



**Tuesday, January 10, 2017 @ 7:30 PM**

1. President Dale Rumberger called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

2. Administrative Matters & Officers reports

- December Minutes - A **Motion** to approve the December 13 minutes was made, seconded, and approved unanimously by voice vote.
- Treasurer's Report was provided by Larry Clark , who stated :

The TIAA-CREF Money Market balance is \$6,479.97

The Sun Trust bank account balance as of December 31, 2016 is: \$1,983.56

TOTAL funding is: \$8,463.53

“I have a check with their \$50.00 membership from the Townhouses of Saratoga Community Association. We welcome them as permanent members of the Federation!”

3. Supervisors' Reports.

#### **Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity**

- Teacher pay and Pensions: Supervisor Herrity began with comments on this topic, and said that many of his constituents are upset because Fairfax County funds several separate pension plans for County employees. In addition, there are two separate pension plans for FCPS employees: Virginia Retirement System (VRS) and the Educational Employees' Supplementary Retirement System (ERFC). Some also receive a Pre-Social Security Supplement from the time of retirement until the retiree qualifies for full Social Security benefits. As the cost of our pension systems and benefits have grown, teacher salaries (compared to surrounding districts) have dropped, despite remaining near the top in *total* compensation (salary plus benefits plus pensions). Voters recently rejected a proposed Meals Tax that would have supported a \$33.2 million pay increase for County teachers. Commonwealth retirement obligations, which had been deferred during the fiscal crisis, now must be paid back through increasing contribution rates in 2017 and beyond. This has led to a very real problem; we are not able to attract the best and brightest new teachers that are critical to a top-tier school system. Younger teachers with large student loan debt



are attracted to school systems with higher paying salaries (such as Arlington) and care little about pensions. Herrity continued that “We need to fix this problem, especially for new employees. We’ve been kicking the can down the road for too long. “We are deeply committed to core benefits for employees. In the end we must look at the compensation package overall. On the school side we are not competitive enough with Arlington and other systems.”

Numerous comments ensued in a spirited give-and-take with Mr. Herrity. Nick Firth said that he finds that new employees are much more concerned with their paychecks (as opposed to decades-away pensions) because of the affordability of living in this area. The Supervisor said that he needs help from the community on this. Linwood Gorham added, “We are in absolute crisis with teacher pay right now, as well as the quality of teachers with (only) provisional licenses”. Dale R listed teacher benefits in Loudon and other counties as compared with Fairfax County; and he pointed out that much has changed over the years. For instance, “In 1976-77 there were no 401K programs. It is important to look at VRS and more! Part of the issue is teacher morale.”

- Opioids – Supervisor Herrity turned his attention to the opioid crisis in our communities, and pointed out that there are 4 deaths every 48 hours. “At highest risk are those aged 25 to 35. The main point is that the majority start with prescription drugs for pain after some injury. If you have leftover oxycodone in your medicine cabinet, get rid of it! We need to work on improving disposal. I worked to get drug counselors back in school. We also need to get more resource officers in place.”
- Free and Reduced Meals program in schools Supervisor Herrity mentioned that the North Hill Park Planning Commission met recently. Of concern to him is the plan to increase the number of children in local schools which serve North Hill. He pointed out that in this area, “70% of students already are on the free and reduced meals program, so we need to be aware before increasing the school population.” Mount Vernon Planning Commissioner, Earl Flanagan, stated that this fact also was discussed at the County Zoning meeting recently, adding that “the Department of HUD considers anything over 50% not desirable. We can make a difference; and the best way to decrease the number of kids on the free and reduced meals plan is to provide more housing that is affordable for folks who earn \$50K - \$110K.” Earl then pointed out that there is a housing voucher program, and that the families of most students on our school meals program also participate in the housing voucher program. Fifteen years ago, Earl did a study and the Mount Vernon District had 40% on the voucher program. Comparing Fairfax County Districts offering work force housing, we were #5, and we had 3 districts with less. Affordable work force housing exists in all but one district (Springfield). Supervisor Herrity objected that is because they have market rate housing. Earl responded that families with vouchers can live in market rate housing.



**Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck** commented on the following items:

- Covanta Montgomery Fire - Supervisor Storck introduced John Kellas, Director of Solid Waste for Fairfax County, to talk together about whether ongoing issues at the Montgomery County Resource Recovery Facility operated by Covanta played a role in a December fire, which lasted several days. Fairfax County has a contract with Covanta which gives us first right and preferential treatment for our county's waste to be accepted; but the additional capacity available is open for Covanta to market. Covanta's permit requires certain safeguards that address fire protection. In light of the fire, County staff spoke with Montgomery County staff and then with Covanta leadership regarding safeguards. Mr. Kellas said, "We are bringing in fire & rescue for a meeting. We are in good shape now so it is a good time to look at how it's working. One-and-a-half years ago, the Covanta plant was down too much. We called in their CEO and, as a result, got action resulting in much improved production. Assuming that they might have a water line break, we are looking at some sort of facility for emergency backup. We are trying to look and stay ahead, and to encourage recycling."
- Backlick Road over CSX Railroad – This project, in conjunction with the Atlantic Gateway improvements, will replace the existing two-lane bridge that carries Backlick Road over the CSX Railroad with a bridge that accommodates the addition of a third railroad track. The bridge is located approximately 300 feet east of the Backlick Road/Fairfax County Parkway intersection south of I-95. A public information meeting will be held Thursday, Jan 26 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Island Creek Elementary School, 7855 Morning View Lane, Alexandria, VA 22315.

Anticipated Schedule

Public Information meeting – Jan 26, 2017

Approve design – Spring 2017

Advertise for construction – Summer 2017



Estimated Costs

Preliminary engineering - \$800,000

Construction - \$6.8 million

Total - \$7.6 million

- South Run Road Striping – Some of the striping is missing. VDOT will be adding striping in that area; but the contractor’s agreement has expired. Allison Richter, Director for Fairfax VDOT says that plans are moving forward and striping will be done soon, weather permitting, either by another contractor, or by VDOT themselves. Likely to do in the summer timeframe.
- Lorton Road Widening Project – The entire roadway is open and operating in final configuration. Due to weather complications, the final course of asphalt has not been paved. Restriping on the westbound lane will include a single right turn lane onto Silverbrook Rd. and a dual left turn onto Sanger Street. Additional striping of bike lanes will occur throughout the project (but not yet done because the final asphalt has not been paved). We are hoping for an early spring completion . . . 50+ degree weather is needed for 7-8 days.
- Lorton Community Center - The \$18.5 million bond that passed for the Lorton Community Center (on the Lorton Library property) was the first successful human services bond in a long time. Supervisor Storck will be putting together a monitoring committee to advise him and others.
  - Notice to vendor – January 2017
  - Kick off design – June 2017
  - Bid process – December 2018
  - Notice to start – March 2019
  - Completion – March 2021
- New police station and animal shelter - The architect needs community input since this building will be looked at for years and years.



- Occoquan Regional Park– Over the next two years, the Occoquan Regional Park will be making improvements. Completion is anticipated in early 2018, and the development will include:
  - The River View at the Jean R. Packard Center – event space for up to 300 seated guests, featuring the 1608 room, and an interpretive foyer depicting John Smith’s voyage on the Chesapeake Bay.
  - Brick maker’s Café – A casual riverfront café with outdoor seating.
  - Riverfront Improvements – Improved waterfront plaza and boardwalk.
  - Large Group Pavilion – Located in the back of the park, the new pavilion will accommodate large groups and special events.
  - 5K Loop Trail – A trail for the casual walker or for organized events.
  
- Lorton Encampment – The homeless camp behind Lorton Elementary School has finally been cleaned up. “Park closes at dusk” signs have been posted. Moving forward, trespassers will be cited/arrested. Best of all, the Gerry Connally Cross County Walking Trail is now really usable in this area!
  
- South County Job Fair – Supervisor Storck asks that everyone share with family and friends that on April 29<sup>th</sup>, his office along with Supervisor Herrity, South County Federation, and the South Fairfax Chamber, will be hosting a job fair. We hope to connect local students looking for jobs with local businesses.
  
- Second Annual Ides of Bark – The Second Ides of Bark will be on Sunday, March 26, 2017, from 1:00 PM – 5:00PM at Grist Mill Park – located at 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway. With the help of many dog owners and pet-friendly vendors throughout Fairfax County, the first Ides of Bark even was hugely successful – with over 2,000 people and 400 dogs in attendance. This is just a good chance to meet with other dog owners and promote the health of our animals.
  
- Tour de Mount Vernon – The Inaugural Tour de Mount Vernon was on Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. Approximately 30 riders rode their bikes from Belle Haven Park on Mount Vernon Memorial Parkway to the Workhouse Arts Center, and back for over a 40 mile ride.



- Annual Mount Vernon District Town Meeting – Supervisor Storck asked all to mark calendars for Feb 4, 2017, Super Bowl Saturday, for this annual meeting, which will be at Mount Vernon High School. Speakers will include BoS Chairman Sharon Bulova, County Executive Ed Long, Mount Vernon District School Board Member Karen Corbett-Sanders, and Colonel Angela Holbrook, Garrison Commander, Fort Belvoir. The Exhibit Area (with 70 exhibitors) will open at 7:45 AM. The meeting portion will begin promptly at 9:30 AM.

#### 4. Legislative Update

- More than 1800 bills have been submitted for this year’s General Assembly. At least one of Dave Albo’s bills will build on his continuing effort to increase chances for local students to get into the State universities. If passed, this year’s bill would create a “floor” for the number of Virginia’s students to be admitted to our State’s institutions of higher learning.

#### 5. Committee Reports

- **Transportation**, Dale Johnson, Chair - Several transportation issues have already been covered during Supervisor Storck’s comments. Dale J continues to follow a few other issues including: getting two right-turn lanes from west-bound Lorton Road onto Silverbrook Road (piggy-backing on the current study for three left-turn lanes onto eastbound Lorton Road), ensuring a no-truck rule on Workhouse Road, monitoring the Embark project, and determining where the monies will come from in order to pay for the addition of extra railroad tracks as part of the Backlick Road bridge overpass.
- **Public Safety**, Jonathan Kiell, Chair - Although away on vacation, Jonathan wants to reiterate that he will be available in 2017 to talk with HOAs regarding the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program.
- **Land Use**, Nick Firth, Chair, stated that he has no report today.
- **Environmental & Parks**, Gloria Bannister, Chair –

Although there is not much going on because of the holidays, Mount Vernon District Representative to the Fairfax County Park Authority Board, Linwood Gorham, commented that he now enjoys the bike trail on Gunston Rd, which took 25 years to achieve.

- **Education**, Chair vacant  
Karen Corbett Sanders, the Mount Vernon District representative on the Fairfax County



School Board, is obliged to attend a Capital Improvements Program (CIP) this evening; so she provided brief input through Dale R. “We have started the search for a new Superintendent. The budget will be released soon . . . expect a shortfall.”

6. Old Business –

- Athletic field lights left on -Two or three people commented that, once again, athletic field lights at diverse schools and parks are being left on long after athletes leave the field of play. Lights are on and no one is on the field at all. In one case, because of weather, teams played through half time so that they could finish earlier than usual, but no one was able to turn off the lights. Besides being energy-wasteful, in some areas the lights irritate local homeowners. Someone commented that these lighting systems are all on centrally-controlled timers, so people at the actual site are unable to override. There was general agreement, including by both Supervisor Herry and Storck, that fixing this should be do-able. The Supervisors agreed to make this a joint Board Matter at the next BoS meeting so as to determine who controls the central timing and request that the timing system be adjusted so that lights can be turned off expeditiously after field use ends.
- Police Civilian Review Panel - Supervisor Storck reminded all that the BoS now is looking for members to serve on the Police Civilian Review Panel. Dale R opined that Supervisor Storck needs to talk about the limitations of such oversight groups, because already there exist applicable State laws. To apply yourself, or nominate someone else, submit a resume and a 1- to 2-page cover letter explaining how you, or the nominee, fit the criteria. This needs to be in by Jan. 31. You can mail the nomination to:

Clerk to the Board of Supervisors  
Attn: Catherine Chianese  
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 533  
Fairfax, VA 22035

Or email [ClerktotheBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:ClerktotheBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov).

7. New Business –

- A gentleman rose and stated that he is currently working pro bono for the Workhouse Arts Center, and he wants ideas on how to engage the community, such as putting out an on-line survey. “Is it possible to send out an email blast?”, he asked.
- Mount Vernon Day will be celebrated on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School.



- Auto Train Traffic - Dale R raised an issue about the “insane” traffic waiting for the Auto Train along Lorton Road. Auto loading coincides with the time for school dismissal, and this creates a real danger for our children. Supervisor Storck will bring it up as a Board Issue at the next BoS meeting.
- Brainstorming ideas for future SCF meetings - Dale R handed out sticky notes for every table and requested everyone in attendance to write down their ideas, saying, “What topics do you want to discuss, and who do you want to hear from at future SCF meetings?”

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

NEXT MEETING: February 7, 2017 at 7:30 in the South County High School cafeteria.

Future Meetings: February 7, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, September 12, October 10, November 14, December 12