

**Fairlington Citizens Association
Executive Board Meeting Minutes**

Fairlington Community Center
3308 South Stafford Street
Arlington, Virginia
July 9, 2014, as approved

Board Members Present

President Guy Land
Vice President Kent Duffy
Secretary Carol Dabbs
Treasurer Ed Hilz
Director Joe Hartman (arrived 7:10 pm)
Director Mark Jones
Director Carrie Street
Director Lisa Schwanger

Call to Order

The board of directors meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. President Land noted that a quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

There was consensus to approve the meeting agenda distributed by President Land on July 6 by email, as there was for his request to take items out of order.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the June meeting distributed on June 25th were approved 5-0-2. (Officers who were absent from that meeting abstained; Hartman had not yet joined the meeting.)

Officer Reports

President

President Land wanted to put into the record the fact that we hosted a briefing from the Park Shirlington team at the Fairlington Villages Community Center. About a dozen folks attended; there was some confusion about the location, which may have reduced attendance. No new information was revealed by the presentations. The FCA committee's issues will depend on what the developer proposes in the end.

Fire Station 7 continues to be on the short list for possible closing, but it's a fairly long process we'll need to monitor as it rolls out.

Vice President

Vice President Duffy and Christine Chirichella have discussed angst on Facebook regarding what comments are too negative, and which are too commercial to be posted there. He doesn't believe it's worth much time to police our Facebook page. Discussion has been heated on some topics, which is the result of honest expression of opinions.

After discussion, President Land commented that he does not hear that the Board wants more policing of the Facebook page.

President Land asked about overnight parking on Quaker Lane; we had committed to monitoring to identify if problems from the prior period when overnight parking was permitted recur. The overnight parking appears to be used, but sparingly. Vice President Duffy has heard no angst expressed about problems.

Secretary

Secretary Dabbs reported that there was nothing unusual in the telephone messages, and no electronic votes, this month.

Treasurer

Treasurer Hilz distributed seven documents by email on July 8th:

- * Approved Budget status as of July 9, 2014—it looks as if we're headed in the right direction, halfway through the year. We may well be on track to have a budget surplus for the year.
- * Bank account activity and balances—there is a little less in the bank than last month, but an increased balance over this time last year. Our working balance remains stable.
- * Certificates of deposit status—a couple were renewed; all are short term certificates. There was consensus to discuss moving to a ladder of certificates, to catch whatever better interest rates exist for longer term certificates, while making funds readily available on a regular basis, at a later date.
- * General ledger, January – May—This includes the checks on the separate list of the expenditures for the most recent month.
- * General ledger, June 16, 2014—Fairlington Day and 4th of July checks are listed here. We agree that we don't need these presented as a separate document each month, since they are included in the overall General Ledger.
- * AFB profit and loss statement last 2 years—July 2014 was a smaller issue; we have revised prices (with only minor changes) from Global going forward and new staffer taking care of us. We were between a 28- and 32- page issue for July. President Land steered it to 28 pages to give editor Johnston a break, give us a cash cushion, and because there were not a huge number of breaking news stories. If the same situation occurs next month, he will likely choose a 32-page issue.
- * AFB profit & loss statement January – June 2014—nothing remarkable.

Committee Reports

Audit Committee

Vice President Duffy reported that he, Treasurer Hilz, and Director Hartman served as the Audit committee this year. Taxes were filed in April. Our Form 99 EZ will be posted to website, as usual. The Audit Committee reviewed the ledger carefully prior to its going forward to be used as the basis for our tax return. No taxes were required for 2013, as we operated at a loss; we'll hold the funds planned for taxes in our budget as contingency funds for the rest of the year. We will need to keep this in mind; we'll likely have a tax liability for 2014, since we're operating at a surplus (at least so far) this year.

It would be possible to have this presentation regarding the Audit Committee findings earlier in the year.

Unfinished Business—none discussed

New Business

Election of Board Member

President Land has not heard back from the potential board candidate; he'll call her to double check whether she's still interested. We discussed various potential candidates. We'll try to reach a decision next month.

Abingdon School CIP

President Land submitted a draft resolution to the Board yesterday by email. To prepare us for considering it, he invited Jen Davies and Traci Gravelle to speak to us regarding where the process stands, where parents and the PTA stand, and what they'd like from us at this point. Davies explained that the School Board voted June 17 on their CIP, including the Abingdon update and expansion on an accelerated schedule. Votes against weren't against Abingdon proposal, but instead related to the new elementary school at TJ site (for which land has not been given to APS yet); there was also debate about middle school in Rosslyn proposal. Noah Simon, who had been our liaison to the APS Board, has resigned for personal reasons and will be missed. The assumption is that the county board will vote for the APS CIP; there has been communication between the APS board and county board on the subject. It will be necessary for the county board to work through the numbers to approve the APS CIP and also remain under the county borrowing limits. It is especially assumed that the Abingdon portion of the CIP will go forward, as the other two pieces are more controversial. Alan Howze, candidate for county board, requested and got a tour of Abingdon by Principal Uyeda. The bidding process for design and construction of the Abingdon renovation and expansion is already in planning stages. The idea is to start construction at end of the school term in 2015.

Resident Jim Hurzy commented that the process is driven by two prominent architects, including the Assistant APS Superintendent for Facilities. He has no doubts about the CIP plans for Abingdon School going forward. Hurzy attended the tour with Howze, provided a copy of *Fairlington at 50* to him, and mentioned the historic designation the neighborhood enjoys. The CIP includes \$28.75 million designated for Abingdon. It also allocates ten percent of the TJ costs, and five to ten percent of the Abingdon CIP budget for community amenities, such as an artificial turf field, possibly with lights. In the cases of Ashlawn and Williamsburg construction, the community was not informed in advance of such plans.

Davies indicated that there's a building level planning committee (which includes civic association, staff, and PTA representation) that will determine what the community amenities might be.

President Land indicated that we need to remember that the county board has to approve the CIP and voters have to approve the bond issue prior to this going forward. At that point, it's just a matter of procedure for the funds to be obtained from the marketplace.

He further pointed out that Davies and Gravelle are the ones who have driven the public conversation on the Abingdon CIP, with this positive result.

President Land indicated that he sees no downside in our speaking to the county board on this question. Dabbs moved, and Hilz seconded the motion to adopt the resolution that Land had provided by email to the Board yesterday:

Abingdon Elementary School is an important component of the Fairlington community. The school is facing significant overcrowding and has not seen major renovation work in a number of years. The Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) fully supports the provision of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) adopted by the Arlington School Board that makes the renovation and expansion of Abingdon Elementary a priority, with the work on both projects to be completed by the fall of 2017. Addressing the health, safety, and capacity issues at Abingdon in a timely manner is necessary to maintain Abingdon as modern and thriving neighborhood school that fosters effective learning by all students. The CIP adopted by the school board will accomplish this. Accordingly, FCA urges the Arlington County Board to include the renovation and expansion of Abingdon Elementary School as a priority item in the overall 2015–2024 CIP and to include the Abingdon proposal in the bond package to be presented to the voters in November 2014.

During discussion, Hilz suggested that we add the phrase, “, at a projected cost of \$28.75 million” after “to be completed by the fall of 2017.” Both he and Dabbs were amenable to this friendly amendment resulting in the following final resolution:

Abingdon Elementary School is an important component of the Fairlington community. The school is facing significant overcrowding and has not seen major renovation work in a number of years. The Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) fully supports the provision of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) adopted by the Arlington School Board that makes the renovation and expansion of Abingdon Elementary a priority, with the work on both projects to be completed by the fall of 2017, at a projected cost of \$28.75 million. Addressing the health, safety, and capacity issues at Abingdon in a timely manner is necessary to maintain Abingdon as modern and thriving neighborhood school that fosters effective learning by all students. The CIP adopted by the school board will accomplish this. Accordingly, FCA urges the Arlington County Board to include the renovation and expansion of Abingdon Elementary School as a priority item in the overall 2015–2024 CIP and to include the Abingdon proposal in the bond package to be presented to the voters in November 2014.

President Land proposes to send this resolution to the county board (and to cc the APS board), and reinforce our position by attending upcoming meetings. The motion passed 8-0.

Mid-year budget review—discussed during Treasurer’s report.

Fairlington Farmers Market (FFM)

President Land and Melissa Beene will discuss tomorrow. Last week, she was focused on 4th of July parade. We had expected the county board to decide about FFM in June; Beene asked President Land to wait until he’d talked to her before calling the staffers involved.

Shred event

The question at hand is whether or not FCA will be holding another shred event. This depends on the availability of a Board member or other community member to organize it. We’re assuming it will happen at this point, but with the resignation of Director Russell from the Board, who had planned to head it up, it isn’t certain.

Potential Programming

Programs could be presented at the September, October, and November meetings. A possibility is to pursue the idea of a discussion of zoning in the county, as Treasure Hilz suggested. There was general agreement that this would make a good program; Vice President Duffy will follow up. County manager and our school board liaison (previously Noah Simon) were other ideas on the table. For October, we are interested in having the county’s bond manager discuss the bond issues on the ballot, and possibly expand the presentation to cover any other issues on the ballot. There was general agreement that we’d prefer county board Chair Fisette to the county manager as a potential speaker. Fisette’s availability will determine when we have available for other programs this fall.

President Land would like to discuss other forward programming ideas, including looking at ideas for FCA public programs and activities as an annual cycle, at our next meeting.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and passed at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol Dabbs, FCA Secretary