

[**Due To The Current COVID-19 Virus This Was A Virtual Meeting**]

Draft Minutes

October 20, 2020

Arlington County Civic Federation (“ACCF”) Membership Meeting

Call to Order: Federation President Gajadhar noted the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. President Gajadhar led the meeting in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting Format: The meeting was held virtually using Zoom. President Gajadhar was the Administrator to begin with and then shared the duty with Vice President Tina Worden. The meeting registration URL was listed in the email newsletter and posted on the ACCF Facebook event page. Ms. Worden, Dennis Gerrity and Chris Worden managed member and guest attendance for the meeting and voting process. Voting was done using Constant Contact by electronic ballots issued to voting members in attendance.

The Treasurer’s report for September was in the October Newsletter. The minutes for the September 8th Membership Meeting were submitted and voting emails were sent. The vote was: **52 For, 0 Against and 7 Abstain** The September Minutes were approved.

Member Attendance: Ms. Worden kept roll as the Members and Observers entered the meeting. There were 92 Total Attendees with 78 Members and 14 Guests. There were representative from 51 Organizations. 22 Organizations had two or more delegates and/or alternates present: American Association of University Women, Arlington Forest CA, Arlington Historical Society, Arlington Tree Action Group, Aurora Highlands, Balston-Virginia Square CA, Bluemont CA, Buckingham Community CA, Columbia Heights CA, Crystal City CA, Friends of Aurora Highlands Parks, Glencarlyn CA, Lyon Village CA, Maywood CA, NAACP #7047, Old Glebe CA, Opera NOVA, Penrose CA, Shirlington Dogs II, Tara-Leeway Heights CA, Waverly Hills CA and Westover Village CA.

Ballot on Emergency Resolution Two Emergency Resolutions were introduced. In order to be voted on tonight, they will need to be approved by 2/3 of the Delegates. 45 Ballot emails were sent out (3 did not respond).

School Bond Resolution – 69% Approved (**31 For, 7 Against, 4 Abstain**)

Stormwater and Flooding Infrastructure Bond Resolution – 78% Approved (**35 For, 5 Against, 2 Abstain**)

Both Resolutions will be considered and voted on tonight.

Legislative Committee Report & Discussion - Civil Rights Working Group

Juliet Hiznay and Mike Hemminger gave a presentation and took questions and comments..

The tone of your report is prematurely accusatory of the police. We disagree

COVID Update: Dr. Reuben Varghese, Aaron Miller & Zachary Pope – Jackie Snelling (Lyon Village) moderated

Dr.Varghese gave a presentation on the status of Arlington’s response to COVID-19. Jackie asked questions sent to her by the Delegates (either by email or Zoom Chat).

Are you expecting a Winter second wave and how are you planning for it? What is the strategy for social distancing and mask enforcement at retail stores, groceries and other stores? Will it help to report places that are not following guidelines? If there are COVID cases in a school will the parents be notified? Has there been any news from NIH that the virus has changed? What is the most important action that people who live in multi-family housing can take?

Overview of the Bonds on the November Election Ballot – John Tuohy (AHS) moderated

School Bond Miles Mason (Co-Chair of the School Bonds Committee)
Miles Mason gave a presentation.

Stormwater / Infrastructure Bond Demetra McBride (Bureau Chief – Office of Sustainability & Environmental Management at DES)
Demetra McBride gave a presentation.

Parks & Recreation Bond Duke Banks (AHS), Jesse Boeding (Green Valley)
Duke Banks gave a presentation.

Questions:

The Stormwater plans don't seem to prioritize reducing impermeable surfaces. How are the county and APS doing in coordinating stormwater and flood mitigation efforts? Does the county still have the StormwaterWise program? What are the metrics shaping up to be for the land acquisition component of the Stormwater bond and is Eminent Domain being considered in any circumstances? Please clarify for each of the bonds the ability of county staff to adjust from named projects to higher priority considerations at a later time? Are these named projects guaranteed to be funded?

An email vote was taken for all three (59 Ballots).

School Bond Resolution The vote was: **43** For, **15** Against and **4** Abstained
Parks & Recreation Bond Resolution The vote was: **46** For, **7** Against and **4** Abstained
The resolution had been amended in committee – the amended version was voted on.
Stormwater and Flooding Infrastructure Bond Resolution The vote was: **49** For, **5** Against and **5** Abstained

Discussion and vote on a Resolution to establish a Governance Task Force

Dave Schutz and Michael Beer gave a presentation and took questions.

Besides governance will you be looking at the Commissions and their structures? Will the general public be able to participate in the proceedings of the Task Force? Will the Task Force address the issue of the County Boards almost invariable approval of the County Managers recommendations regardless of the statements the public makes during public hearings? Is there any special interest advocating for this change? How will the “ outside funding “ phrase of the resolution be handled and how do we avoid undue influence from another body? Will this include investigating whether Arlington could change to a city with an elected mayor and district representatives? Why is this a Task Force and not a Committee? Will it look at real change instead of tweaking the status quo? Will the Task force work with the Legislative Committee?

David Hughes (Bluemont) called the question. Stacy Meyer seconded it.

An email vote was taken (59 Ballots). The vote was: **42** For, **10** Against and **7** Abstained

Discussion and vote on a Resolution to Increase the size of CivFed's Board of Directors

Stacy Meyer presented the case for increasing the size of the Board from 9 to 11 and took questions.

*What is the reason for this expansion? Increase of Workload – general and initiatives
Why wasn't a second Vice-President position created for operational help? Why not make the committees stronger first?*

An email vote was taken (59 Ballots). The vote was: **40** For, **15** Against and **4** Abstained

Old Business: None

New Business:

The five resolutions were moved and seconded (Jay Wind seconded the P&R resolution) and a Ballot email was sent out. There was no new business other than that.

Announcement: Mary Glass said the Environmental Affairs Committee will hold a series of virtual workshops on tree canopy loss.

Note: Several people said they never received the Ballot email. Dennis Gerrity explained that our email balloting system, besides being labor intensive, has quirks and is still being worked on.

October Board of Directors Meeting: President Gajadhar announced that the October Board of Directors Meeting would be held at 6:00 PM on October 25th. It will be a **Virtual** meeting.

November 2020 Membership Meeting: President Gajadhar announced that the November 17th, 2020 Membership Meeting will be a **Virtual** meeting. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. Entry to the meeting Waiting Room will start at 6:00.

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Allen Norton

Video of the meeting is on Vimeo at: <https://vimeo.com/470600119>