

**Meeting at South County Secondary School
Tuesday, March 2nd, 2010 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**** MINUTES ****

BOARD REPORTS (10 Minutes)

Called to order at 7:35 pm.

President's Report, Peter Dickinson. President Dickinson introduced himself and VP Linwood Gorham and welcomed attendees.

Approval of January meeting Minutes via voice vote.

Treasurer's Report, Gloria Bannister: President Dickinson noted Gloria is attending an APR task force meeting.

Distribute attendance sign-in sheet.

President Dickinson reminded members to check with their prospective organizations to get dues. He asked those who are up to date with dues to please fill out the application to ensure we have current information.

SUPERVISORS/LEGISLATORS TIME and DISCUSSION

Gerry Hyland, Mount Vernon Magisterial District Supervisor

Supervisor Hyland spoke of various issues including, but not limited to the items in his handout.

'Booms' heard recently are munitions training at Quantico MCB; continues through Friday.

For the first time he is aware of, BoS has proposed lowering transfer to schools; by 1%.

The tax rate will go up to ensure the county can maintain the quality schools that attract employers to our county. It is expected that housing values will continue to slide for at least another year.

Proposed cutting school resource officers. [proposed in budget, not by Hyland. – Alan]

Expect two or three, maybe four, nights of public hearings before the BoS to allow comment on the proposed budget.

Thanked Linwood Gorham and Gloria Bannister for coming out to the 23rd Annual Mount Vernon District Town Hall to gather signatures to petition the state to avoid closing Mason Neck State Park.

Debris landfilling/SportsPlex

He recognized Mount Vernon District School Board member Dan Storck.

He briefly ceded the floor to Christine Morin, who announced the groundbreaking ceremony for the South County Middle School is to take place at 11 AM on Saturday, March 20th.

Gunston Cove Replacement Bridge Study. Inquiry about going to court to force Amtrak to replace the bridge. Hyland thought that before that, we should sit down and look at the issue and determine how vital the bridge is to the community; especially considering the estimated 5-7 million dollar estimated cost. County counsel thought it would not be easy to argue that Amtrak owns the bridge.

Residential parking district.

Local 3-way stop issue.

Vulcan Quarry and permit compliance.

Under public safety in proposed budget, one item listed is reduction of overtime. Gerry will ask about the impact of each of the listed public safety cuts. He does not know the impact on beat officers, but intends to find out.

Dan Storck, Fairfax County School Board, Mount Vernon District

Mr. Storck came to thank and congratulate the community and federation for their good efforts in bringing the middle school.

He noted that the original estimate for a 2017 build was \$76 million. The middle school will be constructed beginning in a few weeks for \$22 million.

STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Education (Christine Morin)
 - South County Middle School groundbreaking ceremony
 - School board snow day vote Thursday: April 12th plus adding days at end
 - The school board hopes to have most of the days waived
 - School budget forum held recently
 - EdComm is working on a resolution
 - Citizens advocating for schools
 - Three nights of public comment before the school board about the budget
 - President Dickinson clarified the steps to consider and pay attention to: county will adopt its budget, which will let the schools know how much they will get in transfer
 - Dan Storck said the school board expects to vote on its budget in May
 - Question to clarify what is happening in legislature that would affect local budget.
 - Though the LCI is hoped to be recalculated, there is talk of skewing or freezing the ‘cost of competing.’
 - There is talk of budget management to reduce costs for required deposits into the VRS; Virginia Retirement System. It is a potentially risky financial move.
- Land Use Committee (Linwood Gorham)
 - Linwood spoke of the decision to save \$100,000 out of a \$1 million budget for Mason Neck State Park to close it. There is a roughly halfway built new visitor center underway. Senators Puller and Barker and Delegate Albo supported the effort to avoid the closure. Peter Dickinson noted success in using social networking tools. FaceBook got people quickly involved in contacting officials.
 - Resolution packet: Linwood noted that the first page of the distributed packet is the issue under consideration tonight. The other pages are the resolutions the executive committee passed during a conference call. There were imminent votes that the federation wanted to weigh in on.
 - Linwood noting a request to expand on the brief description of the resolutions passed by the executive committee during February’s conference call. There was a **motion** to affirm federation support of the executive committee votes on these resolutions. Motion passed without objection via voice vote.
 - Inova HealthPlex presentation
 - Main changes from presentation from a few years ago in which there would be five story healthplex, parking garage and two out buildings. Current proposal is four story healthplex, parking garage, and one outbuilding.
 - Linwood noted that this particular vicinity (I-95 & Lorton Road) is the principal vehicle crossing that the two sides of our community use to cross the I-95 & railroad ‘river’.
 - **Resolution 10-xx** not opposing OOT Plan Amendment for HealthPlex with FAR of 0.3 and opposing buildings other than the HealthPlex and with FAR above 0.3 unless additional site review and traffic mitigation which is satisfactory to the federation. Resolution passed without objection via voice vote.
 - Linwood noted that a previous applicant walked away from developing this property because they felt the development costs were too high. He feels that this is not an attempt by Inova to cash in on this amendment. The additional commercial uses are intended to offset Inova’s increased cost of development.
 - Concern raised about adequate parking. Inova noted that they propose more than the county recommends. 87% of parking will be in structures. Question about parking fees. No plans to charge for parking; generally Inova does not charge for parking.

- Questions about developers suing when zoning amendments they feel are consistent with the comprehensive plan are rejected. Hyland felt that the standard argument is that the plan is a guide. He added community has the right to weigh in when exceptions are made to the zoning of a piece of property.
 - Member thinks that if we make it too difficult for Inova, they may walk.
 - Noting the at least two other medical office buildings may mean that a use other than medical office might be better for the viability of medical offices in the community; less saturation.
 - Question about timing of Lorton Road improvement and healthplex? 4th qtr 2012 target for Inova.
 - Old school building across from I-95 South ramps? Long term plan is to use that land for improved 95/Lorton interchange. Inova expects to lose two acres to that purpose. Member noted the CIP has significant expenditure on the old school; \$5 million. Member suggested that money might be spent better elsewhere. Hyland agreed.
 - Tim Sargeant noted that the intersection as currently planned is expected to rate as failed in terms of handling traffic. He also addressed the issue of restaurant use. There is concern about saturation of restaurant uses in the area. Inova intends restaurant and day care center to primarily serve the other users of the healthplex. The plan language also supports this purpose.
 - Inova noted the county asked that the southernmost part of the property have no buildings in order to preserve trees.
- Public Safety, Clint Herbert (attending APR Taskforce meeting)
 - Parks & Environmental, Gloria Bannister (attending APR Taskforce Meeting)
 - Transportation, Marty Schirmacher
 - Gunston Cove Bridge
 - Illegal roadway signage

OLD BUSINESS

- Lorton Community Action Center (5 Minutes)
 - 2010 LCAC Golf Tournament is Friday, May 14th at the Pohick Bay Golf Course
- Opening discussion on whether or not the federation should weigh in on budget issues
 - President Dickinson noted the federation has tended to actively avoid undertaking politically divisive positions. It seeks to use its resources and energies to promote issues and actions that have broad support and resist issues and actions that have broad opposition.
 - Asked members to consider the idea.
 - Member suggested taking positions on budget items to cut as well as items to save.
 - Gerry asked that he be notified if the federation takes a position on the county or school budgets and he will put it in the official record of the board of supervisors.

NEW BUSINESS

- Next meetings
 - April 6th meeting: 7:30PM, South County Secondary School library
 - May 4th meeting: 7:30PM, South County Secondary School library
 - June 1st meeting: 7:30PM, South County Secondary School library

Adjournment at 9:38.

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