



THE Civic Voice

ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Newsletter of the Arlington County Civic Federation

December 2009

Meeting Notice

Tuesday, December 1, 2009
7:30 p.m.
Hazel Conference Center
Virginia Hospital Center
1701 N. George Mason Drive
Arlington, VA 22205
www.civfed.org

Content Summary

Manager and Superintendent Program ----	2
Committee News -----	2
Banquet Speaker Nomination -----	3
Helicopter Motion -----	3
Parking Motion Results -----	4

Agenda

- 7:30 Pledge of Allegiance
Approve Agenda
Officer Reports
Announcements
- 7:40 Awards Committee Election
- 7:50 Main Program - Acting Arlington
County Manager and Arlington Public
Schools Superintendent
 - 7:50 Ms. Barbara Donnellan, Acting
Arlington County Manager
 - 8:05 Dr. Patrick Murphy, Arlington
Public Schools Superintendent
 - 8:20 Committee Questions
 - 8:40 Delegate Questions
- 9:00 Helicopter Motion-Discussion and Vote
- 9:25 New Business
- 9:30 Adjourn

Executive Committee

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

The Executive Committee will meet on Monday, December 7, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. at 2300 Wilson Boulevard (Navy League building, Court House Metro) to discuss upcoming Civic Federation general meeting business, including agendas and programs, (www.civfed.org/officers.html).

The helicopter motion listed on page three (www.civfed.org/resheli0912.pdf) that was introduced at the last general meeting will be put to a Civic Federation vote at the December 1, 2009, general meeting after an Airport Committee report and thorough delegate discussion.

The Executive Committee is putting together the next group of neighborhood association presidents to informally meet with members of the Arlington County Board. All Civic

Federation member presidents should attend one of these meetings over the next year. Contact Mike Kerley (mike@civfed.org) to get involved.

The Civic Federation will elect an Awards Committee of five delegates at the December 1, 2009, general meeting. It shall be the duty of this committee to seek and make recommendations for persons, committees, or members to receive the Sun Gazette Cup and Certificates of Appreciation. The awards will be presented at the April, 16, 2009, Civic Federation banquet.

Civic Federation delegates voted at the November 10, 2009, general meeting to approve five of six resolved items of the parking motion that was introduced at the October 6, 2009, general meeting. The results of the vote are listed on page four (www.civfed.org/resmtppark0911.pdf). Civic Federation president Mike Kerley commented about the resolution to the Arlington County Board on November 14, 2009.

Meeting Program

Acting Arlington County Manager and Arlington Public Schools Superintendent

Wayne Kubicki wayne@civfed.org
Cecelia Espenosa cecelia@civfed.org

The Revenue and Expenditures Committee and Schools Committee will present a program with guest speakers Ms. Barbara Donnellan, Acting Arlington County Manager, and Dr. Pat Murphy, Arlington Public Schools Superintendent.

Ms. Donnellan will focus on projected revenue forecast, size of the potential budget gap, size and impact of a potential tax increase, and strategy and process to cut services to close the potential balance of the budget gap. Dr. Murphy will focus on the projected enrollment and expenses,

revenue sharing agreement, size of the potential budget gap, and strategy to cut services to close the potential balance of the budget gap.

Committee News

Airport

Steve Geiger steveg@civfed.org

The committee is studying helicopters flying low over Arlington. The Committee will report on the motion listed on page four (www.civfed.org/resheli0912.pdf) at the December 1, 2009, Civic Federation general meeting. Contact Mr. Geiger to get involved.

Community Relations

Sharon Rogers sharon@civfed.org

The committee has reorganized the Civic Federation Web site so that the homepage (www.civfed.org) gives you everything you need to stay informed and involved in Civic Federation work.

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 preparing to host Arlington County's State Legislative Delegation as guest speakers at the January 5, 2009, Civic Federation meeting.

Membership

Mileva Hartman mileva@civfed.org

Civic Federation member presidents should be sure they are represented at the December 1, 2009, Civic Federation general meeting. The helicopter motion listed on page four (www.civfed.org/resheli0912.pdf) will be thoroughly discussed and put to a delegate vote. Please be sure that your Civic Federation delegates participate.

Public Services

Portia Clark portia@civfed.org

The Arlington County Public Health Department is asking for help from neighborhood leaders to prevent the spread and severity of H1N1 flu. Door hangers (www.civfed.org/doorknobflu.pdf) that may be distributed (for example, with your neighborhood's newsletter) are available by contacting Jay Miller, Arlington Public Health Specialist, at 703-228-5647 or jamiller@arlingtonva.us. The Department's goal is to distribute one of these door hangers to every Arlington home.

Special Events

Peter Olivere peterolivere@civfed.org

The committee is accepting speaker nominations for the Civic Federation April 16, 2009, banquet. Contact Mr. Olivere (peterolivere@civfed.org) if you have suggestions for a speaker you would like to hear.

Unfinished Business

Helicopter Motion

Steve Geiger (steveg@civfed.org), chair of the Airport Committee, will present the committee's report and lead a Civic Federation discussion about the motion that Mr. Geiger (Lyon Park) introduced at the

November 10, 2009, Civic Federation general meeting. For the December 1, 2009, meeting, Civic Federation delegates should come prepared to represent their member organization, thoroughly discuss the motion, and vote:

Whereas, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments has established an Airport Policy Committee (APC) to address issues related to aviation over the metropolitan area; and

Whereas, the APC has established a Helicopter Work Group; and

Whereas, the Helicopter Work Group is studying low flying military helicopters over residential areas to address issues related to low-flying military and other helicopters over residential areas; and

Whereas, The Helicopter Work Group has developed two goals to address the safety concerns of residents and the impact on their quality of life from low-flying military helicopters over residential areas:

- 1. Require military helicopters to fly the routes designated on the FAA Helicopter Route Chart that are primarily over highways and the Potomac River.*
- 2. Require military helicopters to fly no lower than 1,200 feet above ground level when their mission mandates that they fly over residential areas unless air traffic control authorizes a lower altitude. Police and Medivac helicopters would be mostly exempt from this requirement.*

Whereas, the Helicopter Work Group has proposed methods to the APC for achieving these goals,

Whereas, the Civic Federation has in the past supported the efforts of its Airport Committee in addressing aviation related issues of concern to Arlington County residents.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Arlington County Civic Federation supports the efforts of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's Airport Policy Committee's Helicopter Work Group to

address the safety concerns of residents and the impact on their quality of life from low-flying military helicopters over residential areas.

Parking Motion

Vote Results From

November 10, 2009

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Civic Federation recommends approval of the draft parking element subject to the followings considerations:

1. PASSED (26 to 15) - 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 impervious-surface parking in excess of zoning requirements in residential areas where on-street parking is expected to be undersubscribed.")

2. PASSED (25 to 11) - 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 (e.g. 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 (e.g. additional bus purchases to handle increased loads).

3. PASSED (37 to 3) - Provide clear advance notice of variable pricing rates in effect to persons using applicable spaces.

4. PASSED (37 to 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. FAILED (18 to 23) - 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 of this recommendation 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.

6. PASSED (32 to 9) - Request a minimum of a one-month deferral prior to adoption by the County Board due to the large number changes recommended by staff subsequent to the issuance of the publicly advertised version which have not been widely disseminated where they could be adequately considered by members of the public who may wish to comment.