

ACCF General Meeting Notice

NORMAL START TIME
Tuesday, January 2, 2007, 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 (December 5, 2006)
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Committee Announcements (upcoming meetings)
6. Special Rules for County Board Program
7. **7:45 – 9:05 pm** - Arlington County Board Program
 - County Board Presentations - Including response to ACCF submitted questions (30 minutes) – (See Page 2)
 - Questions and Answers of County Board (40 minutes) (See Special Rules – Page 1)
 - County Board Concluding Remarks (10 minutes)
8. **9:05 – 9:30 pm** New Business & Announcements
 - Transportation Committee Resolution on Metro (20 Minutes)
 - Other – including additional announcements
9. Adjournment

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

County Board Q & A Rules

By Executive Committee

The Executive Committee decided on question and answer “rules” for the Arlington County Board program. It was felt that these rules worked well for the APS program and therefore should also apply for the County Board program. The rules will be in effect during the planned 40 minute questions and answer period set forth in the agenda. The purpose of these rules is to maximize participation by the delegates and alternates. These “rules” are as follows:

1. Participation – Only Delegates or Alternates will be permitted to ask questions of the Arlington County Board at the January 2nd meeting.
2. Questions will be limited to a maximum of 30 seconds only. Delegates or Alternates should minimize comments and make sure they pose a “single” question. Compound and follow-up questions by the same individual will not be allowed.
3. The County Board response(s) to any individual question will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes.
4. Timing will be rigidly enforced – the moderator will cut-off either questions or responses exceeding the timeframes set forth above.

Tidbits

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

- **Appointments** – Amy Levin was appointed as an additional ACCF representative to the Local Emergency Planning Board (LEPB) and Citizen Corps Council (CCC).
- **2007 Banquet Program** –The Executive Committee continues work on the 2007 annual banquet. Stan Karson is waiting on a commitment from the keynote speaker candidates. Stay tuned for details as they develop.
- **Elder Readiness Task Force** –The Executive Committee met with Mark Seklecki the Chairman of the Elder Readiness Task Force at our December 11th meeting. Any ACCF next steps are still to be determined.

- **Resolution Testimony** – At the December 9th County Board meeting we testified supporting three ACCF resolutions. – (See *Resolution Activity, Page 3*)

February Meeting: Tuesday, February 5, 2007

The Major Topic: Public Services Program
(With Police, Fire, Public Health, and Office of
Emergency Management)

January News deadline: January 15, 2006

County Board Posed Questions

By Executive Committee

As part of the invitation to the Arlington County Board, the Executive Committee submitted a set of five (5) topic areas and related key questions for each topic area. The topics and questions are indicative of member concerns. They reflect responses received from the “Call for Questions” (see *December Civic Voice*) and solicitation from the Executive committee members and all ACCF committee chairs. Resulting topic areas and associated questions are extensive. It is probably unreasonable to assume that the County Board could cover each question in depth in the time allotted. However, in our submission we wrote that it desirable for all questions to be considered and answered over the next few months if not covered at the meeting. The “Topic” areas followed by the related questions are as follows:

1. **Revenues and Expenditures** – Of concern to ACCF members as defined in Committee reports, Committee recommendations and, resolutions. Specifically:
 - **Balanced and sustainable budget** - Will the Board commit to **approving** a balanced and sustainable base budget within existing tax rates, consistent with its guidance to the Manager?
 - **Areas for funding changes** - Indicate which programs might necessitate increased funding (e.g. future liabilities for employee and retiree annuities and, health care expenses)? Which programs might be reduced, eliminated or deferred?
 - **Revenue sharing** - Given reductions in rate of revenue increases, would the Board desire to alter to the APS Revenue Sharing Agreement?
 - **“Greenrods”** – Will the Board commit to re-implementing 'Greenrod' provisions' as suggested in ACCF's April 2006 budget report (where budget proposals identify programs where recent levels of staffing and funding may no longer be required to provide reasonable levels of service) ?
2. **Development Impact** – Recent development plans seem to go well beyond prior understandings of height and density in the R-B and other urban corridors.
 - **Neighborhood impact** - Respond to concerns of neighborhoods near developments that are subject

to adverse traffic levels and noise spillover. Respond to more distant neighborhoods affected by spillovers and, increased truck traffic supporting high-rise construction?

- **Infrastructure sufficiency** - Comment on transportation, water, sewage, electric power and other infrastructure sufficiency to handle added population and commercial demand including any impact and effect on county investments?
 - **Building height limits** – What are current views on height limits in Rosslyn since some Board members previously opposed raising them? React to the positions of the Federal Aviation Administration, Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority, the National Capital Planning Commission and, other groups charged with protecting our national capital and its surroundings.
 - **Smart Growth** - At what point does Smart Growth become too much? Should there be a countywide review to consider all factors?
3. **Policy and Plans** – ACCF Committee activities include analysis, study, reports and, occasional resolutions related to planning or policy areas, such as:
 - **Street maintenance** - After years of reduced street maintenance, the recent budget included higher levels of funding for street repaving. What progress has been made and, what are the current plans for ensuring adequate street maintenance? Please also comment on other areas of the funding which would help to avoid other infrastructure deterioration.
 - **Sidewalk Flexibility** - Given an ACCF resolution of “Sidewalk Flexibility”, will the Master Transportation Plan (MTP) accommodate adequate flexibility for unique neighborhood needs and, preferences with respect to the application of county rules and standards for sidewalks and other similar standards?
 - **MTP and Trucks**. Little if anything in the plan addresses trucks, particularly those that either deliver goods to Arlington customers or pass through the County on arterial streets. We currently do not have designated truck routes, and of course, trucks cannot use I-66. Should the plan at least recognize that certain routes, such as Lee Highway carry a lot of trucks and, ensure that lane widths and other road attributes remain conducive to truck movement?
 - **MTP and Urban Core versus Suburban Areas** – Does the MTP adequately distinguish between the different needs of the urban core versus other parts of the County? What will be done to maintain or improve traffic flow to keep congestion reasonable as the population expands? What will be done to meet particular neighborhood needs and protect areas from excessive cut-through traffic? Will alternative approaches to traffic calming or other such programs consider neighborhood differences?

- **MTP Future Visions** – Consequences of the decisions made in 2007 are with us for a long time. Should we assume that the car of the future will run on gasoline and be similar to the car of today? Should we assume that a significant and growing portion of the population will choose to give up cars? Should we assume that Metro will save us from gridlock even though we already know Metro is already at capacity on the Orange line at rush hour and, probably has some security vulnerabilities? Are we looking sufficiently at tomorrow's environment with today's technology versus that of the future? (*Considering plan elements such as lane widths and vehicle capacity on many arterial streets in the face of increasing population, commercial development and, possible reduced parking requirements in new high rise buildings in the transportation corridors*).
 - **Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)** - Explain efforts and plans to minimize the impact of BRAC transfers on both development initiatives and the economic health of the County?
 - **North Tract** - What is the status of the North Track property project plans? Are there potential changes because of known situations and funding availability?
 - **Public Land Policy** - Any comments on the development of a policy safeguarding public land for public use, such as affordable housing or open space?
 - **Public Safety** - What priorities does the Board give for improving public safety programs including Fire Stations, fire equipment and staffing, police operations, all-hazard public education and, disaster preparedness?
4. **Affordable Housing** - The ACCF continues to be a strong supporter of Arlington County affordable housing initiatives. Some specific areas of concern include but, are not limited to:
- **Status and Funding** - What is the status of affordable housing (esp. Buckingham) and, budget needs for Affordable Housing Investment Funds?
 - **Strategies for Preservation** – How can we maintain current levels of affordable housing?
 - **Workforce Housing** – Do you have plans for increased workforce housing for example teachers and public service employees?
5. **Other Programs or Items** – Other programs of concern to ACCF and which deserve Board comment include:
- **Taxing Authority Initiatives** -- The Board 2007 Legislative package has a number of “taxing authority” initiatives including changes in the one (1) percent income tax for transportation as well as other tax oriented measures (e.g. homestead exemption). Assess the likelihood of initiatives being enacted and, the impact of revenue sources or programs on the County (e.g. overall property tax

rate increases due to a homestead exemption, reduction of various tax rates or fees with an income tax)?

- **Open Space** - One issue in connection with approval of the Clarendon Sector Plan was the need for more open space. The cost of land makes it difficult to acquire open space in Clarendon or almost anywhere along the R-B corridor. Is there a firm commitment to providing some open space for residents of high-rise residential buildings in these areas?
- **Independent Inspector General** - Numerous legal or other problems have surfaced in the last year or two. Examples include funds loss for the Local Public Assistance Cost Allocation Plan (LPACAP) and, outcomes of various lawsuits. What actions are you taking directly? What direction are you providing to the Manager to alleviate or reduce such problems in the future? Will the county give serious consideration to an independent Inspector General? If so, how would such a person be appointed?

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*).

Resolution Activity

Actions on ACCF resolutions covered by the County Board at their latest meeting (December 9, 2006 – *refer to the County Website – Board meetings agendas, referenced item number*). We define “**accepted**” as action that in some way positively included our resolution provisions. Listed as “**declined**” is an action that did not include or was, in some way, contrary to the resolution provisions and. Listed as “**deferred**” is action deferred to a future Board meeting.. Due to space considerations in this issue, please refer to the ACCF Website for detailed resolution information:

1. Resolution (under suspension of rules) on **Rosslyn Building Heights and FAA Safety** (*adopted, December 5, 2006*) was **deferred** (*Item 45*).
2. Resolution on **Historic Preservation Policy**, (*adopted June 6, 2006*) was **accepted** (*Item 42*).
3. Resolution to **Restore the Board of Zoning Appeals Ability to Grant Zoning Ordinance Exceptions** (*adopted March 7, 2006*) was **declined** (*Item 44*).

Committee Calendar

Please look on the ACCF Web page calendar for latest additional postings of committee meetings. Known as “publication”:

Environmental Affairs – Thursday, February 8, 2007 will consider “green” building issues. Note, meetings will regularly be scheduled for the first Thursday of each month to make dates predictable.