



Tuesday, September 13, 2016 @ 7:30 PM

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

1. President Dale Rumberger called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.
2. Administrative Matters & Officers reports
 - July Minutes - After review, and request for one minor correction, a **Motion** to approve the July 12 minutes was made, seconded, and approved unanimously by voice vote.
 - Treasurer's Report - Larry Clark

Larry was unable to be here tonight, but provided his input in writing as follows: "We welcome the Spring Hill Community Association and the Laurel Hill Community Associations as new permanent members!"

- SunTrust Account balance as of August 31, 2016: \$2,030.78
- TIAA-CREF Money Market balance is: \$6,479.97
- SCF balance as of July 7, 2016: \$8,510.75

"In October we need to start making a major effort to get our house in order, including:

- Need the letter from Dan endorsing membership
- Need signed Minutes from December & Jan to substantiate change of signatories to the account
- I need to get Medallion letter to TIAA-CREF to transfer signatories and eventually transfer funds here
- Need to resend emails about renewing memberships along with revised membership rules

"Most is mine to do, but we need to get this going again."

- South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce (SFCC) Report – Tom Repczynski not in attendance.



3. Supervisors' Reports

- Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS), spoke at length on many issues affecting South County, beginning with laudatory comments about the smooth transition period from Supervisor Hyland to Supervisor Storck. She emphasized that she “enjoys working with Dan. The transition has gone well!” Chairman Bulova then spoke to the following issues:

- FBI headquarters site selection – “There has been no new movement on this. They (the GSA or FBI) are still making changes regarding parking needs and other considerations. There is more to come.”
- “Laurel Hill development is really exciting and a good example of where we’re going in the County. It is this kind of redevelopment and revitalization that is our future. So when people look at how we are developing, they can see that it reflects a plan! The Mosaic at Merrifield (an area with very old facilities) and the Springfield Town Center are being revitalized. More of that can be seen in South County at the Liberty development. Consider that:
 - “The Workhouse Arts Center has a long history . . . originally it was a prison with a progressive vision to help prisoners learn a trade . . . but then hardened prisoners began to be placed here, and it became more dangerous. The prison’s closing allowed Fairfax County to acquire it; but we also acquired an old prison site with many challenges. We had a great idea to do something neat and cool . . . like an Arts Center! But then the Great Recession had a negative impact. Happy news is that Fairfax County helped to correct the financing problems. Gerry Hyland was a rock in keeping this all alive!
 - County History Museum: “There are other opportunities, too; such as a task force I and others tried to put together to create a *proper* history museum to tell the story of this County thru the centuries. Significant documents are squirreled away all over the County (7Corners; City of Fairfax Regional Library, etc). Maybe we could partner with the George Mason University Curatorial program. Another interesting possibility is that, at the old prison Quad, behind the Arts Center, are two brick buildings; one of which could be used for the County History museum and the other as a home for all the significant documents. I have been trying to bump up the park bond referendum, and met with a lot of resistance. We then decided to step back and educate everyone on this initiative before bringing it back before the BOS. As a bottom line . . . we could create a real nexus for county history here!”
- Meals Tax – “This will be on the ballot Nov 8. There will always be some objections to new taxes, but we (Sharon and Dan Storck) are trying explain it in terms of diversifying the economic base. We still are not back on our feet from the Recession. Local property values and revenue rebound have not been as robust as after previous recessions; and business growth has not overcome the slump. So how to generate more



revenue? A County is very restricted regarding taxing powers (because of the Dillon Rule), even though Fairfax County has become a de facto city. The BPOL tax (Business, Professional, and Occupational License) and the car tax are maxed out. Most cities /towns already have meals taxes. If County voters approve a meals tax this Fall, diners will not be double taxed if they patronize a restaurant in a town with its own meals tax. I personally will be voting Yes!”

- Police Practices - Dan Storck asked Supervisor Bulova for an overview of Police Practices issues; and she responded, “ Fairfax County has been looking at how we respond to critical incidents, especially since the John Geer shooting which resulted in an unarmed man being killed. At the time, our BOS did not manage the flow of information in the best manner. We did not share information; and as a result, the Police attorney got into an adversarial situation with the State Attorney. So we decided to open everything and to create an “ad hoc Police Practices Commission”. We then brought all players to the table, including family, press, media, etc. We grew a *Crisis Intervention Training* for police officers as well as Fire and Rescue teams in order to provide them with a better understanding and deeper appreciation for individuals suffering from a mental health crisis. Transparency is a key component of this approach. We also talked about creating an ‘*oversight committee*’ (a citizen overview panel that could look at complaints and advise us on police matters) and will consider this at the BOS meeting in October. As a final comment, we are looking at creating a *Police Auditor* with a small staff . . . someone who has never been employed by the county or school system. Hopefully we will formally adopt this next week. This person will look at investigations as they develop. Hopefully this person can prevent the dysfunction that we’ve experienced in the past.”
- New Police Station – “The site still is not selected, but they are close to selecting an architect. We are re-engineering and modernizing this police department and finding where we can go.”
- Questions from the floor -
 - Dale Rumberger asked about the Embark project, pointing out that “Prince William is going to get massive redevelopment, whereas we are in Phase 3 or Phase 4; but land use and business development and transportation are all intertwined down here. I’m trying to figure where we will end up vis-a-vis the Embark impact”. Bulova responded, “We’ve been able to add funding for Richmond Highway. I will be holding this as a priority to maintain balance with North County.”
 - What about the 2016 Community Development Bond which will be on the ballot? Will a new Lorton Community Center be built behind the Lorton Library? Bulova said that she supports this bond initiative, and suggested that interested citizens check what she has written in her Bulova Byline.



- Dale Johnson and Earl Flanagan both returned to the Meals Tax issue and questioned Chairman Bulova about details such as whether or not Prince William County is going to put a meals tax on the referendum. Flanagan said that his Home Owner Association wants to know the tax rate in various counties and municipalities in our area. Bulova described different arrangements across the area where real estate taxes provide what a meals tax could provide.
- Linwood Gorham commented on the very problematic CSX bridge (the last bridge as one leaves Fairfax County and into Prince William County on Route 1). He said, “This is the worst thing for miles up and down Rte 1, because trucks frequently misjudge the clearance of the underpass, causing them to stop, try to back up, and really messing up traffic! Can’t we address this one issue now before the rest of Rte 1 comes up on the schedule?” Chairman Bulova jotted this down and promised to look into it seriously.
- Crematorium/ animal shelter within the new Police Station – Comments were made that the community is somewhat nervous about the crematorium. Chairman Bulova reminded all that the approved bond money includes the animal shelter // crematorium. Dale R added that the crematorium probably will only operate a couple of days/month. Jonathan Kiell says they are close to hiring the architect; and our recommendations will be shared with that professional. Most design plans will not evolve until the architect is hired.

-Supervisor Dan Storck – began by introducing a new member of his staff:

Theodore “Tae” Choi, Community Development & Land Use Aide. Following this, Dan tackled numerous community items, including:

- “Fort Belvoir’s Pence Gate is closing very soon for 6 weeks in order to complete the new alignment of Rte 1 to Mount Vernon Highway.”
- “Come to the Mount Vernon Community meeting at Walt Whitman MS, with Supervisor Storck and Police Chief Edwin Roessler, next week Sept 19 at 7 PM, to hear more about the ad hoc police practices review commission and their recommendations.”
- Dan lamented “too many violent crimes (i.e. Mason Neck incident, and the recent murder in Lorton of a 17 yr old) in our communities. He commented, “I believe that the police have a suspect in the Lorton crime.”
- “Liberty is really coming along and can show units later this year.”
- “An applicant requests a special exception to build a Concrete Batching Plant, claiming that it is an enhancement for our area ???!!! We do not agree; but it will go before the BOS. Come to the BOS hearing next week, Sept 20th at 4pm.”
- “The Workhouse Road is now open! They have even incorporated the game *Pokémon Go* to attract folks to the Arts Center!!”



- “We had a highly successful Brewfest at the Workhouse Arts Center! This should be a biannual event.”
- “I really want to see utilities under-grounded along Rte 1 to counter the 50’s / decrepit ambience.”
- “COL Angie Holbrook is the new community commander at Ft Belvoir. I recently had a great introduction with her.”
- Addressing the ongoing issue of aircraft noise, Supervisor Storck commented, “We held a meeting at National Airport with 300 attendees and challenged the Federal Aviation Administration to listen to the community. “Plane Streaming” is their mantra, and it appears to be concentrating noise in areas right along the river, especially to the south of the airport. They agreed to spend 12 – 18 months monitoring things and then will get back to us.”

-Supervisor Herrity – no report was received, nor is anyone representing Supervisor Herrity this evening. Dale R will continue to try to contact his office.

4. Legislative Update: None

5. Committee Reports

- **Transportation**, Dale Johnson (Dale J), Chair, reported on the following issues:
 - Silverbrook / Lorton Road Intersection Update - Dale re-iterated outcomes from the June meeting including that they got an agreement to conclude an extensive Transportation study of the whole intersection in 2017.
 - Route 1 Widening Update has been covered in Dan Storck’s handout .
 - Workhouse Road Update – Complete. Hollymeade residents are providing input regarding difficulty they are having with ingress/egress. Dale will take a look at this.
 - Milling and repaving started today on Southrun and will include a bike lane along 2/3 of the length of the street. Double yellow lines are intended to “calm” traffic patterns.

- **Public Safety**, Jonathan Kiell, Chair, explained a Fairfax County project focusing on community disaster preparedness.



“Volunteer Fairfax is partnering with the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and Faith Communities in Action (FCIA) to sponsor workshops across the county to better prepare residents to deal with emergencies and to enhance partnerships among houses of worship; civic organizations, volunteer and service organizations, local businesses, county services organizations, and homeowner associations. This program is funded through a FEMA grant. Basically, this is an effort to get people talking to each other before some tragedy occurs.”

“They have been sponsoring workshops in various supervisory districts for the past few years. *Mount Vernon is on the schedule* for this fall, and I would strongly encourage participation. I plan to participate, but we can and should have more than one representative in attendance. The schedule for the two Mount Vernon events is:

Mount Vernon:

Seminar: Thursday, October 13th, 6:00 – 8:30 PM

Tabletop: Thursday, November 3rd, 6:00 – 8:30 PM

Information about the program is available at the Community Resiliency Group website:
<http://www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/Resiliency-Pilot-2014-2015.php>

Registration for the event is at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fairfax-county-community-collaboration-for-disaster-resiliency-mt-vernon-district-tickets-26886443075>

- **Land Use**, Nick Firth, Chair –
 - Chaney Concrete Batching Plant Update - This application is still problematic, because it is in the middle of Lorton; but it is coming before the BOS at their meeting next week. The applicant also wants a storage facility next to the concrete batching plant for re-bars, large heavy equipment, but no large trucks. Nick advised the applicant that the zoning is flex-industrial (i.e. indoor), whereas the work at this proposed facility would be completely outdoors.
 - Housing development along Workhouse Road - An application has been made to the Land Use Committee to build 48 homes. Earl suggested that we could request that the Workhouse Road be designated a “no-through-truck route” because it will serve 10 private homes or more as a result of this development; and also that it would be the main entrance to the future Workhouse Performing Arts Auditorium and proposed Museum.



- **Environmental & Parks**, Chair position open.
 - Linwood Gorham provided a Park Authority update, including his efforts trying to get parks and schools together regarding student safety by increasing visibility along various walking lanes (e.g. the Silverbrook trail usage has increased dramatically since improving visibility.)
- **Education**, *Christine Morin, Chair – needs a replacement.*

Karen Corbett Sanders, the Mount Vernon District representative on the Fairfax County School Board was not present; however a discussion occurred about the fact that enrollments are up in most local schools, and quite dramatic in some.

6. Old Business. None

7. New Business. Several items were briefly tossed about by the group.

- A homeless camp has been observed near a school and police will clear this out.
- Workhouse Annual Gala set for Oct 1, from 6:00 – 11:00 PM
- Nextdoor.com was discussed. This site allows communities to easily create private websites to facilitate communication among neighbors and build stronger neighborhoods.
- A preliminary SCF invitation has been presented to the Ft Belvoir Commander.
- Reminder that we need an update on ESI
- Liberty could be ready to lease apartments by late Oct for occupancy in January.

A **Motion** was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn. Dale adjourned the meeting at 9:40 PM.

NEXT MEETING: October 11th, 2016 at South County High School Media Room

Future Meetings:

November 1st (NOTE this date is 1 week earlier due to election),

December 13th