

General Membership Meeting Minutes
Zoom Video Conference
May 9, 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 7:05 PM.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS & OFFICERS REPORT:

A. Secretary- Ms. Angelina Fuller

In Ms. Fuller’s absence, Mr. Firth presented three sets of meeting minutes for approval, bringing minutes current.

September 2022 Minutes. Motion (Firth) Second (Henley). Motion carries unanimously

March 2023 Minutes. Motion (Firth) Second (Clark). Motion carries unanimously

April 2023 Minutes. Motion (Firth) Second (Shovlin). Motion carries unanimously

B. Treasurer Report- Keith Shovlin

Mr. Shovlin provided the financial update as follows:

Truist Checking	\$927.50
Nuveen (TIA CREFF) Money Market Account (MMA)	\$6,131.56
Total	\$7,059.06

C. South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Report- Casey Whitmarsh

Mr. Whitmarsh was not present or represented.

III. SUPERVISORS REPORT:

D. Supervisor Pat Herrity

Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity greeted the membership and provided the following updates:

1. Budget Update (more here: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/FY-2024-Budget---The-Good-the-Bad--and-the-Ugly.html?soid=1102318968708&aid=vqaCZntLYGQ>):
 - a) The good: Workforce is the challenge of the decade. Budget fully funds the market rate adjustment for County employees. Budget guidance was also included on savings.
 - b) The bad: The 12.5% increase to address police compensation was not met and tax rate reduction was not sufficient (1.5-cent)
 - c) The ugly: Unchecked carryover of the school budget
 2. Readoption of zMOD approved today. Unsupported by Herrity (abstained from vote).
 3. Parkway widening starts the end of this year (land acquisition almost completed)
 4. Lee Chapel – still working to remove both hills following a deadly accident. Narrowing down the costs and focused on additional community meetings
 5. Parkway Incident – a driver traveling over 120 mph almost killed occupants in a vehicle that was pulled over, as well as an officer in a recent incident. Education of speed for young drivers is critical, as well as parent education on high powered vehicles
 6. Town Hall on Opioid addiction – trained those in attendance on Narcan administration
 7. Bike to Work Pit Stop on May 19 (Chik Fil A, Duck Donuts and Coffee) for anyone who bikes and t-shirts for the first 50 who register
 8. Burke Lake Park Concert Series every Wednesday at 7 pm from June 28-August 23. Full Concert List here: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Free-Concert-Series-at-Burke-Lake-Park.html?soid=1102318968708&aid=h9kasxi1xzQ>
- Q1: Residents are starting to grumble about tax increases. Personally, mine have gone up 80% since I moved in 2012 (approx. a decade)
- A1: We came in 85/86 for places people want to retire due to a lack of affordability. We absolutely need to address this.
- Q1: The exit ramp on 95 South and several curves in the Fairfax County Parkway are dangerous.
- A1: On 123 Northbound (toward Burke Center Parkway) VDOT put an experimental treatment that increases the traction on the road. Considering that for the S curves on the Parkway. Police are also campaigning again for “50 means 50” mph on the Parkway. Also considering guardrails for consideration of parkway improvements.
- Q1 cont: A vehicle that breaks loose of that traction (even if it goes to a straight away) is a real hazard. I urge you to further study that.
- C2 (Corbett Sanders): We have to get changes at the State level on the curriculum for driving to help emphasize the impact of speeding.
- C3 (Corbett Sanders): We cannot continue to have such a heavy reliance of the budget on our property taxes (70%).

E. Supervisor Dan Storck

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

1. Echo Herrity in that Storck would have also hoped for a larger tax rate reduction.
2. Grand Opening of Inova Mount Vernon Veatch Behavioral Health Center was held today. While this was funded by a private donation, County overall has been generous in Mental Health funding.
3. Mount Vernon Neighborhood College – Free opportunity for 6 sessions of virtual learning. Registration required by May 16: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mount-vernion-neighborhood-college-tickets-622537465317>
4. Lorton Visioning – Task Force meetings continue to make progress
5. Lidl Supply Chain update – hoping for late May ribbon cutting
6. Early voting began at the Mount Vernon Government Center this past Friday and will run until June 17. During the week 1 pm – 7 pm. Two Saturdays 10th and 17th from 9 am-5 pm. One week before the primaries, early voting will also open at the Lorton community center.
7. Military Spouse and Military Veteran Career Fair – May 10 at National Museum of the U.S. Army and virtually on May 11
8. Mount Vernon Memorial Highway Trail is complete and will formally open May 12.
9. Workhouse Arts Center Brew Fest May 20: <https://www.workhousearts.org/brewworks>

Q1: On the police workforce issue, I've heard that officers are not getting anticipated annual pay increases that they would otherwise regularly expect due to inflation.

A1: I believe as of July 1 we will have dramatically addressed this. It's important because a recent survey indicated that residents were 80-90% satisfied with the police force, which is very high and speaks volumes.

Q2: Is there a date opening for the police station/animal shelter?

A2: It's still this summer, but a date has not yet been set. I'm pushing for information on who will be appointed as Captain for the new station as well.

Q3: In Fairfax Now there is an article that indicates there is a new study on the data center boom and its environmental impacts that you were one of the champions. Can you share more?

A3: Its one of the core issues of zMOD, but there is a recognition that there is a lot we still don't know and want to better understand land use and environmental issues that arise from data center development. This will be a deeper dive for us that will help us prepare for any necessary changes as a result of data center.

Q3 (cont): Will the citizens be able to see what the parameters are set and what areas/studies are developed.

A3 (cont): Yes. The purpose of the Board meeting is to highlight it for the public. It will come back to a committee for study and will include at least one or two committee meetings, and would come in front of the Board again.

Q3 (cont): Do you think there should be a moratorium on data centers until the study is available?

A3 (cont): I don't think we should say no, but that doesn't mean we have to say yes. An expedited review is certainly necessary. The staff was given it today and we have requested it year-end. It could be expedited prior to then.

Q3 (cont): Why is this limited to just environmental issues? What about electrical issues given the existing issues we have with outages on the grid?

A3 (cont): We do think these other issues need to be studied. I completely agree.

Q3 (cont): Can we have the locations of where these data centers are located and proposed?

A3 (cont): Yes, Nick will follow up.

Q4: How can we change the zoning up and down Rt. 1 to preclude data centers?

A4: Its part of the visioning process. The corridor has changed dramatically and the Supervisor recognizes an opportunity to do something different than what has historically come there.

Q5: Has the State received the infrastructure investment funds and have the funds been allocated to various Counties. Have we identified the projects that will receive those funds? Is there a priority matrix for any such projects?

A5: At the County level, I know they were still working to apply or secure dollars for projects that are part of an existing approved priority list. I'm not aware that we have funding for anything now, but Nick Rinehart will follow-up with more information.

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

1. Strategic Plan finalized today. Vote will be taken June 15. Outlines five goals, measures of success, pillars and equity commitments. Input included surveys, planning teams and town halls.
2. June 9- Graduation Day! South County High School and Hayfield Secondary graduation ceremonies at Eagle Bank arena.
3. New Program for Mental Health/Behavioral Health support “Hazel” includes support by a real therapist. Currently offered for high school students with parents’ consent. Hope to extend to middle school. Provides six sessions and referrals for further support.
4. Safety & Security Update – Full security audit will be completed July 1 to ensure implementation of recommendations prior to the school year. Additional security measures include:
 - a) Alarms will be installed on all external doors that will alert if a door is left open
 - b) All locks replaced to ensure it’s an easy button (rather than key)
 - c) Pull down shades installed.
 - d) Accelerated implementation of security vestibules to ensure front entrance security
 - e) Teachers/Staff all checked against National Sex Offenders Registry
 - f) Updated badges
5. Opioid Overdoses – Kids are falling prey to fentanyl overdoses. Narcan training is being provided to all teachers, high school students with parents’ permission, and parents.
6. History Standards – Corbett-Sanders championed a detailed submission by Fairfax County Public Schools, with many of the recommendations being adopted by the State Board of Education.
 - a) Remains concerned on reliance of memory rather than exploration at earliest levels of history education
7. Background Checks- State legislature has helped to ensure Fairfax County becomes aware of any criminal activity of employees as it occurs, but the County is also reissuing the Background Checks for every employee. Also connected with federal systems to ensure the County is similarly notified if an employee is arrested or detained for a federal offense.

Q1: How is the Principal search going for South County Middle?

A1: Current Principal in place until July; a national search is ongoing with focus on academic orientation, and longer durations of tenure. An interim principal has not been selected, because there is a 99.9% confidence one will be in place before for the 2023/2024 school year.

- G. Springfield District School Board – Laura Jane Cohen
1. Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week – join us in thanking and encouraging all employees who work in the school system
 2. AP Testing & Finals are coming up – Tutor.com is a free resource available to our students

H. Fairfax County Park Authority- Linwood Gorham

Mr. Gorham presented the following items:

1. Laurel Hill Central Green Restroom project will be commenced in the immediate future
2. Community Garden boxes are assembled and water lines have been run. Top soil and mulch, stone dust paths and fence anticipating completion in the next 3 weeks.
3. Historic Open House Events set at two Lorton sites – Stempson House and Hannah P. Clark/Enyedi House are open May 20 from 10 am to 1 pm. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2023/z-ir053>

Q1: Are the garden plots listed on the website sites available for sign up?

A1: Site option is online and is named “Laurel Hill”. Any residents with sign-up issues can call 703-550-2777 to reach Linwood directly.

IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:

I. Virginia State Senator Scott Surovell

Dalton Bisson greeted the group and presented the following on behalf of Senator Surovell:

1. Little Hunting Creek Creek clean-up held in April removed 3,000 pounds of trash out of the creek.
2. Early Voting opened on the 5th for the June 20 Primary.

J. State Delegate Kathy Tran- presented by Ben Hermerding

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

1. Budget for Surplus should be presented later this Summer.
2. Curb replaced by VDOT at Newington Forest Ave and Winding Way Court
3. Contact information: (703) 539-2066 and delktran@house.virginia.gov
4. Newsletter sign-up: https://secure.ngpvan.com/OP4ARiDiLOiLxE0_xtDRfg2

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Mr. Rumberger greeted the members and presented items below:

1. VDOT Repaving has been set with a website available for a Statewide Paving Status Map: <https://www.virginiaroads.org/maps/da2af092937e491b9da1601f6f278d16/explore>
2. Rail Bridge Construction funds are being allocated South of Woodbridge as a result of the VRE expansion. Putting a marker down on where funding is for a bridge over the Occoquan. Hoping it doesn't have a further impact on the progress of transit upgrades
3. I-95/Route 123 interchange has been widely discussed as first Phase completed with the widening of the berm road. Too early to fully see effect, but continuing to follow.
4. Amtrak. New Manager of Community Engagement – Denise Miller – revealed that the new signage and revised lineup of outbound vehicle is working. Plan B includes piloting of a reconfiguration that will keep cars within the bounds of Amtrak.
5. Lorton Station Blvd Proposed Rd Diet (reducing 4 lanes to 2 lanes for more parking & bike paths) is being reviewed with meetings in the near future
6. Construction crews have been working along Lorton Rd ahead of the repaving, installing new curb cuts and a new island at the I95 Northbound onramp.

7. Track 2 that runs up against the platform at the Lorton VRE Station has been replaced recently with several miles of new track and replaced ties.

Q1: Is there an update on the proposed walkway from Lorton Station Blvd to Route 1 on Pohick Rd? The existing well-traveled foot path floods when it rains with standing water, making pedestrian passage very difficult and unsafe.

A1: Fairfax County has said they are finalizing the scope and hope for design in late Summer or early Fall this year. Initially it was partially funded for a 10 ft. wide and now they are trying to scale it down so that it can have a higher chance of success.

L. Public Safety- Jonathan Kiell, Chair

Mr. Kiell gave the following update.

1. There was a serious Fairfax County Parkway Braddock Road area; teen driver northbound traveling at approximately 120 mph lost control of her BMW, spun and crossed the median and hit a car that was stopped by a police officer and almost hit the police officer. Parkway speeding accident: www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfE3yOP-US4 .

a) Police Chief comments included that teen drivers should not be provided with such powerful cars that can travel quickly at these speeds

2. Franconia District Station Community Monthly Report: <https://conta.cc/3pmAEIq>

3. Police Station and Animal Shelter are waiting on a generator delivery date that will impact the opening.

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

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

1. A pediatric facility will be built by-right in the parcel adjacent to the Walgreens on Lorton Rd.

2. Praesum drug treatment facility at the former Sunrise assisted living will take 30 months to complete remodeling. Onsite visits have occurred recently, though no work has begun.

3. Brynmor is now advertising for their new childcare center at Liberty, opening Fall 2023. In addition to a large sign at the entrance, they have stepped up advertising online and have a job posting for an Executive Director.

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

Mr. Clark referred to Linwood's update on Central Green bathrooms. Mr. Rumberger is working with Peter Weyland for a future living shoreline update given recent complexities experienced by residents.

O. Education- Wendy Henley, Chair

Ms. Henley had nothing further to add to Ms. Corbett-Sanders' and Ms. Laura Jane Cohen's update.

VI. ACTIONS & PENDING ISSUES: No reports.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

SCF will host its first Adopt a Highway cleanup day on Saturday, May 20 at 9 am. Meetup at Laurel Hill Central Green. Sign up genius link shared on NextDoor by SCF and Supervisor Storck's office. Please sign up to ensure an appropriate number of vests, trash bags and other tools are available.

Lorton Farmer's Market opened this past Sunday, where SCF has a table. The Farmer's Market runs from May to November on Sundays from 9-1 pm at the Lorton VRE Station parking lot.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

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