Arlington County Civic Federation

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES — TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2026

Meeting: October 2026 General Membership Meeting

Date: Tuesday 13 October 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Hazel Auditorium, Virginia Hospital Center (hybrid: in person; broadcast via Zoom and Facebook)

Meeting Opening

- **Lead:** Nick Giacobbe (ACCF President)
- **Discussion:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Nick Giacobbe. Following approval of the September minutes, the meeting proceeded to the agenda.

1. Arlington Climate Action Plan (CAP)

- **Lead:** Mary Glass (ACCF Environmental Affairs Committee Chair)
- **Panelists/Presenters:** Jennifer Fioretti (Assistant County Manager for Climate Policy), Rich Dooley (Director of Climate Policy)
- **Discussion:**
    - **Goals:** The County aims for carbon neutrality by 2050 and has achieved ~33% GHG reduction since 2007.
    - **Process:** The development of the CAP includes risk assessments and community engagement. Focus groups and workshops are upcoming.
    - **Programs:** The 'Get Green' mobile app was highlighted. Recommendations for balcony/plug-in solar are expected by November 15th.
    - **Reporting:** An extreme heat assessment report is forthcoming and will be posted on the County website.
    - **Q&A:** Issues regarding rebate funding, flooding/inter-departmental coordination, and e-bike safety were discussed.

2. EcoAction Presentation

- **Lead:** Nachi Yellapragada (EcoAction Arlington)
- **Discussion:** Nachi Yellapragada presented on the EcoAmbassadors program, which offers climate and sustainability presentations (heat pumps, composting, rebates) to civic associations. Attendees were encouraged to schedule these presentations for their local groups.

3. Community Policing & Engagement Panel

- **Lead:** Mike McMenamin (ACCF Board Member/Public Safety Chair)
- **Panelists:** Deputy Chief David Giroux (ACPD), Michael Keane (Behavioral Health Outreach), Bruce Cabaniss (Parks & Recreation), John Hartman
- **Discussion:**
    - **Policing Framework:** Discussion focused on the shift to the 'ACE' framework (Awareness, Collaboration, Engagement).
    - **Outreach:** Panelists emphasized that homelessness and behavioral health outreach requires repeated contacts to build trust.
    - **Parks:** Parks Rangers coordinate with departments to address safety and maintenance.
    - **Safety:** Concerns regarding e-bike safety and unauthorized vehicle use in parks were noted, with education campaigns planned for December.

4. Crime & Operations Update

- **Presenter:** Andy Penn (Chief of Police, ACPD)
- **Discussion:**
    - **Statistics:** Overall crime is down ~2.5% year-over-year.
    - **Staffing:** Current sworn staffing is at ~317 of 375 authorized positions.
    - **Upcoming Priorities:** Focus is on Election Day safety, upcoming 'Know Your Rights' sessions (Oct 20), and Halloween safety plans.

5. Legislative Agenda: Legislative Committee presented the draft proposal and will meet October 20 to refine the agenda before the November second reading and vote.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:00 PM.

Video of the 13 Oct 2026 meeting is available here [2h 1m 49s].

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