
ACCF General Meeting Notice

NORMAL START TIME
Tuesday, November 14, 2006, 7:30 PM
Hazel Conference Center
Virginia Hospital Center – Arlington
1701 North George Mason Drive

1. **7:30 pm** Pledge of Allegiance (formal start)
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes (October 3, 2006)
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Special Rules for Legislative Package
6. **7:45 – 9:00 pm** ACCF Legislative Package
 - Introduction, changes in package from last year (5 minutes)
 - Questions concerning basic package (10 minutes) – (See Page 2)
 - Debating acceptance of basic package (10 minutes)
 - Voting on basic package (5 minutes)
 - Questions concerning additional items (20 minutes) – (See Page 1)
 - Debating/amending additional items (22 minutes)
 - Delegates Vote on Paper Ballot. (3 minutes)
7. **9:00 – 9:25 pm** Joint Committee Resolution on Transfer of Density Rights (TDR's) (see page 3)
8. **9:25 – 9:35 pm** New Business & Announcements
9. Adjournment

Legislative Package Summary

By Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee concluded its work on the ACCF Legislative Program with its second meeting on Monday, September 18th, although some subsequent changes occurred from e-mail meetings. The Committee's report includes a main, or basic package, and nine additional items for consideration by Federation delegates. The nine additional items are:

1. (Civic Federation Principle) Support of funding for public education, public transportation, and human services.
2. Mid-Year Budget Rebalancing.
3. 21-Day Rule.
4. Ban Smoking in Restaurants.
5. Permit Arlington County to Adopt a Motor Fuels Tax.
6. Red Light Cameras.
7. Interstate 66.
8. Homestead Exemption
9. Minimum Wage Increase.

Items proposed by Delegates will also be considered. However, they must be submitted in writing no later than 3 days before the meeting to the President and the Legislative Committee Chairman, preferably by e-mail. (For President Larry Mayer, e-mail to larry@civfed.org or to Legislation Committee Chairman Tim Wise, tim@civfed.org). In addition, 100 copies of the proposal must be on the table in the lobby of the Hospital's Hazel Conference Center by 6:45 p.m. on November 14th.

Copies of the draft legislative package were available at the October 3, 2006 meeting, and copies will be available at the November 14, 2006 meeting. The draft ("basic" package is on page 2) package is also available on the Federation's website - www.civfed.org.

Legislative Package Special Rule

As in past years, a Special Rule will be offered for the on the Legislative Package debate. The proposed Special Rule is as follows:

Special Rule. The Legislative Package will be considered in two parts - the main, or basic, part and additional items. For inclusion in the main part, the committee required a unanimous vote. (Continued on Page 2)

(Legislative Package Special Rule – Continued)

If the Special Rule is adopted, there will be a single vote to accept or reject the main, or basic, package. If the "vote to accept" fails, we will consider each section separately. The Committee also is proposing nine Additional Items for consideration by Delegates. These Additional Items were supported by a majority of committee members. After they are discussed and debated, they will be voted on separately. Items proposed by delegates to the President and Committee Chairman, as described above, will be considered as Additional Items. If Additional Items are approved by delegates, they will be incorporated into the overall package.

Tidbits

This section will bring you up to date on status of some "old" items. Also highlighted are new activities approved by the Executive Committee since the October meeting. In all cases, material has been posted to our Web site. Please refer to that resource for further details where noted:

- **Appointments** – The Executive Committee Selected Larry Finch as the new Environmental Committee Chair and approved Jay Wind as Chair (versus previous Co-Chair) of the Parks and Recreation Committee. Also Alfred Taylor (D-Nauck) was recommended for appointment to the GMU/Arlington County Advisory Board. Sharon J. Rogers (D-Woodmont) was recommended for appointment to the APS Professional Development and School-Based Staff Task Group. Finally, Amy Levin was recommended for the LEPC/CCC and, Rich Samp for APS Budget Advisory Committee.
- **Lot Definitions** – We finally received the "handwritten" list of RPC properties for the 350 constrained or non-buildable lots related to street width definitions. The Planning and Zoning Committee is analyzing this material
- **LPACAP funding process** (Local Public Assistance Cost Allocation Plan) – The County Manager made funding cut recommendations to be acted on by the County Board. A number of ACCF supported programs were significantly reduced.

December Meeting: Tuesday, December 5, 2006

The Major Topic: Arlington Public School Program
(With the School Board)

December News deadline: November 15, 2006

2007 Basic Legislative Package

By Legislative Committee

The Basic Part of the Committee's 2007 Proposed Legislative Package is as follows:

Civic Federation Principles - The Civic Federation adopts the following principles in order to maintain our quality of life, enhance the desirability of our community as a place to live and work, and meet future human and infrastructure needs:

- We urge the General Assembly to revise state revenue-sharing formulas to result in more equitable funding for Arlington County government, public schools, and transportation

1. **General Governance** - Terms for Governor. Amend the Constitution to allow the Governor to serve one term of six years.

2. **Economic and Community Development** - Virginia Housing Partnership Fund. Encourages the General Assembly to re-establish the Fund, from which non-profits could borrow at low interest rates.

3. **Conservation (environment)** - Air Quality - Clean Smokestacks Act. Urges the legislature to adopt a Clean Smokestacks Act (similar to that of North Carolina) to reduce emissions from coal-fired power plants in Virginia by closing the existing grandfather loophole in the federal Clean Air Act that exempts old, dirty coal plants. This law should require every power plant in Virginia to meet the most recent pollution control standards for new pollution sources. The new standards must be met on the later of the date that is 30 years after a power plant commenced operation or the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of the Virginia Clean Smokestacks Act.

4. **Crimes and Offenses Generally** -

a) Sodomy Laws. Supports repeal of the sodomy law as it applies to consenting adults.

b) Antidiscrimination and Hate Crimes Ordinances. Support the addition of sexual orientation to the categories included in existing state antidiscrimination and hate crimes laws.

5. **Dangerous Weapons** - Gun Control. Support requiring mandatory instant background checks on purchasers of all firearms at all gun shows and allowing up to seventy-two hours completing the check if the instant check is inconclusive.

8. **Equal Rights** - Employment and Housing. Urges prohibition of discrimination in employment and housing on the basis of sexual orientation in a manner consistent with existing state discrimination laws.

9. **Health** - Authority for Nurses. Supports enacting legislation to continue to expand the authority of certified advance practice nurses, nurse practitioners, and physician's assistants to write appropriate prescriptions and to practice independently or in collaboration with physicians. Such legislation would reduce costs and expand access to health care.

10. **Insurance** - Insurance Rates. Supports a law to prohibit insurance companies from raising rates when the insured motorists in accidents are found to be not "at fault," and when home owners inquire about coverage, but do not file a claim.

11. **Property and Conveyances**

a) Retention of Local Zoning Authority. Supports legislation to prohibit Commonwealth agencies from overriding local jurisdictional land-use plans and zoning decisions and ordinances.

b) Eminent Domain. Urge the General Assembly to enact legislation in opposition to the 2005 Supreme Court of the United States decision on eminent domain (*Kelo v. City of New London, CT*).

13. Public Health

14. Taxation

- a) Consumer Use Tax. Supports revision and reform of the Consumer Use Tax.
- b) Economic (Fair-Market) Rent. Recommends establishment of statewide, economic (fair-market) rent, not contract rent, as the basis for assessments of commercial property. [1]
- c) Sales Tax Modernization. Urges the Legislature to simplify and modernize its sales tax system by adopting legislation to conform to the multi-state Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement. The effect of such legislation, applicable to Internet and mail order sales, would be to adopt uniform definitions of goods and services (such as what constitutes computer software). As of 2004, 42 states are participants and 20 states have adopted conforming legislation. [2]

15. Transportation and Highway Safety

- a) Cell Phones. Urge the General Assembly to prohibit the use of cell phones by drivers on all roads in the Commonwealth.
- b) Handicapped Parking. Supports legislation to raise the reduced mail-in fine (currently \$125) for parking in a handicapped space to \$300 (the current fine is \$500 should you go to court).

Notes

[1] Although the Virginia Supreme Court has ruled that contract rent may be used, the Federation has opposed its use because it usually lowers commercial assessments, shifting more of the real estate tax burden to homeowners.

[2] This effort was prompted by judicial decisions determining that retailers without physical presence in a given state do not have to collect sales and use tax on sales made in that state. The explosive growth of e-commerce beginning in the late 1990s increased the number of transactions that have escaped sales tax. States were losing revenue and so-called "bricks and mortar" retailers argue that they are at a competitive disadvantage to the electronic retailers because they do have to collect sales tax. The agreement does not change these rules (Federal legislation would be needed) but, instead, focuses on making state sales taxes more uniform so that compliance with current rules is simplified. Project proposals include adopting more uniform definitions and procedures, more efficient administrative procedures, and new technologies to reduce the burden of tax collection. More information can be found on the project website, www.streamlinedsalestax.org.

Help Wanted – Open Invitation

There are always positions that can open at any time. If you have any particular interest – keep us (Committee Chairs advised) - (see last page).

Transfer of Density Rights

The Planning and Zoning, Housing, Parks and Recreation and, Cultural Affairs Committees were referred a draft resolution for action. Members of the Planning and Zoning and Housing Committees met on October 22nd and, modified the resolution to be acted on by the membership. A previous resolution

(February 2006) urged the Board to defer adoption of TDRs until the details have been developed and shared with the public; and the public has been informed how TDRs will work in combination with other bonus density options. Elements of the details have been developed, such that the ACCF needed to take a position since County Staff proposals would be addressed at the November 14th County Board meeting.

For the latest version of this proposed resolution please look at the Civic Federation Web Site.

Committee Calendar

Please look on the ACCF Web page calendar for latest postings of committee meetings – none reported for publication prior to “press time”.

1700 AM - Emergency Radio

Thanks to Jim Pebley and Jackie Snelling for being so persistent over a number of years regarding the need for an emergency radio system accessible to all Arlington Residents and Visitors. Jim spoke and, Jackie and Jim were recognized (and pictured) for the “startup” ceremony. The following Arlington County press release was issued:

Arlingtonians can now tune into **1700AM Arlington**, a new emergency radio station with the capability of providing up-to-the-minute information during an incident or emergency. At an official launch event on Monday, October 16, the new station began broadcasting.

1700AM Arlington is a terrific new tool in our emergency management toolbox," said Robert P. Griffin, Arlington's director of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). "We'll be able to share the latest Arlington-specific information with anyone who has an AM radio. During power outages, we can still send information to residents who have battery-powered radios in their emergency preparedness kits. It's another way to provide emergency communications to the public."

All of Arlington Covered - The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has been working on this project for more than two years, securing the necessary Federal Communications Commission (FCC) licenses, finding a site for the antenna, obtaining the equipment and building the infrastructure. With a single antenna and transmitter, 1700AM Arlington produces a signal capable of being received anywhere in the County. It is similar to the radio systems used by airports to share information on parking, including Washington Reagan National Airport.

Always Available - During power outages, 1700AM Arlington runs on a generator. Residents can tune in via a battery-powered radio or one that operates by power generated through hand-winding. Remember to pre-set your vehicle radio to 1700AM Arlington. The station equipment is located in two redundant secure locations in secure County facilities.

Community Input - The Arlington Citizen Corps Council and its Public Emergency Communications Committee recommended the installation of an emergency radio station and have been tremendous supporters of the project from the beginning.