

ACCF General Meeting Notice

NORMAL START TIME
Tuesday, April 7, 2009, 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 (February 3, 2009)
4. Treasurer's Report
5. **7:35 pm** – Committee Reports/Announcements
6. **7:40 pm** – Membership Committee – New member approval
7. **7:45 – 7:55 pm** - Selection of 2009 Nominating Committee (*See Page 1*)
8. **7:55 – 9:05 pm Budget Package Report**
 - Special Rules & Approval (5 minutes – *see page 1*)
 - Schools Committee (10 minutes – *see page 2*)
 - Revenue & Expenditures Committee (15 minutes - *see page 2*)
 - Delegates/Alternates Discussion (35 minutes)
 - Vote (5 minutes)
9. **9:05 – 9:35 pm Separate Item/Cultural Center @ former Newseum location**
 - Speaker presentations on issue (Two for 5 minutes each; 10 minutes total)
 - Delegates/Alternates Discussion (15 minutes)
 - Vote (5 minutes)
10. **9:35 – 9:40 pm** - New Business & Other Items
11. Adjournment

See Committee Budget Reports!

BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE, www.civfed.org STARTING Sunday, April 5 to see the unified School and Revenue and Expenditure committee report on the proposed County and school system budgets and the committees' recommendations.

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Budget Package Special Rule

The Revenues & Expenditures Committee and the Schools Committee will present their budget reports and recommendations for consideration by the Federation at the April 7th meeting. The County and Schools proposed budgets are reviewed separately by the two committees, and then merged into a single report which will be presented as a unitary Budget Package for consideration. As has been past practice, because of the length and complexity of the recommendations, a Special Rule will be offered for the Budget Package debate. If this rule is adopted by the membership, there will be a single vote to accept or reject the Budget Package.

Given the significance of this year's budget the Executive Committee voted to accept consideration of the special rule. The "all or nothing" approach has much to recommend it, including getting everyone home before early morning hours. The proposed Special Rule is as follows:

Special Rule - The Budget Package will be considered in one part. If this rule is adopted by the membership, there will be a single vote to accept or reject the basic package. If the "vote to accept" fails, we will consider each section separately. The Revenue and Expenditure Committee has also proposed one additional item for consideration which is not part of this special rule.

Nominating Committee

Pursuant to the Civic Federation's By-laws Article IV, Section 2 – "At the regular meeting in April, a nominating Committee of five (5) members shall be elected by ballot by the membership of the Federation, from nominations from the floor. A plurality elects. If there are no more than five nominees, elections may be by voice vote."

May Meeting: Tuesday, May 5, 2009

The Major Topic: State Delegation Program

April News deadline: April 20, 2009

Tidbits

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

1. **2009 County Fair** – The Executive committee is considering whether to take a booth at this year’s County Fair. Costs have risen appreciably. The Excom is determining whether it can partner with a similar group to alleviate the staffing effort, which is always difficult. Stand by for our determination.
2. **Banquet** – We hope you all enjoyed the banquet this year!
3. **Membership** – The Executive Committee continued review of membership criteria (in our by-laws). The Excom determined that, of two new organizations applying for membership, one fit the definitions and another was not eligible. Furthermore, a review of similar member organizations determined that one organization’s structure appreciably changed such that its membership should not be renewed for 2009-2010.
4. **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!

R&E Committee News – Proposed Budget for FY2010

Wayne Kubicki, Chair, Revenue and Expenditures Committee

While the effects of the economic downturn on Arlington’s fiscal affairs have been nowhere near as severe as on most of our neighboring jurisdictions, we have not been totally immune. Non-real estate revenues are projected to drop slightly, and the real estate assessment base has grown by less than 1%.

Faced with this new set of economic realities, the County Manager has proposed a budget for FY10 that has General Fund expenditures nearly \$12M (1.3%) lower than the revised FY09 amounts, but also contains a 2.7 cent (3.2%) increase in the real estate tax rate.

To balance the budget, even with this tax rate increase, the Manager has included \$23.3M in budget “reductions” from continuing services, spread over 136 individual line items, touching nearly every County department.

The R&E Committee will have plenty to talk about in its report to the membership at our April 7 meeting. With this year’s compressed budget cycle, the complexity of the Manager’s proposed budget and late-developing information coming from County Board work sessions and other sources, work will continue on the Committee’s report until the last possible

moment. The Committee is making every effort to have its report posted on the Federation website sometime during the day on Sunday, April 5.

Schools Committee News - Proposed Schools Budget

By Beth Wolffe, Chair, Schools Committee

This is the first year in this decade that the proposed budget for the Arlington Public Schools decreases from the previous year, instead of increases. The Superintendent’s proposed budget contemplates reductions in expenditures of 2.8% from the FY09 appropriated budget, a drop of approximately \$12.6 M. Estimated per-student spending decreases \$1,000 from last year’s adopted budget last year, from \$19,538 to \$18,534. The proposed budget eliminates a number of central office and non-classroom jobs (though classroom jobs are added in response to increased enrollment), maintains current class size, holds elementary school foreign language classes at FY09 levels, and provides salary step increases for all eligible staff (even though County staff are slated to receive neither step increases nor COLAs under the County Manager’s proposed budget.) The Superintendent’s budget does not fund \$1.1 M of the FY10 unfunded liability for retiree health benefits, and it cuts back the APS contribution to a staff annuity (retirement) fund. The Schools Committee report makes recommendations on maintenance work left out of the budget, salary step increases, the annuity match and the unfunded liability for retiree health care. The report should be up on the Federation website the same time that the R&E report is posted.

Cultural Center Issue

Wayne Kubicki, Chair, Revenue and Expenditures Committee

Over and above the Budget Package, the Revenues & Expenditures Committee is putting forward for separate consideration the Cultural Center proposal for the former Newseum site in Rosslyn. This issue is brought forward at this time due to its potential implications for the FY10 County budget. Namely, a key implication, if the county decides not to proceed with the Cultural Center, is the payment of \$10 million from the developer to the County. Those implications are not necessarily integral to the membership’s consideration of the Budget Package. Subsequent to the consideration of the total budget package, we will have speakers presenting both sides of the Cultural Center issue and associated implications. Questions and Discussion will be followed with a membership vote on a separate, free-standing recommendation.

The ACCF Calendar

By the ACCF Webmasters

Look periodically at: <http://www.civfed.org/calendar.htm> for new items! For example:

- April 11 – Arlington Home Show and Expo
- May 2 – Capital Hospice Plant Sale
- May 9 – Letter Carriers food for AFAC

When and where space is available, we will include selected items and have done so on the following page. However many more are on the Calendar page – including interesting seminars at libraries and other items of interest to members!

Parking Element - Master Transportation Plan Review

Jerry Auten, Chair, Transportation Committee

Arlington County is currently revising its Master Transportation Plan (MTP) and accordingly has produced a draft element to address parking and curb space issues.

County staff will be presenting key features of the draft plan at the two upcoming public sessions listed below. Members of the public are invited to attend and provide their comments.

Monday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.
Walter Reed Community Center
2909 South 16th Street

Thursday, April 23, 7:00 p.m.
NRECA building
4301 Wilson Boulevard

The adopted and draft MTP elements can be found on-line at: http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/planning/mplan/mtp/MTP_Draft.aspx

Questions and written comments on the MTP can be directed to:

Mr. Ritch Viola, Planning Section Supervisor
Arlington DES Planning
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 900
Arlington, VA 22201
rviola@arlingtonva.us

Want More Trees

Larry Finch, Environmental Committee

The Tree Canopy Fund applications are available to support community trees. Want more trees in your community but don't have the funds to buy them?

Arlington County, together with Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, is offering financial support to community groups, businesses and residents, who plant trees, maintain Arlington's Champion Trees or develop tree education programs.

Letters of Intent will be accepted until April 17; applications are due by July 17. The grants will be awarded in the fall, and the first trees planted in late fall. For more information, go to www.arlingtonenvironment.org <<http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org>>.

Arlington County is partnering with Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE), a non-profit environmental group, to administer this new program and award grants. Arlington County civic associations and other community groups are eligible for tree-related grants for their neighborhoods. For more information, visit the County Web site.

There is currently more than \$37,000 in the fund, which was established in Fall 2007 by the County Board. Developers pay into the fund when they cannot meet tree-planting requirements on their property due to site constraints, at a rate of \$2,400 for every tree that cannot be planted on site. This year's grants -- the first made under the program -- will be distributed based on an assessment of needs and the strength of the application. Contact: Susan Kalish at Skalish@arlingtonva.us or at 703-228-3330.

The Civic Voice April 2009

Funding Available - Neighborhoods to Improve Pedestrian Safety

Randy Swart - BSCL Webmaster

The Highway Safety Research Center (HSRC) is seeking proposals from up to 10 communities or neighborhoods to pilot test the use of a newly developed guidebook on how to improve pedestrian safety in neighborhoods. Each selected site will be provided \$2,000 as well as technical assistance from pedestrian safety experts. To download the RFP, please visit http://www.walkinginfo.org/res_guide/index.cfm.

Only government agencies and other not-for-profit organizations and neighborhood groups (such as PTAs, homeowner's associations, advocacy groups, etc.) are eligible to apply. Project funds are not payable to individuals.

HSRC will conduct a pre-award conference call on Friday, May 1, 2009 at 1 PM EDT to offer applicants an overview of the RFP as well as answer questions from applicants. To register for the call, please visit http://www.walkinginfo.org/res_guide/call.cfm.

Completed proposals are due Friday May 29, 2009 by 5 PM EDT. Applicants should use the Web-based submission process available at http://www.walkinginfo.org/res_guide/RFP.cfm.

HSRC anticipates selecting the awarded communities in mid-July 2009. Funding for this project is provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). HSRC received funding from NHTSA to pilot test A Resident's Guide for Creating Safe and Walkable Communities. The guide, developed with funding from the Federal Highway Administration, is designed to be used by anyone who is looking for ways to improve the pedestrian safety and walkability of their neighborhood, whether they are just beginning to learn about pedestrian safety or are already part of an established community safety group.

Since its inception in 1999, PBIC's mission has been to improve the quality of life in communities through the increase of safe walking and bicycling as a viable means of transportation and physical activity. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center is maintained by the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center with funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration.

Teens & Summer Jobs

Attention Teens: Summer Job Expo is April 18!

The annual Arlington Teen Summer Expo takes place Saturday, April 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Arlington Career Center, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive. The expo is an excellent opportunity for you to get a jump on a summer job, internship or volunteer opportunities. For more information go to

<http://www.arlingtonteensummerexpo.com/>