

**Fairlington Citizens Association
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Fairlington Community Center
3308 S Stafford St
May 11, 2016, as approved**

Board Members Present

President Guy Land
Vice President Jonathan Ansley
Treasurer Ed Hilz
Secretary Lindsay Willmann
Director Kent Duffy
Director Hugh Baumgardner
Director Chris Weathers

Board Members Absent

Director Evan Harvey

Call to Order

The Executive Board meeting was called to order at 8:13 p.m. 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 April 13, distributed by email May 9.

Officer Reports

President

Defers

Vice President

Defers

Treasurer

Cash balance is the highest it's been for a couple of years. Our Commercial Ad Prepays and Mini Ad Prepays are favorable, indicating that advertisers have made a six-month commitment to advertise in the AFB. President Land had questions about FCA's commercial ads structure, the last time we raised them was in March of 2007. Global revised its pricing structure last year, so we may want to look at adjusting ours. President Land brought up the cost of inserts and the concern that revenue on the inserts is down. His suspicion is that we need to increase the insert price. We currently charge \$360 for a full page, whereas a one-sided insert is around \$500.

Christine, FCA's webmaster, alerted Treasurer Hilz that our webhost is requiring us to work on the site. Global will give Treasurer Hilz prices on how much that work will cost and Treasurer Hilz will circulate information via email.

Secretary

Defer

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Fairlington 5K

The Fairlington 5K was very successful this year and made more money than last year. There were no major complaints.

Fourth of July Parade

President Land reminded the Board that it has been FCA's practice to write a check to the North Fairlington HOA for part of the cost of the parade. They then have discretion on how to spend it. Key costs include the Drum and Fife corps, ice cream vendor, and food vendors. Treasurer Hilz moved to contribute \$700 for the parade, seconded by Director Duffy and passed 7-0.

FCA Handout

Treasurer Hilz provided pricing on the 5x8 FCA handout cards electronically. The Farmer's Market offered to distribute some of the cards from their table. Treasurer Hilz got the cost from Global for three different quantities: 100, 75, and 50. He would like to order 100 for \$95. Director Weathers is worried about the cost, and will do research for future options at a lower cost. Treasurer Hilz moved to order 100 cards at that \$95, Secretary Willmann seconded, the motion passed 7-0.

Farmer's Market Tote Bags

Secretary Willmann updated the Board on the status of the joint FCA/Fairlington Farmer's Market tote bag order. The Board members agreed that making a profit on the bags was not the focus, but rather the objective in ordering the totes is for increased visibility for both FCA and the Farmer's Market.

Board members agreed that if no profit is made on the bags, then FCA would like to keep all money made to cover the cost of the order. President Land asks Board if they are ok with electronic communication for subsequent decisions. The Board members unanimously agreed that communication over email was acceptable for future tote bag decisions. Board members approved the tote bag design over email on May 20, 2016.

T-Shirt Reorder

Director Ansley suggests reordering 42 Fairlington t-shirts in a mixture of sizes given this year's low sales. A discussion of vendors and fabrics ensued, and the Board agreed to discuss t-shirt orders further at future meetings.

Adjourn

President Land motioned to adjourn, which passed at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Willmann, Secretary

Appendix I to 05/11/16 FCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Notes

**Fairlington Citizens' Association Presentation by
Christen Snow, Chair, Composting Working Group**

May 11, 2016

Fairlington Community Center 3308 S Stafford St

President Land opened the evening with a discussion of Fairlington news and upcoming events. He then introduced Christen Snow, Chair of the Composting Working Group. Ms. Snow introduced a few other members of the working group.

She explained the various levels of involvement, including membership of the working group and composting advocates for individual Fairlington HOAs. The goal of the group is to demonstrate the widespread interest in a composting program for Fairlington.

Composting involves taking food waste and turning it into rich, nutritious soil. Food waste recycling tends to be done by vendors, not by individuals in their backyard. Backyard composting should encompass clean composting, such as fruit and vegetable scraps, eggs, cotton and other natural materials. Food waste recycling encompasses more items and requires a facility to come pick up the materials.

Communities across the U.S. that are doing this well have one vendor for all waste-related services, including trash, recycling and food waste recycling. They also handle composting efforts. In Virginia, we do not have the technology to accommodate the same kind of waste services, but there are other ways to encourage people to reduce the amount of trash they produce.

Ms. Snow gave a brief overview of the carbon, nitrogen and water cycles and the impact Greenhouse gases have on the efficiency of these life processes. There's an important link between soil biodiversity and human health. For example, microorganisms in local soils reinforce the immune system increasing one's ability to fight infections impacting their region.

The USDA estimates that 30-40% of what is thrown away is food waste. Arlington County estimates that 27% of all waste is food waste which could be diverted using other removal methods. Arlington County incinerates all trash instead of dumping it into a landfill. There is controversy surrounding this method, given the gases and materials released during the incineration process. On the flipside, they generate enough energy to power 20% of homes in the County.

The Group looked at 15 different vendors in the search for a composting provider. The options for Fairlington could include backyard composting, composting through the county, or using a vendor. The Arlington County Career Center offers a bin made from sustainable materials and is critter proof for \$65. Arlington County plans to roll out food waste recycling as part of their resident services within a year.

When this program begins, there would be a central drop-off site for compost materials. The Group has approached them about placing one at the Fairlington Community Center. Vendors could provide either a central drop-off location within Fairlington. This would cost \$25-85 a week for centrally located bin. Residential door to door service through a vendor would cost \$25-30 a month per household until interest increases. If enough residents participate, costs could drop to as low as \$7 a household per month.

The payback for choosing to compost, some vendors return compost to the community. If enough residents participate, this could replace the mulch currently paid for. The ultimate goal is coordination between the HOAs, the vendor and the landscaping company.

Q&A

Q: If Capitol Services could provide the food waste recycling for Fairlington, what would that look like?

A: There may be biodegradable bags and designated bins to place food waste in.

Q: How many people are currently participating in a composting service or interested in doing so?

A: I will have to talk to the individual HOAs to determine that, but can get back to you with a number. There have been some hangups with current HOA restrictions on trash pick up times.

Q: Do you have any information about yard waste recycling, is that a totally different concept?

A: Yard waste can go in with food waste in backyard and vendor composting.

Q: Do the vendors provide the containers or do you buy them?

A: The vendors provide the containers as part of your service. They wash it or give you a new bin each time.

Q: Do we have an estimate the cost per household on trash versus the savings by using composting?

A: There aren't clear figures at this time, but the HOAs are very committed to Capitol Services at this time. The current cost per household doesn't take into account the amount of trash households are producing. Residents that are composting do not need the level of service currently provided (six days a week pickup).

Q: Could Fairlington, as a large community and customer of Capitol Services, encourage them to begin providing composting services?

A: FCA could work with the Composting Working Group to be a central hub of information for interested residents. If HOAs are interested in pursuing a discussion with Capitol Services to encourage them to lead in the County as a provider of composting services.

Q: Will you be doing any surveying to find out the level of resident interest? Is there a timeline for moving the discussion along?

A: We don't have a definitive timeline because of external factors. A survey option has been discussed. The general timeline includes increasing advocacy efforts in the community over the next few months. The question we're grappling with now is whether it's more cost-effective to conduct a survey or begin a pilot project.

Q: Could we approach Arlington County with the idea to begin a project pilot in Fairlington through them?

A: The one big question on that is quality control. Ensuring people are using the appropriate bins will be a central issue to doing a project like that.