to come!

With my best wishes,

John Ford

Joint Meeting with the County - Outbrief

The January 3rd meeting featured a question-and-answer session with the Arlington County Board.

The Q&A session was guided by John Ford who raised pre-prepared questions submitted by CivFed committee chairs and board members. Throughout the session John also called on member delegates (Zoom and in-person) to ask their own questions. The following are topics that were discussed:

- Office vacancy rate vs residential density
- Public service funding shift (commercial vs residential)
- Residential property assessment increases vs property tax rate
- County priority for natural resources
- Delays to business permitting/openings
- Arlington commission diversity review
- Responsiveness/accessibility to Planning commission processes
- 4.1 site plan enforcement (example: light trespass)
- Old Quincy Street intended use (ops and maintenance use) plan forward
- 26th and Old Dominion task force (2019) plan forward
- FOIA requests for basic study and operational data
- Conversion of commercial office space to residential use
- Pickleball concerns from homeowners near courts
- On-going effort to coordinate APS camps and summer school funding
- Plan for a flood Risk Assessment Management Plan (RAMP) public briefing for the

Arlington County Civic Federation would like to thank the Arlington County Board and other supporting staff for their time, and we hope to schedule this community exchange for next year at this time.

Video recordings of this meeting can be found at: [Vimeo](#) or our [Facebook](#) page.



ACCF Table to the Left: John Ford (ACCF President), Jim Todd (ACCF Treasurer)
Board Table in the Front (from left to right): Libby Garvey (Vice-Chair), Matt de Ferranti, Christian Dorsey (Chair), Katie Cristol, Takis Karantonis

Resolution to Restore the Public's Confidence in Arlington County Governance

by Duke Banks, co-sponsor

At the February CivFed meeting we will be voting on the resolution that was introduced back in September. In November Stef Pryor provided an overview of the Resolution to CivFed delegates. Since then, we've received comments and suggestions concerning the resolution and the accompanying Appendix.

The revised Resolution can be viewed [here](#). It has incorporated many of the suggested edits that were submitted to the co-Sponsors of the resolution. At the suggestion of many, the Appendix is now a separate report titled *Report on Erosion of Public Confidence in Arlington County Decision Making* submitted by the five former Presidents of the ACCF, who are the co-sponsors of this resolution. The report has not been approved by ACCF and does not necessarily represent the views of the ACCF. The report can be viewed [here](#).

In keeping with the ACCF standard of requiring that Whereas clauses be documented, each Whereas clause has extensive documentation of several endnotes that include news articles, videos, Arlington County documents, CivFed documents, etc. The Report may provide additional context to understand the endnotes listed in the Whereas clauses.

Arlington County Civic Federation - Procedures

Ahead of the February General Meeting, we would like to encourage all members to review the procedures that are in place to help govern our mission of promoting the general welfare of Arlington County and vicinity in a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-sectional, and non-political manner. We strive to include the perspectives of all of our members and allow for respectful discourse on topics that affect the community. Here are some of the key governing documents we recommend reading:

- [Parliamentary Procedures](#)

- [Resolution Process](#)

In addition, we would remind attendees to review the ACCF adopted guidelines on [respectful conduct, discourse, and discussion](#). In addition to the referenced guidelines, respectful conduct and discourse includes:

- articulating your question or comment in a concise manner,
- speaking for yourself or your organization only and not speaking on behalf of others,
- refraining from implying or speculating on the motives of others,
- no name calling or characterizing people or organizations

Committee Chair Appointments

The ACCF Board of Directors is happy to report on recent Committee Chair appointees:

- **Housing Committee** - Anne Bodine (co-chair) and Matt Hall (co-chair)
- **Parks and Recreation Committee** - Dave Schutz (chair)

Anne Bodine Bio **ACCF Housing Committee Co-Chair**

Anne Bodine is a retired Foreign Service Officer and a 30-year resident of Arlington. She specialized in economic development and anti-corruption efforts overseas, focusing on conflict and post-conflict areas such as Lebanon, Iraq, and Afghanistan; prior to that she worked on Middle East Peace initiatives. In Arlington, she set up a small advisory group, the Iraqi Job Network, to facilitate U.S. refugee resettlement from 2007-09. She has been active most recently with Arlingtonians for Our Sustainable Future, Arlington Tree Action Group, and the NAACP, where she is a member of the Environmental Justice Committee. She is a member of Lyon Park Civic Association.



Matthew Hall Bio **ACCF Housing Committee Co-Chair**

Matthew Hall is a lawyer, Naval officer and a father of three. A senior partner in the boutique law of Goldstein Hall PLLC, Matt has devoted over 20 years to the field of community law and his efforts have directly contributed to the development or preservation of over 10,000 affordable housing units. In his Navy role, Matt currently serves as a Captain in the Reserves, and he has previously dedicated nearly three years on active duty in Iraq, Afghanistan and Djibouti. Matt lives with his family (wife Polly and children Ethan, Eliza and Owen) in the Ashton Heights neighborhood of Arlington.



A message from Anne and Matt:

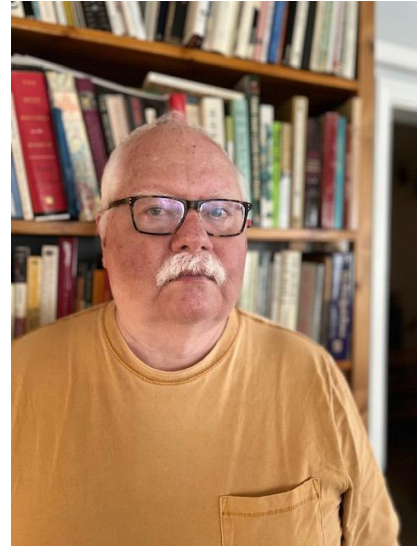
Matt and Anne look forward to continuing the work of the Housing Committee and welcome new members. We will convene our first organizational meeting March 16 at 6:30 pm; email us at housing.chair@civfed.org and we will send you a zoom invite. We hope the

committee can work to:

- Clarify the most pressing priorities for housing through 2045, consistent with Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments planning timelines for the Metro area and Arlington's component contributions;
- Profile Arlington's existing housing stock and define the full scope of potential housing units allowed by existing land use, zoning and planning tools;
- Review key residential growth plans and policies, such as Columbia Pike Form Based Code, use of Accessory Dwelling Units, Missing Middle zoning, Plan Langston Boulevard, and sector plans, to review how they address identified gaps or needs for our diverse populations;
- Establish a set of clear, quantifiable housing goals that CivFed can support, within or complementary to current planning frameworks of the County.

Dave Schutz Bio
Parks and Recreation Committee Chair

Dave Schutz moved to Arlington in 1985. He was quickly involved in the commission system – Site Plan Review and then Chair of the County Park and Recreation Commission – before shifting focus to family for a number of years. Recently he has served on the CivFed TiGER committee on Form of Government and has been appointed as the chair of the CivFed Parks and Rec Committee.



A message from Dave:

We have several issues on the horizon for Parks and Rec. Before COVID shut the old committee down we had issued several reports, and our committee should follow up on how the County is doing. Also, there is considerable upset about pickleball at several sites in Arlington and we should see if we can be helpful in resolving these. The Department of Parks and Recreation is holding a meeting about the pickleball courts intended for Walter Reed Community Center on Feb 16 at 7 p.m., link following:
<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation/Parks-Events/Walter-Reed-Outdoor-Pickleball-Court-Project-%E2%80%93-Community-Meeting>.

We want to coordinate on questions of tree canopy with the County and with the CivFed environmental committee. I hope we can have a fruitful year and improve Arlington's response to these issues.

Please contact Dave at parks.rec.chair@civfed.org for further information.

Securing Arlington's Forest Assets
Tell Your Members to Mark their Calendars!
Free Urban Tree Canopy Benefits Webinar
Monday, February 13, 4-5:30 pm

With increased community attention to the rapid loss of our urban forest, come and learn about the new assessment of Arlington's urban tree canopy and the many ecological and social benefits trees provide. Staff from the **Green Infrastructure Center (GIC)** will share study results and compare canopy cover for different areas of Arlington. The webinar will include assessments of ecosystem services such as stormwater mitigation, air quality, carbon uptake, and urban heat islands. For background on Arlington trees see [Tree Benefits: Growing Arlington's Urban Forest](#) presented by GIC to the ACCF membership meeting on March 13, 2021.

Please register in advance to assure your place at the webinar,
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/29543206508863839>

About GIC: Led by nationally recognized expert, Karen Firehock, GIC provides assistance to communities in developing strategies for protecting and conserving their ecological and cultural assets through environmentally sensitive decisions, lifestyles and planning. GIC has worked with federal, state and local governments including the Virginia Department of Forestry and dozens of Virginia cities and towns. For more information go to: <http://www.gicinc.org>.

The webinar has been organized by the Environmental Affairs Committee which welcomes your attendance, questions, and/or support for planned future meetings. Please contact the Committee Chair Mary Glass, bod.member3@civfed.org.

We need your views on options for New Funding Resources to Ensure ACCF's Financial Future

In October, the Funding Resource Development Committee (FRD) was approved to research and make recommendations on options to provide additional sources of funding beyond the current membership dues. CivFed wishes to continue to be able to carry out current and anticipated activities that make the organization effective in service to the membership and implementing its policies. We currently have an extremely tight budget and are unable to fully fund some services without facing the possibility of an operating deficit in FY22-23 and future years. This includes the additional expenses for virtual and hybrid meetings. While steps have already been taken to address the situation, the Committee hopes to identify options to provide sustainable, supplemental resources. The Committee is currently working to refine options including increased member fees, revenues from the ACCF June Picnic, advertising in the ACCF newsletter, and solicitation of donations from a variety of sources. If you have comments or additional information, please **contact ACCF Treasurer Jim Todd**, treasurer@civfed.org or **Board Member Mary Glass**, bod.member3@civfed.org. Options will also be discussed at the next ACCF Board meeting on February 26th which is open to all members – Contact Jackie Snelling, Board Chair, bod.chair@civfed.org.

If you or your organization are interested in making a donation, please visit civfed.org and click on the [donate](#) button. Any amount is greatly appreciated.

Seeking Interviewees for Arlington Civic Federation Digital Capacity Study - FINAL CALL

The Arlington County Civic Federation has commissioned a study through Wimbush Consulting focused on how to support residential civic associations to establish or expand their digital presence through assistance or services offered by the Civic Federation. The first part of the study begins with stakeholder interviews. We are interested in speaking with residential civic association leaders and members with perspectives and insights on what works for them and their organizations or specific challenges they've experienced trying to use technology to connect with their residents and the County government. We are also interested in hearing from other stakeholders interested in the above mentioned topics. Please use [this form \(https://forms.gle/7JSChZuccZwokhMUA\)](https://forms.gle/7JSChZuccZwokhMUA) to recommend individuals to be interviewed and indicate whether you'd like to be interviewed **no later than Friday, February 17th**. If you have any questions, please email chris@chriswimbush.com.

CivFed Celebration Picnic - Volunteers Needed

Our Civ Fed Celebration Picnic is scheduled for June 25, 2023 and we are seeking more volunteers to make sure this first year for the picnic is a great success. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Todd Truitt at bod.member8@civfed.org. Volunteers thus far:

- **Co-Chairs** – Todd Truitt, Nadia Conyers
- **Head of Facilities** – Dave Schutz
- **Awards** – John Ford
- **Potluck Food Website Coordinator** – Ron Haddox
- **Fundraising Coordinator** – Mary Glass
- **Entertainment** – Nicole Merlene
- **Head of Alcohol** – *Volunteer Needed*
- **Free Agent Volunteers** – Dixie Duncan, *More Volunteers Needed*

ACCF Communications Committee – Seeking Members

We are working to plan and develop improvements for Civic Federation’s communications, particularly communications with and for members. We’re recruiting members with interest and experience with websites, newsletters, and social media and other tools related to our membership and communication services. If you are interested in working with us, or have suggestions, please contact John Ford at president@civfed.org.

Bylaws Committee Seeks Additional Members

By Adam Henderson, Chair, ACCF Bylaws and Rules Committee

The ACCF Bylaws and Rules Committee is in need of new members as a few of our long-standing participants have moved from the area. The Bylaws Committee recommends updates to our bylaws and Procedures and acts as an advisory panel to both the Board and the General Membership for questions regarding our Bylaws, procedures, and general good governance.

The Bylaws Committee generally meets every 2-5 weeks for ninety minutes on Sunday evenings from 6:30pm. We are a collegial yet serious and purposeful group. If this opportunity sounds like something that would interest you, or if you would like to recommend that we reach out to someone as a potential member, please email Adam at bylaws@civfed.org.

Prepare Now for Emergencies to Help You, Your Family, and Your Neighbors Stay Safe



Sign up for free, real-time emergency alerts via text, email, and voice mail.

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Emergency/Arlington-Alert>

- Get Information about major emergencies, weather, severe traffic disruptions, and more.
- Delivery methods include Text, Push notifications, Home Phone, Email, and Pager.
- Choose the types of alerts, and set “quiet times” when you won’t receive messages.
- Sign up for multiple jurisdictions at capitalert.gov

Special Note: On February 11th, Arlington County sent an alert indicating that they were having technical difficulties with the 9-1-1 system, and they requested that anyone needing 911 use text to 911 or that emergency calls be made to their non-emergency number (703-558-2222). A few hours later the issue was resolved. This is an example of the kind of important information that is provided by this service.

2022-2023 ACCF Certification and Dues Information

Membership Dues for 2022 – 2023 are \$65 per member organization

Please visit our dues webpage: [Pay Member Dues - Arlington County Civic Federation \(civfed.org\)](#). Dues were due by Dec 31, 2022.

If you have questions, please email treasurer@civfed.org for payment information.

Annual Certification

Our annual recertification ([ACCF FY23 Certification Form](#)) is now complete. We have updated our website with our membership. Please confirm your organization is listed on our website: [Member Organizations](#).

Please contact the secretary@civfed.org with questions.

2022-2023 Board of Directors

Officers

President, [John Ford](#)

Vice President, [Ron Haddox](#)

Secretary, [David Smith](#)

Treasurer, [Jim Todd](#)

Board of Directors

Board Chair, [Jackie Snelling](#)

Member at Large, [Nadia Conyers](#)

Member at Large, [Allan Gajadhar](#)

Member at Large, [Mary Glass](#)

Member at Large, [Michael McMenamin](#)

Member at Large, [Scott Miles](#)

Member at Large, [Dave Schutz](#)

Member at Large, [Suzanne Sundburg](#)

Member at Large, [Todd Truitt](#)

ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES

- Cultural Affairs – Chair Tina Worden
- Diversity Committee – Chair TBD - if interested contact president@civfed.org
- Environmental Affairs – Chair Mary Glass
- Housing – Co-Chairs Anne Bodine and Matt Hall
- Legislation – Chair Ron Haddox
- Parks and Recreation – David Schutz
- Planning and Zoning – Chair TBD - if interested contact president@civfed.org
- Public Services – Chair John Ford,
- Revenues and Expenditures – Suzanne Sundburg
- Schools – Chair Todd Truitt
- Transportation – Chair TBD - if interested contact president@civfed.org

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 John Ford if you are interested in participating on ACCF Committees.

[Link to Committee Website](#)

Interested in being an Arlington County Civic Federation Delegate?

The Arlington County Civic Federation was founded in 1916. Today, it has 80+ 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.

[The Civic Federation's Website](#)

ACCF Calendar FY2023

February

- Tuesday, 2/21: General Membership Meeting - Resolution to Restore the Public's Confidence in Arlington County Governance
- Sunday, 2/26: Board Meeting
 - Hybrid format, meeting in person at Firehouse #9; 1900 S. Walter Reed Dr, Arlington VA 22204; and by Zoom; contact bod.chair@civfed.org for a Zoom invite

March

- Monday, 2/27: Deadline for March newsletter input
- Tuesday, 3/14: General Membership Meeting - Crime in Arlington, with panel including:
 - Parisa Dehghani-Tafti (Commonwealth's Attorney for Arlington)
 - Charles Penn (Arlington County Police Chief)
 - Deborah Warren (Deputy Director/CSB Executive Director, Arlington Department of Human Services)
- Sunday, 3/19: Board Meeting

April

- Monday, 3/27: Deadline for April newsletter input
- Tuesday, 4/11: General Membership Meeting - Candidates Debate (County Board)
- Sunday, 4/16: Board Meeting

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