



General Membership Meeting via Zoom  
Tuesday, April 12, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.

## Summary of South County Federation General Membership Meeting

### Quick recap

Many topics were discussed during the meeting, including the County Executive's Recommended Tax Increase, Data Center Report, and Zoning Ordinance Amendment reports. The March meeting minutes were approved unanimously, and the April financial report was presented. The members also received presentations on the Lorton Overlook Ridge Park and the Covanta Facility.

### Summary

#### Call to Order- Ms. Wendy Henley, President

At 7:02 PM, Wendy Henley, President of the South County Federation (SCF), convened the meeting and proposed the approval of the March minutes. Nick Firth seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved with no abstentions.

#### Treasurer Report- Mr. James Fenton

Mr. Fenton, SCF's treasurer, provided a comprehensive financial report detailing the organization's current economic standing. The report disclosed that the Nuveen (TIAA-CREF) money market account holds \$6,432.85, with an accrued interest of \$78.64 for the first quarter. Furthermore, the Truist checking account shows a balance of \$92.31, with a \$25 expenditure attributed to the Virginia State Corporation Commission.

#### Mount Vernon District Supervisor Report- Supervisor Dan Storck

Supervisor Storck reported on the Covanta noise heard in the community on March 31st. Covanta was consulted, but the response was unsatisfactory. The issue was a malfunctioning pressure valve. After addressing the core problem, the plant was brought back online. Supv Storck and Covanta reviewed notification procedures and identified relevant personnel to be informed.

Supervisor Storck also discussed the County Executive's proposal to increase the tax rate by four cents, which poses significant challenges. Efforts are underway to prevent this substantial increase and remain competitive with neighboring districts. If implemented, the potential tax hike would place Fairfax County among the jurisdictions with the highest tax rates in the region. Limited state reimbursement for our schools is a significant obstacle that requires fair reform. Unlike Loudoun County, our county does not receive additional state funding. The proposed increases include those related to the fire marshal and various land use, zoning, and construction permits. Supv Storck encouraged everyone to review and provide feedback on the proposals.

Finally, Supervisor Storck addressed the data center report and the zoning ordinance amendment. The Board Land Use Policy Committee convened on March 12th to deliberate on these matters. The staff delivered a comprehensive

**P.O. Box 442, Lorton, Virginia 22199**





presentation on the data center report, sparking in-depth discussions on the proposed regulations. It is noteworthy that the county staff is actively engaging with the community, and a forthcoming meeting in our area is anticipated, tentatively scheduled for late April or May. Feedback from the Planning Commission is expected in June, followed by the Board's review of the data center ordinances in July. Approval of certain amendments is anticipated by July.

**Lorton Overlook Ridge Park Special Presentation- Ms. Amy Vosper, Fairfax County Park Authority; Ms. Jennifer Joshua, Fairfax County Land Development Services; and Mr. David Kaasa, Waste Management**

Ms. Amy Vosper of the Park Authority was accompanied by Jennifer Joshua from Land Development Services and Dave Kaasa from Waste Management for the presentation. The presentation encompassed an overview, completed milestones, coordination and timelines, dashboards, activities underway, coordination with DEQ, and next steps. The achieved milestones to date comprise the updated park concept plan in October 2021, zoning interpretation in March 2022, 2232, approval in June 2022, the first site plan revision submitted in May and June 2023, and the second submission of the site plan revision in March 2024. Despite several retirements, coordination with various offices and agencies within and outside the county persists.

Ms. Josiah, the branch chief of the project management program and land development services, provided an update on the project's status and challenges. The applicant is unfamiliar with submitting to Fairfax County, so understanding the unique public facilities manual and submittal requirements has taken time; additionally, over 100 sheets from the original site plan needed to be revised to meet current standards, which has been a lengthy process. A new digital review system has also been implemented, requiring time to learn how to submit and resubmit. The project is currently in the second stage of site plan revision submission. Reviewers have assessed the original comments and communicated them to waste management. Technical approval of the site plan revision is anticipated in late May 2024, followed by the issuance of the land disturbance permit in the summer. The geotechnical report, resubmitted in March, is under review. Additionally, work on the amendment of the access agreement is progressing well.

Mr. Kaasa from Waste Management discussed his recent meeting with the DEQ, providing an overview of their planned activities, locations, and containment procedures. Once they obtain technical approval, they will submit a formal plan indicating no changes to the containment plan. The permit review process is expected to take about a year. They will continue reviewing the site plan revision and expect to receive the land disturbance permit in the summer of 2024. Additionally, they will proceed with the Geotech soils report and finalize agreement negotiations.

**Fairfax County Park Authority Update- Mr. Linwood Gorham**

Mr. Gorham provided a significant update regarding the progress of the restroom at the central green area. A final inspection is scheduled for within the week, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony is expected shortly after that.

**Covanta Facility Special Presentation- Mr. Don Cammarata and Mr. Lucas Dushac**

Mr. Don Cammarata was joined by Mr. Lucas Dushac, the facility manager at Covanta, to review the incident that occurred on the evening of March 31st, which caused noise in the area. Mr. Cammarata apologized to the neighborhood for the impact the noise may have caused, acknowledging that it was deafening and that they took

**P.O. Box 442, Lorton, Virginia 22199**





the matter very seriously. They aimed to provide background information on what happened to help the community understand the situation and assure them that they are taking steps to prevent similar issues.

Mr. Dushac provided a detailed account of the disruption on Sunday, March 31st, at approximately 5:15 PM. It was caused by a malfunction in a pump motor, leading to a ground fault and triggering an electrical breaker, which tripped the steam turbine. The noise subsided around 9:00 PM, coinciding with the closure of the valve to cease the venting process. Repairs were completed on Monday, and operations resumed later that afternoon. No safety incidents occurred, and there were no environmental emissions, only the release of non-toxic steam. Efforts are ongoing to understand the electrical malfunction and prevent a recurrence.

#### **Legislative Updates-**

##### **Gerry Connolly- 11<sup>th</sup> District, US House of Representatives | Ms. Anh Phan- District Director**

Ms. Phan provided a briefing on the earmarks secured by Congressman Connolly for Fairfax County and other jurisdictions. Notable among these earmarks are the \$1,000,000 allocated for the renovation of the Capital Area Food Bank and proposed improvements at the intersection of Lorton Rd. with Silverbrook Rd./Sanger St. This intersection experiences substantial turning volumes and recurring congestion, resulting in operational challenges. The planned modifications seek to enhance traffic operations and safety, incorporating bicycle and pedestrian facilities with an allocated budget of \$850,000. The Fairfax County Department of Transportation is managing this project, and detailed information regarding the timeline can be obtained from them.

##### **Scott Surrovell- 34<sup>th</sup> District, Virginia State Senator | Ms. Fatima Dandashi- Constituent Relations Manager**

Ms. Dandashi conveyed information to the members regarding the recently concluded veto day, which transpired yesterday. This marked the governor's deadline for the announcement of all his vetoes. Some vetoes are still pending updates on the LIS website, and efforts are underway to address these. Ms. Dandashi emphasized her unavailability to share specific details at present. The veto session is slated for next Wednesday, April 17th, during which the legislature will deliberate on the governor's vetoes and deliberate on his amendments. Further updates will be provided in the ensuing weeks, contingent upon the decisions made by the democratic majority.

##### **Laura Jane Cohen- 15<sup>th</sup> District, Virginia State Delegate**

Delegate Cohen is finalizing the budget and actively participating in transportation and education committees. The House has approved seven bills, the Senate has passed six, and five have been signed into law. Notably, Delegate Cohen is optimistic about a proposed initiative to simplify the process for students to request accommodation when commencing college. Further detailed information is anticipated to be available by October. Recently, an omission in a bill that permitted licensed healthcare professionals from other states to practice in Virginia was rectified. The bill inadvertently excluded assisted living facilities from this provision; however, necessary adjustments were promptly made and subsequently received the governor's approval. Furthermore, a bill has been passed to establish emergency evacuation procedures for students with mobility issues, mandating school systems devise plans to ensure their safe exit from buildings during emergencies. Additionally, it is regarded as imperative for school boards to be able to advise parents, like the practice in Fairfax County, of their legal responsibility to store firearms in homes where minors are present securely. Unfortunately, the bill addressing this

**P.O. Box 442, Lorton, Virginia 22199**





issue faced delays in the governor's office. Collaborative efforts are currently underway to determine the subsequent steps. These highlighted bills are the key outcomes of this session.

**Kathy Tran- 18<sup>th</sup> District, Virginia State Delegate | Mr. Ben Hermerding- Chief of Staff**

Mr. Hermerding updated that Delegate Tran will host her 4th annual Earth Day Virtual Town Hall on Wednesday, April 24th. The registration link will be shared in the chat. Additionally, a post-reconvened town hall is scheduled for May 1st to allow for a thorough digestion of information following the reconvened session.

**Rozia Henson- 19<sup>th</sup> District, Virginia State Delegate | Mr. Max Jenkins- Chief of Staff**

Mr. Jenkins began his report by providing an update on the walkways along Pohick Road. According to the Virginia Department of Transportation, while VDOT can maintain sidewalks along the road, it cannot construct sidewalks in a specific locality. Therefore, they recommended contacting the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT). FCDOT is currently scoping a project to establish a walkway along Pohick Road. Efforts are underway to determine the funding needed for the project. Discussions have taken place with Supervisor Stork's office to explore support options, including federal earmark funding. Progress has been made through discussions with Congressman Connolly's office as well.

**Committee Reports**

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

Nothing new to report.

**Environmental and Parks- Mr. Dale Rumberger and Mr. Larry Clark, Co-Chairs**

The report on Overlook Ridge Park was a major part of the committee report. The rest is the resolution of data centers, which is being revised.

**Transportation- Mr. Peter Weyland and Mr. Dale Rumberger, Co-Chairs**

Mr. Rumberger discussed transportation updates, including a list of transportation items that had come to their attention in the last year, which they asked the community to review and add to. He also provided updates on repaving and restriping projects and urged the community to provide input on which projects were a priority.

**Public Safety- Mr. Jonathan Kiell, Chair**

Mr. Kiell encouraged the members to sign up for Fairfax County alerts to be notified of important matters. These alerts include traffic updates, particularly regarding accidents, as well as weather and other emergencies. You can choose which localities you're interested in and how you'd like to receive notifications. If you haven't signed up already, look at it - it's a valuable resource.

**Education- Ms. Wendy Henley, Chair**

Ms. Henley shared the following information. April is the Month of the Military Child. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is proud to have over 14,000 military-connected students. Thank you to Col. Joseph Messina, the Ft Belvoir Garrison Commander, and Dr. Michelle Reid, the Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent, for visiting Fort Belvoir Elementary School and sharing their [joint message to celebrate military-connected youth](#). Community Forums

**P.O. Box 442, Lorton, Virginia 22199**





on Middle School Start Times. Fairfax County Public Schools is exploring options for adjusting middle school start times and invites the public to be part of the process. Prismatic Services, Inc., an educational consulting firm, will lead the forums. All forums will deliver the same presentation and provide the same feedback opportunities. One session will occur at a Mount Vernon District school: Monday, May 6, 6-8 p.m., at Whitman Middle School. Registration is not required, but it helps with planning. [Register online](#). Language interpretation and childcare will be provided. Learn more about the [project exploring middle school start times](#).

NOVA Virtual Sessions for Seniors and Their Families, April 30, 7:00 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) offers virtual information and application sessions. Information sessions will provide an overview of NOVA and the opportunities, services, and resources to connect high school seniors to the NOVA Nighthawk Community. A [virtual application workshop](#) will be held on Tuesday, April 30, at 7 p.m. Sessions are open to all FCPS seniors and their families. For questions, email [admissions@nvcc.edu](mailto:admissions@nvcc.edu) or call 703-323-3000.

**Meeting adjourned-**

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2024, at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

**P.O. Box 442, Lorton, Virginia 22199**

