



Meeting Online Via Zoom

Tuesday, February 13th, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Summary for South County Federation Meeting

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Quick recap

The meeting covered a range of topics including administrative reports, appointment of committee chairs, approval of meeting minutes, and the treasurer's report. Updates on the, the I-95 landfill leasing project, the Providence District's 250th jubilee, police force updates, the status of final site plans and building permits, the Alpine X project, and the position of Board of Supervisor (BOS) vice chairman were also discussed. The meeting concluded with legislative updates, introductions of new representatives, and a discussion on data centers and their environmental impact.

Summary

2024 South County Federation Meeting Agenda

Wendy Henley, the president of the South County Federation, called the first meeting of 2024 to order. The agenda included administrative reports the appointment of 2024 committee chairpersons, the approval of the October and December meeting minutes, and the treasurer's report. Larry Clark and Dale Rumberger were appointed co-chairs of the Environmental and Parks Committee. Peter Weyland and Dale Rumberger were appointed co-chairs of the Transportation Committee. Jonathan Kiell was appointed chairperson of the Public Safety Committee. Nick Firth and Keith Shovlin were appointed co-chairs of the Land Use Committee, and Wendy Henley was appointed chairperson of the Education Committee. The October and December meeting minutes were approved. The treasurer's report, presented by Jim Fenton, indicated that the organization had \$6,354.21 in the Nuveen (TIA CREFF) money market account, and \$1017.31 in the Truist checking account. The South Fairfax Chamber report was expected but not given as the representative was not online at the time of the meeting.

New Year's Reflection, Town Hall Meeting, Security Incident, Interim Agreement, Tidal Flooding

Supervisor Dan Storck reflected on the recent New Year's celebration and thanked everyone for their participation. He also mentioned that a new monthly packet was sent out, which included information about a newsletter and the upcoming Mount Vernon District Town Hall meeting. Supervisor Storck highlighted the success of a recent event in the South County area and mentioned that the Mt. Vernon District town hall meeting will take place on February 10th. He also discussed a potential security incident at the Lorton community center and library, but it turned out to be a false alarm. He mentioned an extension of the interim agreement with Fairfax

Peak, Alpine-X, giving them another year to complete their work. Lastly, Supervisor Storck discussed the challenges of tidal flooding in the Bellevue community during heavy rain events.

Landfill Leasing, BOS Committee Changes, Jubilee, Police Updates

Supervisor Storck provided updates on the I-95 landfill leasing project, which is expected to generate enough energy to power the county's facilities from late 2024. There might be changes in BOS committee chairs in about two weeks, including potentially Supervisor Storck becoming the Economic Development Committee chair. Additionally, the Providence District will celebrate its 250th jubilee on January 14th. Supervisor Storck also shared updates on the police force and the Lorton police station. Despite retirements, new officer recruitment has been strong, leading to optimism about rebuilding the force. There were no plans for capital bike share stations in their area, and work with the Federal Transit Administration to secure funding for a bus rabbit transit line was ongoing.

Solar Cell Origin, User Fees, Site Plan Delays

Herb and Supervisor Storck discussed the origin of solar cells for an upcoming project, with Supervisor Storck promising to find out more. The conversation then shifted to user fees related to the Solar project, with Dale Rumberger expressing concerns about the halt of solar project expansion due to issues with Dominion. Supervisor Storck mentioned that the issue was being taken to the State Corporation Commission and listed as part of their legislative package. Larry Clark later inquired about the status of final site plans and building permits, expressing concern about delays in constructing Overlook Park until March 2026. Supervisor Storck and Nick Rinehart agreed to look into the status of these permits.

Vice Chairman Nomination and Alpine X Project Concerns

The meeting centered around the position of vice chairman and the future of the Alpine X project. Kathy Smith was nominated as the future vice chairman. Concerns were raised about the slow progress of the Alpine X project, with Supervisor Storck expressing frustration and suggesting that further extensions might not be granted if there's no movement by the end of the year. Marty Schirmacher and Supervisor Storck discussed ongoing negotiations with Alpine X, expressing concern and agreeing to extend discussions until the end of the year. They also discussed the need for Alpine X to make a decision soon and proposed asking them for more financial commitment to demonstrate seriousness.

New Board Member's Priorities and Commitment

Wendy Henley thanked Supervisor Storck for their time and welcomed Mateo Dunne, the newly elected Mount Vernon District School Board representative. Representative Dunne, a long-time resident and experienced attorney, entrepreneur, and business executive, shared his priorities as a board member, including academic excellence, mental and behavioral health support, addressing workforce compensation, and fiscal responsibility. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive plan to reduce the achievement gap, increased support for mental health, targeted pay increases for educators, and a study on teacher burnout. Representative Dunne also stressed the importance of public engagement and encouraged people to sign up for their newsletter and participate in a virtual town hall meeting on January 20. Ms. Henley thanked Representative Dunne for his energy and commitment to education in the Mount Vernon district and Fairfax County Public Schools.

Fairfest County Park Updates and Legislative Changes

Ms. Henley informed that Laura Jane Cohen was unavailable for the meeting and would be welcomed at the next one. Linwood Gorham shared updates from the Fairfax County Park Authority, including progress on bathroom renovations and bridge maintenance. Mr.

Rumberger and Mr. Gorham discussed the restoration of the barrel bridge, with Mr. Rumberger providing more details about the process. Ms. Henley then moved on to legislative updates, mentioning the start of the General Assembly Session and upcoming town hall meetings. Benjamin Hermerding, representative for delegate Kathy Tran, also gave an update on the session and shared about a transportation issue concerning trucks parking on the southbound exit for Lorton Road. Lastly, Jennifer Carol Foy, newly elected Senator, was introduced and welcomed to the meeting.

Senator Carol Foy's Senate Plans and Virginia Issues

Senator Carol Foy shared her experiences representing Fairfax and Prince William counties and her plans to join the Senate majority leader. She emphasized her focus on safe schools, clean water, and clean air, and her intention to address affordable housing. Senator Carol Foy also discussed her plans to address environmental and economic issues, including supporting hydroelectric generating facilities, increasing State Corporation Commission oversight, supporting Senator-elect Saddam Saleem's EV bill, and working with the Chamber of Commerce and Virginia Economic Development partnership to incentivize businesses. Senator Carol Foy also discussed several bills and initiatives under consideration in Virginia, including payment transparency for home healthcare workers, advanced diploma options, labor bills to prevent unionization, bills to address the opioid crisis and maternal mortality, and exempting veteran retirement pay from taxation. The discussion concluded with Mr. Schirmacher sharing his personal experiences and agreeing with Senator Carol Foy's emphasis on skills over a formal degree.

Data Centers, Environment, and Parks Updates

Mr. Schirmacher raised concerns about the environmental impact and power consumption of data centers, but Senator Carol Foy argued that they provide necessary revenue and help fill funding gaps in areas such as education and transportation. They noted that advancing technology is making data centers less environmentally impactful. Updates were given on environmental and parks matters by Mr. Rumberger and Mr. Weyland. Mr. Rumberger discussed pending legislation that could affect wetland issues and an upcoming report from the Board of Supervisors on data centers. They also highlighted the work of the Fairfax County Park Authority. Mr. Weyland shared a link for the VDOT snowplow schedule and mentioned an upcoming bus rapid transit meeting, indicating that the Bus Rapid Transit project is not expected to reach the Lorton-South County area until approximately 2030.

Local Flooding, Police Updates, and Land Use Discussions

There were several key issues discussed during the meeting. Mr. Weyland reported on concerns about local flooding near the old Colchester Bridge and the barrel tunnel under the railroad tracks at Furnace Road, particularly due to high tide in the morning. Jonathan then discussed police activities, highlighting their efforts to combat online financial scams and successful arrests of child predators. They also introduced two representatives from the police department, including Lieutenant Stancampiano, who shared updates about the department's focus areas, redistricting project, and the construction of a new police station in Lorton. Community outreach efforts were also discussed, with Shirley Ginwright introducing themselves as the new leader for the Lorton station. The meeting wrapped up with a discussion about land use, with Nick Firth mentioning an upcoming Land Use Committee meeting and Mr. Shovlin sharing about new business openings in Gunston Plaza and future business openings in Liberty.

Community Advisory Committee's Membership and Activities

Ms. Ginwright discussed the establishment of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) in 1979, outlined its objectives, and expressed a desire to increase its membership and diversity, particularly in the Lorton district. She also emphasized the importance of meetings, which provide an opportunity for members to learn about the department and share their input. Ms. Ginwright and Mr. Kiell discussed their plans to support the local police through community activities and events. Ms. Henley shared information about three educational events and reminded Mr. Hermerding to follow up on the criteria for road repairs. The next meeting was scheduled for February 13th via Zoom.

Next steps

Mr. Firth will send out the meeting minutes via email.

Supervisor Storck will find out the status of the site plan approval and building permits for Overlook Park.

Mr. Hermerding will follow up with VDOT regarding the criteria for road repairs and send an email update to the group.