



**Meeting at South County Secondary School
Tuesday, March 11, 2014 @ 7:30 PM**

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

1. President Nick Firth called the meeting to order at 7:42 p.m.

Nick introduced guests Fairfax County Board Chairman Sharon Bulova; Supervisor Gerry Hyland; Commissioner Earl Flanagan and At-large Member Tim Sargeant both with the Planning Commission; and Betsy Martin, of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Association. Nick stated Ms. Martin has been very crucial and supportive of our efforts. He also acknowledged John Mason and Tim Rizer with the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce. Nick indicated the meeting will not follow the regular format in order to hear from them and discuss our concerns with the EnviroSolutions (ESI) application.

Supervisors Report

Supervisor Hyland indicated there will be an administrative community meeting on April 3, 2014, at 7:30 p.m., at the Workhouse on the Lorton Road improvements. A fact sheet was provided. He said Chairman Bulova and he go back a long time when they were first elected at the same time. Supervisor Hyland said she has been a friend of Mount Vernon and has helped us with many things. He said he cannot remember when they disagreed but acknowledged that the ESI issue is a difficult one. He indicated he is unsure how the Supervisors will decide on this issue. He said he is proud of the citizens who made their points at the Planning Commission meeting and hopes the members will have an opportunity to talk with Chairman Bulova and share their concerns. He also stated litigating is not an answer to solving problems and coming together will be a challenge. He introduced Chairman Bulova.

Chairman Bulova said the state of the county is good; however, the budget is a struggle particularly this year with the property values going up. She indicated she is sensitive to residents and schools. Chairman Bulova provided a copy of her Bulova Byline monthly newsletter and encouraged members to sign up at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman to receive her newsletter by mail or email. She introduced Clayton Medford, her Chief of Staff, and indicated that they both would be available. Chairman Bulova explained that ESI has been a good corporate neighbor and has been a participant at many things. She indicated ESI's application is troublesome. She explained ESI's application years ago was approved with certain assumptions to include a date certain closure and building a park on top. The community felt this was attractive and supported. There was a disagreement between ESI and the county staff to turn over the park and concerns of liability. The recession happened and less construction in time to close in 2018. ESI filed an SEA to change the terms to extend to fill up the landfill and with the difficulty with the park suggested other options such as clean energy which the county could



showcase by using different energy sources and not rely on fossil fuel. Chairman Bulova stated this started out well and she was sympathetic to the recession and thought attractive options and that many in the county agreed. This changed with their period of time asked for being longer than expected and an increase in the landfill. Chairman Bulova explained the application started in favor changed with a larger berm which the county is concerned about. She acknowledge there is a lot of emotion and community concern and that someone will win and someone will lose. Chairman Bulova said she spoke with Supervisor Hyland to see if there could be some middle ground for the community to find a compromise. They both think a good alternative would be establishing a small group of representatives including community, staff and applicant members, willing to engage in discussion on the issues between those on both sides of the debate and to see whether there are options or changes to the current application that would be acceptable. Commissioner Sargeant and At-Large Member Flanagan agreed.

Supervisor Hyland said he talked with some South County Federation members when Chairman Bulova mentioned this concept to see if we could bring a conclusion or if the committee could agree. He suggested that one option that could be on the table is that ESI has not filled up to 412 feet and that they could be allowed up to the height approved in 2006 and then close the landfill. Supervisor Hyland said if we want to control the results, we should sit down and talk. He indicated there are both pros and cons and that the park does not sit well with anyone. Supervisor Hyland said he would support our considering doing this and asked for our thoughts or any objections.

Nick explained the history on where we are as a community and it is important for date certain closure and beautification of the hill and park which is 4 years away. Nick said we never left the table and are still at the table. He said this is a landfill expansion and there is a penalty they can pay to get out of it. He is unsure of the direction or what anyone is willing to talk about but hopes to find a solution to the current agreement which requires closure in 2019 and the construction of a park. Nick indicated the community did compromise in 2006 and agreed on by the Board of Supervisors and this is not being honored by ESI. Nick said he will recognize individuals in order to provide comments.

Two hundred community members were in attendance to voice their opinions about the landfill. Many raised concerns on whether the county needed the dump or why the extension should be considered; carbon footprint to build wall and operate for another 22 years; other green energy already available in the county such as Covanta's sustainable waste and energy; expansion at top from 4 to 40 acres and additional height; benefits or data justification of green energy to the county; affects to personal real estate values; meeting the original agreement or future promises; possible buy outs of green energy; other expansions such as Fairfax Water; truck traffic; redoing staff work on application such as cost benefit analysis; without date certain would not have passed in 2006; study on weather changes; financial effects on residents who do not receive bailouts/tax breaks; asked Planning Commission to support the community's position and impact of request.



Chairman Bulova explained ESI has a legal right to ask to do something different and that there have been some legal issues not all to his making. She said green energy is attractive the county and the county has had visitors from all over to visit our green energy efforts. However, there are concerns with the application and the certainty to what is promised. Chairman Bulova encouraged the members to meet and determine if there are concessions the community can get and if not the case and that the applicant has offered to participate. Members were asked by a show of hands if they wanted to sit and discuss further; and there was no indication.

Commissioner Flanagan stated he was proud of the mass that showed up for the February 27 Planning Commission public hearing and staying until 3 a.m. to speak. As a result, the Planning Commission deferred their decision to March 13, 2014. His intention is to have it moved until April 10 to have more time because there was no time to ask or answer questions at the hearing. Commissioner Flanagan contacted Fairfax County Wild Life if they would approve a wind turbine and was told they would not encourage applicant with a wind turbine.

Nick indicated the meeting needed to move forward due to time.

2. Committee Reports

Land Use

Martin stated a resolution was presented at the last meeting to convert the quarry into a water reservoir but was deferred for more time to review. He explained the resolution is one step in the progress of the language of what they are trying to do and not what they will do. There was a dialogue on added language on the blasting impact, truck traffic on Lorton Road, and development conditions. Language stricken on development conditions was added back in. Presentation made on portion of trail that should occur on Vulcan to tie in with trail on 123/Occoquan providing for an 80 mile loop around the county without a gap and in all directions. Lorton would be the center of it all. This is an opportunity to tell the Planning Commission we support this. Fort Belvoir is doing outreach for Heritage Trail. Also supports turning landfill into a park. Presentation will be made to the Planning Commission. Request made for 30-60 days extension to make sure language is right and that progress has been made since last month. Explanation provided regarding general language in Comprehensive Plan for more flexibility because studies/facts regulated by the state can change. Martin stated this will be deterred to the next meeting and should be the first item on the agenda.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting and passed unanimously. Nick adjourned the meeting at 10:13 p.m.