



**Meeting at South County Secondary School
Tuesday, April 14, 2015 @ 7 PM**

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

1. President Nick Firth called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. He explained the meeting will differ than usual by starting earlier and not having other regular reports in order for the members to hear from the four Democratic candidates running to replace Gerry Hyland as Mount Vernon District Supervisor .

Motion made to approve the March 10 meeting minutes which was seconded and approved unanimously.

Motion made to support the Smith/Packett's application for proposed construction of an assisted living facility in the Lorton Correctional Complex, located adjacent to Silverbrook Road at the entrance to the Spring Hill Community which was seconded and approved unanimously.

Nick introduced Karen Sanders, who is running for the Mount Vernon District School Board seat which will be vacated by Dan Storck. Ms. Sanders shared a few comments about seeking equity and excellence for our students.

Nick introduced and welcomed the four Democratic candidates; and thanked them for participating in a panel where he will ask questions so members could hear from them on issues of interest. Members heard from Tim Sargeant, Planning Commissioner; Dan Storck, School Board; Candice Bennett, small business owner; and Jack Dobbyn, small business owner and Fairfax County Human Services Council appointee.

Nick asked the candidates 10 questions from the Federation to include: having staff/office space dedicated to the South County area; sending land use applications depending on project location to the Federation; transportation challenge priorities; school funding; sewer for Mason Neck; future actions regarding the Lorton Landfill; economic development; balance of appointments for Board seats; promotion of the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton; and no thru trucks on Lorton Road. Candidates provided candid but different responses. Candidates agreed they would look to the Federation as a resource on issues of concerns to this part of the county; opposed bringing sewer to Mason Neck; acknowledged Route 1 needs expansion and more public transportation; and increasing funding to schools. Candidates differed on view of handling the financial challenges of the Workhouse Arts Center with Mr. Sargeant, Mr. Storck and Ms. Bennett agreeing to do more to support the investments in the Center with Mr. Dobbyn disagreeing and stating too much has been spent already. Candidates provided a lively conversation the challenges of attracting more commercial development, creating more jobs and addressing transit options along Route 1.



Nick stated the Democratic primary election is scheduled for June 9 with the Republicans having a firehouse caucus. He said the Federation will hold an inter-party debate with the candidates in October.

Motion made by Nick to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded and approved unanimously. Nick adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.