



P.O. Box 442, Lorton, Virginia 22199
Meeting at South County Secondary School
Tuesday, March 11, 2008 @ 7:30 p.m.

****** MINUTES ******

BOARD REPORTS

Mike Grogan, President, called the meeting to order at the Media Center of the South County Secondary School at 7:33 PM.

President Mike Grogan apologized for cancelled meeting in February. He thought January meeting should have gone smoother and has printed for distribution a Robert's Rules 'cheat sheet' and addressed the issue of adhering more to these rules so that newer members will be more informed in the discussions of who is speaking and where they are from. Regarding membership goal discussed in January meeting, the Federation has had some success in the goal of membership. Noted attendance of neighbors from Harbor View, Cavanaugh Crossing, Barrington, Lorton Valley, Laurel Highlands as well as Harold Nelson. Driving principle behind the goal is increased community awareness and involvement.

Dale Johnson spoke also about membership, and the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs list of civic associations and asked that members help update it.

Attendance by sign-in sheet (transcribed by Alan Salisbury in chart on last page)

Gloria Bannister, Treasurer, provided a financial report. There is a balance of \$8,701 with \$110 income and \$500 expenses. Motion to approve the financial report carried on a voice vote.

Quorum present.

ORGANIZATIONAL MOTIONS

Minutes from December 2008 approved on voice vote.

Minutes from January 2008 approved on voice vote.

Although about a dozen braved the February 12th ice storm, there was no meeting held in February due to severe icy weather.



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SUPERVISORS/LEGISLATORS TIME and DISCUSSION

- Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland
- County budget: 'hold the line' type budget, County Board authorized \$0.03 increase in tax rate, school expenditures are the major part of increased budget, put forth idea that some of the revenue from the rate increase be put in rainy day fund, since assessments fell on average by ~3%, vast majority of homeowners will see little change in real estate tax [I think current rate is \$0.89 per \$100. So \$0.03 increase would be less than 3% hike. – Alan]
- Gerry will ask for additional 34 police officers; foreseeing problems with sharp increase in foreclosed and vacant properties
- Assessment: Gerry apologized for the confusion about assessments, the county tried to correct the assessment of land vs. structure valuation, assessments were influenced by infill development, Virginia requires assessments be split into land and structure values
- Board of Supervisors: CPD for all of Mount Vernon Magisterial District was passed, the county as a whole will be observing how this works out in Mount Vernon. This will go into effect 30 days from March 10. There will be no signage, police will give a notification ticket, then come back some time later to check and ticket or tow. Nine civic associations, SCF, and MVCCA supported. Several individual owners of affected vehicles opposed it. Knowing many in our district have need to house the newly prohibited vehicles and trailers, the county will be looking into options for them. Current parking enforcement officers will be working on CPD enforcement in the daytime; at night, police must be called
- Mason Neck: 250,000 sewage, Albo attempted to address this, but his bill did not make it out of committee
- Sunrise Facility on Ox Road moving forward
- Peniwill Abandonment: Hyland will not support abandonment unless mining is prohibited on the land currently occupied by Peniwill
- Susan Fremit is Gerry's voice on the BRAC taskforce
- School: has been proposed to add a wing to SCSS instead of building a dedicated middle school. Gerry will be meeting with Congressman Davis on the middle school issue tomorrow (March 12).



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- State Senator George Barker
- Thanked community for allowing him to represent our interests in Richmond
- Transportation: spoke of Dulles Rail, future proposal to extend Metro Blue line down 95 South to Woodbridge, George sought to ensure HOT lanes did not interfere with current throughput on HOV. Sean Robinson asked about weekend traffic. George said that weekend fees should be significantly lower on weekends. Sean addressed and George acknowledged that the current HOT lanes plans require drivers to get transponders, and many do not have them and may not be aware they need them.
- Special Session on Transportation expected in next few months
- State revenue projections reduced in response to economic conditions
- Noted House budget decreased localities' funding; Senate budget did not
- SB 768 delayed, but not defeated: this bill would have replaced localities' authority to use the proffer system with impact fees. It narrowly passed in the Senate and was put off until next Assembly.
- Education: SOL rebenchmarking; Pre-K; noted that 3rd Grade reading scores are part of the State Dept of Corrections future prison space projection formula; George supported/proposed school construction revolving loan fund (also supported by House Speaker Howell),
- George proposed a bill to allow a circuit court judge to order polls be kept open (widely reported many people did not get to vote on primary day due to ice storm); passed Senate, but not House. Hyland asked about extending hours in general to 8PM. Goerge said the election board is concerned that the will not get enough volunteers to work the polls. One possible solution is to allow the precinct officers to work shifts instead of all day. A few people noted that the requirement to state party affiliation seems to be a violation of the principle of the privacy of a poll booth.



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PRESENTATIONS REGARDING ROAD PROJECTS

Kurt:(sp?) (Proj Mgr for affected Fairfax County Parkway Project section) spoke of parkway connection to EPG. Complicated multiphase project with funding from VdoT, Army, and (now lost) NVTa revenue.

Charlie: (95 Widening) construction has begun on widening I-95 to four lanes throughout in each direction between Route 123 and Fairfax County Parkway. Project includes eight new soundwalls. Earl Flanagan noted a study regarding direct access to landfill from I-95 at Furnace Road. Mike Grogan asked why it was not addressed/considered. VDOT Answer: to make this addition would result in delays and increased costs that VDOT thought not worth it. Lorton Road impact: starting first week of April for 4-5 months, closed lane each direction and possibly turn lane to 95 South onramp and turn lane to Gunston Cove. Marty asked about whether the pedestrian tunnel under highway would be closed. VDOT Answer: lower cost to close the tunnel, there is still access across/under 95 available via sidewalks on Lorton Road. Some discussion about VDOT lack of consultation with surrounding community. Mike & Sean said the Federation might address this issue by a future resolution. Linwood brought up variety of local projects and issues: Gunston Cove bridge, heavy traffic on Route 1 South and asked what steps our community should take to ensure our concerns are heard by VDOT; with special desire to have them addressed in time for the upcoming BRAC traffic. Sean said parts of projects have been cut due to the lost NVTa funding. Point was made that although civic groups do have influence, VDOT may decide a change in signal timing would be better solution than underpass widening; [I believe discussion at this point was about replacing aging rail overpass at the end of Route 1 at southern tip of Lorton - Alan]. Noting that rush hour seems to start as early as 2 in Lorton, Lowell suggested construction end earlier than planned 3:30 PM. Charlie(VDOT) pointed out that they will be studying traffic through the project and could stop work sooner each day if traffic is severely impacted. He noted that on Fridays, stop time is Noon. The project will be run out of Springfield and VDOT welcomes the public to visit. The Springfield office is in addition to a construction project office, a place where VDOT has displays to educate the public about road projects. VDOT is currently looking at replacement of Gunston Cove bridge. The wooden bridge is owned by CSX and is in their railroad right of way.



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Steven Titunik spoke about HOT Lanes and some issues inherent to large projects including Environmental Impact Study and inter-county issues. Sean asked if plans finalized or could there be changes; ie. Lorton HOV exit. Steven said the plan is pretty well defined, but allows some room for change. Will the Pentagon-14th Street Bridge bottleneck be addressed. Current plan is to terminate HOT Lanes at Eads Street in Arlington.

STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education (Christine Morin)

- Elementary School
 - Groundbreaking: more than 100 people turned out including VIPs
 - Website up
 - There will definitely be elementary school boundary study in Fall
 - Email/contact Christine if interested in Elementary School Committee
- CIP Hearings: three Dan Storck's motions on middle school(MS) passed
 - allocate \$2 mil for MS planning
 - asking FCPS to consider 'community school' (with public library, police substation, and/or rec center, etc)
 - If \$10 mil obtained [from public source], FCPS should build MS
- Recently had positive meeting with County Board Chair Connolly about MS
- Environmental Sciences taught at SCSS, also working with Gunston ES, Newington Forest ES, looking to start at Lorton Station ES; thanks to Conrad Meehan and EnviroSolutions

Land Use (Linwood Gorham)

- Triangular parcel just north of Gunston Plaza: bank & pharmacy
- Resolution 08-08 Opposing Peniwill Road Abandonment carried 40-0
- Resolution 08-09 Opposing Bus Shelter Advertising carried 41-0
- Resolution 08-10 Opposing Excessive Furnace Road Lighting carried 41-0
- Resolution 08-11 Opposing Virginia Senate Bill 768 carried 41-0



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Environmental (Gloria Bannister)

- April 19th Eagle Festival
- March 15th, plant 100 trees at Mason Neck State Park, 9 AM
- Alice Ferguson Annual Watershed Cleanup April 5_____
- Noted recent news reports of traces of pharmaceuticals found in water. Please dispose of medications in trash, do not flush
- Please prevent loose leaves from blocking storm drains and causing possible sewage problems. [Several communities in our area have storm/sewer drains that do not go to a treatment plant. – Alan]

OLD BUSINESS

- Anda Ostergard (Lorton Community Action Center)
 - Feinstein Challenge: LCAC competing for a share of a \$1 million dollar prize pool by seeking to maximize donations of food & money through April
 - Annual golf fundraiser scheduled for May 9th at Laurel Hill. Thanked Conrad Meehan as overall sponsor.
 - March 23rd Rock, Roots & Blues Concert; GMU Harris Center; tickets.com

NEW BUSINESS

- Harold Nelson of Shirley Acres spoke briefly about police presence in our area. Mr. Nelson was in the past few months a victim of daylight armed robbery in the yard of his home at 3rd & 4th Places. He urged either the forming of a Lorton police district or a coordinated tack force amongst the three districts currently serving Lorton. He noted often seeing the officer currently assigned to his neighborhood drive past his home. He also noted that the streetlights were upgraded in his immediate area.
- Mike Grogan thanked Mr. Nelson for voicing his concerns and updating us on his experience with police presence in our community and urged all to participate in the public safety committee.



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- Next Meeting
 - April 8th meeting is at 7:30 PM at South County Secondary School.
 - May 13th meeting is at 7:30 PM at South County Secondary School.
 - June 10th meeting is at 7:30 PM at South County Secondary School.
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:42 PM.

Note: South County Federation website is at <http://www.southcountyfederation.com/>

	Member Associations	Member Through	Here	Non Aligned Caucus Members	Paid Thru	Here
1	Afton Glen			Clifton, Irma		Yes
2	Barrington		Yes			
3	Crosspointe					
4	Gunston Corner THOA		Yes			
5	Gunston Manor		Yes			
6	Gunston Square		Yes			
7	Hallowing Point Civic Assoc		Yes	Other Attendees		
8	Harbor View		Yes			
9	Hollymeade			Gerry Hyland (Mount Vernon Supervisor)		Yes
10	Laurel Hill Community Association			Tom Howard (Hyland's Office)		Yes
11	Laurel Highland		Yes?	George Barker (State Senator)		Yes
12	Lorton Station		Yes	Earl Flanagan (Mt Vernon Planning Commish)		Yes
13	Lorton Valley		Yes	Tim Sargent (At-Large Planning Comish)		Yes
14	Mason Neck Civic Association		Yes	Anda Ostergard (LCAC)		Yes
15	Newington Woods			Amber Healy (Connection Newspapers)		Yes
16	Non-Aligned Caucus (see upper right)		Yes	Conrad Meehan (EnviroSolutions)		Yes
17	Occaquan Overlook			Ronald England (visitor, Woodside Apts)		Yes
18	Overlook Point			Greg Lyle (LHBOD: Laurel Highlands?)		Yes
19	Saratoga Community Association					
20	Shepherd Hills			Virginia Dept of Transportation VDOT		-
21	Springfield Oaks			Larry Cloyed		Yes
22	Shirley Acres		Yes	H S Warraich		Yes
23	Silverbrook Hunt			Steve Titunik		Yes
24	Southpointe			Bud Siegel		Yes
25	Spring Hill		Yes	Kurt(?)		Yes
26	Stone Manor					
27	Wildwood		Yes			
28	Williamsburg Square		Yes			