

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

Draft Minutes

September 8, 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 7:02 PM. President Gajadhar led the meeting in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting Format: The meeting was held using Zoom. President Gajadhar was the Administrator to begin with and then shared the duty with Board Member Tina Worden. The meeting Waiting Room URL was listed in the email newsletter along with the password. Ms. Worden, Dennis Gerrity and Chris Worden controlled entry into the meeting and the voting process. Voting was done with Constant Contact emails sent to the Delegates.

The Treasurer’s report for June was in the September Newsletter. The minutes for the June 16th Membership Meeting were submitted and voting emails were sent. The vote to approve: For: 40, Against: 1, Abstain: 0
The June Minutes were approved

Member Attendance: Ms. Worden kept roll as the Members and Observers were allowed into the meeting. There were 117 Total Attendees with 66 Members and 51 Guests. There were representative from 45 Organizations. 20 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, Bluemont CA, Boulevard Manor CA, Buckingham Community CA, Clarendon-Courthouse CA, Columbia Heights CA, Crystal City CA, Glencarlyn CA, Maywood CA, Old Glebe CA, Opera NOVA, Penrose NA, Shirlington Dogs II, Tara-Leeway Heights CA, Waverly Hills CA, Westover Village CA and Yorktown CA.

2020 Candidates Forum: Candidates for four offices came. After giving their positions they took questions that had been submitted by the members to President Gajadhar..

Senate: Daniel Gade (R)

(Mark Warner (D) didn’t come)

What are the most important challenges facing our country and how do you propose to address them? Are there opportunities for Democrats and Republicans to find common ground on these issues? What measures do you support to improve and secure elections and voting in our country? Do you support removing the ratification deadline for the Equal Rights Amendment? Please tell us your position on the future of the National Endowment for the Arts.

County Board: Libby Garvey (D), Audrey Clement (I)

Please indicate what county services or programs represent your top two priorities for the coming year and explain why. What creative solutions can you suggest to resolve a lack of affordable childcare and quality Pre-K programs? What regulatory and financial roadblocks can you help remove? If affordable housing opportunities should be distributed more equitably across the County, rather than being concentrated in limited neighborhoods, what are your recommendations for getting that done? If elected, what policies will you pursue to reform the county’s policing and criminal justice systems? What is your top priority for a program or policy that will help achieve the goals of the 2019 Equity Resolution. Arlington has a significant water management and infrastructure issue that will not be resolved with more and bigger pipes or using park streams for storm water runoff. What is your plan?

School Board: Cristina Diaz-Torres (D), David Priddy (D), Symone Walker (I)

APS currently faces a budget deficit. With plausible additional budget cuts from the State and County for next year, how do you anticipate covering the revenue loss not just this year, but in the next school year as well? Given the overwhelming support in the County for more greenspace, are you prepared to agree now to “take off the table” for consideration all of the listed parks other than those which were originally school sites? What do you think needs to be done to have better coordination with the county board on growth projections and facilities planning? School Board races are by law non-partisan, yet the parties limit competition by endorsing candidates and requiring pledges and loyalty oaths to support the candidates who win their endorsement process. Do you agree with this process? Does Arlington currently have the right balance of resource allocation and/or programs to close achievement gaps, engage the majority mainstream students, and challenge the gifted? What steps would you recommend to bolster teacher retention?

Representative (District 3): Don Beyer (D), Jeff Jordan (R)

If your party takes the White House, Senate, and House -- what would be your top piece of legislation that you would reintroduce. Do you support the Virginia state constitutional amendment to end partisan gerrymandering by setting up a bi-partisan redistricting commission? What are the most important challenges facing our country and how do you propose to address them? Are there opportunities for Democrats and Republicans to find common ground on these issues? What measures do you support to improve and secure elections and voting in our country? Do you support removing the ratification deadline for the Equal Rights Amendment? Do you support or oppose an appropriation of federal funds to construct a Rosslyn boathouse?

NAACP Membership Application and Vote: The NAACP (Arlington Branch #7047) asked to join the Civic Federation. Their representative, Julius Spain, made a presentation. Voting emails were sent to the members. The vote to accept the application: For: 40, Against: 1, Abstain: 6
The NAACP (Arlington Branch #7047) is now a member organization of the Civic Federation.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Resolution: Allan Gajadhar (Cherrydale CA) introduced a resolution to establish a Governance Task Force.

Resolution: Allan Gajadhar (Cherrydale CA) introduced a resolution to increase the size of CivFed’s Board of Directors from 9 to 11.

Audit Letter: The books of the Treasurer must be audited annually. Jay Jacob Wind (Audit Committee) reviewed the books, records and statements of 2019-2020 and certifies they are accurate.

Resolution: Allan Gajadhar introduced a resolution, prepared by the Friends of Arlington Parks, to support the 2020 Park Bonds. Jay Wind (Friends of Arlington Parks) explained why there were two bonds

September Board of Directors Meeting: President Gajadhar announced that the September Board of Directors Meeting would be held at 6:00 PM on September 20th. It will be a **Virtual** meeting.

October 2020 Membership Meeting: President Gajadhar announced that the October 20th, 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 6:30.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.
Respectfully submitted by Allen Norton

Video of the meeting is on Vimeo at: <https://vimeo.com/456195699>

Resolution to Establish an Arlington Governance Taskforce

At its July meeting, CivFed's Board of Directors approved bringing to the membership a resolution establishing a Task Force to examine, and propose reforms, for Arlington's form of government. It has been ninety years since the at-large Board of five part time members replaced the prior system of district commissioners, and in that time Arlington's population and complexity of government have increased many fold. Possible reforms to be considered by this task force include:

1. Structural reform through district representation and/or multi-member synchronous elections.
2. The size and/or remuneration of our county board and/or school board.
3. Ranked choice voting for County Board and School Board general elections.
4. The future role of primaries and caucuses.
5. Options for alternative electoral mechanisms besides first past-the-post and ranked choice.
6. Term Limits

Principals that will inform the Task Force's work will include, but not be limited by the following:

- To improve the quality of our elected officials' representation and policy making,
- To improve citizen engagement and voter turnout,
- To improve our Board's ability to reflect the opinion and diversity of our communities
- To improve the quality and diversity (more choices--more voices) of our candidates and campaigns.

[Follow this link to read the complete resolution.](https://files.constantcontact.com/9b2b0a78501/cfb100b5-1c06-481b-af73-4069a2066e10.pdf)

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Resolution to increase the size of CivFed's Board of Directors

Be it resolved that the Board supports adding two Board seats, and resolves to put the question of expanding the Board by two seats to the Membership at the next Membership meeting.

(full resolution to be posted on the CivFed Website)

Resolution by the Friends of Arlington Parks in support of the 2020 Park Bonds

Be it resolved that the Arlington County Civic Federation supports the proposed 2020 parks and recreation bond issue and encourages all voters to vote yes: and

(full resolution to be posted on the CivFed Website)