

CAAB Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2021
Via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:30pm by Michelle Jefferson, who announced she would be calling the roll and making the requisite VAFOIA motions governing virtual meetings. Prior to the roll, she reported that secretary Morgan Jameson would not be in attendance; Michele Menapace agreed to prepare minutes.

Roll call, in attendance/member locations: Melandee Jones-Cannady, Lorton; Sandy Chisholm, Providence District; Doug Dane, Annandale; Jim Edwards-Hewitt, Fairfax; Elethia, Reston; Michelle Jefferson, Fairfax County; Michael Mahrer, Falls Church; Marcia McDevitt, Reston; Michele Menapace, southeast Fairfax County; Isaac Oreo Montero, Fairfax County; Gene Pettit, Burke; Adwoa Rey, Alexandria; Whitney Richardson, Herndon; Phil Rosenthal, Fairfax Station; Holly Seibold, Vienna; Waleska Watkins, Ashburn; Alice Yan, Herndon; Shari Zamarra, Fairfax; Ben Zuhl, Dranesville; Hari Kurup (location indecipherable)
Also attending: Willie Williams, Reston; Heather Thomas, Centreville; Dipti Pidikiti-Smith, Fairfax joined later in the meeting.

Absent: Abdullah Abdullah; Tae Choi; Morgan Jameson; Debbie Kilpatrick; Ken McMillon; Dipti Pidikiti-Smith; Willie Williams

Chair turned over the gavel to Melandee and moved that all members' voices may be heard by all others. Motion was seconded and carried.

Shari introduced guest Alicia Doe, who may become a member representing Head Start. Karen Pope from Cornerstones will address the CAAB later in the meeting.

John Ruthinoski introduced the CAAB's new staff liaison, Mena Nakhla, and reported that this will be Kevin Philby's final CAAB meeting due to an internal reorganization and new responsibilities.

Member sharing: Waleska reported that Dipti Pidikiti-Smith has been sworn in as a Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court judge. Shari reported on the 1/2 penny for affordable housing in the proposed budget and new construction starting near the government center.

Karen Pope of Cornerstones provided a report on Kids & Parents Engaged (KAPE) afterschool program, which is funded by CSBG funds. She then proceeded to answer questions from board members.

Motion to approve the April minutes by Phil Rosenthal was seconded. Michele Menapace inquired about why the attending members and their locations is listed twice. Clarification will be provided in time for the next meeting. Ken McMillon's name was misspelled & will be corrected. Motion carried.

John Ruthinoski provided highlights on the approved FY2022 budget, including budget guidance on the full penny for affordable housing in the FY2023 budget, the deferred implementation of the county's strategic plan and the newly-adopted county trust policy. He went on to brief the board & lead a discussion on community action priorities areas and how they link to the Consolidated Community Funding Pool categories. Board members will be expected to digitally rank their assessment of top three areas after the meeting. (Note: the meeting packet included materials related to these items and can be viewed via the board's Sharepoint Portal and from the Needs Assessment & CSP Resources link in the meeting cover letter.)

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee report was provided by Michelle Jefferson. The committee is reviewing how these areas are reflected in CAAB bylaws, recruitment and representation, procedures for contract-selection, development of budget and legislative priorities, tools & resources that may be provided to CAAB and potentially become a model for other boards, authorities and commissions, building trust, and meeting community members where they are.

Member sharing: Board members provided feedback on the Groundwater Approach: Building a Practical Understanding of Structural Racism training they attended on April 17. Shari Zamorra recommended reading the book Caste by Isabel Wilkerson. She also reported on Abdalla's absences being the result of being out of the country and difficulties he has in participating due to a lack of a computer. John reported the Mena will be sending out materials related to the OneFairfax Policy and the new requirement that all members of a board, authority or commission must acknowledge having read the policy.

Michelle Jefferson made several closing comments.

Motion to adjourn was made by Phil Rosenthal and seconded. Without objection, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30pm.

Submitted by Michele Menapace