

October General Membership Meeting Minutes

Zoom Video Conference

April 11, 2023 | 7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Mr. Nick Firth, President of the South County Federation (SCF), called the Monthly Membership meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS & OFFICERS REPORT:

A. Secretary- Ms. Angelina Fuller

No reports.

B. Treasurer Report- Keith Shovlin

Mr. Shovlin provided the financial update as follows:

Truist Checking	\$947.50
Nuveen (TIA CREFF) Money Market Account (MMA)	--
Total	--

Nuveen's account requires an update, which will be reported at the May meeting.

C. South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Report- Casey Whitmarsh

Mr. Whitmarsh introduced himself and stated that many events are occurring very shortly. The following are the key items shared:

1. The small business spotlight: Buendia 360 virtual tours for your business
571-643-1665 or text BUENDIA to 866-866-5545.
2. Back to Business Super STIR & Annual Meeting 2023. April 20, 2023 at Paradise Springs Winery.
Buy tickets here:
https://mms.southfairfaxchamber.org/members/evr/reg_event.php?evid=73168151&orgcode=SFCC
3. Lorton Spring Fling. Saturday, April 29 at South County High School from 9 am – 2 pm
4. Brain Injury Services – 19th Annual Charity Golf Tournament. Monday, May 1 at Country Club of Fairfax from 10:30 am- 4:30 pm. <https://braininjurysvcs.org/golf/>
5. Lorton Farmers Market. Reopens May 7 and runs weekly through November 19 at the Lorton VRE parking lot from 9 am – 1 pm.
https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/lorton?utm_content=buffer651f4&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer
6. Workhouse BREWORKS FESTIVAL. May 20, 2023 at the Workhouse Arts Center from 12 pm – 7 pm.
https://www.workhousearts.org/brewworks?gclid=EAlalQobChMloZag0uqi_gIVEBXUAR2L8Ql3EAAAYASA_AEgJ_LPD_BwE

III. SUPERVISORS REPORT:

A. Supervisor Dan Storck

Mount Vernon representative Nick Rinehart from Supervisor Storck's office greeted the membership and began to deliver his update as follows.

1. Budget Public Hearings April 12/13. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/clerkservices/ways-provide-public-hearing-testimony>
2. Tax Relief Workshop April 12 at Mount Vernon Government Center from 10 am – 1 pm. Contact 703-324-2550 to schedule an appointment.

3. Recent VA Supreme Court Ruling declared zMOD void (formerly adopted March 2021 by BoS). Reverted back to the old zoning ordinance at the moment, but public hearings have been authorized in May to reinstate the zoning ordinance.
 - a) Old Towne Pet Resort affected in the SCF boundaries. Deferred indefinitely.
4. Comprehensive Plan work plan adopted, which include the SSPA nominations from this cycle.
5. Liberty Elm Street Status Update. Lidl still experiences supply chain issues and is now projecting a late Summer 2023 opening. Commercial tenants are also experiencing permit delays and Storck's office will directly assist to ensure timely deliveries.
6. Furnace Rd. Trucks – VDOT will install no parking signs by Summer 2023 to deter parking of trucks on Furnace Rd.
7. Pedestrian Death – Richmond Highway by Tully gate. Pedestrian was crossing from the bus stop near Backlick road. Supervisor Storck has requested a review of the bus stop location for better lighting.
8. Environment Expo April 23 at Fort Hunt Park <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/5th-annual-environment-expo-get-outdoors-learn-and-do>
9. Nick Rinehart will be transitioning out of his role due to pending family relocation. Timing TBD.

B. Supervisor Pat Herrity

Supervisor Herrity was not in attendance nor represented in the meeting.

C. Mount Vernon District School Board – Karen Corbett-Sanders

Ms. Corbett-Sanders greeted the membership and presented the following for, also covering the content for Springfield District Representative Laura Jane Cohen:

1. Hayfield Secondary Principal replacement will be announced soon.
2. South County Middle School Principal has resigned effective the end of this school year. Search to begin soon for replacement.
3. Newington Forest Elementary School 40th Anniversary celebration on June 1 from 5:30-7:30 pm.
4. Testified in support of Fairfax County public schools at the recent budget hearings. Working with State Appropriators to ensure Fairfax County gets relief from State.
5. Bi-annual cycle of reviewing the SRO-MOU as part of the budgeting process. <https://www.fcps.edu/node/36886> Security officers have been increased (5 rotating). A security audit is in place and key locks will be replaced with push-buttons from the interior.
6. SR&R surveys are live. <https://www.fcps.edu/srr>. Updates will focus on attire & cell phone modifications.
7. Strategic Planning Process is underway. Community meeting will occur next month after initial draft is released.
8. Real Foods for Kids competition at Robinson Secondary from 11 am – 2 pm. Winner recipes will be integrated into cafeteria.
9. Special Ed Summit April 29 (held virtually). <https://www.fcps.edu/Special-Education-Conference>

D. Fairfax County Park Authority- Linwood Gorham

Mr. Gorham presented the following items:

1. Overlook Ridge Park. Site plan submission is still delayed. Overall completion date is not impacted yet.
2. Garden Plots: Under construction & on schedule for delivery mid-May. Sign up for rentals: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring/plots-locations>. Community garden information from Wes Speer, please contact lortongardens@gmail.com

3. Lauren Hill Central Green Restroom – construction contract awarded & signed. Materials are ordered and contractor will begin soon (ahead of schedule).

IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:

E. Virginia State Senator Scott Surovell- presented by Dalton Bisson

Mr. Bisson greeted the members and presented the following items:

1. Little Hunting Creek Cleanup on April 15, 2023 9 am – 12 pm. RSVP at <http://bit.ly/CreekCleanup2023>
2. Contact Dalton at 571-249-4484 or district36@senate.virginia.gov

F. Virginia State Delegate Kathy Tran - presented by Benjamin Hermerding

1. Railroad Derailment Concerns. Federal Railroad Authority oversees the nation’s railroad and railroad safety. FRA sends software & training to the SCC’s Division of Utility & Railroad Safety. SCC sends out their inspectors, inputs data into the FRA’s database and then the FRA reviews the data. SCC should work with the Federal delegation to get data/safety points from FRA relevant to the district.
2. Primary Election: June 20. First day of in-person early voting will be Friday, May 5.
3. Virtual Post-Session Town Hall on April 13 at 7 pm. Register here: <https://bit.ly/PostSessionTranTownHall>
4. 3rd Annual Earth Day Town Hall April 19 at 7 pm. Register here: https://bit.ly/earth_day_townhall
5. Contact delktran@house.virginia.gov, 703-539-2066 or stay connected by signing up for Delegate Tran’s newsletter at https://secure.ngpvan.com/OP4ARIDiLOiLxE0_xtDRfg2

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

G. Education – Wendy Henley, Chair

Mr. Francis Leganeur, Principal of Lorton Station Elementary provided a presentation with the following key points.

1. Coming out of the pandemic Mr. Leganeur is excited about in-person engagement with recent events being very well attended (some in excess of 1,000 people!)
2. Working to reclaim title as a premier school in the area. Hoping for continuing advocacy for teacher pay to avoid staffing shortages.
3. Sensitive to inflation challenges hitting families and worked to ensure that school supplies were provided this year.
4. Family Movie Night this Friday February 17 – Space Jam
5. The Amtrak traffic is also affecting the teachers and students of Lorton Station Elementary and they support SCF’s efforts to address this serious safety issue

H. Transportation- Peter Weyland, Co-Chair; Dale Rumberger, Co-Chair

Mr. Weyland greeted the members and presented items below:

1. Amtrak. After the 2022 study, Amtrak piloted “Plan B” to stage cars past the entrance gate and through the existing parking lot to alleviate backups. It also activated a message board for guidance and trained station operators. The Plan B strategy is currently working and has been implemented into daily operations.
2. Rt. 1 CSX Bridge Project. Funding agreement changes will require BoS approval. Public meetings on the preliminary design anticipated in 2023. VPRA estimates construction will begin late 2025/early 2026.
3. Lorton Rd./Silverbrook intersection. VDOT implemented interim improvements from study of the intersection, but remaining improvements are on hold until funding becomes available.

4. Transurban North/South Hot Lanes are still under review.
5. Gunston Rd. Walking Trail has completed its design study, but it is not fully funded.
6. Lorton Station Boulevard. Road diet reducing from a 4 to 2-lane road are being studied to accommodate bike traffic and pedestrians.
7. Fairfax County Parkway/Terminal Road. Addition of left turn lane on eastbound Terminal Rd. at the intersection is estimated at \$3.7M. Design completed & Dominion Energy of Virginia utility relocation design also in progress.
8. Pohick Road Widening from Richmond Highway to I-95. Completed scoping & design for a pedestrian walkway enhancement on one side of the roadway, looking for funding.

Q1: Can you provide contact information for reporting a hole in the road from erosion?

A1: <https://my.vdot.virginia.gov/>

Q2: Is there any consideration to reduce the pedestrian path on Pohick from 10' to something less?

A2: I'll follow up and ensure that it's being considered. I believe that has been part of discussions.

I. Public Safety- Jonathan Kiell, Chair

Mr. Kiell gave the following update.

1. License Plate Readers. Success reported from County in many efforts including location of missing persons, recovered items and stolen cars.
2. Franconia District reported a 20% increase in calls for service. Not necessarily an indication of increased criminal activity, but an increase in use.
3. Charity Hockey Game – Fairfax County Police & Fire Hockey Game (Battle of the Badges); Saturday, May 20 at The St. James. Event is free, but donations will be accepted at the door for the National Non-Profit First H.E.L.P.

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

Workhouse Master Plan Presentation by Gasim Elfaki & Joan Beacham (Presentation circulated to SCF listserv)

1. Presentation covered the master plan process & scope, program & vision summary, options available (Art Park, Village Center, or Arts & Education Complex), key takeaways & comparisons and next steps.

Q1: It seems like there might be opportunities that exist if the development of Alpine X moves forward. Have there been any discussions that consider shared parking/complementary uses like hotel, etc.

A1: Yes, we are talking to them and other neighbors to consider infrastructure/transportation possibilities and all other things mentioned.

Q2: One option considered a piece of property across from Workhouse Rd. What was the use there?

A2: An overflow parking lot OR 2.5 level parking garage, but the latter would need a purchase or easement agreement with the adjacent land use owner to extend the size because the current parcel owned is not a usable shape/size.

C1: Consideration of the way of travel from the proposed lot to the campus should be carefully thought out, as traffic is very fast and not necessarily safe along that stretch of road.

2. South County SSPAs adopted into the work program: Mixed use on Rolling Rd (end of Boston Blvd); Starbucks Drive Through at the Shoppes at Lorton Valley; Gas Pumps at the Costco

K. Environmental & Parks- Larry Clark and Dale Rumberger, Co-Chairs

Covanta Update – Don Cammarata (Presentation circulated to SCF listserv)

1. Mr. Cammarata covered key 2022 statistics, Fairfax emissions, CEMS emissions standards, Nitrogen Oxide Reduction Project completion, and Community involvement/sponsorships.

Q1: Was there ever a profit-sharing agreement on electrical power?

A1: Currently, we sell power directly to the grid. We do pay a royalty to the county for any non-County waste that is processed. The County pays us to process their waste, but the metals and power generation revenue comes to Covanta. I'm not aware of there being a different structure.

Q2: Can you provide details about the scholarship Covanta offers?

A1: <https://mountvernonsspringfield.com/business-scholarship-application/>

Lorton Community Center Update – Spencer Collier, Operations Manager for LCC

2. Opened mid-October with over 2,500 participants in the new building in the last few months. Over 400 community members came by for the Eggstravaganza on April 8 where they held a egg hunt and had family crafts.
3. Sensory room will open to the public through scheduling with the Inclusion Specialist
4. Currently have adult programs for Volleyball, Pickleball, Basketball and Indoor Soccer in the evenings and on weekends
5. Current partnerships with LCAC & the library (pantry, reading programs, etc.)
6. Calendar of activities: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/sites/neighborhood-community-services/files/assets/documents/calendars/lorton%20community%20center%20calendar.pdf>
7. Interest Meeting will be held May 11 at 6:30 pm.
8. Contact information: Spencer.Collier@fairfaxcounty.gov

L. Education- Wendy Henley, Chair

Ms. Henley greeted the membership and presented the following items:

1. The County's Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) is seeking a student member to join the council for the July 2023-June 2024 term. Interested high school sophomores and juniors can apply by May 3. <https://fairfaxcounty-639180.workflowcloud.com/forms/6634301a-1c00-4a0c-8252-1469250e461b>
2. 2023 Girls Fire and Rescue Academy Summer Camp will have 2 sessions – June 20-23 and June 27-30. Academy is open to rising 7th through 12th grad female students for the upcoming 2023/2024 school year. Participants must be a County resident and the program is completely free of charge. E
3. Library Events Cosponsored by OLLI Mason | U.S. & Virginia Education Politics, Policies & Prose
 - a) The Debate over the Teaching of History: April 17 at 11:50 am
<https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/10538570>
 - b) Latest Challenges for Public Education in Virginia: April 24 at 11:50 am
<https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/10538585>

VI. **ACTIONS & PENDING ISSUES: No reports.**

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

NEXT MEETING: May 9, June 13, July 11, no August meeting, September 12, October 10, November 14, and December 12.