

General Membership Meeting Minutes  
Zoom Video Conference  
March 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 7:04 PM.

**II. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS & OFFICERS REPORT:**

A. Secretary- Ms. Angelina Fuller

Meeting minutes for January and February 2023 approved unanimously. Motion (Firth) Second (Clark)

B. Treasurer Report- Keith Shovlin

Mr. Shovlin provided the financial update as follows:

Truist Checking	\$967.50
Nuveen (TIA CREFF) Money Market Account (MMA)	\$----
Total	\$----

Nuveen's account requires an update, which was not available for March, but will be reported at the April meeting.

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: Offit Kurman

[https://mms.southfairfaxchamber.org/southfairfaxchamber/mp\\_OFFITKURMAN](https://mms.southfairfaxchamber.org/southfairfaxchamber/mp_OFFITKURMAN)

Contact Thomas Repczynski at 703-745-1801.

2. Second Annual Lorton Spring Fling. April 29, 2023 from 9-2 at South County High School. For more info email [SCHSCraftShow@gmail.com](mailto:SCHSCraftShow@gmail.com) or [www.southcountypytso.org](http://www.southcountypytso.org). Rain date April 30.

3. Back to Business Super STIR & Annual Meeting 2023. April 20, 2023 from 7-10 pm at Paradise Springs Winery. Funds raised during the evening will help the Chamber with upkeep of the Lorton Clock Tower.

4. Brain Injury Services – 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Tournament. May 1, 2023 from 10-4:30 at County Club of Fairfax. Visit [www.braininjuryservices.org/golf](http://www.braininjuryservices.org/golf) for more information on sponsorships and to participate, or call Andrew Wilinski at 703-451-8881.

**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. FY2024 Budget & Tax Rate. Approved recommendation to advertise at last BoS meeting. Rate for FY2024 of \$1.11 per \$100 of assessed value. Storck is committed to lower the tax rate as we work through the proposed budget over the next couple months.

2. Virtual Budget Presentation and Q&A. March 15 at 7 pm via Microsoft Teams: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/community-discussion-residential-real-estate-assessment-process>

3. Real Estate Assessments. Mailed and are set by the market based on sales of similar homes. Virtual Community Meeting on March 16 at 7 pm with the Department of Tax Administration to discuss how assessments are calculated, as well as options for appeal and relief.  
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/community-discussion-residential-real-estate-assessment-process>
4. BoS Compensation Public Hearing. Board can only consider a compensation increase in an election year and any increase can only be applied to next Board. First consideration since last increase eight years ago. Public Hearing on March 21 at 4:30 pm. Storck supports raise, though not at 45%.
5. Lorton Visioning Update. New consultant Renaissance Planning is on board. Kick off Meeting held last night with Renaissance and the Task Force at the Lorton Community Center. Goal to complete this year and county staff & Storck are committed to that goal.
6. SSPA. Hearing held March 2 on Mount Vernon Nominations. Two in Lorton are recommended by staff to move forward: Newington Costco gas pumps and Lorton Valley Pad Site. Ox Rd. nomination officially withdrawn by applicant. Boston Blvd/Fullerton Industrial nomination was not recommended to advance, but Storck is interested on further considering. Planning Commission to vote on this on March 23.
7. Snowden Ashford Place – Road Improvements. FCDOT addressing comments with LDS & VDOT. DEQ Permitting Comments need addressing and there is a need to study wetland impacts. Construction anticipated to start June/July. The implementation of streetlights along the roundabout is an ongoing coordination effort between the HOA and Elm Street.
8. Furnace Rd. Trucks – VDOT agreed to install no parking signs for commercial vehicles along Furnace Road.
9. Gunston Plaza Death – Fairfax County FRD received call from Gunston Plaza employee. Observed a man inside vehicle having a medical emergency and called 911. FRD pronounced man dead on the scene. No suspicious activity or foul play observed/suspected. Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has accepted the case.
10. Teen Job Fair at South County High School will be held March 18 from 1-3 pm
11. Ides of Bark at Grist Mill Park will be held Sunday, March 26 from 1-4 pm

Supervisor Storck Q & A:

Q1: Is it correct that Prince William County already has staff salaries that are similar to the salary range the Board is seeking to increase to. They also have increases in place and have a lower tax rate, what is their secret to the budget?

A1: Fairfax County has not completed budget process, but Storck is committed to lowering the tax rate and also considering a market rate adjustment for county employees beyond 2%. Fairfax County gets 23% of school budget from the State, whereas Prince William County gets over 50%. That is a major contributor.

Q2: You mentioned the hours you put in at the Board level, is there any plans to attempt to make the Board positions full time rather than part time given the commitment required?

A2: The Board can't require that another Supervisor be a full time member. Part Time members work more than 40 hours a week. Storck believes Mount Vernon has the most going on district-wide in the County.

Q3: Is the School Board handling litigation without the Supervisors oversight?

A3: The BoS does not determine what the School Board does legally. FCPS has their own legal counsel, as well as independent counsel that was sought on specific matters. BoS has no jurisdiction to oversee the School board – the only thing we do is appropriate the dollars they spend; the Board then independently determines how they spend it (on legal fees or otherwise).

Q4: What will it take to get Phase 3 of the Route 1 widening on the calendar given it has not yet received funding?

A4: Focus is on getting Phase 1&2 funded. Since that hasn't yet been accomplished, Phase 3 is further out. Right now we are hoping FTA will provide funds that will cover 49% of the Bus Rapid Transit project. We think that is critical to all the phases. The work the visioning committee is doing to support the type of density that will need to be there for funding.

Q5: Have the infrastructure funds been allocated?

A5: We're very close to having the highway improvements funded (for the Embark Route 1 widening). Right now the BRT is really the critical path forward. The funding isn't fully allocated; municipalities are all competing for those funds and in Fairfax County we've focused on the oldest infrastructure first, and then moved out from there.

Q6: If the School Board were to fight for additional funding, who would sue – the County or the School Board?

A6: The School Board would be in the best position to sue because they are directly receiving the funding.

B. Supervisor Pat Herrity

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

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

Wendy Henley presented Karen's talking points in her absence:

1. Karen is attending a Public Hearing for a new social studies curriculum being proposed by the Governor. The new curriculum is problematic for FCPS because the sequencing changes are not considerate of ages, and at some instances are not age-appropriate. Karen is seeking to ensure that the focus is on analysis for student studying history, rather than memorization.
2. Sports News: Hayfield Hawks Men's Varsity Basketball team won the state title for the second year in a row! South County High School girls team were the State Champions for Division 6 Indoor Track.
3. 3-year calendar was recently adopted so that parents and families have more planning time.
4. New procurement policies were recently adopted that are more transparent and accountable to the Board. Requires all consulting, professional services, and sole source contracts over \$200K, and goods and services contracts over \$500K (representing 75% of total contracts) to come before the Board for approval.
5. Board adopted a collective bargaining resolution which focuses on a collaborative student centered approach to decision making. The resolution allows for 3 bargaining units, protects the right of the Board to make management decisions, and incapsulates the state code which does not allow for strikes. Karen is optimistic that this – along with excellent pay & benefits - will be a "reason to come to Fairfax" for teachers seeking employment during this national shortage.
6. Superintendent Update:
  - a) U.S. Department of Education five year, \$13.5M grant awarded to FCPS to support a School-Based Mental Health Services project. Goal is to increase school mental health services & enhance the ability to provide prevention and early intervention services.
  - b) The Superintendent's recent presentation on Early Childhood Education focuses on how STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) and Computer Science learning is advancing our youngest students.  
[https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/files/CPC5UG11EEE0/\\$file/Academic%20Matters\\_Early%20Childhood%20STEAM.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/files/CPC5UG11EEE0/$file/Academic%20Matters_Early%20Childhood%20STEAM.pdf)

C1: The Superintendent of Public Education for the Commonwealth resigned, with no news of a replacement.

D. Fairfax County Park Authority- Linwood Gorham

Mr. Gorham presented the following items:

1. Garden Plots are officially under construction!
2. Lauren Hill Central Green Restroom project is still awaiting permitting, and is hoping that it will be resolved by next week.
3. Previously reported that \$23M worth of projects were put on the chopping block to finish the Mount Vernon Rec Center. Fairfax County received ARPA funding for \$25M that was instead used to fund the shortcoming. Therefore, all the projects County-wide that were on the chopping block are now reinstated!! The projects are still subject to the inflation issues, but it's a great spot to be in. Hoping the fields can be one of the first projects that will be able to move forward.

Q1: Does the field plans include lighting?

A1: It does, but it is also subject to an initial cut (due to resources) because it's able to installed at a later date.

Q2: Amy Vosper sent out an update on the timelines for Overlook Ridge park without any delays mentioned, but then you reported a delay at the last meeting. With the permitting issues for the bathrooms at Central Green being attributed to LDS, are they also responsible for the delays at the park?

A2: I believe the delay has been resolved to be less than 3 months. I had described it as a misunderstanding that Waste Management did not understand that their site plan had to include all of the landfill property and not just the park property. I believe that have that worked out now, but I have not been updated. I can provide a better update to you directly after tomorrow's meeting.

Q3: Are there minutes available to us for the meetings for this project that reference the status and history of this?

A3: I'm not sure what the level of minutes are, I am a participant in the meetings and not the meeting host. I can provide whatever recordation of meetings is taken.

Q4: Can you please relay my request for maps of the park authority owned properties?

A4: I have satisfied that request. All the maps are online all we're going to do is send links.

C1: I was highly impressed with the PROSA presentation/process recently presented by Amy.

Q5: Can you consider a bathroom at the equestrian trail?

A5: I'm happy to continue revisiting this, but the major hurdle is the lack of use at this site.

A5 comment from another member: I think you may be misinformed. The site/trail is quite active, especially on the weekends and three user groups have come together to address the need for a bathroom here.

Q6: Can you look at the trees on the park path adjacent to Silverbrook Rd (by the United Methodist Church). The park came in and cleared the trees fallen on the path, but there are several trees that are on wires or leaning on wires, as well as some that are rotting.

A6: Thanks for bringing this to our attention, I can look at that and I will be right on it!

**IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:**

E. Virginia State Senator Scott Surovell

1. Budget. Governor miscalculated on allocations and we've made up for the error for Fairfax County in the amount of \$18M. In this budget the Senate proposed, we put an additional \$3M in K-12 that the House/Governor did not propose, that considers the teacher pay increase of 2% that the County would need to match. Other notables:
  - a) The Senate budget proposed to eliminate the funding deficit from the cap that was put on support staff
  - b) Also proposed \$350M to mental health
2. I've heard the data Supervisor Storck mentioned thrown around that only \$0.20 on the \$1.00 goes to the County for funding. By my analysis, the number is closer to \$0.60-.65 on the dollar. I think the reference to the lower figure generally tends to represent what the County gets to spend, rather than what is actually being sent back. The reason Prince William County gets a higher percentage is because the County doesn't have the income or the real estate value. Fairfax County has been overzoning for commercial and underzoning for residential. By overzoning for commercial, it requires other Counties to educate students without the same commercial tax base. The composite index is designed to ensure that each County's decisions can't burden other Counties.
3. Added language in another Senator's bill to underground powerlines in Fauquier County that would allow Fairfax County to apply for undergrounding utilities on Rt.1 from Huntington Ave to Ft. Belvoir. The Board is still considering this option because it impacts the schedule of this project (delays it).
4. Due to the new redistricting, the elected official to the 34<sup>th</sup> District will now represent approximately 80% of the SCF boundary.

Q1: Will the metro and VRE projects be in conflict with each other?

A1: The metro is probably a minimum of 15 years off and depends where you consider placing it. The best extension would be to extend the yellow line down the Rt. 1 corridor. That would certainly be different than extending the blue line down to Potomac Mills. Once the Long Bridge opens, VRE will radically transform with frequent trips (every 30 minutes).

F. State Delegate Kathy Tran- presented by Ben Hermerding

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

1. The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis's budget summary to augment budget updates: <https://thecommonwealthinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Key-Budget-Policy-Choices-2023-committees.pdf>
2. We conducted 3 townhalls in the last month for this General Assembly session (for a total of 9).
3. Post Session Town Hall & Earth Day Town Hall will be announced soon.
4. Contact information: (703) 539-2066 and [delktran@house.virginia.gov](mailto:delktran@house.virginia.gov)
5. Newsletter sign-up: [https://secure.ngpvan.com/OP4ARiDiL0iLxE0\\_xtDRfg2](https://secure.ngpvan.com/OP4ARiDiL0iLxE0_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. Rt. 123. Speed limit concerns. Study revealed 2 fatal accidents from 2018-2021, 73 crashes in 2022 (accident ever 5 days). DMV has sent two mobile weigh station crews to ensure there are no safety violations with overweight trucks.
2. Amtrak. Pilot program concluded end of February. Will review and implement the successful pilot measures, expect an update next week to be shared in April.
3. Expansion of Fairfax County Parkway. \$292M widening project from 4 to 6 lanes from Rt. 29 and Rt. 123. Includes a continuous shared route paths.
4. Requesting update for repaving of Lorton Rd. from Richmond Highway to Silverbrook Rd.
5. Left turn lane, Silverbrook to Lorton Rd heading East expansion from 2 to 3 lanes has no additional information. Requesting update.
6. Lee Chapel new signage in place following fatal crash. Further studies to be conducted to reduce existing hills.
7. Silverbrook Rd. speed camera is "live" in two weeks after a 4-week period of leniency on tickets.
8. Alpine X. Still awaiting traffic study.
9. Furnace Rd. signage prohibiting trucks installation has been approved.
10. Lorton Station Boulevard. Waiting for a meeting to be set up by FCDOT following pedestrian death in an area that lacks a crosswalk.

Q1: Is there an alternative access to Alpine X from Furnace/Mordor Rds?

A1: No, but will inquire.

Q2: Is there an update on the porkchop being considered at Lorton & Silverbrook?

A2: No, but will have an update in April.

Q3: On Lorton Rd. heading to 123 @ Sanger (at Inova Healthplex), can we look into taking a left on a flashing yellow? Right now it just sits red with no traffic coming in the opposite direction & you just have to wait.

A3: Yes, I'll look into it.

Q4: Newington will be preparing a request to lower the speed limit on Telegraph (Beulah to Rt. 1) from 45 to 40. We'd like to have the transportation committee review at the next meeting.

A4: Thanks looking forward to review at our next meeting on April 11.

C1: VDOT has started to clear brush on the side of Rd. for better visibility on Lee Chapel & rumble strips will be added at next repaving (scheduled October 2023).

C2: County is looking at installing street lights on Lee Chapel as well.

C3: Alpine X is presuming that the Lorton exit will be the way to site.

I. Public Safety- Jonathan Kiell, Chair

Mr. Kiell gave the following update.

1. Senior Scams Seminar on March 27th 11:00 to 1:00 at the First Baptist Church of Springfield (7300 Gary St., Springfield)

2. Flock Safety License Plate Reader will be used in Fairfax County – looking for stolen vehicles; missing persons; wanted persons; and vehicles/persons involved in felonies. Can provide real time information to on duty officers. (www.flocksafety.com )

3. “Road Shark” Campaign – special group of police officers will focus on “target areas” to deter aggressive driving; speeding; school zone speed violations.

4. Speed cameras recently installed near schools will be

Q1: Will the license plate capture be archived and searchable?

A1: Pictures are stored on a server for 30 days before they are permanently deleted.

Q2: Will the license plate reader help with misdemeanor warrants?

A2: It doesn’t indicate that; it only says felonies and states here it will not alert for registration violations/unpaid parking tickets, immigration, etc. It does alert officers directly (no “middle administration”)

Q3: Do you have any more information about the shoot out near Shirley Acres community?

A3: I do not have any information. I suggest contacting your District police station.

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

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

1. South County SSPAs.

a) Starbucks Drive Through at the Shoppes at Lorton Valley (ingress/egress/stacking challenges)

b) Gas Pumps at the Costco (with EV charging)

c) Mixed use at the end of Boston Boulevard (currently vacant office)

d) Townhouse community along Ox Road **withdrawn**

2. Villas at Newington Chase update – 8 villas at the intersection at South Run & Newington Commons road is in progress and clearing of the site has begun. This new community will form a new HOA and construction will commence this Summer with completion anticipated in 2025. Proffers a connecting sidewalk, tree replanting and a tree preservation area. Considering a 4-way stop with crosswalks at the intersection, but still awaiting final decision.

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

Mr. Rumberger presented the following:

1. 19 planter boxes are planned at the community gardens. More specific information to come on the application process.
2. Presentation: (Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Access) PROSA Strategy (presentation posted to SCF website). Presentation covers master plan goals, strategic plan objectives, PROSA objectives, public engagements and project schedule. Will refine this plan until approximately July 2023 and then seek final adoption.
3. Lake Accotink. Looks like they will let it fill in, rather than conduct dredging due to an 8-9 figure budget and would include a tremendous impact on the surrounding area
4. Server Buildings. DEQ has relaxed the standards for the operation of diesel generators for server buildings should there be a peak power need. They then refined it to diesel operation in Loudon County – which relates to 4,151 generators (each hour of operation per generator emits 2.3 pounds of diesel particulate matter). Will discuss with County & State legislators to ensure we have a tight stance on the location of server buildings and the effect of this generation.
5. Dale Rumberger will join a Parks commission for the Mount Vernon District after an invite from the Supervisor’s office.

Q1: The generators can be really large in size. Is that 2.3 per average generator, because it seems low.

A1: It’s early in the process, so we’ll ask the questions and see how it is monitored.

L. Education- Wendy Henley, Chair

Ms. Henley had nothing further to add to what Ms. Corbett-Sanders’ update.

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

**VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

SCF will host a candidates forum for the primaries on April 19. Specifics will be shared with the members through the Listserv soon.

SCF has been officially approved for three-year agreement for Adopt a Highway from Silverbrook to Workhouse Rd. (1.86 mile stretch) Sign will be installed once we complete two clean-up dates. The first clean-up date will be announced soon.

South County Little League will start its season March 25. TFI Fridays will be hosting restaurant night for the Little League on April 19.

The LCAC sold out its gala, so hoping to pursue a bigger event venue next year!

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 pm.

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