



Arlington County Civic Federation

The Civic Voice

The Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation
June 2024 | Volume 108 | Number 10

June General Membership Meeting

Location: Hazel Auditorium, Virginia Hospital Center

Date: Tuesday, June 11, 2023 @ 7:00 PM

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

Delegates: All requests for delegate swaps with alternates must be submitted to the secretary@civfed.org by Sunday **June 9th** at 12 noon. No exceptions.

Options for attending the meeting:

1. **In-Person** (Delegates, Other Guests): No registration is needed to attend in-person.
2. **Facebook Live** (Other Guests): No registration is needed to watch the live stream which can be found on the [ArlCivFed Facebook page](#).
3. **Zoom** (Delegates): Registration is required ([link](#)) by Monday **June 10th** at 12 noon. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The Zoom passcode is 123456, but if you use the links provided after you register you will not have to enter it.

Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 - 7:05 p.m. Opening and approval of May [minutes](#)
- 7:05 - 8:00 Leadership and Committee Reports to the Membership
- 8:00 - 8:30 Election of Executive Board and Officers
- 8:30 - 9:00 A look ahead and member open comment period

Reminder: Parking passes will be provided. Meetings are held in the 'Conference Center' depicted on the map below.

PARKING AND ACCESS INSTRUCTIONS

The VHC Director of Security has advised CivFed that we should begin to park in Parking Garage C (map below). You can then walk across to the Oncology entrance and gain admittance until 8 p.m. **After the meeting, you MUST EXIT via the Women's and Infant lobby.**

ENTER (until 8 p.m.): Zone C Ground floor Oncology entrance (only open until 8 pm, Monday-Friday)

- Sign into the visitor kiosks (**need driver's license each time**)
- Get visitor sticker and wear at all times when inside the hospital
- Take a right at the double doors by the visitor kiosks
- Take a right at the single door
- Go to elevators and take to lobby floor
- Exit elevators and go left to hall directly behind welcome desk in lobby
- Take a left at the single door and continue down the hall toward a set of double doors
- Go through double doors and go right
- Conference center auditorium is directly ahead

ENTER or EXIT (24/7): Zone C first floor Women's and Infant lobby entrance (please use this entrance to exit after 8 pm, open 24/7):

- Sign into the visitor kiosks (**need driver's license each time**)
- Get visitor sticker and wear at all times when inside the hospital
- Walk to hall directly behind the welcome desk in the lobby
- Take a left at the single door and continue down the hall toward a set of double doors
- Go through double doors and go right
- Conference center auditorium is directly ahead



President's Message

Your Civic Federation June annual meeting is just around the corner. Your Board and officers will be very pleased to welcome you to our last session of the 2023-24 season next Tuesday June 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hazel Auditorium of Virginia Hospital Center. As usual, we will make available a Zoom option for those who will only be able to attend virtually.

CivFed's annual meeting is traditionally both a wrap-up of the year just past and a look ahead. A highlight of the latter aspect is the election of officers for 2024-25 as well as members of the Board of Directors. All of these will be featured as usual next Tuesday. The slate of candidates developed by the Nominating Committee is listed

below.

Our Board leadership and several committee leaders will offer to members a review and preview of their work. I would urge members to give these reports their careful attention, inasmuch as the mindful reconstruction of our committee structure is central to your Board's efforts to return CivFed to full operational relevance in the wake of a COVID pandemic that frankly shook us and many others.

Those committees, whose leadership and key members have been carefully recruited, will need the ideas and assistance of our membership. We cannot rebuild CivFed with a small group of a dozen or so committed, concerned Arlingtonians. We're going to need your help. Please reach out as you find the time and passion to join us.

A vital feature of healthy, successful civic organizations is a rational, transparent leadership structure. Another positive characteristic is predictable turnover of that leadership. I want to say a word about that.

You will see on the Nominating Committee slate that I am listed as a candidate for president for a third year. Ideally in my mind, it would be preferable to hand the baton to my successor next Tuesday. I have agreed to offer my candidacy to remain in office for another year to accommodate the needs of your prospective incoming vice-president Nick Giacobbe, who will share the position with me as he readies himself to prospectively take over in leadership.

Other present and future leaders are now or will be in positions that will prepare them to take the reins when the time is right. We are guided by the reality that we are all volunteers. Each of you has a role in our organization. Please do help us to identify and nurture it.

I would also like to highlight CivFed's efforts to restore membership services. This is obviously one of our key objectives, and you'll see some further details in this newsletter. But I'm delighted to report that our current vice-president Ron Haddox is offering a kind of "IT and AI for Dummies" for our civic associations and other member organizations.

This will be available on **Saturday June 8 from 10:00 a.m. until noon**. Here is the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83013260123?pwd=oSR6LUkmbmVDbqio9b9hauOm2xlagd>

Many of you know Ron. He is a seasoned professional with an easy, non-threatening manner that will reassure the tech world neophytes among us. If you have specific concerns, please contact Ron before the meeting. His email is: ronhaddox@hushmail.com.

That's it from me. See you next Tuesday evening!

Best,

May General Membership Outbrief

CivFed held a panel discussion with currently declared County Board candidates:

- Audrey Clement

- James DeVita
- Julie Farnam
- Tenley Peterson
- Natalie Roy
- JD Spain

Pre-prepared questions and audience questions were asked to the candidates. Topics included:

- What do the candidates love about Arlington
- Form of Government
- Special GLUP
- City and planning issues
- Property tax/county services balance
- Missing Middle/EHO - affordability and availability
- County neighborhood project management
- Commitment to the arts
- Road safety
- Pickleball/recreation

Meeting Video Link: [Arlington Cty Civic Fed \[ACCF\] \(vimeo.com\)](https://vimeo.com/ACCF)



From Left to Right: JD Spain, Natalie Roy, Tenley Peterson, Julie Farnam, James DeVita, Audrey Clement

ACCF Booth at Arlington County Fair

by Nicholas Giacobbe, Fair Chair

The [Arlington County Fair](#) is scheduled for August 14-18. As part of our outreach efforts, we will sponsor a booth at the County Fair and we need help staffing the booth. We will once again have a prominent corner location and need people to bring it to life. Come join us in promoting the Civic Federation and our committees and in getting feedback from the public on their priorities for CivFed action for the future. Please click this [link](#) to sign up for volunteering time slots.

Please contact Nick Giacobbe at bod.member2@civfed.org if you have any questions or would like to help with our booth.



Nominating Committee for CivFed FY25 (July 2024 - June 2025)

Election of CivFed officers and directors are held each year at the annual meeting. The 2024 annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024. The ACCF bylaws require a 3-7-person nominating committee selected by the general membership each year. The following individuals are serving on this committee: Alex Sakes, Bryan Coleman, David Smith, Lois Koontz, Sandi Chesrown.

All positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, at-large seats on the Board of Directors) are open.

We have received several nominees; **but we continue to encourage members to nominate qualified candidates.** Our latest status report is available on the [Nominating Committee webpage](#). To qualify for ACCF leadership, the nominee must be a Delegate or Alternate of an ACCF member membership organization in good standing. **Nominations will continue to be accepted online through Friday 7 June 2024 at 2100/9p EST.** To submit your nomination, please fill out the [online form](#).

While we encourage advance nomination, the CivFed bylaws permit nominations from the floor at the annual meeting.

If you have questions about running for a position, please contact nominating@civfed.org.

CivFed Form of Government Report *by Dave Schutz, Form of Government Subcommittee Chair*

During May, Legislation Chair Paul Holland and Form of Government Subcommittee Chair Dave Schutz met with John Ford to discuss how CivFed can provide useful input to the Arlington 2050 project. This meeting was followed by a meeting between John Ford, Dave Schutz, David Barrera (who is the Communications and Policy Manager of the Arlington County Board) and Kirsten Clark (newly hired staffer for the Board's 2050 project) to discuss Civ Fed input.

Earlier, on April 24, the Form of Government subcommittee, in conjunction with Schools Committee, presented a School Board candidate's night at the Lubber Run Community Center. The question and answer session was preceded by an explainer of Single Transferable Vote Ranked Choice voting.

Please contact Dave Schutz at formofgov.chair@civfed.org for more information.

CivFed Arts and Culture Committee Enhancements and Discussions on Arlington's Cultural Future

by Tina Worden Arts and Culture Committee Co-Chair

The Art + Culture Committee is excited to announce that Susan Cunningham, member of the Arlington County Board, and Adam Green, Chair of the Arlington Commission for the Arts, have confirmed their attendance for the next committee meeting. The gathering is scheduled for September 12 at the Museum of Contemporary Art (MoCA) - Arlington and will focus on strategies to sustain the County's cultural landscape and the future of LAC Studios.

Please mark your calendars:

Event: ACCF Art + Culture Committee Meeting – Sustaining Arlington's Cultural Landscape and an Update on the Future of LAC Studios

Date: Thursday, September 12, 2024

Time: 6p – 7p

Location: Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington

Address: 3550 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22201

About the Arlington Art + Culture Committee: The Arlington Art + Culture Committee is charged with the duty to study, report, and make recommendations on all matters pertaining to cultural affairs, including the establishment and maintenance of facilities and the extension of public libraries facilities for higher education. The committee shall serve as liaison for the Federation with appropriate county officials and private bodies dealing with cultural affairs.

For more information, please contact: Co-Chairs Sandi Chesrown and Tina Worden at arts.culture.chair@civfed.org.

Focus on Changes to the GLUP

This month both the Housing Committee and the Planning and Zoning Committee will focus on presentations and discussions on changes to the GLUP, primarily through the Special GLUP process. The Housing Committee will focus on the Special

GLUP in the context of housing. The Planning and Zoning Committee will discuss scoping for a subcommittee on changes to the GLUP in the context of the Comprehensive Plan and cross-cutting priorities of the Plan.

These discussions will provide a broad perspective on this important policy issue that is impacting many neighborhoods with the potential for more countywide impacts. If this is a topic that interests you, we encourage you to attend both meetings described below.

CivFed Housing Committee

by Anne Bodine, Housing Committee Co-Chair

On **Thursday, June 20, from 6:30-8:30 pm**, the Housing Committee will feature co-chair Anne Bodine who will outline in detail the complex housing land use tools the county is using to increase density across all neighborhoods, both low and high density.

Bodine has recently prepared for another organization a review of several Special GLUPs and rezonings that the county has used to fulfil mostly goals from the Affordable Housing Master Plan. We will look at the tools being used, a few specific case studies, including numbers of market rate and affordable housing units being created (at Courthouse West and Church of the Redeemer), review areas for improvement, review complex public engagement processes, and consider ways to better track outcomes of these projects, which are introducing site planning into areas outside the county's planned areas, sectors, and corridors. Register for the meeting here:

Registration link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcq-d-6hqzsjHNFbCgltEqzrVU72YsvP9vc>

Please email housing.chair@civfed.org for more information.

CivFed Planning and Zoning Committee Update

by Brian Harner, Planning and Zoning Co-Chair

On **Thursday, June 27, from 7:00 – 9:00 pm**, the Planning and Zoning Committee will continue the scoping discussion for the three proposed subcommittees.

The June 27 discussion will focus on the subcommittee topic of methods for changing the GLUP at the area and property level including Special GLUP and other changes that result in changes to zoning or site plans. This focus will be in the context of the Comprehensive Plan and the cross-cutting priorities of the Comprehensive Plan.

Based on scoping discussions to date, the three subgroups are tentatively identified as 1) a group focusing on the Comprehensive Plan as the overall guidance for planning and zoning and, specifically identifying the cross-cutting factors and how to manage these priorities, 2) Special GLUP and other methods for changes to the plan, and 3) the implementation of cross-cutting priorities at the property level including lot coverage, setbacks and other factors related to housing, green space, trees, stormwater.

Please register and join our discussion at:

For more information, please contact Brian Harner, Chair for ACCF Planning and Zoning, plan.zone.chair@civfed.org.

CivFed Public Safety Subcommittee

by Mike McMenamin, Public Safety Subcommittee Chair

The Committee partnered with ACPD to develop and sponsor a program called Working Together for a Safer Arlington Community Policing Workshop (Policing Workshop). The workshop was held on May 28, 2024. Attendees included the Arlington County Police Chief and staff, Ballston Mall representative, and the Marcus Alert coordinator from Arlington DHS. The participants included neighborhoods from across the county who learned about the crime challenges, neighborhood public safety, and resources available to them to contribute to neighborhood-level plans.

The workshop covered a range of important topics, including:

- New Crime Data Tool
- Crime Data and Challenges
- Community Policing
- Planning Workgroups for Neighborhood Safety

The Committee will work with interested civic associations and neighborhoods to follow up on this workshop next fall to develop more robust collaboration for neighborhood safety with civic associations and among civic associations.

Please email Mike McMenamin public.safety.sc.chair@civfed.org with any questions.

Member Services: Web / Computer Skills

by Ron Haddox, CivFed Vice President

Our Vice President, Ron Haddox, will be offering “IT and AI for Dummies” for our civic associations and other member organizations.

This will be available on **Saturday June 8 from 10:00 a.m. until noon**. Here is the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83013260123?pwd=oSR6LUkmbmVDbjQ9bGh0aU0m2xlagd>

Ron recommends that for people over 65 who lack computer skills, the best IT training programs should be tailored to their specific needs and learning pace. Here are some essential topics and recommended training that can help them gain fundamental computer skills:

Essential Topics:

- Basic Computer Skills:
- Understanding computer components (mouse, keyboard, monitor, etc.)
- Turning on/off the computer
- Navigating the desktop
- Opening and closing programs

Internet Basics:

- Connecting to the internet
- Using a web browser (basic navigation, opening tabs, using search engines)
- Safe browsing practices

Email Skills:

- Setting up an email account
- Sending and receiving emails
- Attaching files to emails
- Recognizing and avoiding email scams

Basic Software Use:

- Introduction to word processing (e.g., Microsoft Word, Google Docs)
- Creating, saving, and opening documents
- Basic editing and formatting

Online Communication Tools:

- Using video call platforms (e.g., Zoom, Skype)
- Joining and participating in online meetings
- Basic troubleshooting for video calls

Security and Privacy:

- Creating and managing strong passwords
- Recognizing phishing attempts and scams
- Basic understanding of antivirus software

For more information, please contact Ron Haddox at ronhaddox@hushmail.com.

Prepare for an “Above Normal” Hurricane Season

Arlington Article: <https://www.arlingtonva.us/About-Arlington/Newsroom/Articles/2024/Prepare-for-an-Above-Normal-2024-Hurricane-Season>

In their May 30 Arlington article, Arlington OEM advises that, “this year t he National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) [predicts an above normal hurricane season](#), with more frequent and stronger storms predicted.” It is more important than ever to prepare for hurricanes, flooding and power outages that have impacted Arlington before.

Here are a few key tips for flooding. For more, read the Arlington OEM article and check out their webpage at

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/PSC/EM/Preparedness/Preparedness-and-Resilience-Resources> and look at the DES Stormwater pages at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Programs/Office-of-Sustainability-and-Environment/Stormwater/Flood-Insurance-Rate-Maps/Reducing-Your-Risk-of-Flooding>

Stay Informed. Sign up for free local emergency weather and traffic alerts at ArlingtonAlert.com.

Know and reduce your Flood Risk

- **Explore your flood risk** which varies within the same neighborhood and even from property to property.
- **FEMA risk maps.** Look at the FEMA maps at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search> but know that the FEMA flood maps

show flood risk for water that is above ground but, in Arlington, most rivers are undergrounded and the risk isn't shown on traditional FEMA Maps.

- **Arlington risk maps. The RAMP.** Look for the soon to be released Arlington Risk Assessment Management Plan, the RAMP, that will show you the inundation risk for all of Arlington including areas impacted by overflowing, fast moving water from undergrounded rivers and streams. Arlington DES will provide an overview of the RAMP on June 20th, 7-8:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining, here is the Microsoft Teams link:

[Join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 261 200 685 300

Passcode: WY24Xx

- **Consider [a flood insurance policy](#).**
- **Consider mitigation.** If you are at risk or have had flooding before, look at options for reducing impacts. A good overview is available on the Arlington DES [Home Floodproofing Checklist](#).
- **Sump Pump backup.** If your home needs a sump pump, ensure it has a battery backup and is regularly maintained, especially if it's over 8 years old.
- **Documents.** Save copies of birth certificates, passports, medical records, and insurance papers in a safe, dry place, or store photographs of them in the cloud. Keep original documents in a watertight safety deposit box.

2023-2024 Board of Directors

Officers

President, [John Ford](#)

Vice President, [Ron Haddox](#)

Secretary, [David Smith](#)

Treasurer, [Benjamin Watts](#)

Board of Directors

Board Chair, [Adam Henderson](#)

Board Vice-Chair, [Jackie Snelling](#)

Member at Large, [Dave Schutz](#)

Member at Large, [Jim Todd](#)

Member at Large, [Michael McMenamin](#)

Member at Large, [Nicholas Giacobbe](#)

Member at Large, [Richard McNamara](#)

Member at Large, [Scott Miles](#)

ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES

- Arts and Culture – Co-Chairs Tina Worden and Sandi Chesrown
- Diversity – Chair TBD - if interested contact bod.vicechair@civfed.org
- Environmental Affairs – Chair Mary Glass
- Housing – Co-Chairs Anne Bodine and Matt Hall
- Legislation – Chair Paul Holland
- Parks and Recreation – Chair TBD - if interested contact bod.vicechair@civfed.org
- Planning and Zoning – Chair Brian Harner
- Public Services – Chair John Ford
- Revenues and Expenditures – Chair Suzanne Sundburg
- Schools – Chair Todd Truitt
- Transportation – Chair TBD - if interested contact bod.vicechair@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.

joinus@Civfed.org

[The Civic Federation's Website](#)

CivFed Calendar FY2024

June

- Tuesday, 6/11: General Membership Meeting
- Thursday, 6/20: Housing Committee
- Thursday, 6/27: Planning and Zoning Committee
- Sunday, 6/23: Board Meeting

July - August

- No Planned Meetings
- 8/14 - 8/18: Arlington County Fair (CivFed will have a booth)

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