



# Arlington County Civic Federation

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES, TUESDAY 9 APRIL 2024

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## MEETING

- Arlington County Civic Federation, General Membership Meeting, 4/9/2024 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 voting cards
- 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 March GM minutes, the motion was moved, and seconded. The March General Membership minutes were approved by acclamation.

## ARLINGTON WELLBEING: EQUITY IN ARLINGTON HEALTH AND ACCESS TO GREEN SPACE (Jackie Snelling)

- Jackie kicked off a discussion on equity across Arlington. The discussion included two related topics and panels of 3 speakers each.
- First Panel on Arlington Well-being: Equity in Health
  1. Dr. Rueben K Varghese MD, MPH; Director, Arlington County Public Health, presented: **'The "Body" Arlington: Population Health, Well-Being, and Equity'**, [\[PDF, 1,4 MiB\]](#). Dr. Varghese's presentation looked at life expectancy by civic association and found some significant disparities. Some areas had life expectancies as high as 83-88 years, whereas others had life expectancies as low as 78-81 years. Dr. Varghese's presentation explored the potential reasons for the disparities, these included social/institutional policies, living conditions, risk behaviors, and disease/injury.
  2. Janeth Valenzuela, President of the Arlington Schools Hispanic Parents Association, provided a pre-recorded presentation (see video link below). Ms. Valenzuela indicated that they created the organization to give a voice to people in the community. She discussed the inequities being felt by immigrants to the US, and she spoke about the strategies on how to reach out to the community regarding public health, through trusted partners, non-



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computer methods such as paper and a cell phone app, and locations that are best for outreach and services.

3. Lesley E Daigle, CEO, Arlington Free Clinic , presented: **'Arlington Well-Being: Equity in Health'**, [\[PDF, 1,1 MiB\]](#). Ms. Daigle's presentation discussed the Arlington Free Clinic, and its mission. Lesley discussed Arlington's current state of health and wellness. A key point of her presentation was that the abundance of resources in Arlington hides the great need some individuals have, for example, upwards of 10,000 people in Arlington are ineligible for health insurance or cannot afford insurance. Lesley went on to discuss health-related lesson's that were learned from the Coronavirus Pandemic and some potential solutions.

## Second Panel: **'Equity in Arlington County Open Public Spaces'**

4. Jon Huntley, Senior Economist at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, presented: **'Equity in Arlington County Open Public Spaces'**, [\[PDF, 696 KiB\]](#). Mr. Huntley opened with a definition of Open Public Space (OPS), looked at race, residence type, income and related those to inequities in terms of access to tree canopy. Jon's presentation identified geographic areas within Arlington with the lowest OPS access and demographics of lowest access including lower income and multi-family elevator buildings and he discussed ways to increase "Equity" of access to open green space and trees.
5. Caroline Haynes, former County commissioner for parks, natural resources, public spaces, and biophilic design, and founding member of the Arlington Regional Master Naturalists discussed **'Biophilic Arlington and Equitable Access to Nature'**, [\[PDF, 29,0 MiB\]](#). Ms. Haynes' presentation discussed the multi-factor human connections to the natural world, including health, and how biophilic design can connect people with nature and the benefits. Caroline discussed Arlington's participation in 'Biophilic Cities Network', <https://www.biophiliccities.org/>, which advocates for expanding biophilic planning and governance to create publicly accessible urban projects which help to provide equitable access to nature. Caroline's presentation offered some fabulous photos of biophilic projects across Arlington, and she encouraged citizen participation in County planning to help make Biophilic Arlington and equitable access to nature a reality.



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6. Shruti Kuppa, Chairperson of the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) Board, Vice Chair for the Arlington Parks and Recreation Commission, discussed the implementation side of getting green space equity. She discussed the NVCT ([Northern Virginia Conservation Trust \(NVCT\)](#)) and focused on how a [conservation easement](#) worked, noting that easements typically require that no further development occur on the land, in exchange the landowner tax benefits.

## **BANQUET (Nicholas Giacobbe)**

- Nick provided a rundown of the planned banquet. See: <https://bit.ly/ACCF-Banquet-2024>

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- John made some announcements:
  - School Board Candidates' forum on April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Lubber Run Center, Oak Room, 6:30 p.m.
    - Candidates' forums held by CivFed are non-partisan, all candidates are invited to participate.
  - Committee of 100 meetings upcoming:
    - 4/10 – recreational marijuana, Zoom only
    - 5/14 – Candidates' forum
  - Convening a planning meeting to reconstitute the CivFed parks and recreation meeting – contact Jackie Snelling.
  - Eco Arlington is having their 'EcoExtravaganza' on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 to 9 p.m.

**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, Secretary 4/27/2024