

**Fairlington Citizens Association
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Fairlington Community Center
3308 S Stafford St
June 8, 2016, as approved**

Board Members Present

President Guy Land
Vice President Jonathan Ansley
Treasurer Ed Hilz
Secretary Lindsay Willmann
Director Kent Duffy

Board Members Absent

Director Evan Harvey
Director Hugh Baumgardner
Director Chris Weathers

Call to Order

The Executive Board meeting was called to order at 8:14 pm. President Land presided and noted the presence of a quorum.

Approval of Agenda

There was unanimous consent to approve the agenda distributed by President Land by email and hard copy.

Approval of Minutes

There was unanimous consent to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 11, distributed by email June 5.

Officer Reports

Skipped to dedicate more time to website and bus discussion.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Website

Treasurer Hilz sent information from Christine on possible changes to the website. Director Duffy explained our current website structure (which requires periodic software updates). He further suggested that the platforms currently provided by Wordpress are more cost effective and require less maintenance than what we currently have. The off-the-shelf templates from Wordpress would cost about \$99 and wouldn't change much. Some of the compromises that would come with that are newsletter and minutes uploads which would require some customization outside of the Wordpress package. Christine could customize these features for a modest fee. Email would also be impacted as only five accounts are

available with only a forwarding capability. Setting up an email system that works with Wordpress would be more complicated.

Another consideration is how far back we want to archive newsletters and minutes. President Land said he uses archived versions frequently for information. He was also concerned with preserving the unique nature of the site. Treasurer Hilz noted there is no real deadline so we have plenty of time to sort out our priorities for the site. Part of our inquiry to the providers should be of the cost of transferring the content to a new site. It may be more cost effective to work with Avatar as opposed to Global Thinking. President Land posed whether or not FCA needs to pay Christine for her time given the complexity of the task.

Bus Schedules

Director Duffy attended the meeting on bus changes last night, and sent information electronically regarding the new policies. He spoke with the transit program manager and operations and explained his concerns about changes to the 22A/C lines (to be discontinued and replaced by 87-ART). 22F and 7 routes stay the same, with 7 increasing in frequency. The 87-ART would do a loop through Fairlington every 20 minutes before heading to the Pentagon, but commute time would increase. The County seemed amenable to looking at options that will ensure satisfaction in Fairlington. There are legitimate reasons for the 22A and 22C to go away based on cost reasons, but we are not sure how that will impact transit times in the neighborhood.

If the draft is approved, the County will recommend Metro discontinue certain routes. Director Duffy and President Land do not recall any outreach on the original draft plans. The Board must consider how we would like to address the issue to ensure a favorable outcome for Fairlington. If the Board decides to hold a meeting in mid-July, it may be too late for changes to be made before the County Board meeting. President Land proposes the Board convene a select group to sit down with County staff and sort through the issue (consisting of Board members and available citizens). We can run a story about it in July's AFB to get information about the schedule changes to residents.

July Meeting

President Land brought up the option for presentations at the July meeting. Bus rapid transit from Tysons down to Beauregard and mosquito control were discussed as options. President Land and Director Duffy discussed their concerns on the mosquito/Zika matter, and the possibility of County representatives coming to present information on risk factors. If an ad is to be run in the AFB regarding the focus of the presentation, it would have to be written within the next two days.

Adjourn

President Land motioned to adjourn, which passed unanimously at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Lindsay Willmann, Secretary

Appendix I to 06/08/16 FCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Notes

Fairlington Citizens' Association Presentation by

Senator Ebbin, Virginia General Assembly

06/08/16

Fairlington Community Center 3308 S Stafford St

Senator Ebbin began his presentation by outlining the district (parts of Alexandria, Arlington, and Fairfax) that he represents in Virginia. He explained that this legislative session was focused on finalizing the biennial budget. This year, the Assembly passed a \$1 billion a year increase for education, of which \$4.9 million dollars would go to Arlington County Schools.

He mentioned that he serves on the Privileges and Elections committee, on which he is focused on making it easier for constituents to vote (i.e. simplifying voter registration forms). He also outlined a number of bills he is currently working on and those that passed or failed over the past year in the General Assembly.

This year, he was able to pass a bill that restored voting rights to prior felons and those judged mentally incapacitated. He mentioned the Governor's move to restore those rights as well. He worked on a bill that dealt with electric chair bill and will ensure it is not used as the default method of execution. He also helped broker a gun deal with the NRA and the Governor and Attorney General. This bill took away reciprocity for out of state conceal and carry licenses. Additionally, the bill prevents subjects of permanent protective orders to own firearms and made what were once voluntary background checks at gun shows mandatory (via a police booth).

He has two additional bills regarding firearms safety. One assigns a special penalty for gun owners that allow a child four years old or under to handle it. It failed. The second bill would have prevented open firearms carry while intoxicated, and was referred to the Finance Committee.

He also worked on creating a Virginia Energy Storage Consortium, which would create a public-private partnership that seeks to make Virginia a leader in grid-scale energy storage solutions. He worked on a bill which would have given power to local entities to choose their own contractors for projects. The Governor vetoed this measure. The other was a regulation of Air B and B. This bill would allow users to pay trans-occupancy tax directly to Virginia to be remitted by the State to localities. It was held over for study over the summer.

Senator Ebbin then opened the floor for questions from Fairlington residents.

Q&A

Q: How are the HOT lanes companies being charged for violations? How will the multi-family home recycling requirement be enforced? What about the vacant buildings legislation?

A: I don't know that there are charges for violations, and I do not have a full answer on that right now. The idea of the recycling requirements is multi-family dwellings be required to provide recycling as an option for families. For vacant buildings, the requirement was to have someone register their information (so they would have a point of contact) in the event something occurs there. The idea was to protect residents in homes adjacent to the vacant building. The bill in question has not passed.

Q: What are your thoughts on dedicated funding for metro?

A: I support dedicated funding for metro. I did pass a change for metro's compact a few years ago that would shift the amount Virginia would pay in toward metro funding. (Which is matched by D.C., Maryland and the federal government).

Q: The issues with blue line and metro company management has not been addressed, why?

A: Part of the issue with the blue line is the need for an additional crossing at Rosslyn, which would pose a significant cost.

Q: There was a chemical spill when a train derailed in D.C. a few weeks ago. Are these trains loaded with chemicals going through Arlington and Alexandria?

A: They go through Alexandria, I'm not sure they go through Arlington. It has come up in the General Assembly and in the City of Alexandria, particularly requiring CSX to notify the City of spills right away. I'm happy to ask about that if you send me questions.

Q: Could you give us an update on the plans for running transit down route 7?

A: There are hearings happening in Arlington and Alexandria on the subject, though I don't have a lot of details on what exactly it will look like.

Q: What's your take on the 395 HOT lanes project? How is the state negotiating with the contractor on the transit subsidy?

A: I don't know about negotiations about bus service, etc. but I know there will be certain provisions. They say it's in the existing footprint and it will be used for money for transit, which are good things. I think that transportation is the government's responsibility and that they should pay for it. I'm not a big fan of companies paying for it by tolling. Unfortunately, I don't foresee a big appetite for paying for transportation in Richmond in the upcoming year.

Q: Why can't we ever see the HOT lanes contracts?

A: They are publicly available through FOIA or online, but are several hundred pages long.

Q: Every member of the Virginia legislature seems to take money from Dominion Power, though its a regulated utility. Is that something someone would work on for campaign finance reform? Is it political suicide?

A: It's not political suicide to do it, it's a matter of deciding what will be the focus for that year's legislature. I disagreed with the bill that passed increasing their funding.

Q: On the gun bill preventing young children's access to guns, there is no recording of when someone disagrees with a bill and why in the subcommittee. There are a lot of 501c(3)'s doing things beyond what they should be in terms of advocacy, why isn't it more transparent?

A: Sessions are live streamed, but it's not even archived so residents can see it when they're available. It's not very user friendly for the public, and the committees and subcommittees are not really set up for filming.

Q: The Speaker of the House is preventing nearly 400,000 people from getting Medicaid in the state, something that would not cost more money because the hospitals have agreed to pay the difference between what the federal government would pay and the remaining percentage. Why would that be his decision?

A: This Speaker is representing his Caucus and its political philosophy, they claim if we accept it the federal government would eventually stop paying it and it would eventually go away. I would disagree with that. The "bed tax" is what the hospital's have agreed to assess (which is the remaining 10% that the state would have been required to pay). The 400,000 are the poor-working, not the unemployed, and are in a coverage gap.

A related issue is redistricting. Because district lines are drawn in very partisan ways, which is legal, Delegates fear primary elections more than general elections and run to the left or right in response. The Supreme Court is taking up the issue of packing certain groups into tiny districts for political advantage for the House of Delegates.

Another issue I'm working on is the penalty for possessing a small amount of marijuana. People end up losing their driver's license for six months, which does not make sense. This is an opportunity for me to work across the aisle with Republicans who were like-minded on this issue.

Q: A 19th century Virginia law said it was illegal to cohabit. Did that end up being revoked in Virginia?

A: Yes, that was my bill. They rescinded a law that made it illegal to lewd and lasciviously cohabit (i.e. living together before married). I also changed a law related to serving Sangria in the state because of an antiquated law about mixing spirits and wine.

Q: On the subject of selling alcohol, the state's liquor stores are woefully overpriced.

A: I agree, I don't like the idea of the state being in the business of selling alcohol.

Q: I'm interested in public support for the arts. Is there any support for that?

A: We have some support, my goal is \$1 per Virginian, which would be about \$8 million dollars. The state does give grants that are not necessarily enough to support it. Research shows for every \$1 spent on the arts you get a \$7 return in profit.

On a final note, keep an eye out for more information on Go Virginia. It provides tax incentives for regional collaboration and innovation for new businesses.

Appendix II to 06/08/16 FCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Notes

Fairlington Citizens' Association Presentation by

Arlington County Transportation Meeting

06/28/16

Fairlington Community Center 3308 S Stafford St

Director Duffy opened the meeting with an overview of the purpose of the meeting and an introduction of those present. He explained the objective of giving the County feedback from the bus rider's/Fairlington perspective. Representatives from Arlington County included Steve Yaffe, the Transit Services Manager, and William Jones, Arlington County's Transit Service Development Planner.

Mr. Yaffe explained the Transit Development Plan is required every six years and is amended every December, during which time changes can be made. The plan outlines what the fully implemented Metrobus and ART bus systems will look like by 2026. The plan hopes to meet the objective of services to the major arterials every 15 minutes, 18 hours a day.

The ridership for the 22 lines from the North through Shirlington and to the Pentagon is not great. There aren't many people that take the route all the way through. The impetus for the change in service is the increased cost effectiveness of using more efficient ART buses versus their less efficient counterparts, Metrobus.

Overview of the Current Transit Development Plan

ART 44 replaces 22 A/B/C Shirlington-North in the next two years

ART 87 replaces 22 A/B/C Shirlington-South

Metrobus 22F service will not change

22 A/C/F vs. 22F/ART 87 Overview

Peak travel time to the Pentagon from Fairlington will remain the same for 22F but will increase significantly with ART 87 or transfer to the 7A/7Y (up to 32 minutes). Combined peak, midday, weeknight, and weekend frequencies would improve with the changes. Off-peak seems an improvement, though Fairlington residents are very concerned with on-peak timetables.

A Fairlington resident mentioned the overcrowded nature of the shorter 22F bus, and the fact that 22C follows very closely behind. Service seems to be declining over time. President Land noted that FCA, in representing Fairlington citizens, should be lobbying the Board in strong opposition to the changes as it is a major decrease in peak services for residents. While the off-peak timetable is appealing, residents will be far more concerned with peak transportation. He further mentioned the focus has been on departing trips to the Pentagon, while the conversation should include concerns surrounding arriving from the Pentagon in the afternoon/evening. Mr. Yaffe confirmed return trips on ART 87 would also be considerably longer.

The problems this idea hopes to solve is that the 22A route is not really one route, it is more like two routes connected by a letter. There are currently not enough services north of Ballston metro and Marymount doesn't have much service at all. Furthermore, the services to Army National Guard/State Department is not functional. If we split the routes, Fairlington becomes the sole supporting force behind a Metrobus branch. If that branch then fails to meet standard, it will be canceled. Mr. Jones explained the County could run a study to see if the neighborhood could meet standard on its own.

Current ART standard is 15 boardings for every hour that a bus is on the street. A possible solution to the current on-peak problem may be creating a more direct ART route for peak times and using only ART 87 at off-peak times. President Land and a resident confirmed that Fairlington alone could likely meet this standard, as there are consistently 15 or more on the existing buses during peak times. President Land further suggested the route go directly from Shirlington to the Pentagon to ensure reasonable transit times.

Mr. Yaffe and Mr. Jones will gather the necessary data and plan for the possibility of making the suggested changes to the TDP in December. If possible, scheduling them on the agenda of another meeting this fall would be helpful. Then, another six months later, they could come back again to gather more feedback to make additional tweaks to the plan as needed. FCA will let the County Board know we are working on addressing the issues we have with the plan to make it more acceptable for Fairlington residents.