



THE Civic Voice

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation

October 2009

Meeting Notice

Tuesday, October 6, 2009
7:30 p.m.

Hazel Conference Center
Virginia Hospital Center - Arlington
1701 N. George Mason Drive
Arlington, Virginia 22205
www.civfed.org

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Agenda

- 7:30 Pledge of Allegiance
 - Approve Agenda
 - Officer Reports
 - Announcements
- 7:40 Census Program
- 8:00 Affordable Housing Program
- 8:35 H1N1 and Seasonal Flu Program
- 9:05 Park Funds Motion
- 9:20 New Business
- 9:30 Adjourn

Executive Committee

Mark Antell, Chair mark@civfed.org

The Executive Committee will meet on October 12, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. at 2300 Wilson Boulevard (Navy League). Upcoming general meeting business, including agendas and programs, will be discussed. If you are interested in the Legislation Committee general meeting program, please attend the meeting. Contact members of the Executive Committee to let them know your thoughts (www.civfed.org/officers.html).

The Executive Committee is putting together a group of civic association presidents to informally meet with members of the Arlington County Board. The goal is for all Civic Federation member presidents to attend one of these meetings over the next year.

Meeting Programs

2010 Census

Portia Clark portia@civfed.org

The Public Services Committee will present a program with guest speaker Juan Callejas, Partnership Specialist with the U.S. Census Bureau. Mr. Callejas will speak about the importance of every resident being counted. This video explains the Census process: (http://www.census.gov/pubinfo/www/broadcast/video/census_operations/011424.html).

Affordable Housing

Kathryn Scruggs kathryn@civfed.org

The Housing Committee will present a program with guest speakers Lois Athey, Executive Director, Buckingham Villages and Gates of Arlington Tenants Association; Jack Cornman, President, Alliance for Housing Solutions; Nina Janopaul, President, Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing; and Stan Karson, President, Radnor / Ft. Myer Heights Civic Association. The guest speakers are active in preserving and developing affordable housing (www.allianceforhousingolutions.org) (www.apah.org) (www.rafom.org).

H1N1 and Seasonal Flu

Portia Clark portia@civfed.org
Cecelia Espenoza cecelia@civfed.org

The Public Services Committee and the Schools Committee will present a program about H1N1 and seasonal flu with guest speakers Reuben Varghese, M.D., M.P.H., Arlington County Health Director; Alvin Crawley, Ed.D., Arlington Public Schools Assistant Superintendent, Student Services; and Marjorie Tuccillo, Arlington Public Schools Assistant Superintendent, Administrative Services. Dr. Varghese, Dr. Crawley, and Ms. Tuccillo will discuss Arlington County's preparedness for flu season and a potential pandemic (www.arlingtonva.us/flu).

Committee News

Cultural Affairs

Terri Prell terri@civfed.org

The Arlington County Cultural Affairs Division is inviting Arlington residents to celebrate the future Cultural Center. The free event will be October 10, 2009, from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at 1101 Wilson Boulevard (former Newseum). There will be music, video, art exhibits, and live theater. Arlington County Cultural Affairs Division has a new web site (www.arlingtonarts.org).

Environmental Affairs

Larry Finch larryfinch@civfed.org

The committee is preparing a general meeting program about the cost-benefit and environmental impact metrics for the new recycling program (www.arlingtonva.us/departments/environmentalservices/swd/environmentalservicesswdcurb.aspx).

The committee will meet in October and November to study the environmental effects of stormwater runoff into Arlington County streams. Impervious surfaces contribute to surges of stormwater that result in stream pollution and stream bank erosion. The committee will meet with representatives of the Arlington County Department of Environmental Services to discuss these problems and to explore possible solutions.

Housing

Kathryn Scruggs kathryn@civfed.org

The committee is studying how Arlington County could improve the the code enforcement system as it relates to housing issues.

The Arlington County Housing Division is surveying residents (www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=kfg3y35t1ydy4weqjmacfq_3d_3d)

on housing and community development needs.

The Arlington County Housing Division will host a community forum about the Housing Consolidated Plan for 2011 to 2015. This plan will be a blueprint for developing affordable housing. Arlington County has been losing affordable housing for several decades. Arlington County's goal is to create four hundred new affordable housing units per year. Since 1975, Arlington has created six thousand total affordable housing units, or less than two hundred per year. The meeting will be Saturday, September 26, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 2909 16th Street, South (Walter Reed Community Center).

Legislation

Peter Owen peterowen@civfed.org

The committee met on September 22, 2009. After thorough discussion, the committee decided to bring forward a proposal to the Executive Committee for a general meeting program regarding the federal and state legislative redistricting process that will occur based on the results of the 2010 census.

Membership

Mileva Hartman mileva@civfed.org

In September a neighborhood civic association successfully found additional Civic Federation delegates by asking its residents to step up to this call to serve:

- Participate in Civic Federation meetings,
- Serve on a Civic Federation committee,
- Report to the neighborhood civic association about countywide issues that affect the neighborhood, and
- Provide newsletter material for the neighborhood civic association.

Parks and Recreation

Jay Wind jay@civfed.org

On September 19, 2009, a representative of the committee attended a meeting held by the Arlington County Sports Commission regarding consolidation of the Arlington Little League and the Arlington Cal Ripken / Babe Ruth League.

In May 2009, the Arlington County Board appointed a special committee to address consolidation of the two programs.

At the September 19, 2009, meeting the special committee provided an update on its work and heard comments and questions from residents about several issues:

- Fair team selection process at the competitive ages (nine to twelve),
- Improved sportsmanship and safety,
- Larger fields for eleven-year-old and twelve-year-old players,
- Post-season tournament opportunities for nine-year-old to twelve-year-old players,
- Effective league leadership and administration, and
- Affiliation with a national organization.

The special committee is studying the issue and will make its recommendation to the Arlington County Sports Commission in time for the 2010 season.

Planning and Zoning

Larry Mayer larrymayer@civfed.org and
Martha Moore martha@civfed.org

The committee is undertaking an Arlington County-wide study that will look at ways to transition from high density commercially zoned areas to low density residentially zoned areas. The question is should new planning guidelines and zoning options be created. This video describes the issue: (www.ivoicecards.com/evc.php?i=1488c343c1).

The study will involve Arlington County staff, property owners, and developers.

The committee is asking delegates living in neighborhoods where homes abut commercial property to determine the zoning of the commercial and adjacent residential property. This tool will help: (<http://arlingtonva.us/departments/realestate/reassessments/scripts/dreadefault.asp>). Please get in touch with Mr. Mayer and Ms. Moore and report your neighborhood's results by November 10, 2009.

Public Services

Portia Clark portia@civfed.org

H1N1 and seasonal influenza are contagious respiratory infections. Flu season runs from November through March. Symptoms can include fever, cough, headache, extreme tiredness, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and muscle ache (www.arlingtonva.us/flu).

Take these steps to keep you, your family and friends, and your community flu free:

- Get a flu vaccine,
- Wash your hands,
- Cover your cough, and
- Stay home when sick.

Revenues and Expenditures

Wayne Kubicki wayne@civfed.org

The chairs of the Revenues and Expenditures and Schools Committees, Wayne Kubicki and Cecelia Espenosa, respectively, will participate in a workshop sponsored by Ron Carlee, the outgoing Arlington County manager. In preparation for the Arlington County and Arlington Public Schools 2011 budgets, Mr. Carlee will lead a discussion about the current Arlington County revenue forecast.

Schools

Cecelia Espenosa cecelia@civfed.org

The committee is preparing to host guest speaker Pat Murphy, Ed.D., the Arlington Public Schools incoming superintendent, at a Civic Federation general meeting. Dr. Murphy most recently served as assistant superintendent for accountability in Fairfax County, Virginia. He was responsible for testing, research and evaluation, and division- and school-based strategic planning.

Transportation

Jerry Auten jerry@civfed.org

The committee attended the Aviation Policy Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (www.mwcog.org/environment/airport/conaanda/) meeting on September 9, 2009. Three topics directly relating to Arlington County residents regarding Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport were covered:

1. The flight tracking capability recommendation in the Federal Aviation Regulations 2004 Part 150 Study (www.metwashairports.com/_/file/_/dcancsadcroverview.pdf) is coming online.
2. The noise monitoring system recommended in the 2004 Part 150 Study has been set up by the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority (www.metwashairports.com). The system is being tested and a web site with flight data will be available to the public.
3. Three airport related community forums are in the works that will focus on:
 - Social and economic community impact,
 - Environmental sustainability, and
 - Effects of helicopters on area residents. Comments about helicopters can be made through this survey (www.mwcog.org/environment/airport/helicopter/ques.asp).

Unfinished Business

Park Funds Motion

Jay Wind (jay@civfed.org), chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee, and Wayne Kubicki (wayne@civfed.org), chair of the Revenues and Expenditures Committee, will present the committees' report and lead a Civic Federation discussion about a motion that Mr. Wind (Arlington Heights) introduced on September 1, 2009:

Whereas, the County Board recently diverted about \$4.5 million approved by the voters in 2006 for strategic parks acquisitions instead for purposes other than land acquisition, reducing the balance available for parks acquisitions from \$6 million down to \$1.5 million, and

Whereas, Arlington County Parks and Recreation Commission and Friends of Arlington Parks sent letters to the County Board disagreeing with the County's diversion of parks bond funds to non-parkland acquisition, and

Whereas, members of Arlington County Civic Federation have expressed concern that park bond funds may not be available for current opportunities to acquire parkland.

Therefore, be it resolved that,

1. The Arlington County Civic Federation urges the County Board to use funds approved by the voters for parks, land, and acquisition for those purposes only; and further,

2. The Arlington County Civic Federation urges the County Board to replenish the \$4.5 million diverted from parks, land, and acquisition back to those purposes as soon as possible.