



Arlington County Civic Federation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES, SUNDAY OCTOBER 15, 2023

MEETING

Arlington County Civic Federation, Board of Directors Meeting 10/15/2023 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Held virtually via Zoom, called via email invitation.

ATTENDEES

Quorum Members (8 of 13)

1. John Ford, President, Public Services Chair
2. Ron Haddox, Vice President, Legislation Chair
3. Ben Watts, Treasurer
4. Adam Henderson, Board Chair, By-laws Chair
5. Jackie Snelling, Board Vice Chair
6. Nicholas Giacobbe, Board Member
7. Dave Schutz, Board Member, Parks and Recreation Chair, Form of Government Chair
8. Mike McMenamin, Board Member

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER (Adam Henderson)

- Meeting called to order on 10/15/2023 at 4:00 p.m. by the Board Chair, Adam Henderson. Quorum of Directors (50% or more required) was established with 54% present.
- A motion was made to approve the September Board meeting minutes with a minor correction to a name spelling. The minutes were approved. 7 yes, 0 abstain.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (John Ford)

- Annual Banquet
 - John and Nick met with Patrick Philippi and Brian Stout at Amazon and looked at their banquet space offerings. Patrick/Brian will follow-up with pricing.
 - It was noted that our other option, Celtic House, is doing expansion work.
 - Speakers will be Patrick and Brian and they will discuss Amazon plans for the future. Some discussion ensued about Amazon plans, including:
 - Delay of new Penn Place tower as Amazon works to fill the Met Park buildings.
 - The plan will be for a sit-down dinner and that if we hold the banquet at Amazon it will be a big draw.
 - Fort Meyer was mentioned as a possible venue if the Amazon venue does not work out.
- Interactions with the County Board and Manager
 - John and Jackie met with Kendra Jacobs and Christian Dorsey. The county is doing an internal vetting of the topics CivFed provided them for roundtable



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discussions and is generating a discussion roadmap which they believe will be ready prior to our Nov 19 meeting.

- John noted that he has a meeting planned with Takis in about a week.
- Questions arose about who from the county board would champion this roundtable effort after the first of the year. It was noted that Kendra, clerk of the board, stays engaged regardless of who the board members are, and she is fulfilling the responsibility of making sure this process is communicated.

- Recap of 12 October Civic Roundtable called by Arlington County
 - John noted that there were a lot of top community civic leaders in the meeting and everyone had an opportunity to speak.
 - The common theme was that the county was not listening to the public. Other topics included:
 - Traffic Safety
 - Transportation, including lack of traffic calming
 - Budget issues in the future due to drop in real estate taxes
 - The county agreed to work with us on FOIA, etc, and to get new county staff working with the civic associations and CivFed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Adam Henderson for David Smith)

- **General Membership Vote re-cap:**
 - September minutes were approved: 21 yea, 0 nays, 2 abstain
 - AALCA membership request was approved: 43 yea, 0 nays, 0 abstain

- **State Corporation Commission**
 - David paid the fee online of \$60. This is \$25 normal fee + \$35 penalty.
 - Ben clarified that he accidentally used checks from an account that had been closed and this is what caused the \$35 penalty.

- **New Member Request**
 - NTR

- **Certification**
 - 22 members have certified so far



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TREASURER'S REPORT (Ben Watts)

- Adam asked for board direction on paying bills via checks or via online. The Board agreed that we should always have a checkbook.
- Ben noted that he's ordered checks from Truist, and he will also order from the credit union.
- Ben reviewed his Treasurer's [report](#).
- The board clarified that we should only buy checks for Truist given the high cost of purchasing checks (\$87).
- A request was made for Ben to track the banquet expenses as a separate line item in his report, to include printing fees.
 - Action: Banquet committee to submit list of anticipated expenses.
- Ben solicited for the Board's input on what to do with the \$6,600 in savings.
 - Adam clarified that money should stay in savings so we can use to fund the banquet or other measures. (post meeting note: the plan is for the banquet to be self-funded through ticket sales, but initial outlays of money will be required)

VICE CHAIR REPORT (Jackie Snelling)

- Debrief of Visioning GM Meeting, 10 October
 - Several board members commented on the visioning session. Inputs included:
 - The visioning session was very well done and had great benefit.
 - Attendees had positive comments following the meeting, and some noted that it modeled the kind of behavior we should continue to aspire to.
 - Need to work back to the days of 'consensus'.
 - Need to make sure we include our small businesses in the future.
 - Disappointed that not much was said by the 'form of government'.
 - There was a post on NextDoor about the session and it linked to a YouTube channel: Progressives Change Cities
 - Good example that CivFed can be a convener of this type of collaborative session.
 - Action: Adam to look into how many views we've had of the meeting video.
 - Jackie noted some next steps:
 - Analyze the survey report, which had 38 responses.
 - Plan to follow up with Libby and some of the speakers.



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- Commissions Report – focused on multi-family residences, met with APAH and AHC, Director for Public Engagement
- Committees
 - Within the next month, need to make some committee chair appointments with Planning and Zoning as a priority.
 - Action: Need to provide survey results to the committees.
- Arlington County Commissions
 - Reviewed the currently open Arlington commissions with the board. Discussed working with committees and the board to make recommendations.
- New Members
 - Jackie noted that she has been focused on having a new member request per month, but likely will not have one for November.

PLANNING: NOVEMBER 14 GENERAL MEETING (John Ford)

- John noted that we have been working with DES on the agenda for their (DES - Stormwater) presentation.
- The county has research/data that they likely will unveil at our meeting.
 - Data attempts to assign monetary value to storm damage and highlight how storms are becoming more frequent and intense.
- The new Stormwater utility will be discussed.
- John noted that close to half the meeting time will be spent on Q&A, Adam noted that question time needs to be largely reserved for our members.
- It was brought up that we should decrease the time for the county presentation and focus on what is new in the RAMP.
- Some discussion ensued about concerns with the stormwater credits program as well as understanding what the cost increases (or decreases) will be.

PLANNING: GENERAL MEETINGS (John Ford):

- Mark Schwartz has confirmed he will join us for the December meeting. John solicited the board to provide inputs on the format for this discussion.
- GazetteLeader Cup
 - Scott McCaffrey requested time at a future CivFed meeting to discuss and present the annual Gazette Leader Cup



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- VHC Board
 - John received a request from the Virginia Hospital Center to provide a 7-minute discussion at an upcoming general member meeting where they would discuss out of schedule medical issues and the distinctions between going to the emergency room vs urgent care facilities.
- January – The January meeting will be with the county board.
- February- The February meeting will be with the APS superintendent and county board.
- Mar – June – John’s aspiration is to develop some significant resolutions that get reviewed during these meetings. Adam noted that he would set aside time at the November board meeting to bring ideas forward.
 - Jackie requested we set up a ‘members talking to members’ round table
 - It was noted that CivFed could help provide extra heft around the concept of getting the county to engage on civic association concerns.

OPEN FLOOR

- An open discussion ensued about ideas for things CivFed can discuss in future meetings.
- A discussion ensued about CivFed board attendance. Mike noted that there used to be a rule if board members do not attend 2 meetings in a row that they could be removed from the board.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER (David Smith)

- Input Deadline: Oct 30
- Sending: Nov 4 for Nov 14 GM meeting
- Candidate Contents:
 - President’s Message - John
 - October GM Forum Recap – David
 - Oct meeting follow-up - Jackie
 - APE – from Todd Truitt - Received
 - Cultural Affairs – Tina
 - Environmental Affairs – Mary Glass
 - Housing –
 - AAUW – from Barbara - Received
 - Transportation – Airplane Noise – Jackie
 - Legislative – Paul Holland
 - Public Services – watershed meetings?
 - Preparedness/Emergency? – Jackie



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- Certification/Dues Reminder – David
 - Will include a reminder on due date and list of members who have already certified.

ACTION ITEMS

- Banquet Committee: recommend costs and alternatives for the banquet (possibly April 14) with cost categories (e.g. printing, catering)
- Adam: pull total views we've had on our meeting videos (Vimeo and Facebook)
- Nick: will provide list of videos DES has assembled for stormwater utility and other issues which we can include in the newsletter
- All: provide John input on what ideas/topics they have for the March through June meetings
- All: provide John feedback on how we should conduct the December meeting
- Jackie: will distribute the survey report
- David: send out dues reminder
- Adam: send list of remaining meetings
- John: ask DES to provide a link for how you can look up current vs utility tax

ADJOURN – 6:21 p.m.

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

Submitted by: David R. Smith, Secretary 11/5/2023