



THE Civic Voice

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation

November 2009

Meeting Notice

SECOND TUESDAY

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

7:30 p.m.

Hazel Conference Center

Virginia Hospital Center

1701 N. George Mason Drive

Arlington, VA 22205

www.civfed.org

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Agenda

- 7:30 Pledge of Allegiance
- Approve Agenda
- Officer Reports
- Announcements
- 7:40 Recycling Metrics Program
- 8:00 Redistricting Program
- 8:45 New Parking Rules Program
- 9:05 Parking Motion
- 9:25 New Business
- 9:30 Adjourn

Executive Committee

Mark Antell, Chair mark@civfed.org and
Terri Prell, Vice-Chair terri@civfed.org

The Executive Committee will meet on Thursday, November 12, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. at 2300 Wilson Boulevard (Navy League - Clarendon). Upcoming general meeting business, including agendas and programs, will be discussed (www.civfed.org/officers.html).

On October 28, 2009, eight Civic Federation member presidents met with members of the Arlington County Board.

On October 12, 2009, the Executive Committee created the Airport Committee. The committee will be chaired by Steve Geiger (Lyon Park).

Meeting Programs

Recycling Metrics

Larry Finch larryfinch@civfed.org

The Environmental Affairs Committee will present a program with guest speaker Erik Grabowsky, Arlington County Solid Waste Bureau Chief. Mr. Grabowsky will discuss the economic and environmental effects of Arlington County's new recycling program.

Decennial Redistricting

Peter Owen peterowen@civfed.org

The Legislation Committee will present a program with guest speakers Kim Brace, Election Data Services; Robert Ruiz, Arlington County Demographer; and Marian Van Landingham, Virginia House of Delegates former member. The speakers will discuss the upcoming decennial legislative redistricting process and its practical effects on Arlington residents.

New Parking Rules

Jerry Auten jerry@civfed.org

The Transportation Committee will present a program with guest speakers Sarah Stott, Arlington County Parking Manager; Ritch Viola, Arlington County Transportation Planning Supervisor; and Wayne Wentz, Arlington County Transportation Engineering and Operations Bureau Chief. The speakers will discuss the new County wide parking rules that the Arlington County Board will consider adopting on November 14, 2009.

A summary of the proposed rule changes (www.civfed.org/mtparkingnew0910.pdf), a fact sheet (www.civfed.org/tpparkingfact0910.pdf), and the full Parking and Curb Space Management Element (www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/planning/mplan/mtp/images/file72886.pdf) are available.

Committee News

Airport

Steve Geiger steveg@civfed.org

The committee is studying the effects of low-flying helicopters on Arlington County residents. Comments about helicopters can be made through this survey (www.mwcog.org/environment/airport/helicopter/ques.asp).

Environmental Affairs

Larry Finch larryfinch@civfed.org

On October 20, 2009, Dean Amel, representing the Arlington County Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (<http://tiny.cc/E2C2>) and the Arlington County Urban Forestry Commission (<http://tiny.cc/UrbanForestry>), discussed key environmental issues facing Arlington County. The committee is prioritizing which issues should be brought before the Civic Federation.

Housing

Kathryn Scruggs kathryn@civfed.org

The committee will meet on November 23, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. at 935 N. Liberty Street (Scruggs residence) to discuss the comments the committee has received about code enforcement. The committee is studying how Arlington County could improve the code enforcement system as it relates to housing issues.

Legislation

Peter Owen peterowen@civfed.org

The committee is studying the effects of state-level tax and property assessment policy on Arlington County neighborhoods. Examples of the effects are funding for community facilities, homestead exemptions, and affordable housing assessments.

Membership

Mileva Hartman mileva@civfed.org

Civic Federation member presidents should be sure they are represented at the November 10, 2009, Civic Federation general meeting. A motion (see page four) will be discussed about the new county-wide parking rules that the Arlington County Board will consider adopting on November 14, 2009. Please be sure that your eight Civic Federation delegates participate.

911 Scholarship

Jim Pebley jim@civfed.org

Since December 2001, the Civic Federation has granted \$112,000.00 to thirty-nine college students who are children of Arlington County firefighters, police officers, emergency medical technicians, deputies, and emergency dispatchers. The fund is administered by the Arlington Community Foundation (www.arlcf.org). Contributions (www.civfed.org/fundpage.pdf) are important to keep the scholarship grants going.

Planning and Zoning

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

Arlington County Planning staff have created a special map that overlays the general land use plan with civic association borders and zoning boundaries for Arlington County. The committee co-chairs are reviewing the map to operationally define neighborhood edge development and identify areas where it is likely to occur. Civic associations with single-family homes may participate in this review. Results of the map review will be posted on Civic Federation web site. An email list of people who have expressed an interest in working on edge development is being created. Please contact Mr. Mayer and Ms. Moore.

Public Services

Portia Clark portia@civfed.org

Civic Federation delegate Jacqueline Snelling (Lyon Village) was appointed by the Arlington County Board on September 29, 2009, to a three year term to represent the Civic Federation on the Arlington County Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission. The Commission acts as an overarching advisory group to the Arlington County Board to coordinate the efforts of the Local Emergency Planning Committee, Emergency Medical Services, and the Citizen Corp Council.

Arlington residents may comment (<http://tinyurl.com/ArlingtonComments>) on the Washing Metropolitan Council of Governments draft report on its Twenty-first Century vision for the Washington, DC region (<http://tinyurl.com/MWCOG2050>).

Revenues and Expenditures

Wayne Kubicki wayne@civfed.org

The committee is preparing to host guest speaker Barbara Donnellan, Arlington County Acting County Manager, at the December 1, 2009, Civic Federation general meeting.

Schools

Cecelia Espenoza cecelia@civfed.org

The committee is preparing to host guest speaker Patrick Murphy, Ed.D., Arlington Public Schools Superintendent, at the December 1, 2009, Civic Federation general meeting.

Special Events

Peter Olivere peterolivere@civfed.org

The Civic Federation banquet will be held on April 16, 2010, at 1900 N. Fort Myer Drive (Rosslyn Holiday Inn). Guest speaker nominations should be sent to Peter Olivere.

Unfinished Business

Parking Motion

Jerry Auten (jerry@civfed.org), chair of the Transportation Committee, will present the committee's report and lead a Civic Federation discussion about a motion that Mr. Auten introduced at the October 6, 2009, Civic Federation general meeting. Civic Federation delegates should come prepared to represent their member organization:

Whereas, the County Board has given notice that it will consider for adoption the parking element of the Master Transportation Plan at its November 14, 2009 meeting;

Whereas, the draft element will provide guidance on parking policy for the next 20 or so years and the wording in the document will be much scrutinized by developers and their attorneys, County staff, and the public for years to come as to the intent of the drafters and the Board when it approved the document;

Whereas the draft element contains much technical language with subtle details that require careful and time-consuming review;

Whereas the time for County advisory commission and public review before commission votes and County Board action has been limited because staff generally does not post or otherwise make available the latest draft until days or hours before commission or Board action, allowing insufficient time for the commissions and public to give the document the necessary careful review and for civic organizations to develop and adopt positions;

Whereas, the parking needs of residents in single families have been overlooked in prior drafts;

Whereas the focus of the element is a unified approach for all of Arlington with little distinction between highly urban versus more suburban areas in the County.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Civic Federation recommends approval of the draft parking element subject to the followings considerations:

1. Clarify and limit the scope of a proposed action item to encourage voluntary reduction of residential driveway area to only situations and neighborhoods in which there is ample, safe on-street parking available to accommodate a shift of cars to the roadway. Such encouragement of voluntary citizen action should not occur on streets where it would result in less safety, convenience or negative changes in neighborhood character;

(Note: For reference, the language in question is an "action item" for a policy of promoting on-street parking: "Encourage the removal of off-street surface parking in excess of zoning requirements in residential areas where on-street parking is expected to be undersubscribed.")

2. Make clear that parking reductions in the major transportation corridors through the site plan process should be granted only in exchange for community benefits that are of equivalent value and are related to transportation infrastructure. To this end the element should recognize that most site plan zoning categories in use in the transportation corridors already contain significant parking reductions that reflect access to transit (compare site plan parking requirements with by-right C-3 parking requirements) should require that reductions be done on a case by case basis taking into account the parking needs of the building and adjacent area and transit availability, and should also recognize that increased use of transit in these corridors has a price (someone has to pay for that seat on the bus);

3. Provide clear notice of variable pricing to persons using applicable spaces. Consider restricting demand based automated increases for vehicles which are already parked (e.g. when patron parks rate is \$1 per hour and then rate jumps to higher amount solely due to number of other nearby spaces being occupied);

4. *As part of the Site Plan or Use Permit Process consider the impact of new commercial and residential buildings on nearby low density residential neighborhood parking. Develop and implement measures to address the projected impact on neighborhood parking, such as expanded zoned parking or change in hours of existing zoned parking. Ensure that implementation of the residential zoned parking is prioritized by County staff such that it can be implemented very speedily after the discovery of any new overspill parking locations;*

5. *Create a new category of parking spaces that would be available both to handicapped persons and also to seniors and other designated categories of citizens. The intent here is not to reduce parking spaces for the handicapped required under ADA provisions, but to increase the number of spaces available both to the handicapped and to other persons with physical limitations who do not meet the handicapped test. Seniors might be defined as those over 70, and other qualified persons might include women who are pregnant and parents with small children. Such spaces might be located in a section of a parking garage near an elevator, and might be subject to certain time and day limitations, such as available only weekdays before 6 p.m.*