



THE Civic Voice

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

The Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation

June 2009

ACCF General Meeting Notice

NORMAL START TIME
Tuesday, June 2, 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 (May 5, 2009)
4. Treasurer's Report
5. **7:35 pm** – Committee Reports/Announcements
6. **7:40 – 7:55 pm** – An Arlington Retrospective/Prospective
- Roye Lowry (*see page 1*)
7. **7:55 – 8:00 pm** – ACCF 2009/2010 Officer and Excom
Elections (*see page 1*)
8. **8:00 – 8:45 pm** – Transportation Committee Program –
(*see page 2*)
 - Street Paving – (30 minutes) (*see page 2*)
 - Master Transportation Plan – Transit Element (15
minutes) (*see page 3*)
9. **8:45 – 9:00 pm** Emergency Preparedness Advisory
Commission – Jim Pebley (*see page 4*)
10. **9:00 – 9:20 pm** – Revenue Sharing Agreement Resolution
(Schools and Revenues & Expenditures Committee) – (*see
page 3*)
11. **9:20 – 9:25 pm** - New Business & Other Items
12. Adjournment

Committee Chair & Representative Annual Reports - update

By Executive Committee

All Committee Chairs and, any Delegate or ACCF representative to any Arlington or other Jurisdiction Group, Committee, Commission, are preparing annual written reports. As available, they will be posted on the ACCF Web site. There will be NO verbal presentations at the June meeting. A full June agenda precludes any verbal presentations. Questions on posted reports should be directed to the Committee Chairs, with copies to the Executive Committee.

The Civic Voice
Please Visit Our Web Site

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Nominating Committee Slate

By 2009 Nominating Committee

At the June meeting we hold elections for the 2009/2010 ACCF Officers and Executive Committee Members. This year, the nominating committee has selected the following slate of officers and Executive committee members:

President	Mike Kerley
Vice President	Mark Antell
Secretary	Sharon Rogers
Treasurer	Eileen Williams
Executive Committee Members	
	Jerry Auten
	Larry Finch
	Stan Karson
	Peter Olivere
	Terri Prell

Candidate nominations can be made by any delegate or alternate during this portion of the meeting.

An Arlington Retrospective and Prospective

By Editor

Join us on June 2 to glean thoughts and wisdom from one of Arlington's premier citizens – Roye Lowry. For those living under a rock or have never attended a Civic Federation meeting (where he is always in attendance and provides insightful comments) – Roye has been an Arlington Resident and Activist since 1957 and was elected to the County Board in 1961

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(Arlington Retrospective and Prospective Continued)

Roye received the Sun Gazette Trophy at our most recent banquet – see <http://www.civfed.org/award09sunlowry.pdf>

For many years, Roye has been very active in the Civic Federation both at all our meetings as well as with his involvement on numerous ACCF committees. Roye has notified many of us that he will be moving out of Arlington soon. However, we don't want to believe it and are trying to organize people to picket his house when the movers show up. Arlington could not possibly be the same without him.

The Executive committee decided months ago that Roye should give us the benefit of his experience and wisdom at our June meeting. We are sure you will welcome him as we give him the podium for his own historical retrospective and future perspectives on Arlington.

Reminder - 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.

September Meeting: Tuesday, September 1, 2009

The Major Topic: Candidates Night (7:00 pm Start)

September News deadline: August 18, 2009

Tidbits

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

1. **2009/2010 Programs** – The "New" Executive committee will decide at the June Excom meeting some aspects of the meeting calendar content for the 2009/2010 membership year. Obviously, some decisions have been made including the September traditional Candidates night (see box above). Stay tuned for further details.
2. **The Web never sleeps!** – While our Civic Voice newsletter takes a summer vacation, the ACCF Web site never gets such a break – it is available to you 24/7. Check during the summer for any updates!
3. **Ideas and Help** – We are responsive to ideas and help on committees and programs! Please respond to Larry Mayer (and/or the new ACCF President) with your interest at larrymayer@civfed.org!

Transportation Program Overview

Jerry Auten, Chair, Transportation Committee

Part of the June meeting will be devoted to two important transportation issues: a presentation explaining the county paving and slurry program to maintain the neighborhood and arterial streets for which the County has responsibility and an update on the transit element of the new Master Transportation Plan to be considered by County Board at its June meeting.

Is Your Street Falling Apart?

Jerry Auten, Chair, Transportation Committee

The County's approximately 960 lane miles of neighborhood and arterial streets are maintained through its transportation capital maintenance program (the paving program) of paving, slurry application and re-building. Historically, about one third (1/3) of the county streets were assessed each year based on national standards. The type of maintenance was based on the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) and the type of street (arterial, collector, and neighborhood). The County regarded an average 15-year repaving cycle as ideal in order to maintain streets in "good" condition. Arterials need to be repaved more often due to greater traffic volumes and heavier vehicles, while neighborhood streets are repaved less frequently. Neighborhood streets should get slurry seal coatings every 7-10 years to extend their life rather than repaving. When streets reach a certain state of disrepair, then a complete rebuilding of the street down to the base is required, a much more expensive process. In addition, starting with a pilot program in 2007, the county has started using micro-surfacing, a longer-lasting slurry material on 10 lane-miles of arterial streets.

While the County was reasonably close to its goal of a 15-year cycle over the 1995-2002 periods, the paving program was reduced from this level by about 27 percent from 2003 and 2004 and by 43 percent for 2005 through 2008. Over the most recent 4-year period, the paving was roughly equivalent to a **31-year paving cycle** (960 lane-miles/34 lane-miles paved). The use of slurry may reduce the effective cycle to some extent. While the reduced paving program could be partly attributed to higher costs of oil-based materials, such as asphalt, the actual dollar amounts of funding were reduced as well even with increases in other components of the County budget. However, the FY2009-2014 CIP budget proposed a significant increase in funding for transportation maintenance capital (including bridge repairs) from \$3.8 million in FY2009 to \$6.25 million for FY2010 through 2014 (*see chart top page 3*).

The County Manager's proposed 2010 PAY-GO budget proposed a further 50 percent reduction in the amount of paving, with the less expensive slurry and micro-surfacing programs left at approximately the 2008 levels. The "catch-up" program of repaving 7 blocks of streets previously blocked from the repaving program due to their lack of curb and gutter (the subject of a Civic Federation resolution) was dropped altogether. The Fiscal Advisory Committee report noted that the proposed 2010 budget of \$2.813 million represented a 41% reduction from the 2009 budget of \$4.736 million. The **proposed funding is in line with a 42-year paving cycle**. The final adopted budget restored part of this reduction, but did not achieve the level proposed in the FY2009 CIP budget.

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(Your Street Falling Apart? continued)

The summer 2009 paving program is expected to be announced June 4 as part of the FY 2010 CIP budget. At our June 2 meeting, we will hear from Dave Hundelt, Chief of DES Water, Sewer and Streets Division. This will help in further understanding the County's plans and program.

A summary of the historic and projected paving cycles is shown below:

Calendar Year	Lane-Miles (average)		Paving Cycle (Years)
	Paving	Slurry	
1995-2002	54	54	18
2003-2004	40	49	24
2005-2008	31	34	31
2009 proposed	17	35	42

The Master Transportation Plan

Jerry Auten, Chair, Transportation Committee

At the June meeting, County staff has also been invited to make a brief presentation and answer questions on the most recent draft of the **Transit Element** of the **Master Transportation Plan (MTP)**. Several drafts of the Transit Element have been discussed by the County's Transportation Commission and Planning and Zoning Commission. After incorporating comments from these groups, the latest draft is expected to be discussed at the County Board at their June 13 meeting. The staff also hopes to also bring the **Parking & Curbspace Element** to the Board in June for advertisement. This most likely means there would be public hearings at the July or September Board meetings on the Parking Element.

The County has a special Web page for the MTP which can be found at:
http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/planning/mplan/mtp/MTP_Draft.aspx

However, note that the current version of MTP "elements" are not always posted or linked in a timely manner.

Consideration of Resolution on Funding Formula for Schools

By Beth Wolffe, Chair Schools Committee and Wayne Kubicki, Chair Revenue and Expenditures Committee

The Civic Federation will consider and vote on a resolution at the June 2 meeting recommending that the County Board and School Board consider "abolishing . . . or modifying [the current Revenue Sharing Agreement] to make it more appropriate to present conditions."

A Revenue Sharing Agreement has been in place since approximately 2002, and basically is a formula that the two Boards have agreed upon to pre-determine what proportion of local revenue the school system will receive each budget year. The percentage of applicable revenues that the schools receive

adjusts based on school enrollments and applies to revenues from most, but not all, county taxes. Since the Agreement began, the school system has received between 47% and 50% of the designated County revenues each year with little discussion or debate by either County or School Board members or their staffs.

Proponents of the Agreement say that it provides the school system with a stable stream of revenue that enables it to plan its budgets with an efficient process. They add that the Agreement eliminates a lot of wrangling between the County & School Boards "around the edges" -- generally over a few items of a few million dollars -- to the detriment of the overall budget that has ranged in that time between \$200 and \$300 million.

Opponents of the Agreement say that it relieves the school system of the obligation to justify its budget, making it different from every other branch of County government, including such essential services as police and fire. Unlike other departments, the school system doesn't prepare a budget around its most important services and compete for extra dollars with other services. Instead, the schools budget is revenue-driven: the School Board already knows how much it will receive each year and figures out how to spend that amount of money, while all the other departments compete for what's left. Opponents say this process gives the County Board tacit permission to avoid holding the school system accountable for its spending or requiring it to be efficient like other county departments.

At the May Civic Federation meeting, Joe Pelton of the Chain Bridge Forest Civic Association proposed a resolution calling for the School Board and County Board to meet at a very early date and consider ways to improve the Agreement to address the relative needs of the County and harmonize compensation practices. The resolution was referred to both the Revenue and Expenditures Committee and the Schools Committee, which met jointly with Mr. Pelton on May 9. The Committees voted to issue a **joint recommendation** and will propose passage of the following resolution:

Therefore, the Civic Federation recommends that the County Board and School Board jointly reexamine the County's existing Revenue Sharing Agreement, with a view to abolishing it or modifying it to make it more appropriate to present conditions. This process should be undertaken promptly, in the expectation that the results can be implemented with the FY2011 budget process.

Mr. Pelton supported the revised resolution. Look for the joint report and the full text of the resolution including all whereas clauses to be posted on the website by May 31.

The ACCF Calendar

By the ACCF Webmasters

Look periodically at: <http://www.civfed.org/calendar.htm> for new items! This is especially important during the summer months! For example:

- June 19 Opening Reception (6 – 9 pm) – Arlington Arts Center: PARADOX NOW! Exhibit June 19 – August 22, 2009

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(The ACCF Calendar continued)

- June 5 – WALKArlington and the Rosslyn BID: Walkabout/guided walking tour of Rosslyn – (6 pm)
- June 23 – Arlington County Board: "Walking Town Meeting" in Donaldson Run – 6:30 – 8:30 pm
- July 11 – The Green Grass of Home? No-mow landscaping. 9:30 am - 12:30 pm - Fairlington Community Center

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!

ACCF 2009/2010 Dues, "Database" and Newsletter

Mileva Hartman, Chair, Membership Committee

This year the ACCF went "green" (and saved a good deal of money) with the electronic newsletter! While we have 609 names in our database...510 of those now receive the newsletter within minutes of mailing. About two dozen delegates and alternates requested the mailed copy because they have no email address. We are happy to comply and continue to seek email addresses or requests for hard copy so everyone who should be getting the newsletter will have it. Let's increase the number of email addresses (**note these addresses are strictly controlled**). The resulting newsletter savings is about \$200+ a month! This will enable us to keep our current annual dues of \$50. Moreover, the folks who were doing the stuffing and labeling and post office visits have a few extra hours in their month!

Speaking of dues...Our fiscal year runs July 1-June 30. Dues notices will be sent in July to your association treasurer (unless another name was provided as the "Bill to" recipient). Please be prompt with payment when that notice is received.

Finally, the Membership chair also maintains the database and needs your help to keep it current. If your organization has a new slate of officers and/or new delegates have been identified, please provide that information to Mileva@civfed.org.

Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission (EPAC)

By Jim Pebley

At the May 19 carryover County Board meeting, the Board approved a charter for a new Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission. This new Commission and its function will be presented and discussed at the ACCF June 2 meeting. Elements from the Board approved Charter are presented below (in italic):

Introduction. *The Arlington Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission (Arlington EPAC or "EPAC") is created as an advisory body by the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia. It will act as the overarching emergency preparedness advisory group to coordinate the efforts of a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), as well as Emergency Medical Services and the Citizen Corp Council.*

The Commission is created in recognition that preparedness efforts must be collaborative and, when confronted with a crisis, the community must respond as a system in order to ensure the greatest service to those in need.

Mission. *The EPAC will provide policy advice to the County Board on Arlington's emergency preparedness and ability to respond. To ensure that Arlington is a safe, well-prepared and resilient place to live, work, and visit, EPAC will be a community forum focused on coordinating and integrating the efforts of Arlington's schools, civic, commercial, service communities, as well as other government agencies located in Arlington with County, state and federal emergency preparedness organizations.*

Functions and Scope. *The EPAC shall carry out the following functions:*

1. *Recommend to the County Board measures to integrate community groups, businesses and individual citizen activities with government emergency planning activities.*
2. *Review and advise the County Board on Arlington County emergency preparedness planning.*
3. *Coordinate the functions of a Local Emergency Planning Committee in compliance with SARA Title III, the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act of 1986.*
4. *Participate, as appropriate, with the Planning Commission's Site Plan Review Committees and Long Range Planning Committee. Provide policy recommendations as may be appropriate to guide emergency preparedness and safety issues in the overall consideration of long range plans and site plans.*
5. *Review and advise the County Board on budget planning related to emergency preparedness and response.*
6. *Provide a periodic forum for community input to local emergency planning, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities.*

It should be noted that the EPAC is comprised of twelve Commission members (all appointed for three-year terms by the County Board) and includes at least one member from the ACCF. Consequently any Alternate or Delegate expressing an interest will need approval by both the ACCF Executive Committee as well as the County Board.

Any Delegate or Alternate having an interest should contact Mike Kerley, chair of the Public Services Committee at mike@civfed.org as soon as possible. We would expect initial appointments will be most likely as early as the June County Board meeting.

What Do You Think?

Editor

Let us hear from you about (email larrymayer@civfed.org) :

1. Should we have a 'Fix My Street' contest (e.g. paving)?
2. Desired meeting programs suggestions appreciated!
3. How can we serve your organization better!
4. Write about anything on your mind?