



General Membership Meeting Via Zoom
Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 7 pm

Summary

Casey Whitmarsh promoted South Fairfax as a business hub and introduced a new nonprofit. Supervisor Dan Storck updated on community projects like the opening of the Lorton Police Station and Animal Shelter. Wendy Henley raised concerns about a dangerous I-95 exit. Karen Corbett-Sanders emphasized the role of parents in schools and budgeting for education. Peter Weyland discussed the need for a sidewalk on Newington Road and the issue of commercial trucks parking on Furnace Road.

Call to Order- Mr. Nick Firth, President

Mr. Firth called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Approval of the Minutes - Ms. Angelina Fuller, Secretary

The October minutes aren't available and will be voted on at the December meeting.

Treasurer Report- Mr. Keith F. Shovlin

Mr. Shovlin gave an update on the Federation accounts at Truist Bank and TIAA CREF and planned to transfer funds from one account to the other.

South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Update - Mr. Casey Whitmarsh

Mr. Whitmarsh promoted South Fairfax as a business hub and introduced a new nonprofit.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Report - Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck

Supervisor Storck presented updates on various community projects, including the opening of the Lorton Police Station and Animal Shelter and the forthcoming activation of nearby houses, the Gunston Fire station, and the Bunnyman Brewery at the Workhouse Art Center. He highlighted the importance of keeping a vision for the community and exploring opportunities to integrate it into ongoing projects. He also referred to a newsletter and a spreadsheet of ongoing development projects sent to the team. Additionally, he mentioned an upcoming open house at the Lorton Community Center and reminded everyone about an LCAC pantry drop-off and emergency preparedness tips for the holiday season. He also shared his experiences and observations from the Virginia Association of Counties meeting he attended, emphasized the importance of the upcoming 2024 elections, and discussed his involvement with the Potomac Banks project. Lastly, he informed the team about his office hours at the Lorton Community Center and Library on Saturday and upcoming marketing efforts aimed at promoting local tourist attractions

Wendy Henley raised concerns about the dangerous exit on I-95 South, specifically trucks parking on the right shoulder, which causes a significant traffic hazard. Supervisor Storck acknowledged the issue, stating that it's a VDOT problem, and promised to send a note to VDOT to ask why the trucks park there and explore possible solutions. Ms. Henley also suggested involving the delegates and Senator in the issue. Benjamin Hermerding chimed in, offering to work with VDOT and Supervisor Storck's office once the new delegate takes office. The group agreed to take action to improve the exit situation, with the



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understanding that it may take some time due to bureaucratic processes. The team discussed safety issues related to 18-wheelers blocking signs and causing traffic jams. They also addressed a problem at Gunston Elementary School, where parents picking up their children create traffic congestion and potential hazards. The team suggested solutions such as better signage, creating two lanes for traffic, and educating parents on proper behavior. The team agreed to work together to address these issues, with Supervisor Storck and Karen Corbett-Sanders taking the lead. It was noted that jurisdictional issues need to be considered, and the team would need to work with VDOT and other authorities for potential solutions. The participants expressed concerns about the safety of students and the need for a solution. It was suggested that police intervention might be necessary to manage the traffic. The idea of ticketing for illegal parking was also discussed. The group decided to form a team to address the issue and asked Peter Weyland to record the traffic situation to share with the team. Captain Richard Morvillo asked for the video to help with the problem.

Fairfax County School Board Report - Mount Vernon Representative Karen Corbett-Sanders

Ms. Corbett-Sanders, who is leaving her position, shared about the adoption of the strategic plan and the need for more intentional actions to support English language learners and newcomers in the school district. She discussed the importance of educating parents about their role in schools and the plan to include AVID skills training. There was also a substantial discussion on the budget and funding for education. She highlighted a study that showed Virginia underfunds education by \$1,900 per student, resulting in a funding shortfall of about \$477 million per year. The group agreed that the issue needs to be addressed at both state and federal levels.

In response to Larry Clark's question, she clarified that it would be a student, rather than the school system, who has the standing to bring a lawsuit against the Department of Defense for inadequate funding. He agreed to examine the DOD program and reach out to other offices.

Legislative Updates

Scott Surovell - 36th District, Virginia State Senate, represented by Fatimah Dandashi

Ms. Dandashi informed the group about the upcoming General Assembly session and encouraged them to submit any legislative proposals. She reminded everyone of their office email, which is District36@Senate.

Kathy Tran- 42nd District, Virginia State Delegate, represented by Ben Hermerding, Chief of Staff

Mr. Hermerding expressed her gratitude for being reelected and looked forward to continuing their service. He discussed changes in the district due to redistricting and mentioned that the area for the eastern region would now be represented by someone else. Mr. Hermerding also provided an update on the progress of getting a sidewalk along Newington Road and responding to safety concerns at an intersection on Ox Road. He also discussed the upcoming legislative session, mentioning the deadlines for drafting and filing bills and the need for feedback on their legislative agenda. The conversation ended with Keith F. Shovlin mentioning that candidates are already emerging for the next set of elections.

Committee Reports

Transportation Committee, Co-Chairs Peter Weyland and Dale Rumberger



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Mr. Weyland discussed the Newington Road sidewalk and the 75 letters sent to Supervisor Storck's office asking for a study to put side walks along the road, which is heavily traveled. He also mentioned commercial trucks and parking on Furnace Road.

Land Use Committee, Co-Chairs Nick Firth and Keith F. Shovlin

Mr. Firth shared an update on land use, mentioning two applications returning this month, one for a development on Ox Road and another for a metal recycling facility on Gunston Cove Road. Mr. Shovlin provided an update about the Southern Oaks Reserve development, which has not started construction, and the Newington Chase development, which is expected to be completed in January.

Public Safety Committee, Chair Jonathan Kiell

A discussion about the opening of the police station was turned over to Captain Richard Morvillo as Mr. Kiell was absent. Captain Morvillo shared his positive experience from the recent opening of the station and expressed his goal to have the station ready by the end of the year. He also discussed ongoing efforts to install IT systems and address community concerns about speeding along the Fairfax County Parkway and Route 123. The establishment of a community advisory committee for the Lorton station was also mentioned. The upcoming Community Action Committee meetings and a Zoom presentation by a police officer aimed at improving relations with the deaf and hard of hearing community were discussed.

Environmental and Parks Committee, Co-Chairs Larry Clark and Dale Rumberger

Concerns were raised about the delayed construction of Overlook Ridge Park and the data center study, and updates were provided on the Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit Project and the Virginia Department of Transportation review of Route 123.

Education Committee, Chair Wendy Henley

Ms. Henley had nothing to report

Meeting adjourned

President Firth adjourned the meeting. The next scheduled meeting is on December 12th, 2023 at 7 pm on Zoom.

Action Items

- Nick Firth will check the availability of the community room at the animal shelter side of the police station.
- Keith F. Shovlin will follow up with TIAA CREF about the minimum balance requirement.
- Nick Firth will discuss the possibility of a live event in December with the land use committee.