



Arlington County Civic Federation

The Civic Voice

The Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation
February 2025 | Volume 109 | Number 06

President's Message

Dear Civic Federation members,

February is going to be an unusual month for us in CivFed. In addition to our regular membership meeting next Tuesday, February 11 at our usual time (7:00 p.m.) and place (Hazel Auditorium at Virginia Hospital Center), we will be joining the County Board for a joint work session on February 26. The joint session will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the County Board room on the third floor of the Bozman building at 2100 Clarendon Blvd.

Our regular membership meeting will help set the stage for the joint session with county leadership.

Next Tuesday we will welcome the leadership of the county's department of Community Planning, Housing and Development (CPHD). Director Samia Byrd will join us to provide a current overview of this critical county department and engage with us in what I expect will be a lively Q and A session. It seems like CPHD touches so many aspects of local life that concern us; especially as we enter another important county budget season, we're looking forward to Ms. Byrd's remarks.

After we get an update from CPHD, we've invited county Housing Department Director Anne Venezia to talk with us about some critical aspects of housing finance. This is a central issue as the county tries to navigate a challenging economic environment while pursuing ambitious goals in housing. We need to understand it better.

And finally, we will hear from Tim Aiken and Jessica Kaplan, who are leading a new project to memorialize the enslaved in Arlington. More details are below.

Our joint work session with the County Board on February 26 will be devoted entirely to a dialogue between CivFed members and our elected leaders. We very much appreciate this opportunity to engage with them directly. The focus of our discussion will be on these five critical subjects:

- Arlington's economic and fiscal resilience
- Housing
- Planning and Zoning
- Open responsive government
- Climate change adaptation

We want to emphasize active participation with members and minimize speechifying in this session. It's a great opportunity for such interaction, and I urge you to join with us. More details to come.

In closing, I'm thinking about those who lost their lives in the awful midair collision between an American Airlines passenger jet and an Army helicopter over the river near Reagan National Airport on Wednesday evening. I'm sure we all are. What a tragic loss.

Best,
John Ford
ACCF President

February General Membership Meeting

Meeting Agenda

- 7:00 - 7:05 Open and [January minutes](#) Approval
- 7:05 - 7:50 CPHD Director Samia Byrd
- 7:50 - 8:35 Housing Director Anne Venezia
- 8:35 - 8:45 Memorializing the Enslaved in Arlington Project
- 8:45 - 9:00 Open Floor and Adjourn

Location: Hazel Auditorium, Virginia Hospital Center

Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 @ 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 February 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, February 10 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.

Keep reading this newsletter for details on Virginia Hospital Center parking and access instructions.

January General Membership Meeting Outbrief

by Matt Gloudeman, ACCF Secretary

ACCF was honored to welcome Arlington County government and civic leadership to discuss a range of topics including County Board activities, form of government, the Fire Department, and the Police Department. We included time for the audience to ask questions throughout, with membership involvement in the discussion a priority. Discussion topics included:

1. County Board Chair, Takis Karantonis, discussed his priorities for the year, emphasizing government transparency, plans for the annual joint meeting with CivFed on February 26th, and more.
2. Former County Board member, John Milliken, discussed Arlington's form government.
3. Arlington County Fire Chief, David Povlitz, discussed an overview of the County's Fire Department operations.
4. Arlington County Police Chief Andy Penn, and Deputy Chief Wayne Vincent, discussed an update on regional security measures taken for the presidential inauguration and more.

Meeting Video Link: [ACCF January 2025 General Membership Meeting](#)

Please contact Matt Gloudeman, secretary@civfed.org, with any questions.

Briefing from CPHD Director Samia Byrd at February 11 General Meeting

Samia Byrd, Director of the Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development (CPHD), will join us on February 11 to give us a briefing on the entire department and her perspectives for the future directions for the organization. This is Samia's first presentation to CivFed in this role and we are excited to hear from her directly and begin a continuing conversation with her. As customary, we will provide time for questions and answers with our delegates. We understand that the County will be releasing the CPHD draft 2025 workplan in March this year.

Samia Byrd has been CPHD Director since January 2024. She has been with the County since 2007 and prior to this appointment served as the first Chief Race and Equity Officer for Arlington County, leading efforts to ensure the development and management of strategies to advance racial equity across all areas of the organization and within the community. Samia served as a Deputy County Manager for three years after spending a decade as a Principal Planner in CPHD.

A native of Hampton, Virginia, she earned a Master's and Bachelor's Degree in City Planning from Georgia Tech and the University of Virginia respectively. She received a Certification of Public Management (CPM) from The George Washington University-Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Institute for Regional Excellence in 2012.



Arlington County Housing Director Anne Venezia February 11 Speaker

Anne Venezia, Arlington County's Housing Director, will speak at the February General Meeting on the ins and outs of affordable housing in Arlington. A timely presentation, this year marks the 10th anniversary of the County's Affordable Housing Master Plan.

Ms. Venezia will discuss the County's efforts to increase housing affordability and talk about the financing and leveraging of external resources that are an important part of the equation. Ms. Venezia will also talk about housing production (including affordability levels served) and the components of the Affordable Housing Master Plan that guide the County's work. Arlington has a number of large affordable housing projects in the works, including the Crystal House infill buildings and the Barcroft housing affordability preservation project, the single largest affordable development in the County.

Ms. Venezia has been with Arlington County since 2008 and was selected as the Housing Director in April 2020. She earned a bachelor's degree from Kalamazoo College and both a Master of Urban Planning and a Master of Public Policy from the University of Michigan.



Introducing the Memorializing the Enslaved in Arlington (MEA) Project

By MEA Project Coordinators Tim Aiken and Jessica Kaplan

[Memorializing the Enslaved in Arlington](#) (MEA), a project sponsored by the Arlington Historical Society and the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington, endeavors to bring our county's early African American history to light and honor those who up until now remained unknown.

Beginning in 2025, MEA, through an agreement with Arlington County government, will work with the Department of Environmental Services to embed into sidewalks the first of 15 six-inch bronze memorial plaques identifying the name, date of birth, and date of death of individuals enslaved. The plaques will be placed at locations where these individuals were once held. Affected local residents and communities

have been notified and consulted prior to location selection.

Until recently, histories of Arlington often excluded or misrepresented their stories. The brutal truth of local enslavement is largely untold. For close to 200 years, up to one-third of all Arlington's residents were enslaved. During this time, African Americans made important contributions to the development of Arlington County.

By scrutinizing court records, newspapers, U.S. Census data, tax records, deeds, and land records MEA has uncovered the names of more than 800 enslaved people among the thousands held in bondage and gained greater insight into their lives.

The foundation of many of today's institutions, our present economic circumstances, and land development were influenced by the contributions of Arlington's enslaved. MEA's research has revealed the human cost of enslavement for all involved but also the fortitude and resilience of those who were enslaved.

At the February ACCF General Membership meeting, Tim Aiken and Jessica Kaplan will brief the civic federation about this project and be available to answer questions.

Work Session with County Board February 26 at 7:00 p.m.

We will have a work session with the County Board on Wednesday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Board room at the Bozman Government Center. In consultation with the Board, we have identified five themes for the conversation, which will each be led by a team of CivFed members. There will be time for comments or questions from delegates. The topics will be:

- Economic and Fiscal Resilience
- Planning and Zoning
- Climate Action
- Housing
- Good Government and Open Government

It will be a public meeting, and all are invited to attend. The session will also be live streamed by the County on the County Board website.

Arlington's FY 2026 Budget and Taxes

We're now fully into the budget season with a lot of information coming in and opportunities for discussion. With a lead article from the Revenues & Expenditures Committee, we will send you a special newsletter next week to provide more in-depth budget and tax background.

ACCF Housing Committee

Submitted by Housing Committee Co-chairs, Matt Hall and Anne Bodine

The next Housing Committee meeting will be February 20 at 6:30 pm:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/v09Fa-fbQ2Wk2MVniALxgQ>

The Housing Committee will explore a workforce-oriented homeownership project (new construction) hypothetically located on a local church parking lot in an R-5/R-6 neighborhood in Arlington. The model will utilize "real world" development costs

while integrating a subsidy model based on New York City's Open Door financing term sheet (<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/hpd/downloads/pdfs/services/open-door-term-sheet.pdf>).

We will see if such a model can add reasonable density by maintaining a low-medium scale (no more than 35-40 units per acre), while at the same time providing much needed workforce home ownership opportunities within the 80% and 100% AMI bands.

Contact the co-chairs Anne and Matt at housing.chair@civfed.org

Public Safety Committee Meeting

The Public Safety Committee will meet on February 13, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. During this meeting, we will discuss and plan the Civic Federation Public Safety Panel, scheduled for the April 8, 2025, general meeting. The panel will tentatively include the Arlington County Police Chief, the Commonwealth's Attorney, and the Director of the Department of Human Services. The committee meeting will be via Zoom, registration: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/HcgH5ee3RMG_1_mYUzINEA.

All Civic Federation members are welcome to join the committee and participate in the planning call. For more information, please contact Michael McMenamin at bod.member3@civfed.org.

Environmental Affairs Committee

Submitted by Mary Glass, Chair for Environmental Affairs Committee

February 13, 2025, 7 pm – Virtual EA Committee meeting to review County Board “Draft Climate Action Resolution” prior to proposed 2/22/25 adoption.

On January 23, 2025, David Barrera <dbarrera@arlingtonva.us>, Communications & Policy Manager for the Arlington County Board, released a draft copy of the [Climate Action Resolution](#) that the Arlington County Board will consider for adoption at the February 22nd Board meeting. Chair Takis Karantonis and Board member Susan Cunningham guided the preparation of the document over many months and welcomed public comment.

On 2/13 at 7pm the Environmental Affairs committee will examine the Resolution and its consistency with ACCF positions and identify potential actions that could be taken to implement it. All delegates and interested citizens are welcome to participate by registering at <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/3wK4HXzCQ46IZH1jy2dFMw>

At the ACCF November 2024 member meeting, the “Public Services Committee Resolution on Climate Adaptation” was approved ([APPROVED Resolution \[PDF, 182 KiB\]](#)), a comprehensive document, that outlined our positions and recommendations, and requested swift actions by Arlington County government.

In March 2021, the Environmental Affairs Committee Resolution Regarding Public Collaboratives to Preserve Arlington's Tree Canopy was adopted ([\[PDF, 129 KiB\]](#), [Report \[PDF, 143 KiB\]](#) and [White Paper \[PDF, 906 KiB\]](#)).

We welcome comments you have on any appropriate issues for the Committee by

emailing us at environmental.affairs.chair@civfed.org.

2024-2025 Board of Directors

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ACCF PUBLIC INTEREST COMMITTEES

- Arts and Culture – Co-Chairs Tina Worden and Sandi Chesrown
- Diversity – Chair TBD - if interested contact bod.orgdev@civfed.org
- Environmental Affairs – Chair Mary Glass
- Housing – Co-Chairs Anne Bodine and Matt Hall
- Legislation – Chair Paul Holland
- Parks and Recreation – Chair Cory Giacobbe (Parks)
- Planning and Zoning – Chair Brian Harner
- Public Services – Chair John Ford
- Revenues and Expenditures – Chair TBD
- Schools – Chair Todd Truitt
- Transportation – Chair TBD - if interested contact bod.orgdev@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 FY2025

February and March

- 2/11 – ACCF General Membership Meeting
 - 2/13 – Public Safety Committee Meeting
 - 2/13 – Environmental Affairs Committee Meeting
 - 2/19 – ACCF Board of Directors Meeting
 - 2/20 – Housing Committee Meeting
 - 2/26 – Annual Work Session with the Arlington County Board
 - 3/11 – General Membership Meeting
-

Virginia Hospital Center Hazel Auditorium Parking and Access Instructions for General Membership Meetings

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

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



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