

RFCA General Membership Meeting

May 27, 2021
Minutes
(Zoom Meeting)

Introduction

The May 27, 2021, General Membership Meeting was held via Zoom Call. Marcie Winitt, President, called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM. The minutes from the March 25, 2021, General Membership Meeting were approved.

Ravenworth Farm Swim and Racquet Club Update:

Jen Auble mentioned that the Pool will open this year from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Three membership plans are available: Seniors, Family, and Two-person membership. Gov. Northam is lifting the mask mandate on May 28, 2021. Currently there are 280 members. Guests will be allowed. Parties will be allowed, but only during the hours the pool is closed so that crowds may be controlled. Masks will be needed at check in and check out, but not on the deck. Ravens camp will be from 11 AM – 1 PM for four weeks. Food trucks and other activities will be available.

Feature Presentation - Vivian Watts, VA State Delegate

In commenting on Jen Auble's update on the opening of the Ravenworth Farm Pool, Vivian said "Glad to hear the pool will be open; great for kids to get together before school starts."

Mental Health

Del. Watts began her presentation by discussing her concerns regarding mental health among children, adults, and college students. The budget needs to be increased to pay for one counselor for every 250 students.

American Resource Plan Funds (ARP)

The General Assembly will hold a Special Session in August to determine the best way to disperse funds received from the ARP. Such funding could be used for broadband expansion to provide access to the older multi-family housing units and schools in Springfield.

Voting

Virginia has moved from the bottom ten to the top ten states in voting access. Changes made include: no excuse absentee voting, drop boxes, election day post mark if ballot received by the Friday after election day, and voter notification of paperwork errors which may be corrected by election day.

School Funding

Virginia teacher salaries rank last in the U.S. compared to full-time, year-round workers. Since Fairfax could only fund 2% of a local salary increase it was unable to take advantage of the state's 5% Increase.

Criminal Justice Reform

Virginia has ended the death penalty, jury sentencing, and changed the sentencing for robbery from a blanket 5 years to life to a range of penalties based on the threat or harm to the victim. A bill was proposed for the following robbery sentences: injury – 20 years to life; with a gun – 5-20 years; weapon other than a gun – 1–10 years; and no weapon – 1-5 years.

Clean Energy

Incentives to get people to use electric cars and the development of an electric vehicle charging network will significantly reduce carbon emissions.

Disappointments

1. Virginia does not have standards for nursing homes.
2. Two-thirds of the people on Medicaid are in nursing homes.
3. COVID deaths in nursing homes were 30% higher than those in other states.

Q&A

1. Rank Choice Voting – Republicans used to a greater degree.
2. Voting restrictions – VA was in the bottom ten states in voting access. Now in the top ten. Now has “no excuse” absentee balloting and a notification system to allow absentee voters to correct paperwork errors. Voting machines are audited to ensure reporting accuracy.
3. Braddock Road expansion. Since 2013 there has been more funding available. The process is a more flexible, on-going process; however, it does not have the funding to move forward. The Task Force is involved with spot improvements, but no robust changes have been made.
4. Sentencing. Burglaries: example – severe bodily injury such as a beating, sentence could be up to life.
5. Solar Energy Bill – SREC = Solar Renewable Energy Certificate. There is a rapid increase in use of solar power in Virginia: solar farms, roofing solar panels, changing electrical grid (selling extra power to the grid); Virginia is the first state to receive permission to build an offshore wind farm. Incentives for solar panels = negotiate to reduce electric bill and sell on the grid.
6. Legalization of Marijuana. Voted for the bill as originally passed, for the 3-year phase in for legal sales. However, Gov. Northam added an amendment that would make possession of up to one ounce legal on July 1, 2021. I had concerns about use marijuana in food products that may get into the hands of children.

7. \$50 co-pay for insulin. Do not have more information. First step is to highlight the issue.
8. Status of Redistricting. The state should have the Census Bureau data by mid-August. The Commission will begin redistricting to be completed within 60 days. I would like public input before the process has been completed. November elections will be under the old lines. The commissioners have been selected, including eight citizens (4 Democrats, 4 Republicans) and eight members of the House of Delegates (four Democrats, 4 Republicans), and will serve a 10-year cycle.

Business Meeting:

Budget:

John Ritchie stated that the projected budget for FY 2021 (October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2021) will balance at \$3229.94. He thought it would be worse since the Association had to outsource the printing of *The Farmer* to a commercial printer rather than using Key School due to the school closure. The cost increased each issue by about \$400. We will not have the expense of the Fall Festival or The Taste of Ravensworth due to the pandemic. We are not sure if we will be able to have the BBQ this year due to restrictions on the use of the pool's facilities.

Board of Directors Elections:

The vote was taken via Zoom; all officers unanimously elected.

- President – Marcie Winitt
- 1st VP – John Ritchie
- 2d VP – Richard Hildebrand
- Treasurer – Kristoffer Hull
- Corresponding Secretary – Diwakar Sharma
- Recording Secretary – Ginger Rogers

Covenants & Restrictions:

History: The Covenants and Restrictions have been published in the Directory for years, although they are now not enforceable. Last year, Steve Beste replaced them with floor plans of the different models of homes in Ravensworth. The members discussed the pros and cons of keeping the C&R in the Directory. Some felt, even if unenforceable, they tended to keep the neighborhood looking its best. Others felt that they should be kept as an historical reference and could serve as voluntary standards to keep the neighborhood more cohesive. Steve mentioned that keeping both the C&R and the floor plans would add to the printing costs. He suggested removing the pre school information would save two pages. A motion was tabled for the removal of the pre-school information. The board will decide prior the printing date as to the end result.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:37PM.