

**Meeting at South County Secondary School
Tuesday, September 14th, 2010 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**** MINUTES ****

BOARD REPORTS (10 Minutes)

Called to order at 7:35 pm.

President Peter Dickinson welcomed attendees and introduced himself and executive officers.

Approval of June and July meeting minutes via voice vote.

Supervisor Hyland will be coming late from the Board of Supervisors meeting. We will skip to committee reports.

SUPERVISORS/LEGISLATORS TIME and DISCUSSION

President Dickinson thanked Gerry Hyland for attending after a long day at the Board of Supervisors meeting.

Supervisor Gerry Hyland, Mount Vernon District Supervisor

Would have liked to have been there at the start of the South County Chamber of Commerce 10k, but was still recovering from jetlag from 10 days in China.

Last night, the Visioning Taskforce considered subject categories, asking all members to suggest and comment on issues under each of those categories. He noted the enthusiasm of the committee members

Looking to have preliminary report in January that will be presented at the annual Mount Vernon Town Hall.

Spoke of the split between the north and south. That issue of how we in the parts of the district act on issues that affect the whole of the district. 'It should never be them and us.' It does not make sense to him when the umbrella group in one part passes a motion in opposition to the desires of the other part. He weighs the desires of the affected umbrella group. Spoke of the split between the neighborhood affected and the umbrella group that represent many, but not all of the neighborhoods in that part of the district. It can also happen within an umbrella group when affected residents who have not joined the umbrella group are in opposition to the desire of the group. In those cases, he tends to weigh the desires of the affected residents higher than the desires of the umbrella group.

Member asked if there is a possibility of a vision for north of Belvoir and another vision south. Gerry said the Visioning Committee is tasked to envision the district as a whole. Discussion followed about separate desires between the two parts. Addressing our community desire to have a treeline character versus the plans to build tall hotels and office buildings on US1 north of Fort Belvoir, Gerry noted that the comprehensive plan should prevent the designation of the whole district as say open to tall buildings along all of Route 1.

What does Gerry think will happen to magisterial district boundaries? Some movement of the borders will have to occur. How will the visioning process consider views of residents past and future? The BoS will know more in May after better census numbers are in.

Linwood contended that the makeup of the visioning taskforce is heavily weighted to the northern part of the district. Gerry answered that the taskforce as a whole has an equitable number of members from north and south. The subcommittees were not kept in a similar ratio because he sought to place members into those by his chosen ones' areas of interest or experience. Subcommittee motions will be come before the committee whole. Linwood noted that many of the northern members were completely surprised by events south of Fort Belvoir during a recent visioning committee bus tour. It shows that many do not have enough knowledge of what is happening here to weigh in on issues south of Fort Belvoir.

Discussion of recent arguments made in letters to the editor of local press that civic groups such as the federation and the Mount Vernon Council do not adequately represent their areas. Mount Vernon Council notes recent claims by some that the federation does not have enough members to represent our area as reason to weigh in on issues within our boundaries. Immediate Past President Mike Grogan noted that the federation studied membership and representation issues during his term. The federation takes pains to ensure communities and residents affected not only are given an opportunity to address the federation, but are pursued for their opinion. Gerry made clear that he personally has known for quite some time that the federation is representative of this community. Immediate Past President added that Land Use chair Linwood Gorham makes efforts to ensure the affected community is notified of an issue brought before the federation whether a member or not.

What is the end product of the taskforce? Is it a simple majority vote? Gerry said he would be very disappointed if the recommendations are close simple majority votes. He wants to see a broad consensus of the whole committee.

Solid waste contract: Gerry spoke of a voluntary agreement which would allow lesser tipping fees in exchange for requiring drivers to use 123 and Furnace Road to access I-95.

Helicopters: inquiry from military about which hours are desired for training for emergency response October 13th & 14th. Mentioned Arlington County Board forum for helicopter in MDW on Wednesday. Gerry will be attending.

Considering buying Covanta facility. Current agreement requires Covanta through 2016. Covanta has lease until 2031. Covanta wants to continue. The county has until February to exercise their option to buy. He sees the county continuing to want this facility to operate. Member asked about lease details. Lease was with federal government and was transferred to county. Estimate another 15 years life of current facility. Can be extended with upgrades. If there is no purchase, Covanta will be able to set the fees when the current lease expires.

Covanta should be invited to LUC along with county staff to present their interests to the federation.

Member expressed concern of the county staff studying the issues based on some previous disputed numbers from said staff.

Where will money come from? Revenue bond paid off with tipping fees from the incinerator. Would not affect taxes.

Gloria noted that several staff members would be at the Noman Cole meeting Thursday.

Board Chair Sharon Bulova announced public budget forums.

Board Chair Sharon Bulova announced board is forming equestrian taskforce.

No new info on Alexander Company regarding Laurel Hill Adaptive Re-use.

Member asked about former Nike Missile site appearance: overgrown, not maintained. Why does the county not take the site back and put out an RFP?

Member spoke at length giving several examples of strong community ties within and near the federation bounds.

Linwood Gorham noted all 50 family fun nights at the Pohick Regional Park pool were sponsored this year. Sponsors initiated contact with him. He did not have to go out and pursue sponsors.

Visioning Committee discussion forum

[This will mainly be a list of general topics. – Alan]

Linwood noted that some

Subcommittees: Education, Human Services, Land Use, Public Safety, Environment/Parks/Recreation, Transportation, Business/Economic Development

Immediate Past President Mike Grogan suggested starting with the priority lists that the committees drew up.

It was noted that Former federation VP and Transportation committee chair Dale Johnson is co-chair of the committee whole.

Seek better land uses in the gateways to our community.

Future Metro or light rail. Hopefully through to Prince William County.

Commuter ferry.

Visioning taskforce will be a line item in our agenda for several months.

Talk of smaller federation meeting. Linwood feels that we do not need an extra meeting this early in the process; plus the next general federation meeting is in three weeks.

Gerry asked that his staff prepare the categorical lists drawn up at a recent Visioning Taskforce meeting be published.

Member asked about contact info for Visioning Taskforce. Gerry said committee officers and subcommittee chairs should permit their emails be made public, but not necessarily individual members. He noted that anyone wishing to pass along a message to a member who does not have public contact info may do so through his office.

STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Education (Christine Morin)
 - Middle School site starting to show what it will eventually look like. Walls are going up. Curbs and gutters are being put in.
 - Talk of a middle school boundary study.
 - Discussions taking place in the county about whether to open the new middle school in January 2012 or wait until September 2012. The boundary study would affect the timing of the opening.
 - Dan Storck wants a GT/AAP program at the middle school.
 - Member asked about any impact on closure of Clifton ES on other schools in the federation boundaries. Believed that there will be no impact.
- Land Use Committee (Linwood Gorham)
 - APR process is coming to a close. Board will vote on the ones the planning commission approves.
 - Linwood believes that for the most part we got most of what we wanted and some that we opposed were not approved. He was disappointed that the ‘treeline’ nomination failed.
 - Earl Flanagan noted that the nomination for the property that will have a bank and pharmacy was modified to not allow transfer of permission to have drive-through usage should the bank and/or pharmacy vacate.
 - Linwood noted nominations are pulled sometimes to avoid a four year wait for re-nomination if it reaches the planning commission and is not approved.
 - Several years back rezoning was done for one half of a piece of land just north of Woodside Apartments. The owner, Engleside Baptist Church, is seeking to do similar development on the other half.
 - Accotink: several properties there have been acquired, there is desire by the owner to develop
 - Earl expressed concern about the fact that he had conveyed the consensus of the community to the planning commission and yet, they voted in opposition based on county staff recommendation. He noted that supervisors may bring them to the Board of Supervisors. It has not happened before.
 - There are two nominations turned down that the federation will likely pursue.
 - Earl advised that this process be used lightly.
 - Question: Did the other commissioners express why they voted against? Earl said they were going with county staff recommendation. Specifically on the ‘treeline’ nomination, one reason was that it would be difficult to quantify ‘treeline’ height. Earl noted that there as
 - Supervisor Hyland entered during the discussion. Linwood summarized the basis of the discussion and noted that there are three nominations that we are asking to be approved despite not passing the planning commission. Gerry asked about the county attorney advice which Earl gave.
 - Christopher Group(?) seeks consolidation and development of properties across from Workhouse
 - Member asked that his community, Crosspointe, be kept in the loop.
- Parks & Environmental (Gloria Bannister)
 - This Saturday at 9AM in Gunston Plaza: Adopt-a-Highway cleanup
 - Sep 21: Accotink creek draft plan forum Fairfax HS
 - 22nd Dyke Marsh
 - 23rd Lorton Citizen Alliance Team meets new director of Noman Cole, 7PM at the plant.
 - 25th Natl Pub Lands Day> Meadowwood projects. 9AM at old Colchester entrance

- Oct 2: Solar Home and More. 10-5
- Member recognized Joe Hofmaster's sponsorship of a water outing for disabled kids
- Member heard from Delegate Surrovel noted legislation that would force counties take over stormwater ponds from local landowner if asked. Concern was that there is no legal recourse if there is an injury at the pond.
 - Gerry noted that some HOAs might not properly maintain the ponds. It would be a major financial liability for the county.
 - Member noted that he spoke of meeting with Steve Atchinson(sp?) about possible new requirements to have water held longer in the ponds.
 - VDoT does not have to go through standards of review that non-commonwealth land owners do when they plan and build for stormwater management
- Transportation (Marty Schirmacher)
 - "Clean Fairfax" signs.
 - Update on the pedestrian tunnel. Corrugated pipe was deteriorating and the cost of repair or replacement was considered too expensive.
 - An adjacent business was about to purchase the property adjacent to the former tunnel from VDoT. Thanks to Supervisor Hyland, that has been stopped. Last communication his office got from VDoT was that they are not seeking the sale at this time. IT was noted that the business has numerous environmental violations. Supervisor Hyland thought that Delegate Albo and State Senator Barker be asked to approach VDoT.
 - Signs in right-of-ways. If county enters into agreement similar to PWC, it would mean that orgs that have adopted highways would not be able to clean up signs during the 3-day grace period.

OLD BUSINESS

- Lorton Community Action Center (5 Minutes)
 - Sheds are gone. New building estimated to arrive October 15th.
 - LCAC Gala on November 6th at Harbor View
 - LCAC gave a record 345 backpacks to 165 families this year

NEW BUSINESS

- Motion to bring federation to FaceBook,
- Seeking Candidates' Night on
- Next meetings
 - October 5th meeting: 7:30PM, South County Secondary School library; possible Candidates' Night
 - November 2nd meeting: 7:30PM, South County Secondary School library
 - December 7th meeting: 7:30PM, South County Secondary School library

Adjournment at 9:50 PM.

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