

**Bluemont Civic Association
Approved Minutes
Executive Board Meeting
Arlington Traditional School
7:00 PM, May 22, 2013**

Attending: George Rovder, President; Nancy O'Doherty, Treasurer; Larry Smith, Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Representative; Suzanne Sundburg, Civic Federation Delegate; Dean Foster, Civic Federation Alternative; David Hughes, Civic Federation Alternate; Alan Sundburg, Bylaws Review Committee Chair; David Van Wagner, NC Plan Drafting Committee Chair; James McMullin, Secretary (appointed during the meeting).

No quorum was present at 7:00 pm [3 officers are the minimum required for a quorum of the Executive Board]. Board member Nancy O'Doherty arrived at 7:27 pm, providing a quorum. Rovder called the meeting to order.

Smith motioned to accept 3/28/13 off-schedule Executive Board meeting minutes as presented; O'Doherty seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Smith motioned to accept the 4/24/13 Executive Board meeting minutes as presented and S. Sundburg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

S. Sundburg distributed a recap for the 5/7/13 Civic Federation meeting as a matter of information (sent to the Board electronically prior to the meeting). See Attachment 1.

She also shared a list of proposed newsletter items for review. She noted that copy along with any changes would be due by 6/7/13 to provide enough time for editing before production. She submitted tentative dates for next year's meetings (2013-2014) and asked the Board to approve them so that meeting space at ATS may be reserved. Rovder said the Board would review the dates and advise her once they were approved.

Rovder asked the Board for a motion to appoint a secretary. Smith motioned for James McMullin to be elected Secretary of the Association. S. Sundburg seconded, and the motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:32 pm.

Attachment 1

May 7, 2013, Civic Federation Meeting Highlights

President James Schroll noted that the Civic Federation's website was down and the Executive Committee was working to fix the problems. He then introduced the Virginia legislative delegation: Representatives Bob Bring, Alphonso Lopez, Patrick Hope and Ron Krupika and Senators Janet Howell and Barbara Favola.

Legislative Delegation Program

The delegation assessment of the 2013 legislative session was mixed. Brink called it "embarrassing" in referring to the agenda and the session. Both he and Howell noted that there were two positive outcomes: the transportation bill and the expansion of Medicaid.

Although both noted that the transportation bill was "not perfect," it represented a step forward in identifying dedicated funding for long-deferred repair and maintenance of Virginia's transportation infrastructure. There was significant reluctance on the Democratic side to take money from the general fund (used for education and other core services), but both sides compromised to get the bill passed.

Hope noted that the Medicaid expansion bill trumped politics, noting that approximately 1 million Virginians are without any health insurance at all. And 7 out of 10 of uninsured Virginians are working full time. Virginia's spending on Medicaid is among the lowest of all 50 states. Hope added that the expansion will pump between \$20 and \$25 billion into local economies and will create approximately 30,000 new jobs (good-paying jobs) throughout the Commonwealth.

Lopez reported on his work on common-sense bills for gun control and affordable housing, on both of which he had some limited success. Krupika reported that he had spent the bulk of the session working on mental health—Virginia's spending on youth mental health services is "appalling low," even after the gun massacre at Virginia Tech.

In the membership's Q&A session, Howell and Brink responded to a question asking when Virginians might expect nonpartisan redistricting. Their reply was that an end to gerrymandering was "doubtful" without a sustained public outcry and push for change.

Schools Resolution

The resolution by the Schools Committee to ask the County Board for \$4.3 million to end the early release, on Wednesdays at some elementary schools had been modified slightly from the original version presented at the April meeting. Delegates questioned whether there was any polling data to support the end to the half-days on Wednesday, but the committee had obtained no definitive data. The committee's presenters acknowledged that opinion of parents was somewhat "divided" on the matter. Support for the change appeared to come largely from Tuckahoe parents, who had circulated a petition. There was a question as to whether the change would add further stress on the shortage of classroom, but it was clear that the change would require the hiring of additional teacher and the \$4.3 million figure would rise substantially over time. Two delegates present stated that the change would allow more time for recess, art instruction, and 30 minutes for a foreign language. Members of the committee insisted that some core-subject instruction would be provided at certain schools, but did not identify those schools. A couple of "friendly" amendments to the resolution were accepted, but it was not enough to ensure passage. Delegates voted 10 in favor, 18 against, and 6 abstentions.

Affordable Housing Resolution

This resolution was completely revised after the April meeting. It largely pressed the County Board to utilize any leftover sequestration reserve funds to plug holes in the county's affordable housing program that may arise from loss of federal and state funding. The measure also asked the County Board to identify costs for several of its affordable housing initiatives. The measure passed: 21 in favor, 5 against, and 4 abstentions.

Arlington Cemetery Resolution

Sponsored by Dr. Bernie Berne, the thrust of this resolution was to ask Virginia's federal legislators to correct the legislation that would allow approximately 800 mature trees—some up to 145 years old—to be cut down as a temporary solution to grave space constraints in Arlington Cemetery. After much discussion, the measure passed: 15 in favor, 6 against and 5 abstentions.