

# Arlington County Civic Federation

*The civic voice of Arlington for 82 years*

## Newsletter

January, 1998

Volume 82, No. 5

### — January Meeting:

## County Board Visit

7:30 pm, Tuesday, January 6th  
John T. Hazel Conference Center  
Columbia Arlington Hospital  
1701 N. George Mason Drive

In our traditional January format we will hear the County Board members speak on their priorities and upcoming issues for the coming year. Newly-elected Chairman Chris Zimmerman will be joined by the two new Board members, Barbara Favola and Jay Fisette, as well as continuing members Al Eisenberg and Paul Ferguson.

President Bill Nolden's invitation to the Board asked them to address several areas:

- The search for a new County Manager
- Expectations for upcoming budget sessions,

- Guidelines for this year's schools' budget,
- Funding for Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee programs
- Progress on the Traffic Calming initiative, and
- The possibility of zoning changes regarding infill development.

There will be time for questions following the presentations. Don't miss this always-interesting program.

## Legislative Package Amended Before Approval in November

Any delegate unable to attend the November meeting may have missed some of the most focused discussion of new legislative issues the Federation has produced in recent years.

We congratulate Legislative Committee Chair Nancy Graham and her committee for framing the discussion with their well-written draft of the package. The Federation considered it item by item, taking new items at the end of the session.

There were some notable amendments to the package contained in the November Newsletter. The Human Services plank designated 3.B was removed as too vague to be useful. A request was added that Arlington collect appropriate property taxes at National airport as Fairfax does at Dulles. The Board of Zoning Appeals plank was removed as ineffectual. The Federation opposes changes in actuarial formulas reducing retirements benefits for Arlington employees. We also voted to ask for legislation requiring commercial lawn-care firms to post warning signs before spraying lawns with pesticides.

More radical changes in the package came in the form of a motion to amend the long-standing request that Initiative and Referendum be adopted in Virginia. After a lively exchange of views on democratic values and the practical effects of these measures in other states, the Federation voted to request instead that the Governor appoint a bipartisan study commission on the subject. Among the other items labeled by the committee as non-consensus, the plank requesting authority to

deal with aggressive panhandling was approved, along with permitting schools to determine if they must open before Labor Day.

The Federation approved a request for legislation to establish an Inspector General for Arlington, as included in the draft package.

Other new amendments were offered from the floor. They included a request to prohibit prosecution under the state's sodomy law except in conjunction with another charge, and to recognize the validity of same-sex marriages. After debate both provisions were added to the package. Several other motions to add new planks were defeated.

Delegates were impressed that the committee had prepared the package far enough in advance to facilitate advance preparation and consultation in their neighborhoods. That led some to ask if there should not be a means of channeling new proposals through the Legislative Committee rather than having them raised at a late hour, when delegates must vote without preparation. This could provide advance notice of issues without stifling debate. If you have views on this subject please contact Committee Chair Nancy Graham at 243-4650 or Bill Nolden.

David Foster's very fine ACCF press release with a clean copy of the final package is on the Ballston-Virginia Square Web page at <http://www.bvsca.org/civic97.html>.



## Update on Public Art Policy

At our December meeting a program on the proposed Public Art Policy for Arlington was presented by Kathy Freshly, a member of the Arlington County Arts Commission. The presentation included a discussion of the value of public art with examples, the current problems of coordinating public art within the County Government, and possible funding mechanisms for public art in Arlington.

In connection with the presentation a survey was passed out to the attendees. The surveys will be reviewed by the Cultural Affairs Committee with a set also turned over to the Commission for their use. We will report the results in the March newsletter, along with a proposed resolution to be presented to the Federation at the March meeting, after the Commission has drafted its recommendation to the Arlington County Board. A preliminary look suggests that most attendees agreed on the need for a policy, the value of public art, and the appropriateness of both private and public funding, but little consensus on appropriate funding sources for the public share, with only 8 of 24 responding in favor of the full "1% for the arts" formula.

If you have any comments on the proposed policy call Kathy Freshly, 528-4520. Anyone (Delegate, Alternate or other interested resident) interested in joining the Cultural Affairs Committee or in more information about the Public Art Policy, or who has ideas on other issues that might be discussed, should call Herschel Kanter at 536-6286.

David



## Housing Committee Meets, Begins Work Program

Chairman Reid Goldstein has begun holding monthly meetings of the Housing Committee.

The Committee has discussed the Five Year Consolidated Plan now being prepared by Arlington County, and has decided that given limited resources it will focus on the two housing-related issues: Affordable Housing and Home Ownership.

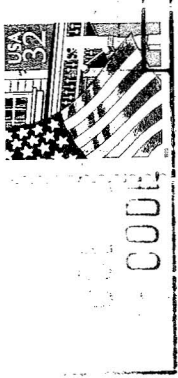
The Committee has laid out a three-tier fact-finding effort, concentrating first on basics such as budgets, budget items, programs and players. The second tier includes principles, the County's Housing Vision, goals and the geographic distribution of housing. Finally in the third tier effort they will examine the implications and effects of current housing policies, goal achievement, consistency with the Vision, performance measures, accountability, synchronization with other plans (schools, transportation, open space) and unintended effects of housing policies.

The Committee will be reporting to the Federation later this spring. If you would like to be part of this effort, please contact Reid Goldstein at 271-0431 or email him at [rgoldstein@stratsight.com](mailto:rgoldstein@stratsight.com)

### Coming Up

#### February Meeting: Water, Water!

Where will Arlington get its water if the Army backs away from the Dalecarlia system, and how will it dispose of its waste water under new State regulations.



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FRANCES FINTA

3317 23RD ST N

ARLINGTON VA 22201-4310

Arlington County Civic Federation  
*The Civic Voice of Arlington*  
4611 Seventh Street South  
Arlington, VA 22204-1419  
email: [civicfed@bscl.org](mailto:civicfed@bscl.org)

### ACCF Committee Chairs

#### Bylaws

Jean Mostrom 532-0452 / Scott McGearry 968-7352

#### Community Relations

David Foster 276-0206

#### Cultural Affairs

Herschel Kanter 536-6286

#### Environmental Affairs

Henry Harper 243-4665

#### Housing

Reid Goldstein 271-0431

#### Legislation

Nancy Graham 243-4650

#### Membership

Frances Finta 528-2882

#### Parks & Recreation

Robert Nester 524-5418

#### Planning & Zoning

William Gearhart 522-2276

#### Public Services

Rebecca Gray 549-3277, Stanley Schachne 522-1358

#### Revenue & Expenditures

Robert Atkins 527-8859

#### Schools

Roy Lowry 671-7796

#### Special Events

Ann Rudd 536-8270

#### Transportation

David L. Jones 549-3277

### Newsletter Editorial Committee

Editor: Randy Swart 521-2080

President: William Nolden 841-1482

Newsletter email: [civicfed@bscl.org](mailto:civicfed@bscl.org)

Fax submissions: 486-0576

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