

Minutes of Special Meeting held March 16, 1964 at 8:30 P.M. at the home of Mrs. John Turtora for the purpose of considering the formation of the:

"City of Fairfax Federation of Citizens Association"

The names and addresses of those present follow:

Mr. Eugene Davidson, President of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association	20 Harvey Lane, Bren Mar Park Alexandria Fl 4-7168
Mr. Bill Hobbs, Editor the Fairfax City Times	P.O. Box 350 Fairfax 385-7000
Country Club Hills Civic Association	Mrs. John Turtora, President 404 Capeway Court Fairfax 22030 273-5309
Mr. Clyde Erwin, Vice President	614 Spring Lake Terrace Fairfax 22030 273-3610
Fairfax-Fairmont Civic Association	Mr. James Jones, President 704 Cornell Road Fairfax 273-1910
Mr. James Smith, Treasurer	703 Colony Road Fairfax 273-7949
Fairview Civic Association	Mr. Larry Ginsberg, President 157 Peterson Street Fairfax 273-4090
Mr. Charles Brobst, Treasurer	139 Fairview Drive Fairfax 273-4984
Little River Hills Civic Association	Mr. Byron Harding, President 25 Estel Road Fairfax 273-1939
Mr. John Russell, Vice President	9 Perrott Court Fairfax 273-0145
Mosby Woods Community Assoc. Inc.	Mr. Robert Meacham, President 1100 Saber Circle Fairfax 273-7479
Mr. Zehala, Chairman of the Board	517 Confederate Lane Fairfax 273-4623

Mr. Eugene Davidson gave a brief presentation describing the general structure and objectives of the County Federation.

This federation was founded in the 1940's at the time Fairfax County was emerging from a farm community. There are now one hundred dues-paying member associations in the Federation. Possibly as many as one hundred and fifty associations exist in the county in all.

The objectives of the Federation are to sponsor and facilitate non-partisan civic action with reference to such matters as are of common interest. The federation attempts to bring forces to bear for the best possible government for Fairfax County, by keeping its application on a county-wide basis, with care not to supercede or infringe upon local associations' activities and responsibilities.

Dues are at present \$20.00 a year, expenses are attributed mainly to the publication of a monthly bulletin which is sent to all delegates, county officials and county government offices. Any individual may subscribe.

The officers consist of President, First and Second Vice Presidents, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer. Each association is authorized four delegates, with the association president a member of, and chairman of his delegation.

The Executive Committee consists of the six elected officers, candidates are drawn from the immediate past presidents of member associations, who serve as chairman of the following committees: County Government, Financial Affairs, Education, Planning and Zoning, Highways and Public Transportation, Parks and Recreation, Health and Welfare, Public Works and Public Relations.

When matters are to be brought before the Federation they are assigned to a committee for study. The Executive Committee studies the findings and recommendations of the committee and brings the matter before the Federation for a vote.

Mr. Davidson said here, that although this procedure is slow, experience has shown that in many matters involving policy it is best not to take hasty action.

The following questions were asked of Mr. Davidson:

- (1) Are city officials on the mailing list of the County Federation: (Mr. Meacham)
Answer - No, but the press is.
- (2) What is the charge for individual subscriptions of the bulletin? (Mrs. Turtora)
Answer - \$2.50 per year, which is sent to the Federation treasurer - Mr. William Burnett, 6812 Terry Drive, Springfield, Va. 451-1032
- (3) What has this Federation accomplished since its founding? (Mr. Zehala)
Answer - It has been a leader in getting the current county executive form of government for Fairfax County. It has been successful in supporting school bond issues. Also, there is a confidence shared by the citizenry in the knowledge that such an organization exists.
- (4) Is the federation incorporated? (Mr. Meacham)
Answer - No, there doesn't seem to be a need to do so.
- (5) How active in politics has the Federation been?
Answer - The federation does not back candidates of either party. Forums are arranged giving each candidate the opportunity to make his views known to the citizens -both in writing and in person.
- (6) Has the Federation achieved any success in changing any county ordinances? (Mrs. Turtora)
Answer - The Federation has not had the success it would have liked. At the present time with the problem of high-rise apartments, for example, the Federation is attempting to present a criterion, in lieu of simply going on record as being against the county plan.
- (7) Has there been progress regarding recreation facilities for children? (Mr. Zehala)
Answer - Not specifically, other than advocacy of budget called-for facilities. The Federation favors the neighborhood type of facility rather than the regional.
- (8) How many meetings are held? (Mrs. Turtora)
Answer - Monthly meetings are held except in July and August. Special meetings are held at the decision of the President. An annual awards dinner is held at which time the Evening Star presents an award to the citizen of the year chosen by the Federation.
- (9) Would such a Federation as we would form have effect in the county as well as in the city? (Mr. Zehala)
Answer - Yes.

Mr. Davidson stated that an important function of a federation is to provide common ground so that citizens have assurance that they can get together, get to know each other and take action on matters of common interest. It is felt that a group has more weight.

Mrs. Turtora stated that for example the school problem is not the particular problem of the PTA but is rather a taxpayer's problem. In her opinion another advantage of a Federation is that it would be easier to get adequate representation and attendance at a general meeting held in the city to which special speakers could be asked.

In connection with this, Mr. Russell said that recently he had attended a Planning Commission meeting at which the Mosby Woods Citizen's Association was objecting to a rezoning for high-rise apartments, and that there was little or no representation other than their own members.

- (10) What is the policy of the Federation with regard to zoning problems of individual associations?

Answer - The Federation has tried to offer criteria or master plans rather than enter into individual zoning problems. The help of the Zoning Committee has been offered these associations.

- (11) Would we be more effective as a Federation of city associations or as a small part of a larger federation such as the county has? (Mr. Meacham)

Answer - Mr. Davidson said that the good of the city could probably best be served if it had its own federation.

- (12) Does the Federation have any financial support other than dues? (Mrs. Turtora)

Answer - No. It has been the policy not to have ads in the directory for two reasons - the manpower required to obtain these ads and the time involved, and the desire to be under no obligation. However, individual citizen associations do solicit ads for their bulletins and directories.

- (13) Has the federation resorted to asking for additional financial support from individual associations in the membership?

Answer - No, but this could be done.

- (14) Mr. Russell asked Mr. Davidson to discuss further the relationship of the County Federation with other groups. Mr. Davidson said that they have worked very closely with the county council of PTA's, for example on budget requests, bond referendum, tenure of office of school board members. They have also worked with the League of Women Voters, the County Chamber of Commerce and other such organizations.

- (15) How did the County Federation get underway, financially?

Answer - Mr. Davidson said that so far as he knew, just with the payment of \$15 dues of each member, and that possibly at that time typing may have been done free of charge and paper donated. They now see the need for a full time paid secretary who could handle all of the administrative work which is voluminous.

- (16) How strenuously could our Federation support each association member in a specific problem? (Mr. Meacham)

Answer was that we would do our best to help. Mr. Russell said here that just the fact that an Association is not alone on a particular problem and would have other interested people to turn to is an advantage. Mrs. Turtora added that the Associations can get together on problems they have had as individuals, thus bringing together the knowledge and experience they have gained.

Mrs. Turtora described briefly the proposed plan to have minibuses operating in the City of Fairfax.

Mr. Davidson stated that we should consider a larger delegation from our individual members, possibly ten in order to have enough delegates to man our committees. Committee men are usually experienced civic association people.

Mr. Davidson extended an invitation to those present to attend the next general meeting of the Federation to be held at 8:00 P.M. at Annandale Elementary School on March 19th. They will have as speakers five legislators just returned from the recently concluded General Assembly.

Upon considerable discussion as to how to proceed from this point it was decided to meet on March 30 for a workshop session with one representative from each civic association. This meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Turtora at 8:30 P.M. It was agreed that we could not get too specific at this point, but should have some good general plan and a list of our objectives.

The minutes of this meeting are being sent to all civic associations in the City of Fairfax, all the Associations which were represented have a copy of the Bulletin and Constitution of the County Federation. It was felt that by April 20 each Association representative would have had time to contact his board and/or membership regarding their approval of federating and it was therefore agreed to meet again on April 20 at 8:30 at the home of Mrs. Turtora.

Mr. Zehala suggested that those planning to join the federation give some consideration to dues, membership, meeting places, committees and the bulletin. It would be possible to keep expenses down if we were able to hold meetings in private homes, for example and have the bulletin put out by each individual association in turn.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. John Hallam, Recording Secretary
210 Park Hill Place
Fairfax 22030 273-2788

Mrs. Doris McManama, Corresponding Secy
320 Spring Lake Terrace
Fairfax 22030 273-5838

Mrs. Judy Klotz, Bulletin Reporter
109 Old Post Road
Fairfax 22030 273-3249

Copies to:

Mr. John Marsh, President
Southeast Citizens Association
300 Forest Avenue
Fairfax, Va. 273-0430

Mr. Donald Hager, President
Westmore Citizens Association
1 Westmore Drive
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