



Arlington County Civic Federation

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES, TUESDAY 11 June 2024

MEETING

- Arlington County Civic Federation, General Membership Meeting, 6/11/2024 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
- Hybrid meeting held in-person at the VHC Hazel Auditorium and virtually via Zoom, called via email invitation, web notification, and Facebook post.

ATTENDANCE

- In-Person: Member delegates checked in and were provided a voting ballot.
- Zoom: Member delegates registered in-advance, and were recorded via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER (John Ford)

- Called to order at 7:00 p.m. with quorum met with 1/10th of member delegates (required 26).

MINUTES APPROVAL (John Ford)

- [A motion was made to approve the May GM minutes, the motion was moved, and seconded. The May General Membership minutes were approved by acclamation.](#)

COMMITTEE END OF YEAR REPORTS (Jackie Snelling)

- In order to provide membership with a review of the year and priorities for next year, representatives of each of the CivFed committees gave highlights of their key activities this year and plans for next year.
- **Arts and Culture** – Co-Chairs Tina Worden and Sandi Chesrown – Jackie Snelling reported the following highlights on behalf of the committee:
 - This year the committee changed its name to Arts and Culture, added a co-chair, brought in two new member organizations relating to the arts, and kicked off a new series of in-person meetings and engagement held at MoMA as part of the renewed focus on expanding the network for supporting the arts.
 - Activities included increasing County support for the arts and for places for art with recognition of significant new funding for Arts and support for including a board priority for preserving and expanding spaces for art.



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- The September meeting include Board member Susan Cunningham and the chair of the Arts Commission.
- **Environmental Affairs** – Mary Glass, chair, presented the highlights.
 - Using data from the citizen funded tree canopy study, the committee has continued its focus on tree canopy through tree conservation and tree replacement.
 - In addition, in discussions of priorities they have identified lot coverage, climate adaptation and heat islands, deer management and support for implementing the Forestry and Natural Resources Plan as areas of interest.
 - The committee hosted two meetings for coordination with others, a meeting with other committees to discuss climate adaptation priorities and roles, and a public town format on meeting on deer management.
- **Housing** – Co-chairs Anne Bodine and Matt Hall, presented by Anne Bodine
 - The committee has hosted a monthly series of expert educational presentations by leaders in the field to get a broader understanding the housing market, strategies used in other jurisdiction, the impact of taxes on housing burdened residents, and to discuss potential tools for tracking Arlington progress on affordable housing.
 - Presentations posted on the committee page at <https://www.civfed.org/about-us/committees/housing/>. Examples include an overview of housing challenges, and successes in the DMV, Office to Residential Conversions, Land Trusts in Expensive Housing Markets, Arlington in Data, 2010-2021', Housing and Plan Langston BLV, an affordable housing case study by APAH, Housing and the Columbia Pike Form Based Code, and a “middle” approach to EHO.
 - The committee is working on two resolutions for the fall, one on a tool for tracking progress on affordable housing, and one on the impact of tax increases for “home burdened” residents.
- **Legislation** – Paul Holland, chair. Presented by Dave Schutz, Form of government subcommittee chair
 - This is a service committee with the role of bringing forward state legislative priorities coming from other committees and the form of government subcommittee. This year’s resolution included legislative proposals for expanding county authority related to tree canopy, stormwater, and governance.



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- This year, the former TIGER Task force was established as a subcommittee and has provided several educational presentations on rank choice voting. In addition, in response to an offer by the County Board president, the subcommittee on form of government will be hosting a community meeting this August on form of government, the committee will host this in August.
- **Parks and Recreation** – No chair at time of the meeting, presented by Jackie Snelling
 - The president will be announcing a new chair this month.
 - Past and future members of the Parks Committee were recruited to develop the April CivFed presentation on green space equity and a holistic biophilic approach to planning. In this presentation Jon Huntley built on and updated the significant work that he and other members of the previous committee in 2021 that developed a white paper and a resolution on green space equity.
- **Planning and Zoning** – Presented by Brian Harner, Chair
 - This is the first year of a re-established P&Z committee.
 - Initial meetings reviewed Comprehensive Plan models from other jurisdictions including the topics covered and principles. Discussions identified a priority to balance growth and environmental protections to consider how to incorporate this balance into the Comprehensive Plan.
 - A series of meeting introduced a tool using the FAR (floor area ratio) to look at current zoning from two perspectives 2) overall density and housing growth and the availability for growth related to established goals, and 2) how to analyze lot coverage and density at the lot level to balance community goals for housing with goals for environment
 - The Committee has now established three subcommittees (see the article in this newsletter) on the Comp Plan (compared to others and balance), lot coverage balance density and growth, and a Special GLUP focus. These areas will be focus for next year
- **Public Services** – Presented by John Ford, chair and subcommittee chairs
 - The charter for Public Services establishes this committee with a broad range of potential areas and the task of focusing on current priorities. Currently there are three primary focus areas and subcommittees for each.



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- **Public Safety** – Presented by Mike McMenamin
 - The primary issues for the committee are understanding and improving strategies for addressing crime, and supporting effective strategies for officer retention and recruitment to maintain and develop a police force to meet the challenges of public safety. The committee tracks these issues through reviewing data, meetings with law enforcement, and questions for policy makers. CivFed has a representative on the Police Chief's Advisory Committee that meets monthly.
 - The committee has provided recommended questions for the Manager, the county board and for candidates that have addressed the Civic Federation.
 - This year the committee co-hosted a Community Policing Workshop with ACPD that included the chief and other officers as well as a presenter from the Ballston Mall and from county Marcus Alert program. The workshop discussed specific challenges and tips, reviewed and provided suggestions for a new crime data tool that is geographic and searchable, and discussed how neighborhood and civic associations can improve collaboration.
 - Next year will continue working with CAs and bringing CAs together to facilitate regular collaboration.
- **Health and Wellbeing (formerly Mental Health)** – Presented by Jackie Snelling
 - This subcommittee name has changed to reflect a broader focus on health to include physical and mental health and overall wellbeing,
 - The committee brought together people who had worked on Destination 2027 for Health equity, and included a focus on Health Equity with Dr, Varghese for the April CivFed general membership meeting.
 - The committee has continued to be represent CivFed in the development of the Marcus Alert program that establishes a cross cutting continuum of engagement and services with law enforcement and mental health.
- **Stormwater** – Presented by John Ford
 - There is close coordination and regular liaison with DES and regular briefings on the development of the stormwater utility, the RAMP (risk Assessment Management Plan) for stormwater. on plans for the 5 critical watersheds



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- The subcommittee is working with the Environment and other committees to focus on climate adaptation and to develop a more comprehensive program for the October and November general membership meetings.
- There is regular coordination with the leaders of civic association groups for each of the identified critical watersheds of Spout Run, Lubber Run, Torreyson Run, Crossman Run, Columbia Run and Doctors Run.
- **Revenues and Expenditures** – POC Suzanne, presented by Jerry Auten committee member
 - Online discussions included the FY 25 budget, the County debt service as a matter of concern, Banking stability, the state budget, and other topics.
 - The committee provided regular newsletter articles on budget topics.
 - Next year the committee will review FY 26 and continue on-line discussions.
- **Schools** – Presented by Todd Truitt, chair
 - The focus has been on managing the March and April General Membership meetings with the Superintendent and the School Board. The committee solicited questions from all committees and any member submissions and reviewed to select key topics.
 - Next year the committee will manage these meetings as well as a Spring and Fall Forum for the open seats.
- **Transportation** – Presented by Joe Pelton
 - A coalition mostly focused on airport noise and safety and some on multi-modal
 - They have been working closely with Don Beyer and Senators re flights to/from National Airport for both noise and safety.
 - Next year we need more focus on safety with expanded flights for this most intensively used airport in country. Civ Fed should consider a new resolution re the safety standards.
 - A committee with broader membership should address multi-modal transportation, and look at the broad issues related to telework and energy consumption.
- **Audit** – Presented by John Ford, chair
 - The books have been reviewed and received a positive report.



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- **Banquet** – Presented by Nick Giacobbe, chair
 - After a five year hiatus, the committee planned and held the 108th anniversary banquet and awards ceremony on April 12 with over 100 attendees.
- **Communications** – Presented by Adam Henderson, chair
 - Reconstituted last year, this year most of the members are officers and directors. The committee developed a revised a new charter approved by board that spells out the roles for each of the tasks.
 - In addition to the established roles, the workplan this year has focused on Ron Haddox providing support for CAs for list servs and websites.
- **Bylaws** – Presented by Adam Henderson
 - Last year this committee was very active, but this year no issues have required meetings. Work has included updating drafts or formalizing the boundary procedures and the committee procedures.
- **Membership** – Eric Cassel, chair, presented by Allen Norton, committee member
 - The committee reviewed 5 membership applications and forwarded 4 to the board for approval.
 - African American Leadership Council of Arlington (AALCA)
 - League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
 - The Arlington Chorale (TAC)
 - Arlington Artists Alliance
 - An accomplishment included improving the process with the introduction of an on-line application form.
- **Board Report** – Presented by Adam
 - Board works throughout the year, transition at the June meeting and throughout the summer. Board and CivFed accomplishments this year include:
 - First annual banquet since 2019



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- Participation in the Arlington County Fair with new collateral and fresh look
- Balanced budget and able to keep the dues low at 65
- Reconstituted committees for Communications, P&Z, Legislation, Task force form of Government, renamed Arts and Culture
- Revised charter for Communications, and for Form of Government
- Conducted a member survey and worked to implement priorities, particularly designing meetings with more time for member interaction
- Outreach to the County Manager and the Board on implementation of resolutions particularly the action plan from the 2023 resolution to Restore Public confidence, R&E resolutions.
- Recommended 4 new members to the membership and welcomed all four
- Reviewed the 2024 Legislation committee resolution

ANNUAL ELECTION (John Ford)

- David Smith, Nominating Committee chair, thanked the Nominating Committee for their support. David then reviewed the ACCF run-rules for the election and he also introduced the candidates. A vote was taken. Results below (officially validated after the meeting):

OFFICERS

- President John Ford 97%
- Vice-President Nick Giacobbe 100%
- Secretary Matt Gloudeman 100%
- Treasurer Benjamin Watts 100%

DIRECTORS AT-LARGE

- Director At-Large Allan Gajadhar 100%
- Director At-Large Ron Haddox 100%
- Director At-Large Jean Henceroth 100%
- Director At-Large Paul Holland 97%
- Director At-Large Mike McMenamin 97%
- Director At-Large Richard McNamara 100%
- Director At-Large David Schutz 100%
- Director At-Large David Smith 100%
- Director At-Large Jacqueline Snelling 100%



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GAS POWERED LEAF BLOWERS (Margaret McKelvey)

- Margaret, the Secretary for Quiet Clean NOVA – presented a efforts to curb the use of gas-powered leaf blowers (in favor of electric leave blowers) in Northern Virginia. Margaret presented the issues and requested CivFed support the Quiet Clean NOVA agenda on leaf blowers.

OTHER BUSINESS

- John noted plan for CivFed picnic in the fall
- Thanks was given to Adam Henderson for his support to CivFed and years of community service. Jackie Snelling was also given a big thanks for all of her efforts with CivFed, with recent notable work reviving the CivFed committee structure.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:00 p.m.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting and approved by acclamation.

Meeting Video Link: [Arlington Cty Civic Fed \[ACCF\] \(vimeo.com\)](#)

Submitted by: David R. Smith, Board Chair 7/21/2024