



South County Federation December Meeting

Tue. Dec 12, 2023

Summary:

The meeting began with Nick Firth calling the meeting to order and approving the meeting minutes from the September meeting. Keith F. Shovlin reported on the treasurer's account and mentioned that Truist would be increasing their rates as of January 1st. Supervisor Dan Storck provided a comprehensive overview of the accomplishments in Lorton in 2023, including the completion of major public facilities, progress on community vision plans, and ongoing development projects. He also outlined the priorities for 2024, such as the adoption of the comp plan for Lorton Vision 2040, the construction of the Gunston fire station, and the implementation of a tourist improvement district.

During the meeting, updates were provided on transportation, public safety, and environmental parks. The group discussed the need for a subcommittee to monitor data centers and the ongoing issue of traffic at Gunston Elementary School. They also mentioned a useful tool on the VDOT website for tracking snowplow activity and a recent announcement about funding for Long Bridge construction, which will have an eventual impact on rail traffic. Additionally, a word of caution was given about package theft during the holiday season.

Jonathan Kiell asked Gina Lynch about the progress of the Lorton animal shelter. Lynch reported that the shelter is getting organized and has had a successful adoption event with 55 animals finding new homes. She also mentioned that they have received an overwhelming response from volunteers, with 150 new volunteers signing up.

The Land Use committee is still reviewing applications and will meet again in January to discuss them further. Keith Shovlin reported on new establishments in the area, including a Hawaiian fish restaurant and a children's fitness concept.

The board nominations for the 2024-2026 term were announced by Dale Rumberger-Beechwood, with Wendy Henley as the nominated president and Nick Firth as the nominated vice president. The meeting concluded with personal acknowledgments for outgoing members and a wish for happy holidays. The meeting also covered topics such as data centers, Inova Lorton, and Dominion Power. The Clarks raised concerns about manhole covers on the road and suggested that V Do should go to Fairfax County and ask them to raise the manhole covers before repaving the road.

Chapters & Topics:

P.O. Box 442, Lorton, Virginia 22199





Approval of Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Nick Firth starts the meeting and approves the meeting minutes from the September meeting. Keith F. Shovlin reports on the treasurer's account and mentions that Truist will be increasing their rates as of January 1st. The South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Casey are not present, and Nick Firth asks if Supervisor Stork is available.

Year in Review and Future Priorities

Supervisor Dan Storck reviews the major accomplishments in Lorton in 2023, such as the completion of public facilities and progress on community vision plans. He also outlines the priorities for 2024, including the adoption of the comp plan for Lorton Vision 2040, the construction of the Gunston fire station, and the implementation of a tourist improvement district. Storck also discusses the potential for branding Lorton and highlights the upcoming first hike at Po Hick Bay Regional Park on January 1st.

- * Opening and success of the Lorton Animal Shelter

Discussion on Data Centers and Inova Lorton

Dan Storck discusses the assessment of data centers and the impact they have on taxes and property rates. The staff will be bringing forward a product for consideration in committee meetings to identify the criteria for data center consideration. Dale Rumberger-Beechwood requests an update on the status of Inova Lorton and its development plans. Dan Storck agrees to follow up with Inova and provide an update on their plans for the Lorton Health Plex.

- * Data centers and their impact on the community

- * Land use and applications review

Discussion on Data Center Reports and Guidelines

The Clarks express confusion and concern about the data center reports and guidelines that the county staff is working on, as they feel that the staff has not considered costs and revenue. Dan Storck explains that the guidelines will have suggested considerations and recommendations, but the board has not made any decisions yet. The Clarks ask when they will get to see the report, and Nick Rinehart clarifies that it will be in the first quarter of 2024. Dan Storck assures them that the process is open-ended and that there will be plenty of opportunity for community members and associations to weigh in on it.

Updates from School Board and Fairfax Kenny Park Authority

Wendy Henley reads Karen Corbett Sanders' notes on the progress made by the School Board and the new members who will be sworn in. The J Lac study highlights the chronic underfunding of education by Richmond, and the school system is advocating for the expansion of the k twelve state mandate to include early childhood education. Linwood Gorham reports on the completion of the central green restrooms and the end of the farmers markets for the year.

- * Election of new board members

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Administrative Updates and Staffing Changes

Fatimah Dandashi provides important administrative updates, such as a new email for the Senate side and a public hearing for the Fairfax County delegation. She also introduces Chris Albinson, a former delegate who will be joining their office during the legislative session. Kristen Amundson discusses her role as Chief of Staff in the Majority Leader's office and the important issues that the General Assembly will be addressing, including the budget and funding for public schools.

Updates from Delegate Tran's Office and Other Transportation News

Benjamin Hermerding from Delegate Tran's office provides updates on upcoming town halls, the governor's budget, transportation updates, and the start of the General Assembly session. He also mentions the new entry and exit points on 95 and VDT's winter weather advisory. Additionally, he notes that a new General Assembly will be sworn in after the New Year.

Discussion on Potholes and Manhole Covers

The Clarks expresses frustration with the manhole covers on the road and questions why V Do doesn't have a universal definition for fixing issues on the road. Benjamin Hermerding explains that V Do treats potholes and manhole covers as separate issues and that they have to reach out to the utility who owns the actual structure to put the sleeve in it. The Clarks suggests that V Do should go to Fairfax County and ask them to raise the manhole covers before repaving the road.

Transportation, Public Safety, and Environmental Parks Updates

The group discussed updates on transportation, public safety, and environmental parks. They talked about the need for a subcommittee to monitor data centers and the ongoing issue of traffic at Gunston Elementary School. They also mentioned a useful tool on the VDOT website for tracking snowplow activity and a recent announcement about funding for Long Bridge construction, which will impact rail traffic.

Updates on Lorton Animal Shelter and Volunteer Opportunities

Jonathan Kiell asks Gina Lynch about the Lorton animal shelter and its progress. Lynch reports that the shelter is getting organized and has had a successful adoption event with 55 animals finding new homes. She also mentions that they have received an overwhelming response from volunteers, with 150 new volunteers signing up. Kiell asks about donations and Lynch confirms that they are accepting donations of dog beds, toys, and food donations.

Land Use and Board Nominations

The Land Use committee is still reviewing applications and will meet again in January, as reported by Nick Firth. Keith Shovlin provides updates on new establishments in the area, including a Hawaiian fish restaurant and a

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children's fitness concept. The board nominations for the 2024-2026 term are announced by Dale Rumberger-Beechwood.

* Appreciation for outgoing members

Action Items:

- * Tran's office will gather information on the funding allocation for education and early childhood education.
- * Tran's office will provide updates on transportation infrastructure improvements, including new entry and exit points on I-95.
- * Tran's office will follow up with VDOT regarding the criteria for road repairs, addressing potholes, manhole covers, and stormwater drains causing road hazards.
- * Tran's office will provide updates on the success of the Lorton Animal Shelter and its efforts to find homes for animals.
- * TBD will set a date for the next land use meeting in January.
- * Dale Rumberger-Beechwood will fill the vacant secretary position.
- * TBD will announce the chairs for the board positions in January.
- * Dale Rumberger-Beechwood will thank Angelina for her time as secretary.
- * Dale Rumberger-Beechwood will thank State Senator George Barker for his involvement.

Key Questions:

- * How will the funding for education and early childhood education be allocated?
- * What are the plans for improving transportation infrastructure, such as new entry and exit points on I-95?
- * What is the criteria for determining the need for road repairs and addressing potholes?
- * How can the issue of manhole covers and stormwater drains causing road hazards be addressed?
- * What updates can be provided on the Lorton Animal Shelter and its success in finding homes for animals?

Notepad:

* No notes

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