



Civic Association Priorities?

The Arlington County Civic Federation is a Civic Association member-based organization and we want to learn your priorities, so that we can shape future meetings and advocacy around issues that are important to you. So, we are putting out a call to all Civic Associations to attend the November 12th meeting to tell us your issues. We plan to spend the first 45 minutes of the meeting hearing from you.

Lee Highway Re-Visioning

A grassroots strategic partnership for re-visioning Lee Highway is moving forward with Presidents of all 11 of the Lee Highway civic associations involved, including East Falls Church, John M. Langston, GlebeWood, Yorktown, Leeway Overlee, Old Dominion, Donaldson Run, Cherrydale, Maywood, and Lyon Village. The group is being assisted by Arlington County’s Planning Department.

During the educational phase, relevant topics - including land use planning and zoning, smart growth, urban design, housing, transportation and parking, signage, demographic trends, tax increment financing, transferable development rights, local business preservation, and new economic opportunities – are presented and discussed with local experts. The group recently presented their activities to the Arlington County Planning Commission on October 7th, 2013, and they discussed their proposed calendar of activities with County Board members.

The anticipated result is a joint community vision for a more economically vibrant, walkable, attractive Lee Highway corridor – one that benefits neighborhoods and the business community.

It is anticipated that the new vision will be sent – in early 2015 - to the Arlington County Manager’s office with a request that the County Board appoint and fund a Task Force to formally develop a Lee Highway Sector Plan to guide future rezoning and development applications.

GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

Tuesday, November 12, 2013

7:30 p.m.

Hazel Auditorium
Virginia Hospital Center
1701 N George Mason Drive
Arlington VA 22205

Agenda

- 7:30 Meeting Called to Order
- 7:35 What Are Civic Association priorities?
- 8:15 Lee Highway Re-Visioning
- 8:45 Announcements
- 9:00 Old Business (Wilson School Resolution)
- 9:30 New Business

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From the President

Mike McMenamin

I am excited about this month's program because it reflects what the Civic Federation is charged to do. We will begin to learn what your priorities are by having Civic Associations present their concerns and issues. In addition, we will focus on what the seven Civic Associations along Lee Highway are doing to ensure that future development reflects the community's needs and desires. We will also again address the Wilson School issue and the Rosslyn community's needs for green space.

Finally, the filling of vacancies of Committee Chairs is still a top priority, as we currently have vacancies on the Bylaws, Cultural Affairs, Revenues and Expenditures Committees. We also seek a Co-Chair for the Transportation Committee. If you are interested in serving or know of someone who might be interested, please contact me at: mike@civfed.org.

News From the Executive Committee

John Vihstadt, Chair john@civfed.org
Terri Prell, Vice-Chair terri@civfed.org

The Executive Committee met on October 6, 2013, to plan the agenda for the November 12, 2013 general meeting and discussed future meetings (www.civfed.org/officers.htm).

The Executive Committee will meet again on November 17, 2013, at 7:30 p.m. at **4805 Wilson Blvd, Arlington VA 22203 (Fire Station 2)**, to coordinate committee work, plan future meeting programs. **In addition to officers and Executive Committee members, we ask Committee Chairs with business to come before the Federation soon to attend this meeting.**

ACCF Dues Reminder

As of this newsletter going to press, a significant number of our member organizations have not paid their annual dues for July 2013 - June 2014. Please check with your Treasurer to determine if your organization has both paid and included the information to update our membership list. If you have questions, contact ACCF Treasurer Peter Olivere at peterolivere@civfed.org.

Articles for the Newsletter

If you have information which should be included in the Civic Voice, sent it to CivFed@gmail.com.



ARLINGTON COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

ACCF
1209 N Fort Myer Drive Apt 3B
Arlington, VA 22209
www.civfed.org

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Arlington-County-Civic-Federation/519681588064729>

<https://twitter.com/CivFed>

<http://feeds.feedburner.com/CivFed>



Wilson School Fate

It is Back-to-School Night for the second time this year as the Civic Federation considers a resolution to reprise its 2007 endorsement of a resolution to “restore and maintain Wilson School.” The school, built in 1910 at 1601 Wilson Blvd just east of Queen St., ceased being a neighborhood elementary school in 1968, but now houses the special purpose Mongolian School and has served periodically as temporary student “swing” space while Arlington Public Schools (APS) renovates other schools.

The resolution, sponsored by North Rosslyn Civic Association’s Mark Antell and Radnor-Ft. Meyer Height’s Stan Karson, invokes Arlington’s Public Space Master Plan (PSMP), the need for active recreational space in the high density Rosslyn-Ballston Corridor and the value of joint-use facilities in recommending that:

*Arlington Public Schools and Arlington County work together to preserve and maintain the green space and active recreation areas at Rosslyn Highlands Park, as well as pedestrian access, and to **restore and maintain Wilson School** and its athletic fields to conform with the PSMP and to recognize that all Arlington residents need recreation areas.*

The resolution was referred to the Federation’s Planning & Zoning Committee (supports), Parks & Recreation Committee (supports) and Schools Committee (opposes in current form), with the Housing Committee to consider a position prior to the November meeting. The nonprofit Preservation Arlington, dedicated to protecting Arlington’s “distinct architectural heritage,” has also called for Wilson’s preservation.

The main impetus to the resolution was the June 2013 Arlington School Board’s vote to sign a non-binding letter of intent with Penzance, a local developer, for the sale of Wilson School upon a finding by the Board that Wilson is “surplus property.” School officials contend that restoring Wilson for full-scale educational use would mean an inefficient cost of millions to yield a structure well under current APS grade school capacity standards of at least 600 students. The School Board intends to use sale proceeds to help fund capital improvement projects for school construction and additions throughout the County to deal with rapid enrollment increases and hold down bonded

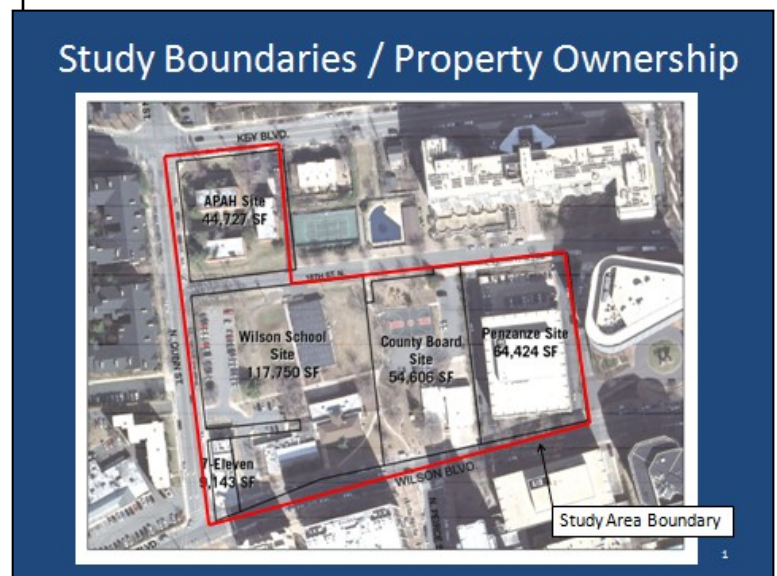
indebtedness. (Any sale requires a public hearing and County Board approval.)

Meanwhile, the County has appointed a twelve-member citizens advisory group to weigh Wilson’s fate in the context of the larger neighborhood—the Western Rosslyn Area Planning Study (“WRAPS”) area, of roughly 3.5 acres. (See adjacent graphic.) Comprised of Federation delegate Karson and representatives of the Planning Commission, Housing Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, Economic Development Commission, Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Board, and Rosslyn Business Improvement District, among others, the WRAPS group is charged with crafting a plan for future development to include:

- County park, recreation and open space of at least 60,000 square feet
- New fire station (current station #10 at 1559 Wilson Blvd is considered outmoded)
- Affordable housing (just north of Wilson is Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing’s 39-unit Queen’s Court)
- Energy efficiency/sustainability, and
- Mix of uses and compatible heights and densities.

The charge’s sole reference to Wilson School is to examine how to incorporate its “architectural elements” in the redevelopment. While originally projected to conclude their work by spring or summer 2014, the WRAPS group has yet to convene its first meeting.

Resources: Navigate from www.arlingtonva.us and NorthRosslyn.org for background details.



Draft Resolution

Arlington County Civic Federation
Use of Wilson School grounds
Adopted April 3, 2007

Whereas:

Arlington's Public Space Master Plan (PSMP), adopted by Arlington County Board in 2006 after four years of work, including resolutions of support by Arlington County Civic Federation, calls for preservation and expansion of public spaces in Arlington, including active outdoor recreation areas; and PSMP specifically recognizes a high-priority need for public space in the Rosslyn-Ballston Corridor; and The recent Multi-Site Study Committee commissioned by Arlington Public Schools suggested that impact on neighboring communities should be considered in School Board decisions on use of surplus properties; and

PSMP considers Arlington Public Schools sites to be an important part of Arlington's parks and recreation inventory: about 29% (total county and schools public spaces = 1296 acres, including School public spaces = 376.7 acres); and

Priority 5 of PSMP is to Maximize the Partnership with Arlington County Schools, noting that joint-use facilities present a real opportunity for enhanced community use when they are not being used for their primary mission of education; and

Recommendation 1.7 of PSMP is to optimize creative use of spaces, such as over underground parking garages and the rooftops of buildings; and Rosslyn Highlands Park at the Wilson School site has been the only athletic field in all Arlington between the Potomac River, Veitch Street, Lee Highway, and Arlington Boulevard, an area with more than 15,000 residents;

Therefore, be it resolved that Arlington County Civic Federation requests that: Arlington Public Schools and Arlington County work together to preserve and maintain the green space and active recreation areas at Rosslyn Highlands Park, as well as pedestrian access, and **to restore and maintain Wilson School** and its athletic fields, to conform with the PSMP and to recognize that all Arlington residents need for recreation areas.

Arlington County Launches Urban Design Speaker Series

Arlington County will kick off its "RoundAbouts Speaker Series," on Wednesday, November 13 with an appearance by Christopher B. Leinberger, a Brookings fellow, developer, researcher and author, who will speak on "The Urbanization of the Suburbs: Why Arlington is the National Model and Where Do We Go Next."

<http://news.arlingtonva.us/releases/arlington-county-launches-urban-design-speaker-series>

Civic Federation Tentative Meetings Schedule and Programs for 2013 - 2014

Meetings are the 1st Tuesday of each month (except November)

December 3rd– Emergency Preparedness

January 7th- County Manager and School Superintendent

February 4th- County Board

March 4th- School Board

April 1st- Budget or other topic. Election of Nominating Committee.

(Note - Friday, April 4 - Civic Federation Award Banquet)

May 6th- State Legislative Delegation

June 3rd - Election of officers

Arlington County Civic Federation

The ACCF is dedicated to advocacy and community involvement. Its purpose continues to be promoting the general welfare of Arlington County and vicinity in a non-partisan, non-sectarian, non-sectional, and non-political manner.

Committees of the Civic Federation

The committees provide the basis for most actions of the Federation. We strongly encourage every delegate and alternate to serve on at least one committee. If you have an interest in any topic please contact the chair. If a chair is not listed, contact our President Mike McMenamain at mike@civfed.org

Committee	Chair(s)	Email Address
Executive	John Vihstadt (chair), Terri Prell (interim vice chair)	john@civfed.org terri@civfed.org
Awards	Elected at the December 2013 membership meeting	
Audit	Bob Atkins	luddite2003@yahoo.com
Bylaws		
Community Relations	James Schroll (POC)	james@civfed.org
Cultural Affairs	Chair(s) needed	TBD
Environmental Affairs	Joe Pelton	joepelton@civfed.org
Housing	Kathryn Scruggs	kathryn@civfed.org
Legislation	Chair(s) needed	TBD
Membership	Kim Klingler	kim@civfed.org
911 Scholarships	Jim Pebley	jim@civfed.org
Nominating	Elected at the April 2014 membership meeting	
Parks and Recreation	Jay Wind	jay@civfed.org
Planning and Zoning	Martha Moore, Larry Mayer	martha@civfed.org larrymayer@civfed.org
Public Services	Jackie Snelling (POC)	jackie@civfed.org
Revenues and Expenditures	Chair(s) needed, Burt Bostick (POC)	burt@civfed.org
Schools	Michael Beer, Sandy Munnell	michaelbeer@civfed.org smunnell@gmail.com
Special Events	Peter Olivere	peterolivere@civfed.org
Transportation	Jerry Auten	jerry@civfed.org

