

October General Membership Meeting Minutes
Zoom Video Conference
February 14, 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 7:02 PM.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS & OFFICERS REPORT:

A. Secretary- Ms. Angelina Fuller

Meeting minutes for July and November 2022 approved unanimously. Motion (Firth) Second (Clark)
The meeting minutes for December 2022 and January 2023 will be approved at the March meeting.

B. Treasurer Report- Keith Shovlin

Mr. Shovlin provided the financial update as follows:

Truist Checking	\$987.50
Nuveen (TIA CREFF) Money Market Account (MMA)	\$6,818.24
Total	\$7,237.24

Nuveen’s account requires an update, which will be reported at the March meeting.

Test run of sales on TeePublic resulted in profit of \$3.50 in January

Table runner proposal to be prepared for consideration.

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: Graphic Promotional Specialties
https://mms.southfairfaxchamber.org/southfairfaxchamber/mp_GPS, 703-307-7371 or text GRAPHIC to 866-866-5545.
2. 2023 Fairfax Teen Job Fair Series. March 11 from 11-1:30 at West Springfield High School. March 18 from 11-1:30 at South County High School. Contract Meredith Corwin, Deputy Chief of Staff for Supervisor Pat Herry with any questions.
3. The Key to Homeownership: A Comprehensive Homebuyers Seminar event at Samson Properties Alexandria 10-11 am on March 18.
4. Save the Date – Chamber Annual “Support the Clock Tower” Gala on April 20.

III. SUPERVISORS REPORT:

A. Supervisor Dan Storck

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck greeted the membership and began to deliver his update as follows.

1. 36th Annual Town Meeting was a great turnout.
2. Workhouse Master Planning Meeting tomorrow at McGuire Woods Gallery from 7-9 pm. Seeking community input on several development ideas.
3. Lorton Valley gunshots heard on February 4 and West Springfield police found shell casings. Neighborhood security devices showed an altercation occurred between two individuals. Those individuals have not been found or identified. Additional patrols are in the area.

4. Gunston Plaza January 30 Incident. Franconia district responded to a shots fired from inside the Cigar & Vape shop at a carjacker. The customer was inside when witnessing an active carjacker. Investigation is ongoing.
5. Lorton Visioning – Department of Planning and Development is working on the purchase order to hire Renaissance Planning to finish Lorton Valley work.
6. Virginia Task Force 1 Urban Search & Rescue has deployed to Turkey assisting with rescues from the earthquake. Team remains in good health & spirits.
7. Lee Chapel Rd. Meetings with VDOT following the meeting Delegate Tran organized to address the road and consider feasibility & cost of installation of street lights. VDOT is looking at a solution to eliminate the hill between Ox Rd and Fairfax County parkway that has been the site of accidents for years. Supervisor Storck defers to Supervisor Herrity in this matter as it is in the Springfield District. Supervisor Storck Q & A:

Q1: Is Hoes Rd. also being considered for updates/accident mitigation as well?

A1: It has been identified as an area that needs to be improved, but to my knowledge it's not on the list of funded projects. Unlikely that anything will be done soon, but it is part of discussions. It is a VDOT road, but the County does supplement for safety issues.

Q2: Will there be other opportunities to secure a steering wheel lock for future distributions?

A2: We gave out 200 at the last event, and the Franconia district's ACE team (auto recovery team) may still have a stash to provide to citizens.

Q3: Is the Design Phase of Giles Run Road nearing completion as shown on the Town Hall handout?

A3: That is the best information to-date.

B. Supervisor Pat Herrity

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

C. Springfield District School Board – Laura Jane Cohen

Ms. Cohen greeted the membership and presented the following for, also covering on behalf of Mt. Vernon District Representative Ms. Karen Corbett-Sanders:

1. Following the tragic accident involving South County high school students, Ms. Cohen and Ms. Corbett-Sanders are ensuring appropriate reminders on seatbelt usage, limits on number of passengers, and speed limits are covered in drivers ed classes.
2. School Board Calendar for SY 23-24, 24-25 and 25-26 was adopted Feb 9. Ms. Cohen voted against it, but it was passed. There are more uninterrupted 5-day weeks in this calendar, and they are working to limit interruptions in the school weeks.
3. Capital Improvement Plan was also passed. Lots of conversations to evaluate County buildings and FCPS that are underutilized or vacant to creatively repurpose as necessary.
4. Next budget steps: Feb 28 joint session with Board of Supervisors
5. Mt. Vernon Strategic Plan meeting held on Feb 7. Tomorrow another meeting for the community strategic plan in Springfield will be held.
6. Summer Camp information is expected to be released this month.
7. Feb 13-16 Virtual Career Exploration Fair for students.
8. What Should I Do Before My Child Grows Up? Future Planning for Elementary and Middle School Students with Disabilities will be held February 15 at Luther Jackson MS from 6:30-8:30
9. February 24, SCMS Art and Family Trivia Night
10. Preparing Families for Difficult Conversations about Alcohol and Drugs. Thursday, March 16 at South County Middle School 6-8 PM *Adults Only

D. Fairfax County Park Authority- Linwood Gorham

Mr. Gorham presented the following items:

1. Overlook Ridge Park. There was some miscommunication on the level of detail required on the site plan. Waste Management will need 3 months to provide the necessary detail, resulting in a delay.
2. Garden Plots: Contracts have been awarded for the planter boxes and water line contracts are expected to be awarded in the next 2 weeks.
3. Lauren Hill Central Green Restroom permits are all issued and bid closes this Thursday.
4. Reviewed the request for porta potties at the equestrian trail and determined that they did exist in that spot in the past, but were removed and not replaced for underutilization and vandalism. Staff's opinion that future installation is not necessary, but if circumstances change it can be reevaluated.

IV. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:**

E. State Delegate Kathy Tran- presented by Ben Hermerding

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

1. Virtual Cross-Over Town Hall. February 15 at 7 pm. Register here: <https://bit.ly/2023VAAPICCrossoverTownHall>
2. Veterans and Military Families Virtual Town Hall. February 18 at 11 am. Register here: <https://bit.ly/TranVeteransTownHall>
3. Virtual Transportation Town Hall February 23 at 6:30 pm. Register here: <https://bit.ly/TranVDOTupdate>
4. Overweight/unsafe trucks cutting through on 123/ Ox Rd (including gravel spillage) was discussed with DMV. Mobile weigh stations are installed & DMV badged officers have been dispatched for safety inspections. Will report future findings.
5. School Zone Speed Limits Bill – drafted to give School Boards more say regarding speed limits in front of their schools – was voted down, but Delegate Tran is still committed to the issue.
6. Friends of Mason Neck State Park advocated for accessibility at Mason Neck State Park. Bill was created for a pilot program for an all-terrain wheelchair for parks, but it was ultimately vote down. Working through opportunities now for a public/private partnership instead.
7. Budget summary from The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis: <https://thecommonwealthinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Key-Budget-Policy-Choices-2023-committees.pdf>
8. Contact information: (703) 539-2066 and delktran@house.virginia.gov

F. State Delegate Filler-Corn - presented by Tyler Javonillo

1. Issues championed this session: \$2M for nonprofit organizations that assist veterans and \$750K to provide a cost-of-living adjustment for health care benefits provided to retired constitutional officers and their employees who retire with at least 30 years of service.
2. “Silenced No More” Act passed the Senate Committee and will be heard on the Senate Floor later this week. Follows federal legislation which prohibits bad actors from silencing employees who speak out about sexual assault or harassment in the workplace.
3. Delegate Filler-Corn’s resolution to designate May as Jewish American Heritage Month passed the House floor and came into effect.
4. Monthly office hours this Saturday, February 18 at 10 am. If you’d like to secure one-on-one meetings, please email tyler@eileenfillercorn.com or call 571-249-3453.

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 1-3 below. Mr. Rumberger greeted the members and presented item 4.

1. Amtrak. Awaiting update for traffic study for the new configuration to alleviate afternoon departure traffic on Lorton Rd. New message board installed and training employees on best use practices to provide additional information to drivers as they enter the station
2. Lorton Station Boulevard. Peyton Smith of Supervisor Storck's office requested to setup a meeting with FCDOT and VDOT with Fairfax Alliance Better Bicycling and Fairfax Families for Safe Streets in the aftermath of a pedestrian death in an area with no crosswalk.
3. Rt. 1 CSX Bridge Project due to begin construction 2023 to be completed 2025.
4. AlpineX traffic study still pending.
5. Silverbrook Road new speed camera on test programs. No fines for the first month.
6. Virginians for High Speed Rail Town Hall on their Amtrak AIRO trains. Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1uZu5sbFRaaFaoSElgSZFw

I. Public Safety- Jonathan Kiell, Chair

Mr. Kiell gave the following update.

1. Pilot locations have rolled out in 8 locations for speed cameras in front of school zones, including the ones on Silverbrook Rd. reported under Transportation

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

Mr. Firth greeted the membership and presented the following items.

1. Resolution: SSPA application for Mixed-Use development at the end of Boston Boulevard fronting Rolling Road. This begins discussions and does not formally approve a site plan or use. This usage would front Rolling Road and the SCF supports additional discussion on this site with the applicant. MOTION TO APPROVE: President Firth. SECOND: Keith Shovlin

Q1: How steep is Rolling Rd along this "frontage"?

A1: This is relatively flat and a walking path exists. The slope is further down towards Alban Rd. and isn't in this warehouse area.

RESOLUTION APPROVED AS WRITTEN. MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Other South County SSPAs. Townhouse community along Ox Road; Starbucks Drive Through at the Shoppes at Lorton Valley; Gas Pumps at the Costco
3. Reminder: Workhouse Arts Campus Masterplan Community Meeting will be held February 15 from 7-9 pm at the McGuire Woods Gallery as reported by Supervisor Storck.
4. Two new restaurants opened in the Gunston Plaza- Rana Café and Americas Best Wings.

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

Northern Virginia Releaf – Tree Initiative, presented by Mr. Shovlin

1. Mr. Shovlin referred to an article in inside Nova about the one-year anniversary of a county program to spur more tree plantings in the area. It was linked to Fairfax Releaf as being the local organization that you can partner with. Fairfax Releaf will provide free trees to any organization, community, business, school, church, and scouts. They posted the available trees, so on their website, you can see the list if you click on [free trees](#).

L. Education- Wendy Henley, Chair

Ms. Henley had nothing further to add to what Ms. Corbett-Sanders and Ms. Cohen presented.

VI. ACTIONS & PENDING ISSUES: No reports.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Shovlin recapped the South County Town Hall and Mt. Vernon Town Meeting. SCF hosted a table at the events and the relevant stakeholders were thanked for the opportunity for SCF to participate.

Lorton Heritage Society will hold a book talk & signing event for “Lorton Prisons” March 5 at 2 pm in the Muse Gallery, W16, Workhouse Arts Center.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

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