



Meeting at South County High School, Media Room

Tuesday, April 12, 2016 @ 7:30 PM

***** MINUTES *****

1. President Dale Rumberger (Dale R) called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.
2. Administrative matters & Officers reports
 - After review, a **Motion** to approve the March 8 minutes was made, seconded, and approved by voice vote.
 - Dale R recognized Mr. Tim Rizer, President of the South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce (SFCC). Together, they discussed the South County Visioning Taskforce (see New Business under para 7).
 - The SCF Treasurer, Larry Clark, provided the following report: “The balance in our account is:
 - SunTrust - \$1,954.61
 - TIAA CREF Money Market - \$6,479.97
 - Membership checks to be deposited: \$100.00
 - Estates of Roseland - New Member! - \$25.00 from Jan meeting; they will bring another \$25.00 check to April meeting and be paid in full.
 - Wildwood - \$25.00 - Trying to contact James Fenton to see if they want to supplement and be paid in full as well.
 - Newington Forest Community Association, Inc. - \$50.00 - Permanent membership paid in full.
 - TOTAL ACCOUNT ASSETS AS OF APRIL 3, 2016 - \$8,534.58
 - I have enough back-up material for the transfer of the TIAA CREF Money Market from FOLC to SCF and SunTrust can do a "Medallion Seal" transfer form, which is what is required.”



3. Supervisor Report

- Springfield District Supervisor, Pat Herryty, was invited but was unable to attend.

- Mount Vernon District Supervisor, Dan Storck, made the following comments:

- County budget process. “We are in the middle of the budget process. The core budget package will be going forward soon, and the County Board of Supervisors (BOS) will formally adopt the FY 2017 Budget Plan in a couple of weeks.”
- “The County Executive Budget includes important items.
 - “We are starting to hire more police officers, at least 75 or so. We spend far less on police than some areas do, but we really need more in our area. There have been several incidents, to include one in which a man was killed in his house; so the community is on edge right now; and we suffer from slower police response rates. We’ll start by hiring perhaps 16 extra officers per year until we get up to par.
 - “The School budget is higher than what it was during the last cycle. Even with the 4 cent per \$100 tax increase, and the Commonwealth increase of \$21 million to our school system, the School Board reports there are still unmet needs (eg keeping teacher compensation competitive, reducing class sizes, etc). Karen (Corbett Sanders) and I are trying to identify what are fairer budget goals. Right now we are more than \$50 million in the hole.
- “Airplane noise is increasing. Last year, the FAA adopted a new program called NextGen, designed to optimize flight routes. The effect locally has been that flights now turn after the Woodrow Wilson Bridge (instead of several miles further south) right over Mount Vernon neighborhoods. The noise is deafening and sometimes continues until around 1 AM! We are looking to address this with (Reagan)National Airport, but we may need the assistance of the County Executive and the Office of Legislative Relations.
- “Farmers Markets in the area include one at the Lorton VRE parking lot, starting on May 1st.”

4. Legislative Updates

- Delegate Dave Albo, State Delegate for the 42nd District, commented:

- “Currently, Fairfax County has a 0% growth rate. This is a big problem. In order to create more jobs and increase economic growth, we need to reduce our dependency on the Federal Government and diversify our Northern Virginia (NOVA) economy. For this reason, I have invested a great deal of time in helping Fairfax INOVA start their Translational Medicine Institute right here in Fairfax County. The institute combines



gene mapping, massive computing power, and clinical trials to develop medications based on a person's individual DNA code. These procedures can result in medications that are tailored to each person. For example, by knowing a person's DNA code, a doctor could recommend medication that has worked for cancer patients with similar genetics and avoid drugs that might not work for that DNA type. This could save billions of dollars in medical costs and correctly treat diseases to save millions of lives. By making our County a national leader in the field of genetics, I hope to make Fairfax County the world's center for personalized medicine, and therefore create an economic engine in NOVA for years to come.

- “What do I consider my greatest hits? I am very pleased with the improved access for in-state students at institutions like UVA, VA Tech (which has added more than 500 slots), and JMU. Only William & Mary does not have a good record. Making sure there is space at Virginia's Colleges and Universities for our children and keeping tuition affordable is important.
- “State funding for schools is based on a weird funding formula, which is based on relative income of various counties. Since the Great Recession, and with the continuing hits to NOVA by Sequestration, we're not as rich as before, and so we've been able to get \$141 in state funding added per student for the 2016-17 school year. Actually, over the past five years, we have delivered **\$648/student/yr. more** to our Fairfax County Public School students! It was not easy. Since Fairfax was gaining money while others were losing, there were many attempts to divert the money going to Fairfax. We defeated these attempts every year. This budget also put money through a novel approach which provides an increase in funding for “Cost to Compete” (a funding mechanism that sends more money to high cost areas like ours, because it is more expensive to hire teachers in Fairfax as opposed to Danville).
- “I have gotten an earful regarding proposed changes in the hot lanes. Currently, the Express Lanes northbound end is on I-395 just inside the Capital Beltway, where the old HOV lanes pick up following traditional rush-hour HOV rules. Drivers who do not meet HOV requirements when the rules are in effect are required to use the regular lanes on I-395 between Landmark Mall and the District. Now, the Governor wants to extend the I-95 Express Lanes all the way to a point close to the DC line. I tried to submit a bill forbidding such an extension, but got no support from anyone! All I can recommend is that all of you tell VDOT that you hate this concept!
- “By July 1, VDOT is supposed to have a system in place to advise drivers ahead of time if you are approaching a threshold for which you would be fined for infractions on the Hot Lanes.”



- Senator George Barker representing the 39th District, stated:

- “The session was pretty amicable this year, except for the situation regarding the appointment of a new Supreme Court Judge. The Governor approved a highly qualified circuit court judge, Jane Marum Roush, using a recess appointment to temporarily install her on the state’s highest court (but such recess appointments expire 30 days after the legislature reconvenes unless legislators actually elect the judge for the slot). Objections were made along party lines, and a split 20 / 20 decision ensued. So Judge Roush had to leave the Supreme Court, had given up her job as a circuit court judge, and now cannot even practice as a private lawyer in front of the circuit court. With such partisan actions in play, one wonders if qualified people like Roush will hesitate in the future to take the chance that she did.
- “I’m on the Finance Committee for the first time. Sequestration hit us hard, but we have bounced back by more than 8% . Along with other NOVA legislators, we are trying to build back funding for schools (see the more extensive comments from Dave Albo above). Diversifying the economy is essential, and I’m trying to provide money for Dave Albo’s initiative with the Translational Medicine Institute (see details above).
- “We’ve succeeded in getting a 3 % increase in pay for state employees and college faculty, as well as a 2 % pay increase for teachers and state-supported local employees in the first year of the 2-year state budget.

- Senator Scott Surovell, representing the 36th District :

- Introduced himself as the newest legislative representative.
- Regrets the Roush situation, adding, “We need, but have not had, regional representation on the State Supreme Court in a while.”
- Reinforced many of Albo’s comments regarding educational funding, and stressed that “State funding has increased by more than 50% since 2010.” He highly praised Dan Storck as the leader responsible for acquiring more school funding starting in 2010.
- Started a discussion on the recently signed Proffer Bill, saying “ It is not as bad as you have heard.” Following that was an energetic discussion from all 3 legislators and many attending the meeting. People were obviously confused about how this bill may impact projects in our area. Sen. Surovell and others reassured that the bill only affects **new** residential development. It doesn’t apply to Route 1 projects, Metro Stations, or commercial re-zoning.
- Expressed disappointment in the failure his efforts (including work with Dan Storck) to address transit problems, including expediting the process for Bus Rapid Transit and the Yellow Line extension on the Route 1 Corridor. “My plan was approved by all except the Board of Supervisors.”



- Q&A session for all Legislators

- Q: Where may Proffer monies be spent?
A: Money from Proffers may be spent locally on something with direct application to the Proffer project, and not go into some slush fund elsewhere. For instance, proffer money for a new residential development might be applied in extending community infrastructure such as sidewalks; but could never be used to build new park facilities on the other side of the county.
- Q: What if the developer wants to offer more money than required by the Proffer?
A: Earl Flanagan responded, "No they cannot do that."
- Q: Are there more State Police on the Hot Lanes vs the regular lanes?
A: Del. Albo said that the Hot Lane contract includes an obligation for the contractor to pay for more police patrolling on those lanes.
- Q: (I think [?] that this one came up after someone mentioned a town in Texas where the School Board had the power simply to determine the cost per pupil and then that cost was passed along to the citizens as a tax). What would be the process needed for us to be able to do something like that?
A: Del. Albo said that, "You would have to have a bill. According to the Dillon Rule, Fairfax County has limited powers. More specifically, Virginia courts have concluded that local governments in Virginia have only those powers that are specifically conferred on them by the Virginia General Assembly. The weird thing is that Fairfax County has become a de facto city but does not have the taxing powers of a city because it still legally operates as a county. Most of our county officials would not desire to be re-created as a City because that city would have to assume the headache of road construction and maintenance."
- Q: What's the plan to improve the poor condition of our roads?
A: Del. Albo said that in 2013, we finally were able to increase taxes to pay for road repair; but we are still behind. He is working on raising \$400 million per year for NOVA roads,
- Q: Are indigent persons subject to a de facto "debtor's prison" for failure to pay fines?
A: Del. Albo responded that he has never seen such a thing except in cases of failure to pay restitution, in which case, the person should go to jail.
- Q: What is the expectation for an increase in taxes?
A: Supervisor Storck said we are at the maximum possible for this budget cycle.



5. Committee Reports

- Transportation, Dale Johnson (Dale J), Chair commented on:
 - Embark Richmond Highway: “I greatly applaud Senator Surovell’s Blue Line study. We have one seat among 13 members of the Embark Advisory Group. We have met and scheduled a plan thru 2018. We hear the term “Richmond Corridor”. This refers to the area around Route 1, from just south of I-495 to Ft Belvoir. The Route 1 Multimodal Study made 7 recommendations. Our advisory group is mostly focused on 2 of the study’s recommendations as most important for us locally: [1] Bus rapid transit all the way to Occoquan, and [2] getting 6 travel lanes on the Richmond Hwy, with the understanding that there are different levels of funding for different sections of the highway.” However, it is hampered by the current time table which suggests waiting thirteen years to develop Bus Rapid Transit on Route 1 and twenty five years for the extension of the Yellow Line to Hybla Valley.” Earl Flanagan added that there will be another study for the Yellow Line transit.
 - Lorton Road Widening Update: “Mr. Ben Lineberry, Consultant Construction Manager, was unable to come tonight, but has provided a handout summarizing progress.” In summary, it is expected that Phase 4 (Workhouse Road from Lorton Road to Rt 123) will open to traffic this summer with the remaining work (Phase 3) on the project being completed late Winter/early Spring, weather dependent. For full details please visit the project website: <http://www.LortonRoadConstruction.com>
 - Intersection of Lorton Road / Silverbrook / Sanger Street: “How can we influence a change to improve the terrible Right turn onto Silverbrook Rd? We need to energize to try to get 2 right turn lanes there,” said Dale J. He added that the current configuration at the intersection includes 2 Left turn lanes, because the focus had been based primarily on the needs of the INOVA Emergency facility. Many ideas were tossed out as to the best way to get 2 Right turn lanes turning from Lorton onto Silverbrook. The best ideas, to us at least, usually did not have a good outcome for the bicycle lane, on which it is rare to see a cyclist. Supervisor Storck pointed out that Allison Miessler has just joined his team as a transportation and human services aide; so she should be an excellent resource for us in moving forward in this issue.



- Public Safety, Jonathan Kiell, Chair , was not able to attend and represented by Dale R and Nick Firth
 - Update on Police Station and Animal Shelter : Not much movement is expected until the end of May; however, Nick has learned that despite SCF’s clear message against having an animal crematorium in the facility, the planners are leaning toward exactly that. Also, Nick understands that there will not be a catch-and-release feral animal program.
 - Update on new Fire Station: It will be a 19-20 month process to complete the new station. The old one will be torn down.

- Land Use (LUC), Martin Rizer, Chair provided the following:
 - Update on Artis Senior living on Ox Road: A new issue has arisen since last month. Artis’ formal presentation to the LUC had boasted a “hardy plank” façade; but in their detailed presentation to VDOT, this high-quality façade had been downgraded to plain vinyl siding, which is not compatible with the general ambience of the neighborhood. We are working with Artis to get them to revert to their original plan. Also, Artis indicates that they want to phase-in various sections of the building; so that they will begin by only building the center part to accommodate 66 residents. Later, they will phase in the wings, and bring their capacity to a total of 88 units
 - Update on Gunston Cove Road Concrete Batching Plant application. It has come to our attention that the Applicant has been working with staff to challenge, in several ways, the position of the SCF’s LUC in opposing their SEA; and in fact to misrepresent our position at the public hearing by testifying that they had the support of the SCF, when they do not. Complete details are included in the SCF Resolution Addendum discussed at this meeting. A **Motion** was made and seconded to reaffirm the SCF’s original resolution dated May 12th, 2015 in opposition to the application. The Motion passed by a vote of 37-0.
 - Martin and his wife are expecting their 2nd child, and he must step away from the SCF for a period of time. Nick Firth is willing to step up as Chair of the LUC. A **Motion** was made to designate Nick Firth as Chair of the LUC, and this passed by a vote of 40 to 0. Martin was thanked for all his hard work and congratulated on the new baby.



- Environmental & Parks, Gloria Bannister, Chair
 - Irma Clifton mentioned the annual Eagle Fest at the Mason Neck State Park on Saturday, April 23, 2016. She reminded everyone that this event always is very family-friendly. Also Spring Fest will take place from 10-4 on April 30th. On the Virginia State Park web site, one finds the following description:
Enjoy a day of celebration and learn about nature at its finest from some of the finest. Mason Neck and its neighbors on the Neck provide an exciting and adventuresome day so that visitors may view live animal shows, including those by the Raptor Conservancy and Reptiles Alive. There will be guided hikes, wildlife and nature exhibits, nature programs, fun activities and games, and great music and refreshments. With a little luck, visitors will also see bald eagles soar over Belmont Bay. All activities will be outdoors rain or shine. Park admission and the events are free. Bring the whole family and enjoy a wonderful day of nature at the park.
 - Irma also talked up Spring Fest at the Workhouse Arts Center on the same date as Eagle Fest, Saturday, April 30th from 10-4. This year's description is: *This Earth Day and Arbor Day celebration features family-friendly games, hands-on activities, a bounce house, pony rides, farm animals and more!*
- Education, Christine Morin, Chair , turned the floor to Karen Corbett Sanders, the Mount Vernon District representative on the Fairfax County School Board.
 - Karen began by thanking all of the Legislators present this evening for all their support, and then addressed the budget shortfall, saying, “Not only is the Board working on issues in the school budget, but there is a shortfall which is not the fault of the County. The recent recession really hit us hard, and we do not get the level of funding that we should from the State level. I am optimistic that the BoS can succeed in getting a meals tax on the referendum. We need to increase funding; and perhaps by implementing a tax we could then decrease property taxes.
 - Ms Corbett Sanders also announced, “Good news – we expect that the Board will approve the renovation of the Newington Forest Elementary School.



- “We will recognize April as the Military Child Month,” she continued. “We should recognize these kids’ service. Some of them have both parents deployed in support of our nation. Remember to just thank them for their service, too.
- “A survey will be out to determine community opinions about possibly starting the school year before Labor Day. There has been a lot of discussion as to whether it should start 1 or 2 weeks early.”

6. Old Business – none

7. New Business: Formation of a South County Visioning Taskforce to be formed in cooperation with the South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce .

Mr. Tim Riser, President of South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce (SFCC), mentioned Mr Thomas Repczynski. He is the Secretary of the SFCC, and will also serve as their representative to the SCF monthly.

Mr. Rizer said, “We must plan or we will be sorely disappointed. Many things that the SCF has done have been reactive. So the SCF and SFCC want to look into the future to see what South County can be, and then develop a plan to achieve. It will be a slow process, but this is important.” He solicited participation by our group. Dale R responded, “We want to jump in with you, and would like to host a job fair, open to all. We would then advertise availability of jobs/ businesses in our area.”

A **Motion** was made by Dale R to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded and approved unanimously. Dale adjourned the meeting at 9:47 PM

NEXT MEETING: May 10th, 2016 at South County High School, Media Room. Future Meetings: June 14th, July 12th, September 13th, October 11th, November 8th, December 13th.