



General Membership Meeting Via Zoom
Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 7 pm

Summary

The South County Federation May monthly meeting was led by Wendy Henley, who emphasized the importance of brevity in report presentations. The treasurer's report highlighted the organization's commitment to fiscal responsibility, while Casey Whitmarsh from the South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce provided updates on their community-centric approach and engagement. Supervisor Dan Storck gave a brief report on recent committee meetings and updates on newsletters and budget approvals. He provided comprehensive updates on key community issues, including the budget, animal services integration, Overlook Ridge project progress, and VDOT restrictions.

School Board Representative Mateo Dunne presented two key items in his report: addressing cell phone use in schools and the budget allocation for the school district. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive policy to address cell phone use and advocated for differentiated pay increases for teachers and school-based staff. Park Authority Representative Linwood Gorham provided detailed updates on the completion of the Laurel Hill Central Green restrooms, while Larry Clark expressed disappointment at the delayed opening. Senator Jennifer Carroll Foy delivered a detailed update on the budget, highlighting the balanced budget, spending priorities, and the absence of tax increases.

During the Land Use Committee report, Co-Chair Nick Firth presented a resolution opposing the Gunston Cove Road metal recycling facility, which was approved with no opposition. Co-Chair Keith F. Shovlin provided updates on the occupancy of Lorton Marketplace, including the addition of Five Below and the progress of Planet Fitness. The Transportation Committee discussed state-level support for BRT and rail transportation, as well as the completion of Laurel Crest Parkway. The meeting section covered various updates in public safety and law enforcement, including the planned construction of a new Fire Station on Gunston Road and the appointment of Major Alan Hanson as the new station commander at the Lorton Police Station.

Jonathan Kiell advocated for the use of fire blankets as a valuable resource for fire safety in households, while Dale Rumberger raised concerns about the environmental implications of a recent fire at the Davis Recycling Center. Larry Clark addressed misconceptions about the funding of Loudoun County schools by data centers and discussed the recommendations made in a staff report regarding noise studies, building designs, open space, tree planting, and stormwater treatment.

Chapters & Topics:

Call to order, 7:04 PM, by President Wendy Henley

Wendy Henley opened the South County Federation May monthly meeting, outlining the format for reports and emphasizing brevity. The treasurer's report highlights the organization's financial



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status and responsible money management. The vote on the monthly minutes was postponed to June.

Casey Whitmarsh from the South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce shares updates on their activities, including a small business spotlight and upcoming events, emphasizing community engagement and support.

Supervisor Dan Storck addresses various community concerns and initiatives, including efforts to reduce the tax rate increase, integration of animal services and public safety, progress on the Overlook Ridge Park project, and VDOT restrictions on Gunston Cove Road in Lorton. He also promoted upcoming community events such as the Senior Safety Summit, Bike to Work Day, and the Workhouse Brewfest, emphasizing the importance of community engagement and participation.

School Board Member Mateo Dunne's Report on School Board and Budget

Dunne discussed the need for a comprehensive policy to address cell phone use in schools, highlighting the negative impact of cell phone distractions on the learning environment and proposing potential options, such as a ban on cell phone use during the school day. He also addressed the budget allocation for the school district, expressing concerns about the shortfall and proposing differentiated pay increases for teachers and school-based staff instead of across-the-board salary increases for administrative staff.

Park Updates and Community Concerns by Linwood Gorham, Fairfax County Park Authority Board member for Mount Vernon

Gorham updated the group on the completion of the Laurel Hill Central Green restrooms, projecting a June 1st opening and plans for a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Park and Environment Co-Chair Larry Clark expressed disappointment at the delayed opening, highlighting concerns about the impact on visitors during the Memorial Day weekend. Additionally, Park and Environment Co-Chair Dale Rumberger requested an update on the Mount Vernon RECenter construction progress for a future meeting. Corresponding Secretary Keith F. Shovlin asked about the new alignment of the Community Use Area at the Lorton Farmers Market and Gorham said that he would find out more about the change.

Legislative Updates

No representatives present for Congressman Beyer, Congressman Connolly, State Senator Surovell, State Senator Marsden.

State Senator Jennifer Carroll Foy delivered a comprehensive budget update, emphasizing the balanced budget, spending priorities, and the absence of tax increases.

Benjamin Hermerding representing Delegate Kathy Tran discussed VDOT's public comment period for improvements to the I-95/Rte 123 Interchange, providing the link in the comments. He also reminded attendees that early voting had started for the June primary election, the closest place currently being the Mount Vernon Community Center. Dale Rumberger asked about the meeting of the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance (NVTVA), which he had asked Hermerding about at a previous meeting. Hermerding brought up the discussion at a town hall



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meeting held some weeks before and read from an email sent to Rumberger in the aftermath. The NVTA funds projects on a six-year span with a new plan released every two years. The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) would be funded by the NVTA. He is still awaiting information from VDOT and he expects to have that information soon.

Max Jenkins representing Delegate Rozia Henson discussed disappointments in exclusions from the final budget and plans are still moving forward for the Lorton July 4th parade with more information coming next month. He also provided a link for attendees to sign up for the Delegate's email list for regular updates.

Dalton Bissson representing Delegate Laura Jane Cohen discussed the Delegate's disappointment in cuts to the Virginia Military Survivors Independence Education Program in the final budget. The Delegate is hopeful that funding can be restored.

President Henley informed the attendees about the upcoming focus on legislative updates for the next meeting in June, encouraging legislators to participate.

Committee Reports

Land Use Committee

Co-Chair Nick Firth introduced a resolution opposing the Gunston Cove Road metal recycling facility, citing community concerns about noise, traffic, and safety. Jonathan Kiell and Keith F. Shovlin expressed support for the resolution, while Wendy Henely and Dale Rumberger also voiced their opposition to the proposed facility. Kiell made the motion, seconded by Shovlin. After a vote, the resolution was approved with no opposition.

Co-Chair Keith F. Shovlin shared comprehensive updates on the developments within Lorton Marketplace. He highlighted the occupancy status, construction progress, and rezoning plans for various businesses, including Amazon Fresh, Planet Fitness, Five Below, and Chick-fila, as well as Costco on Boston Blvd. Additionally, he discussed the status of permits for the Praeseum Drug Treatment Facility and the potential opening of Yafa Grill at Liberty Market.

Transportation Committee

Co-Chair Dale Rumberger expressed appreciation for state-level support for Bus Rapid Transit and rail transportation and highlighted the completion of Laurel Crest Parkway. Co-Chair Peter Weyland suggested sharing a list of tracked projects and focusing on specific ones based on participant interest. The committee also discussed the Lee Chapel Road project, Hooes Road widening, and the CSX bridge replacement. Pohick Estates rep Andy Norman asked for a clarification in the wording concerning a walkway along Pohick Road, as well as issues with trucks parked along the roadway.

Public Safety Committee

Chair Jonathan Kiell presented Public Safety and Law Enforcement updates including the upcoming construction of a new Fire Station on Gunston Road and the appointment of Major Alan Hanson as the new station commander at the Lorton Police Station. The meeting also addressed staffing shortages and the delay in fully operating the Lorton Station due to



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manpower issues. Additionally, concerns about illegal dumping on Pennywell Drive were raised by Nick Firth, with suggestions for using motion sensor game cameras to address the issue. Captain Anthony Stancampiano, assistant station commander for Lorton Police Station, spoke briefly on the recent change in ranks, with his promotion to Captain. It is in line with other departments, making all station commanders Majors, assistants Captains, and so on. The deputy chiefs became assistant chiefs, and the previous majors became deputy chiefs. Staffing continues to be an issue as they continue to fall short. It may take six months to a year to staff the station as it take nine months from hiring for a new officer to complete academy training.

Community Outreach Specialist Shirley Ginwright thanked those that took part in the public safety day as part of the Lorton Spring Filing in April at South County High School. She looks forward in taking part again next year. She also noted the passing of Donald Craig of the Communities of Trust.

Fire Blanket Recommendation

Kiell introduced the concept of fire blankets as a new and effective product for fire safety. He explained the advantages of using fire blankets over fire extinguishers and shares his personal endorsement of the product, encouraging others to consider its use in their homes.

Parks and Environmental Committee

Co-Chair Dale Rumberger-Beechwood expressed concerns about the environmental impact of the recent fire at the Davis Recycling Center and requested a copy of the report from the Department of Environmental Quality. Co-Chair Larry Clark discussed the funding of Loudoun County schools by data centers, highlighting the need for decisions to be based on accurate information and facts rather than misconceptions.

Wrapping up

Corresponding Secretary Keith F. Shovlin thanked Dale Rumberger for joining him and his daughter Michelle to pick up garbage along Lorton Road as part the Adopt A Highway program. Another cleanup day will be scheduled later in the year.

With no further comments or questions, President Wendy Henley brought the meeting to a close at 8:39 pm.

Action Items:

- * Wendy Henley will send out the meeting minutes with the June agenda.
- * Dan Storck will be part of weekly meetings to ensure legal teams finish the legal document for Overlook Ridge.
- * South County Federation will submit resolution to oppose the Gunston Cove Road metal recycling facility.
- * Nick Firth will investigate the issue of dumping on Pennywell Drive and explore the use of motion sensor game cameras to address the problem.



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Key Questions:

- * How are data centers contributing to county funding, and what are the facts regarding their financial impact on schools and government operations?
- * What are the updates on the Liberty Market openings?
- * How is the Lee Chapel Road project progressing, and what is the long-term vision for multiple lane transportation on Lee Chapel Road and Hooes Road?
- * What is the status of the Lorton Police Station and its full operational capacity?