

Annual Report of Environmental Committee for 2013-2014 Year

The Environmental Committee members for the past year have included: Scott Dicke, Sharon Jolly, Larry Mayer, John Stevenson and Joe Pelton as Chair. The Committee spent most of its activities during the 2013-14 year addressing the issues related to the new Arlington County Sound ordinance, reviewing the environmental aspects of the new Arlington Public Schools construction program and the new County solid waste recycling program.

In the case of the new Sound Ordinance John Stevenson actively coordinated with the ACCF Planning Commission and led to our supporting the widening application of the Sound ordinance to more residential zoning categories as urged by the Planning Commission.

In the case of the resolution introduced concerning the proposed construction that would impact the Lubber Run park and storm drainage system. The Environmental Committee developed the attached resolution that was passed at the May 2014 Meeting of the Federation. (See attachment No. 1)

In the case of the new solid waste recycling program a meeting was organized with Erik Grabowski at the county offices that included representatives of the Environmental Committee and the Revenues and Expenditures Committee. This was followed by a presentation by Mr. Grabowski on the details of the program and nature of the new multi-year contract that will begin as of July 1, 2014 as authorized by the Arlington County Board. There were competing resolutions from the Revenues and Expenditures Committee and the Environmental Committee. The Environmental Committee's resolution as a substitute motion was passed by fairly close majority vote with a number of abstentions. The adopted Resolution is provided as attachment No. 2 to this report.

Resolution by the Environmental Affairs Committee re Planning for New Schools Construction

Adopted at the May 2014 Meeting

Whereas the Arlington Public Schools is currently involved in extensive studies as to possible site locations for new or expanded schools

Whereas some of the sites being considered could involve the transfer of lands that are currently Arlington County Parks, Recreation areas or Open Space and most especially the Lubber Run Middle School, but other locations as well.

Whereas some of the sites being considered could involve significant new storm sewerage run off to the Chesapeake Bay drainage age, and most significantly the Lubber Run Middle School and the expanded footprint at Williamsburg Middle School.

Whereas previous new school construction such as at Yorktown High School has created severe storm water runoff problems and contributed to flood conditions with regard to Pimmit Run.

The Arlington County Civic Federation urges both the Arlington County Board and County Manager as well as the Arlington County School Board and Superintendent to choose sites other than would surrender existing parks and open space used for recreation

We also urge the Arlington County School Board and Superintendent to carry out stringent environmental impact assessments as to how all new construction could be designed to minimize –and to the maximum extent possible--additional water-runoff into the Chesapeake drainage area--both during construction and after any new school is built.

Environmental Affairs Committee of the Arlington Co. Civic Federation

Resolution on Arlington Solid Waste Management Adopted at the June 2014 Meeting

Whereas, a number of counties and municipalities across the United States (including many neighboring jurisdictions in Virginia and Maryland) have expanded or are expanding their solid waste collection programs to include year-round yard waste collection; and

Whereas those counties and municipalities have experienced, or are projected to experience, significant increases in residential recycling rates; and

Whereas respondents to a survey of Arlington residents conducted by the Office of Solid Waste expressed their support for year-round organic waste collection for recycling; and

Whereas, Arlington County has recently authorized the Office of Solid Waste to implement a year-round yard waste collection program and the Office recently represented that execution of a multi-year contract is imminent; and

Whereas the program will require a modest increase in the County's Household Solid Waste Rate (from \$293.76 per annum in FY 2013 to \$307.04 in FY 2015 – an increase of 4%); and

Whereas, this new program is projected to divert up to an additional 9,200 tons of material so that it can be composted or recycled (increasing the residential recycling rate by up to 13%); and

Whereas, application of EPA's Waste Reduction Model estimates that implementation of the program for organic yard waste will emit significantly lower rates of Greenhouse Gas Emissions compared to other solid waste management approaches;

The Arlington County Civic Federation hereby notes that the program is expected to further Arlington County's goal of eliminating organic waste from the solid waste stream and improve the local environment; and

Further it resolves that -- because the program is a new one necessitating the active participation of most residents of Arlington County, will result in an increase in the Household Solid Waste Rate, will require the storage and maintenance of a third solid waste container, may be expanded in the future to include food waste, and includes a number of untested projections about environmental costs and benefits – it will request that the Office of Solid Waste report to the Civic Federation at a meeting scheduled after the one-year anniversary of the program (July 1, 2015) to discuss implementation issues, recycling rates achieved, environmental costs and benefits, and issues relating to the potential expansion of the program to include food waste.