

Arlington County Civic Federation

MEETING

Arlington County Civic Federation, Executive Committee Meeting, 4/16/2023 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Held in person at the Arlington Mill Community Center and virtually via Zoom, called via email invitation.

ATTENDEES

Quorum Members

- John Ford, President
- Ron Haddox, Vice President, Legislation
- David R Smith, Secretary
- Jackie Snelling, Board Chair
- Mary Glass, Board Member, Environmental Affairs
- Dave Schutz, Board Member, Parks and Recreation
- Scott Miles, Board Member

Additional

- Allen Norton (Bluemont & Bylaws Committee)
- Anne Bodine (Housing Committee)

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER (Jackie Snelling)

- Meeting called to order on 4/16/2023 at 4:12 p.m. by the Board Chair, Jackie Snelling, Quorum of Directors (50% or more required) was established with 56% of Directors present (6 of 11).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (John Ford)

- **April Re-Cap**
 - It was noted that CivFed was the first organization to hold a debate for School Board and County Board for the upcoming election.
 - Some discussion was held on the tempo of the General Membership meeting.
 - It was noted that we need to make sure that at the next GM meeting we do the first reading of the proposed bylaws change to align due dates for yearly certification and dues.
- **May General Membership Meeting**
 - The meeting will include panels for:
 - APS Superintendent – will be the first session of the meeting.

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- Commonwealth's Attorney candidate's forum - have heard from all the candidates.
- Sheriff candidate's forum – still waiting to hear back from all the candidates.
- John requested input from board members and other CivFed members for panel questions.
- Jackie recommended that in the May newsletter we request questions for the upcoming panels as well as reach out to CivFed committees for questions.
- There was some discussion that followed on general topics that may come up during the panels (i.e. crime).

- **June General Membership Meeting**
 - The meeting's focus will be with the Arlington County School Board.
 - It was noted that the meeting could be a lively discussion due to pending school boundary changes.

- **Public's Confidence Resolution**
 - We received a follow-up letter from Board Chair, Christian Dorsey. The letter included an opening for a follow-up. John has made a request to meet with Christian and also has a meeting planned with Mark Schwartz.
 - The plan is to establish a good format for engagement and discuss how to improve future public engagement.
 - John is anxious to receive comments from the Board and members on next steps for the follow-up activities related to the Public's Trust resolution.
 - A discussion was held on who should support initial meetings with the County Manager and Board chair. Some were against John and Jackie having an initial meeting on the resolution with the Chair and County Manager without other Civ Fed members.
 - The following motion was made by Mary Glass: When the meeting is held with the County manager, it should include an invitation of one person who supported the resolution and one person who supported the alternate resolution to attend. The motion was seconded and opened up for discussion:
 - John clarified that the purpose of the initial meeting is to re-establish civil relations with the County Manager and County Board.
 - There will not be a set agenda, however John is happy to bring a list of subjects that we would like to engage with the County on.
 - It was noted that in some civic association meetings with county board members, 3-4 people often attend.



- Mary then suggested that John could have his own meeting with the manager (his normal recurring meeting) and then schedule a follow-up meeting with additional attendees.
- Mary requested a modification of her original motion:
 - A meeting with the County Manager on the Public’s Confidence resolution should be scheduled as soon as possible and in consultation with the Board.
 - The motion passed with 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain.

SECRETARY’S REPORT (David R. Smith)

- Motions were made to approve the February and March Board meeting minutes. The minutes were approved with 100% of the vote.
- **General Membership Vote Re-cap :**

Motion: March Minutes				
	yes	no	abstain	Total
Zoom	16	0	2	18
In-Room	20	0	0	20
TOTAL	36	0	2	38
100.0%				Pass

Motion: Nominating Committee Update				
	yes	no	abstain	Total
Zoom	18	1	1	20
In-Room	18	0	0	18
TOTAL	36	1	1	38
97.3%				Pass

- **Newsletter**
 - April 24 is the deadline for the May Newsletter which will go out Saturday April 29 to support May 9 GM meeting.



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- **APS Student Volunteers**
 - NTR

TREASURER'S REPORT (Jim Todd)

- NTR

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Housing Committee (Anne Bodine)**
 - Had a great inaugural meeting, with Brian Harner who gave an alternative approach to missing middle.
 - Anne indicated that the committee has had a hard time recruiting members.
 - At the upcoming Housing Committee meeting, Charles Simms (APAH) will give a presentation on "Terwillager Place", the new affordable apartment complex.
 - Will be trying to work with Arlington Community, Planning, Housing and Development (CPHD) to get a briefing on where Arlington is going with population and housing.
 - Planning a housing meeting in June - 3rd Thursday
- **Awards Committee**
 - Awards will be given at the picnic.
 - John will convene the Awards Committee.
- **Nominating Committee**
 - David will call the first meeting within the next several weeks.
- **Bylaws Committee (Adam Henderson)**
 - Jackie noted that she discussed the bylaw update ideas brought forward at the March board meeting and noted we likely need a meeting with the Bylaws committee to determine what is actionable.
- **Parks and Recreation (Dave Schutz)**
 - Set monthly meeting to be 1st Wednesday of the month. The first meeting is scheduled for May 3rd at 7 p.m.



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- **TIGER (Dave Schutz)**
 - Upcoming Meetings:
 - 4/17 – Presentation will discuss how Ranked Choice will work in the upcoming primary, presentations by Liz White (UpVote Virginia), and Gretchen Reinemeyer (Arlington County Registrar)
 - 5/18 – public presentation, involve Don Beyer (Rank Choice on a congressional level) and Patrick Hope’s on research that staff has done on Arlington County powers compared to other jurisdictions.

 - **Environmental Committee (Mary Glass)**
 - The schedule for the release of the final 2023 “Urban Tree Canopy Assessment of Arlington County, Virginia: An Analysis of Forest Cover and Benefits” report is June 1, 2023.
 - A new independent group to network amongst the tree stakeholders is being established (non-CivFed) called the Arlington Consortium for Tree Sustainability (ACTS). It will be able to make the study information available to Civ Fed members.

 - **Picnic (Jackie Snelling for Todd Truitt)**
 - Will convene a meeting for the Picnic in early May.

CHAIR’S REPORT (Jackie Snelling)

- **Possible “retreat”** - Jackie asked that we hold the date for July 9th, to work organizational approaches for the following year.
- **P&Z Committee**
 - Jackie has been trying to identify people who can represent people with different perspectives for zoning. Jackie stated that, as a context, Arlington is going through a debate about what Arlington should be 20 years from now, and the previous ‘smart growth’ policy is changing. Jackie has reached out to dozens of possible volunteer for potential co-chairs, however many are worn out from a variety of recent efforts (site plans, GLUPs, Missing Middle) and all declined.
 - Jackie will continue working on strategies to focus on P&Z including a general meeting topic for the fall and member services for this issue.
- **Member Services** - Jackie discussed potential member services. Jackie plans to hold a series of small groups to discuss areas where CAs and other members are working that could benefit from services such as. site plan reviews, new member on-boarding, websites/comms).

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- **Site plans** - Support for collaboration for GLUP and site plans could start work on P&Z and provide services. As an example, David has reported that he is working on a helper document on SPRC. The idea is to write a guide on site plan reviews from a civic association participants perspective. Ron pointed out that his civic association uses a 'form-based code'.
- **Communications** - Ron has helped several CAs and Jackie has asked him to document the approach. Chris Wimbush has been working on a digital capacity scoping report to document communications engagement and recommend potential Civic Federation support services.

NEWSLETTER (David Smith)

- **Draft April Newsletter Outline:**
 - Meeting Agenda/Link (David) - done
 - Presidents Message (John)
 - April Meeting Out-brief (David) - done
 - School Board and Superintendent, School Board, Commonwealth's Attorney, Sheriff – Forum and request for questions (Smith)
 - Tiger/ Meetings Voting (Dave Schutz/Allan) - done
 - Pat Hope and Don Beyer (??)
 - Education Committee report (Todd Truitt)
 - Environmental Affairs Committee (Mary Glass)
 - Housing Committee (Anne/Matthew)
 - Public Services (John)
 - Stormwater zoning Utility
 - Planning and Zoning (Jackie), includes link to the new CPHD demographics dashboard
 - Parks and Recreation (Dave Schutz) - done
 - Mental Health Education (Jackie)
 - Marcus Alerts (Jackie)
 - Call for Student Volunteers (David) – done
 - Request for volunteers for banner-ups, flyer, etc (David) - done
 - ACCF Picnic (existing, Todd) any updates?

OTHER BUSINESS

- NTR



ACTIONS

- Smith: Send out meeting notice reminder through ConstantContact for the May 18th Ranked Choice meeting and May 18th Housing Committee meetings.

ADJOURN – 6:14

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

Submitted by: David R. Smith, Secretary 4/17/2023