



THE Civic Voice

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

The Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation

January 2009

ACCF General Meeting Notice

NORMAL START TIME
Tuesday, January 6, 2008, 7:30 PM
Hazel Conference Center
Virginia Hospital Center – Arlington
1701 North George Mason Drive

1. **7:30 pm** - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes (December 2, 2008)
4. Treasurer's Report
5. **7:35 pm** – Committee Reports/Announcements
6. **7:40 – 8:10 pm** - Transportation – Upcoming Issues – (30 Minutes) (*see page 3*)
 - Blue Line Realignment, Jim Hughes, WMATA (15 Minutes)
 - Discussion and Q & A (10 Minutes)
 - Arlington's Master Transportation Plan – Upcoming Elements (5 Minutes)
7. **8:10 – 8:40 pm** Solid Waste Management and New Recycling Rules (30 Minutes) (*see page 2*)
 - Presentation - Erik Grabowsky, Department of Environmental Services - 20 minutes
 - Discussion and Q & A - 10 minutes
8. **8:40 – 9:10 pm** Arlington "Waterworks" (30 Minutes) (*see page 1*)
 - Presentation – Jeff Harn, Arlington Department of Environmental Services – 20 Minutes
 - Discussion and Q & A - 10 minutes
9. **9:10 pm** New Business & Announcements
 - Action on Public Services Resolution – "Commending the Electoral Board and staff of the Office of Voter Registration" – (10 Minutes) (*see page 3*)
 - Other
10. **9: 25 pm** - Adjournment

Membership Dues – Some Missing!

Some are still MISSING! Remember, if your organization has not paid, send checks and delegate information to Eileen Williams, 4141 North Henderson Rd, #1226, Arlington, VA 22203. For status on dues payments, email Eileen @civfed.org.

"Waterworks"

Mike Kerley, Chair, Public Services Committee

Do you and your civic association need to find out what's up with our water? Don't miss the opportunity to learn more about drinking, waste, and storm water. Arlington County staff will discuss where we are today, what issues and challenges we face, and where we need to go:

Mr. Jeff Harn, Dept. of Environmental Services

Utilities & Environmental Policy Division, Environmental Planning Office

- Scope of water service (drinking, waste/sanitary, storm).
- What are Arlington residents and businesses paying for this service?
- Chart - compare service/cost to other jurisdictions (local and national comparison).
- Overview (brief) of federal, state, and local regulations.
- Investing today to meet future regulatory requirements?
- Updates for Little Pimmit Run and Water Pollution Control Plant projects.
- Since the 1996 storm water master plan, what knowledge has the county gained about runoff pollution and what programs have been implemented to reduce peak flow rates?
- Effect of economic downturn on water system upkeep?
- Unfunded capital improvement needs?
- Ordinances that need updating?

Solid Waste Management

Larry Finch, Chair, Environmental Committee

At the Civic Federation meeting on January 6, Erik Grabowsky, chief of the Solid Waste Bureau in Arlington's Department of Environmental Services, will describe the County's solid waste management system.

Solid waste management includes both trash and recycled materials programs. In addition to routine trash collection, Mr. Grabowsky will explain how residents should dispose of such diverse items as yard cuttings, obsolete TV sets, other electronic equipment and old appliances.

After providing an overview of the current system for solid waste management, Mr. Grabowsky will present the results from the annual waste audit (a study of what people throw away in their refuse cart) and describe program changes planned for early 2009. These changes will include expanding the range of materials accepted for curbside recycling, providing new and larger containers for recycled materials, and switching to a "single stream" system.

In this time of budget pressures, financial considerations are of particular importance. Mr. Grabowsky will discuss revenues from recycled materials and how they depend on commodity markets.

In addition to curbside collection of trash and recycled materials, the presentation will cover plans for relocating the recycling center currently on N. Quincy St. near Ballston Commons. That center is being relocated because the current site will be part of the Founders Square development project. A new site has been approved in the corner of Quincy Park, at the intersection of Washington Blvd. and N. Quincy St.

December was the LAST Mailed Edition - Do you want current information?

By Mileva Hartman, Chair, Membership Committee

December's edition was the LAST Postal Service mailed copy to ALL delegates and alternates. You NO longer receive a mailed copy (UNLESS you have no email available)! Believe it or not, only six (6) delegates or alternates requested mailed copies! Although we have numerous email addresses – we are still missing many! Again, please provide us your email address if you haven't done so already. For those organizations who have not heeded our calls for lists of all delegate and alternate information, encourage ALL your organization's delegates and alternates to provide their email addresses – look at what they are missing!

For your convenience, we have included a notification form. Print out and use the form on the last page of this newsletter to request mailed editions (if you have NO email) or use the same form to provide us new or updated email information. **Take ACTION now to keep receiving monthly information!**

February Meeting: Tuesday, February 3, 2009

The Major Topics: Arlington County Board Program

February News deadline: January 19, 2009

Tidbits

New activities or actions considered by the Executive Committee since the November meeting are itemized. Where noted, material is posted to the ACCF Web site: (<http://www.civfed.org/>).

1. **County Board Program** – This program will be different than previously. We will have "moderated" questions at the beginning followed by collected questions from delegates and alternates. Please submit any areas of most concern to the ACCF Excom. However, note that the Executive Committee is currently considering consolidating delegates and alternates submitted questions during the program to ensure the Board addresses areas mentioned most frequently.
2. **Banquet** – Stay tuned for further details. The Banquet date is April 3, 2009. Do you have any "main" speaker suggestions?
3. **Ideas and Help** – We are responsive to ideas and help on committees and programs! Please respond to Larry Mayer with your interest at larrymayer@civfed.org!

Do not forget to get the "Shot"!

As you might have noted, the ACCF passed a resolution at its November, 2008 meeting "[ACCF participation in Managing Action through Planning and Partnerships \(MAPP\)](#)". In the resolved portion:

"... that we become a booster for the MAPP priority initiative on influenza in Arlington County where an ACCF member has already been involved in the planning. Federation involvement would be largely limited to publicizing, through our website, to our Delegates and Alternates and their member organizations the importance of annual vaccinations against the influenza..."

Consequently let your member organization know that ALL should get the "Flu Shot". For further details, make sure to look at the County or CDC websites or the document on the County Website:

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/HumanServices/PublicHealth/page66293.pdf>

Proposed Resolution

Mike Kerley, Chair, Public Services Committee

With the “urging” of the Civic Federation Executive Committee, the Public Services Committee has prepared and unanimously agreed on a resolution to be presented by the Committee at our January 6, 2008 meeting for endorsement by attending delegates and alternates. Under our By-Laws, such a resolution passed by a Committee and published to delegates and alternates prior to a meeting can acted on without referral back to a Committee in the subsequent month. The resolution proposed is shown below:

Motion Commending the Electoral Board and Staff of the Office of Voter Registration

Whereas, in the November 2008 general election, Arlington County residents cast 110,153 votes, 14,934 (16%) more than were cast in the 2004 general election, and

Whereas, Arlington County residents cast 34,110 absentee votes, 22,086 (184%) more than were cast in the 2004 general election, and

Whereas, 5,500 Arlington residents registered to vote in the week before the registration deadline, and

Whereas, the election presented challenges arising from the first general election use of new voter machine technology and electronic poll books, and

Whereas, the Electoral Board and staff of the Office of Voter Registration handled the above mentioned challenges with grace and efficiency and reduced the wait time for many residents;

Therefore, be it resolved, that, on January 6, 2009, the Arlington County Civic Federation joins Arlington residents in commending the Electoral Board and staff of the Office of Voter Registration for an outstanding job well done.

Upcoming Transportation Issues

By Jerry Auten, Chair, Transportation Committee

Presentations and discussion will be brief at our January 6, 2008 ACCF meeting. This article is meant to give you a “flavor” of activities. Our advice is to add yourself to the Transportation Committee Yahoo Group to keep apprised of the multiple activities and issues. Covered at the meeting will be:

1. Blue-Yellow Line Shift

WMATA is currently considering shifting from 2 to 5 Blue-Line trains through Rosslyn to a Yellow-Line route to L'Enfant Plaza. The presentation of the proposal to the WMATA Board is being postponed for several months because of a focus on budget problems and the Inauguration. Jim Hughes of WMATA, who has worked on these issues, will make a presentation on the options being considered, ridership data, possible north-south bus shuttles to offset the lost service, etc., and will answer questions.

2. Arlington's Master Transportation Plan

This topic will be only briefly discussed during the January meeting. Additional details follow. Over the past year, the County has gradually moved ahead adopting portions of a new

Master Transportation Plan. The County Board adopted an overall Goals and Policies document in November 2007 and a comprehensive transportation map in December 2007. The MTP Bicycle and MTP Pedestrian elements were adopted July 2008. The Board considered the Transportation Demand and System Management element at its December meeting and it is in a final editing process.

The current focus is the draft **Transit Element**, which was presented to the Transit Advisory Committee in December and, will be considered at the Transportation Commission meeting in January (currently scheduled January 15th). The draft envisions a transit program including a Primary Transit Network (PTN) along major routes which would provide service at least every 15 minutes for 18 hours every day, and a Secondary Transit Network (STN) with 2 trips per hour weekdays and hourly service at night and on weekends.

In support of requests from citizens of a comprehensive transit network, the draft supports a low level of ridership performance standards. The draft's PTN goal is 35 passengers per peak service hour and 15 passengers off-peak. Assuming an average 10-minute ride, this implies an average 6 passengers during peak hours and 2.5 passengers off-peak. At 3.5 miles per gallon (an estimate for large buses), this equates to 21 miles per gallon per passenger on-peak and 8.75 miles per gallon off-peak. PTN figures are below standard bus ridership averages of 8.5 to 9 passengers and fuel efficiency of most cars. The STN requirement is only 12 passengers per service hour. The off-peak and STN standards are lower than prior drafts. However, another section of the draft proposes paying more attention to the fuel efficiency of future transit vehicles.

The draft retains a performance standard that 90% of residents would be served by STN service or better. Service would get riders to major activity centers within 30 minutes and two transfers, difficult unless most stops are eliminated.

The draft includes a number of major transit investments. It envisions streetcar service well beyond Columbia Pike and mentions extensions of streetcar service across the 14th Street Bridge and along Route 1. The draft says Arlington and WMATA “should continue to evaluate the feasibility” of a new tunnel at Rosslyn served by one or two new tracks in the median of I-66 and potential new stations in North Arlington – *a proposal that was opposed by a Civic Federation resolution (March 2002)*. Better rail connections are suggested for lines at Rosslyn and the Pentagon to allow for bypasses, better incident management, and possible separation of the lines. Overriding all of the foregoing and consistent with the “vision statement,” the draft does tabulate or include any discussion of the costs of these proposals.

As said, the general goal of improving transit service is widely shared and has been consistently requested by many citizens. However, it is likely that the draft proposals could be more controversial under evaluation of the costs or other implications. Thus the discussion it receives at the Transportation Commission and other meetings is important

The current MTP chapter drafts are available on the County website (although the “new” Transit draft had not been posted as of December 28th).

http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/planning/mplan/mtp/MTP_Draft.aspx

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(Send to mileva@civfed.org)

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