



THE Civic Voice

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

The Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation

May 2009

ACCF General Meeting Notice

NORMAL START TIME
Tuesday, May 5, 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 (April 7, 2009)
4. Treasurer's Report
5. **7:35 pm** – Committee Reports/Announcements
6. **7:40 – 8:40 pm State Delegation Program** (see page 2)
 - Opening - Key Issues/Remarks (25 minutes)
 - Committee Selected Delegate Questions and Answers (15 minutes)
 - Floor Questions and Answers (15 minutes)
 - Final Brief Comments (5 minutes)
7. **8:40 – 9:20 pm Arlington County Park Status Report** (see page 1)
 - County Speaker presentations – PRCR David Miller and Scott McPartlin (30 minutes total)
 - Projects underway
 - Projects in planning
 - Major long-term projects
 - PEG Program and FY2010 Budget Impacts
 - Delegates/Alternates Questions/Answers (10 minutes)
8. **9:20 – 9:30 pm – Public Services Information Technology Resolution** (see page 3)
9. **9:30 – 9:40 pm** - New Business & Other Items
10. Adjournment

Neighborhood Day - 2009

Neighborhood Weekend sponsored by Arlington County, NCAC, the PTAs and the Civic Federation will occur May 16th. This year there will NOT be the traditional parade but many neighborhood activities. Check out:
<http://www.co.arlington.va.us/Portals/Topics/page69796.aspx>

The Civic Voice
Please Visit Our Web Site

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Status Report on Arlington Parks

Larry Finch for the Parks and Recreation Committee

Join us on May 5 to learn about developments in Arlington's parks, including:

1. **Projects already underway:**
 - Redevelopment of Parkhurst Park
 - Construction of the spray park at Drew Park
2. **Projects still in the planning stage:**
 - Improvements at Bluemont Park
 - Master Plan for Mosaic Park (near Ballston Common)
 - Amenities to be added in Hillside Park (in Rosslyn)
3. **Plans for two major long-term projects:**
 - Long Bridge Park (formerly North Tract)
 - Restoration of Four Mile Run
4. **FY2009 PEG Program** - Projects funded in FY 2009 under the Park Enhancement Grant (PEG) program
5. **FY2010 Budget impacts** - Reductions in the parks budget and their effect for FY 2010

We will have two guest speakers from the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources: David Miller, Planning Program Coordinator, and Scott McPartlin, Parks Planner. Most Arlington residents take a strong interest in their parks, and the Civic Federation meeting will provide an opportunity to learn about developments in parks across the County.

Getting the "E" Newsletter

Not receiving the electronic version of the monthly ACCF newsletter? Is your organization's roster of Delegates, Alternates, President and Treasurer up to date based on changes or a recent election? Easy solution – convey information to our membership chair Mileva Hartman at Mileva@civfed.org or 703-841-9287. This is our most important communication resource. Stay connected.

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www.CivFed.org

June Meeting: Tuesday, June 2, 2009

The Major Topic: ACCF elections, Two Special Programs of Great Interest!

June News deadline: May 22, 2009

Tidbits

New activities or actions considered by the Executive Committee since the April meeting are itemized. Where noted, material is posted to the ACCF Web site:

(<http://www.civfed.org/>).

1. **2009 County Fair** – The Executive committee decided at the April Excom meeting to **NOT take a booth** at this year's County Fair. While costs are a factor (now would be over 10% of our budget) more importantly is the inability to find a partnership with a similar group. This would have reduced the difficult staffing effort and appreciable time requirements.
2. **Neighborhood Day** – See page 1 – this year the Excom encourages all to either develop activities or to partake of the numerous neighborhood activities on the linked County page..Mark your calendar for May 16.
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!

State Delegation Program

Tim Wise, Chair, Legislation Committee

The State Delegation Program is always a favorite. We have invited our State Elected Representatives (Alphabetically):

Robert H. Brink – 48th House

Adam P. Ebbin – 49th House

Albert Eisenberg – 47th House

David Englin – 45th House

Patricia S. Ticer (30th Senate)

Mary Margaret Whipple – 31st Senate

At time of publication Patricia S. Ticer (30th Senate), expressed regrets due to a previous commitment.

Program Structure – We will first hear from each Delegate on his/her areas of concern, focus and, accomplishments. Each will also address one specific issue as part of the opening remarks (*see below*). Finally, the panel will entertain questions from ACCF Delegates or Alternates in two ways as described below.

Specific Issues - The Legislation Committee provided the State Delegation six specific issues to be **briefly** addressed during the remarks portion. Attending Delegates will select from these and determine among themselves which “one” each will address.

The material sent to all the above Delegation members is as follows and defines the program details:

Opening Remarks -- 25 minutes (i.e., 5 minutes per Arlington State Delegation Member, assuming five Members attend). Five “issues” have been selected by the executive committee for the opening remarks portion of the meeting. Below are the five “issues”. Please use most of the 5 minutes to discuss one of the five “issues.” However, if there are any other issues you believe important, use a portion of the time to discuss that issue.

1. State's financial situation, FY 2010-2011 biennial budget, and items governor vetoed. Please discuss all three items.
2. Unemployment compensation benefits. The bill (?SB 1495?) passed the Senate unanimously and the House with a large bipartisan vote. However, the reconvened session saw a flurry of activity regarding the governor's amendments, not to mention discussion in the press. Please discuss the movement of legislation, but especially the issues for rejecting the governor's amendments.
3. Transportation. Given Virginia's current fiscal outlook, will you be advocating any new transportation initiatives during the 2010 session, and if so, what would be your proposed funding source(s) for those initiatives?
4. Smoking ban in restaurants. This item achieved a supermajority (32-8) in Federation voting. Bills (SB 1105 and HB 1703) were amended in the House and the Senate bill was even amended in conference. Please discuss important issues as bills moved through the legislative process.
5. Higher education, K-12, special education, and early childhood education. For the next legislative session, please identify your top issue in four areas (higher education, k-12 education, special education, and early childhood education) where Civic Federation delegates and their neighborhood associations can get involved with your work and make a positive impact at the state level.*
6. **Budget transparency/searchable database. This item achieved a supermajority (35-2-3) in Federation balloting. Bills (SB 936 and HB 2285) passed unanimously. Please discuss the bills, their movement through both houses, what information will be available, and when will the information be available.

*** This issue included if Sen. Ticer is able to attend.*

“Filtered Questions” -- 15 minutes (Federation delegates will submit written questions when they arrive at the meeting. The questions will be reviewed by a three-member Federation panel and sorted into two to four questions that will be posed to State Delegation).

Floor Questions from Federation delegates -- 15 minutes.

“Round Robin” -- 5 minutes (opportunity for each Arlington State Delegation Member to comment on any topic not discussed previously).

Committee Chair & Representative Annual Reports

By Executive Committee

This is a “call” to all Committee Chairs and, any Delegate or Alternate who represents the Federation at any Arlington or other Jurisdiction Group, Committee, Commission, etc. This is the time of year for you to prepare your annual report. These short annual reports of the period (June 2008 through May 2009) should be submitted via email (Word or Adobe documents preferred) or in hard copy to the President and Secretary **prior to the June 2, 2009 meeting**. Included should be all activities during that period and, if known, any planned future events. Committee Chairs should also provide current membership and others who served during the year.

The information will be posted on the ACCF Web site and be used instead of verbal presentations at the June meeting. A full projected June agenda precludes any verbal presentations.

The ACCF Calendar

By the ACCF Webmasters

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

- May 11 – Arlington Smart Growth Journey – 7 pm Central Library
- May 16 – Arlington League of Woman Voters annual meeting and breakfast – 9:30 am, Sheraton National Hotel, Columbia Pike.
- May 17 – Taste of Arlington, Ballston

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

Public Service IT Resolution Report to Membership

Mike Kerley, Chair, Public Services Committee

The Public Services Committee received a draft motion relating to combining common county and schools communication and information technology systems, and is recommending that it be adopted at the ACCF May 5 General Membership meeting.

S/ Mike Kerley, Chair (Arlington Forest), Robert Atkins (Arlington County Taxpayers Association), Stan Karson (Radnor/Ft. Myer Heights), Amy Levin (Aurora Highlands), Larry Mayer (Lyon Park), Jim Pebley (Waycroft-Woodlawn), Jackie Snelling (Lyon Village), and Eileen Williams (League of Women Voters)

The motion was introduced by Joe Pelton, delegate from Chain Bridge Forest and Chair of the Arlington County Information Technology Advisory Commission, at the April 7, 2009 Civic Federation meeting. The committee studied the motion under the portion of its jurisdiction that goes to “organization, administration, and the procedures of local government.”

The issue the motion raises is should we ask our county and school governments to get together at a leadership level to

figure out if they can save money and improve service by working together. The committee found that, while the issue and its potential opportunity to discover savings has been extensively considered by county and school board members individually, relevant advisory commissions, and county and schools senior IT staff, the question to undertake a proper study and implement necessary actions needs to be considered at the very top levels – i.e. by both Boards and the County Manager and School Superintendent.

In an effort to establish and verify facts and fully appreciate the issue’s background, committee members extensively discussed the issue (in person, over the telephone, and by email) among themselves, with senior county and school staff, the chair and a commissioner of the Information Technology Advisory Commission. In addition, the committee reviewed relevant state policy and county and school documents dating to 2001.

The committee decided not to broaden the motion to include reviewing the revenue sharing agreement or calling for specific actions or solutions. Rather, the motion recommended by the committee simply asks the county board, county manager, school board, and school superintendent to get together to determine if there would be cost savings and service improvements from combining common communication and information technology services.

Resolution Wording is below:

WHEREAS, cost savings and service improvements could result from the county government and school system combining common communication and information technology services; and

WHEREAS, economy of scale has proven successful between the county government and the constitutional offices; and

WHEREAS, potential cost savings and service improvements could make a positive, substantial impact to the 2011 budget.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Arlington County Civic Federation calls on the Arlington, Virginia County Board, County Manager, School Board, and School Superintendent to meet to determine if there would be cost savings and service improvements from combining common communication and information technology services and if so to implement necessary actions as soon as possible.

Banquet Awards

Ann Rudd, Awards Committee

Not everyone could attend the wonderful 2009 ACCF annual banquet. We missed you and thought you should know who received our awards this year. All the award citations are on our website as well as links to pictures from the banquet.

Sun Gazette Cup - Royce Lowry

Certificates of Appreciation – Mike Kerley, Scott McCaffrey, Pete Oliver, Dr. Robert Smith, Frank Wilson

Presidents Citations - Mileva Hartman and, ACCF Executive Committee

Check out - <http://www.civfed.org/awards.htm>