



**General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 7 pm
Lorton Police Station Community Room
8855 Lorton Road, Lorton, VA 22079**

Summary

The Federation held its first in person meeting since the COVID pandemic seeing many representatives in person for the first time. The Fairfax County Animal Shelter shared an update on their first year in the new Lorton Campus. The Federation shared updates on the Overlook Ridge Park project, traffic concerns, including at Gunston Elementary School, and guidelines for cell phones at public schools.

Chapters & Topics:

7:00 - Call to order by President, Ms. Wendy Henley

Ms. Henley welcomed attendees for the first in person meeting since the pandemic. October will return to virtual but future meetings may be held in person.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes were distributed for June and July. No edits or changes were requested.

Motion to approve the revised June minutes by Wendy Henley, Second by Peter Weyland, vote unanimous

Motion to approve the July meeting minutes by Wendy Henley, second by Peter Weyland, vote unanimous

Treasurer's Report, by Mr. James Fenton

- Checking \$1,380.26 (no active)
- Money Market \$5,062.54 (interest only active)
- Total \$6,442.80

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Report- Mr. Diego Rodriguez Cabrera representing Supervisor Dan Storck

Storck apologizes that he couldn't be here today due to the hearing and vote on Data Center zoning amendments. On Monday, Federation should have received the September 2024 newsletter and the BOS brief. Board Matters from July 15th and July 30th Good news update Tourism Tuesday ended last week, spotlighting Potomac Banks locations.

New Lorton purple bin at the Community Center

Data center amendments, planning commission voted June 6th. BOS hearing held on July 16th. Due to a staff error, new meeting being held today, still ongoing

Overlook Ridge: On Friday, August 23rd, conducted an onsite visit. Reviewed plans and revisions. Noted location of parking spaces, equestrian area, and restrooms. Now channeling efforts into a new opportunity to provide additional parking. Considering safety concerns for night visitors, BMX bikers, etc The site plan is expected to be approved in late September/early October, then will be sent to DEQ for review. The biggest concern for DEQ is the cap. DEQ



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should not be surprised, according to Waste Management. Construction is expected to start in spring 2025.

Traffic calming measures at Gunston Plaza: Police have reviewed recent incidents. Speed has been a concern. Have not found a way to mitigate traffic concerns. Delegate Rozia Henson asked for a new traffic study.

Truck parking enforcement: West Springfield officers continue to check Pohick Road where signs were recently installed. Major decrease due to proactive actions. Daily enforcement is best practice. Furnace road issues no longer existing.

Speed camera program: Initial list created by FCPS, with their data, such as which schools have the highest number of walkers. We have requested this data. Second round of cameras are being installed, in process of meeting with program managers.

Diego will be our liaison going forward, replacing Nick Reinhart. Peyton Smith will be liaison with Mount Vernon Council.

Q Mr. Andy Normand, about the purple bin at the Community center. Buses are backing into it and are pushing the fence over. A block needs to be installed to keep the fence from being knocked over. **A** Diego noted it.

Q Ms. Wendy Henley about Pohick sidewalk, asked where does the program stand. **A** Diego said he is still gathering information.

Q Mr. Larry Clark, asked about the status of the Praesum facility at Sunrise, **A** Diego will follow up next month.

Mount Vernon District Park Authority Representative - Mr. Linwood Gorham

August is typically slow. Park Authority is attempting to acquire a piece of Quander Fairchild in upper quarter of Mount Vernon District. Meeting was held two weeks ago, asked to prepare possible cuts to budget. Last year they were asked to consider a cut of 7%, but no cuts occurred. Gorham created a Park Advisory Committee recently, including Dale Rumberger. In the past month they have discussed converting the slabs at the Nike site to pickle ball, tennis, and other sport sites. There is some openness but still early. Everything seems to cost way too much. Asking the public to present the exact breakdown of expenses and the source of those costs. Hoping to do more efficiently.

Q Mr. James Fenton, asked about soccer fields. **A** Fields across the street behind Barrett House were approved but money got re-allocated to do other bond projects that are significantly more expensive. Some money to do it but not enough to do the whole thing (two fields, parking, access roads, etc). **Followup** Does that include lights? **A** He believes so, as residential is far away

Q Mr. Jonathan Kiell, originally there were three fields in the plan. **A** RPA is bigger than you think it is, Gorham was an advocate for three, but they just can't make three work, so down to two fields. There are other clusters of fields with parking problems. They recommend better scheduling by leagues.

Q Mr. Larry Clark, after the Overlook Ridge tour, he asked Lisa Kardell from Waste Management about 9 acres across the street. Have either of you heard about that? **A** Gorham is not allowed to talk about property acquisition at the Park Authority. **A** Diego, some efforts are in the works but can't disclose anything. **A** Linwood, if we weren't doing anything we could talk about it.



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Q Ms. Wendy Henley, to Diego, due to the budget cuts, the County found \$26 million. What exactly is that being spent on? **A** At the moment no, we'll get back to you.

Legislative Updates

Congressman Gerry Connolly, 11th District, represented by Anh Phan, District Director
Not much to update, I participated in Springfield Bridge Walk. Congressman Connolly was at Burke Center Festival last weekend and unfortunately got sick. Legislatively, they are in session this week until Thursday. A lot of Chinese foreign policy discussions are on the schedule. This weekend is jam packed, dedicating a stand to old growth forest network, the Asian American festival, and a memorial service. Coming up is a NATO trip in October. There will be a Groundbreaking at Fort Belvoir next week and Capital Area Food Bank ribbon cutting soon followed by the Walk to end Alzheimer's. Following up on a question of funding for the Silverbrook Road at Lorton Road transportation project: Funding for the project has been transferred and included in VDOT's 6 year program. We are working with the Board to distribute that money.

Q Mr. Nick Firth asked Diego to find out when the Board will act on that.

Delegate Kathy Tran, 18th District, represented by Mr. Benjamin Hermerding, Chief of Staff

This Thursday, September 12th at 6:30 pm, we will be hosting a Veterans and Military Families town hall. Expected guest include the Department of Veterans Services Commissioner up from Richmond and Congressman Connolly. It will be held at American Legion Post 176, the largest post in Virginia, in Springfield. Early voting starts in 10 days. Voter registration deadline is October 15th. House and Senate page programs now open for 13 & 14 year olds. Schools work with the students to allow them to go down to Richmond. The application deadline is mid-October (our goal is to interview students by October 1st). No applications currently received from Tran's district. Participated in a health care policy session as well as the House Finance Committee has been back in Richmond for revenue updates from the Governor. FY revenue is \$1.2 billion higher than estimate. \$1.1 billion has been spent on I-81 upgrades, the rainy day fund, and the Virginia military service dependents education program. Meetings now being held for the upcoming session in 2025. We're working on legislative priorities for the next session. Tran was named legislator of the year for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, for trying to ban drive sealants.

Q Mr. Nick Firth asking about VDOT and traffic lights backing up traffic at I95 at Lorton Road and Gunston Road, two individual green lights at Workhouse Road. Is this a new rule that has come along? **A** Ben doesn't have an answer, he'll follow up with VDOT.

Q Mr. Jonathan Kiell asked about flashing yellow light for left turns. Mr. Linwood Gorham suggested collecting up a list of problem intersections. **A** Ben noted a constituent that reported the synchopation does not make sense. They had asked VDOT and they agreed.

Committee Reports

Land Use Committee - Co-Chairs Mr. Nick Firth and Mr. Keith F. Shovlin



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No meeting held recently. First upcoming issue, Costco gas station is still in works, even though the site has been cleared. Second is Rte 123 single family homes, we passed a resolution to support the comprehensive plan amendment but not the zoning change. We expect that developer back before the end of the year.

Coming soon Five Below, Planet Fitness, and now WingStop on Lorton Marketplace, all currently under construction. Hangry Joe's open soon at Liberty. Yaffa Grille expected sometime this year. F45 Fitness is under construction. No updates on other businesses from Elm Street Development.

Bunymann Brewery has been open at the Workhouse since June with slowly expanding hours. The official grand opening will be Friday, September 27th at 5 p.m.

A reminder that we will be holding our second Adopt A Highway cleanup of Lorton Road on Saturday, September 21st at 8 am, meeting at Laurel Hill Central Green. All are welcome to join us, vests, bags, and other gear will be provided.

Q Mr. Andrew Normand, Tartan Properties wants to develop land around Pohick Estates, either 150/200 condos or single family homes. Meeting scheduled for October 6th to get more information. **A** Firth noted that some of the site RPA, they missed the SSPA cycle, there is only so much space to develop. **Q** Mr. James Fenton asked if it is close to the train tracks. **A** Partially, depending on location.

Q Mr. Ron Kowalski asked about Alpine X. **A** Shovlin replied that they just sent out an update last week, they are still seeking financing. The cost has more than doubled and they hope to have made progress before the end of the year.

Q Kowalski asked about Hooes Road widening, **A** Ben Hermerding answered that VDOT has no plans. Ms. Henley asked that Hermerding follow up that project. Request is for improved shoulder space, sidewalk or trail.

Q Firth asked Kowalski about price reduced house sales, is the market slowing down. **A** Kowalski replied that there are more homes available. There's still an inventory shortage.

Parks & Environmental Committee - Co-Chairs Mr. Larry Clark and Mr. Dale Rumberger

Rumberger on vacation. Overlook Park tour, phenomenally different. Now all flat at the top, you can see the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains. You can see Tyson's, Crystal City, and beautiful view to the south. BMX trail has been removed due to security of the cap. Will include a viewing platform to the South with an event space, path around to the bottom, and an equestrian center. Will need to have signage to stop people from walking outside the trails.

Q Rob (get last name from sign in sheet) about the landfills. **A** Clark detailed where each landfill is.

Ms. Wendy Henley noted Fairfax County's Zero Waste Agenda, please participate in the survey. The goal is zero waste by 2040.

Transportation Committee - Co-Chairs Mr. Dale Rumberger and Mr. Peter Weyland

Gunston Plaza: two very serious accidents one day after another. Traffic study has been initiated. Typical issue is traffic coming northbound on Rte 1 turning into the plaza. Traffic may make space of the one turning left and cars in the shoulder lane not paying attention.



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Gunston Elementary School: coming from Route 1 heading toward the river at 3:15 pm, all backed up by Kiss and ride. Parents block the parking lane and the traffic lane. Drivers coming up the hill have been crossing to the opposite lane to pass, so far no accidents but it is bound to happen. An officer needs to be there. Captain Stancampiano said he had sent an officer last year during the morning. A lot of times the problem is drivers not paying attention while waiting, not pulling up and keeping the vehicles moving. That relieved part of the problem. Mr. Jonathan Kiell suggested telling parents not to block the intersection and may need to get out of the line because of that. Captain Stancampiano will follow up. Mr. Ron Kowalski noted afternoon is worse.

Utility poles on Gunston Road: Six mile stretch that was previously a narrow winding road. Road is wider, closer to the utility poles. Brought to Delegate Tran two years ago. We asked to move five poles, Dominion agreed to move two. One pole in front of the reserve has been hit twice, distracted teenage drivers. The area is now in Delegate Henson's district.

Additional funding has been earmarked for trails. A survey is open, we will send it out.

Q Ms. Shirley Ginwright asked about bikers not using the bike trail, **A** Weyland suggested VDOT should've widened the road rather than a separate trail. Mr. Kiell noted the trail is not cleared regularly. **Q** Ms. Wendy Henley to FCPD officers about citations to bikers. **A** Major Alan Henson, yes we do typically for very egregious violations. If on the sidewalk, act as a pedestrian. If on the road, act as a vehicle.

Q Mr. Linwood Gorham asked at what speed limit where bikers aren't allowed **A** Major Henson said he believed 55 mph.

Q Rob, can they be cited if there is a bike path and they are on the road? **A** Major Henson, no. Only if there is signage that bikers aren't allowed on the roadway.

Q Mr. Keith F. Shovlin noted Silverbrook Road between Monacan and Hooes roads for utility poles close to the side, resulting in some accidents recently.

Public Safety Committee - Chair Mr. Jonathan Kiell

Mr. Kiell introduced guests from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter

Ms. Catherine Centano [Not sure of spelling]: 130 animals in the shelter currently. "Business is booming" still not as busy as the West Ox shelter (Frye campus), people are starting to realize we are here. We encourage people to come tour. About 400 animals currently, 100 of them being mice, in cages for adoption. Encourage teachers to adopt mice for classrooms. About 100 animals are in foster care so not in the facility. Dogs aren't being adopted as quickly as they used to. Had to be creative with programs. Adoption Audition program, you can take an animal home for five days to tryout the animal. After five days, either adopt or report how it went. Also adding cats and rabbits. Clear the shelter event had 91 pets adopted. Two new staff have been working the pet resource center, dealign with pet over population issue. Vaccination clinic on the 13th. Microchips offered. Rabies and distemper. Pet pantry program. Working with LCAC, now have Spanish speaking employee.

Construction outside for volunteer and dog safety. Still open and operational during construction. Volunteers helpful. We are offering classes for pet owners here, since we have parking. 2015, journal of preventative medicine, noted that animal shelter employees have a



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suicide rate equal to police and fire fighters. Number of reasons, euthanasia factor. It's not just playing with the dogs and feeding the dogs.

Q Rob, do you accept food donations? **A** yes. **Q** Are you open to residents of Prince William County? **A** yes, but we don't accept animals from other counties.

Everlyn Grieve from Friends also spoke

Volunteer recruitment fair this Saturday, Sept. 14th at Lorton Campus.

Mr. Kiell introduced Ms. Shirley Ginwright, Citizens Advisory Committee update: We won't have one until the station is fully staffed. We are having meetings for Franconia and West Springfield CAC here. Looking to have more events here, but run by Franconia or West Springfield, Mr Kiell brought up the Community Police Academy, walkthrough and inside look, next one starting this week, fully booked. Teach driving techniques, etc.

New COVID shot now available for evolved strains. For those with weakened immune systems, you can get that where shots are available.

September is National Preparedness Month

Police have been running Road Shark program, focusing on irresponsible driving. Next one starts middle of October.

Northern Virginia Resource Center for Death and Hard of Hearing, celebrate communication on Sept 28th from 11 am to 3 pm at Springfield Town Center.

Q Mr. Andrew Normand, asking about the Police Academy, why does an applicant have to go through screening? **A** Major Alan Henson said you are going behind the scenes at facilities, in the jail. We may not want certain people going in these areas. Not sure of minor offenses will preclude. Mr.. Kiell said they do a background check.

Q Mr. Nick Firth, any closer to opening Lorton station? **A** Major Henson said there are 167 vacancies currently, modified evening shift. A station is 120 officers, so we're down a station and a half. Send 12 officers to France for the Olympics.

Q Rob, assume crime stats are lower in this area? **A** Major Henson said they are. This area is still being served by West Springfield and Franconia. We've been having more officers out for enforcement, giving tickets. 103 on Ox Road by one officer. 27,800 tickets this year just due to Road Shark, 12.5 hour duty shifts. Must get past waves of retirements to open Lorton station. Comment by Ms. Ginwright, project for Housing, officers cannot afford to live in Fairfax County. Reaching out to organizations, churches, etc, if they have a room to let, housing for recruits.

Q Ms. Wendy Henley asked about current availability, **A** Ms. Ginwright said there is none. There is also an income cap that knocks some out.

Education Committee - Chair Ms. Wendy Henley

Virginia Department of Education pushed out guidance on cell phone access during the school day, draft guidance since last month. Several thousand comments have been received. Cell phone guidance, bell to bell, phones should be turned off until the end of the academic school day. Additional guidance and initiatives concerning storage. Policy statewide is still accepting comments until September 15th. Get your comments in.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 8th, 7 pm, virtual through Zoom..



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With no further comments or questions, President Wendy Henley brought the meeting to a close at 8:49 pm.

Action Items

- The Federation will hold its next cleanup of Lorton Road on Saturday, September 21st at 8 am, meeting at Laurel Hill Central Green by the restroom. Vests, trash bags, and other gear provided for all that join us.
- A traffic study will be completed for Route 1 by Gunston Plaza.
- Supervisor Stork's office will follow up on Overlook Ridge Park process and adjacent property acquisition.
- The School Board will provide the Board of Supervisors with data concerning the choice of locations for the speed cameras.
- Diego Rodriguez Cabrera to follow up on the placement of the purple bin by the community center and it impacting the fence
- Diego Rodriguez Cabrera will share more information about the Pohick Road sidewalk
- Diego Rodriguez Cabrera will get an update on construction of the Praesum treatment center at Sunrise facility.
- Linwood Gorham and the Park Advisory Committee will continue discussions on the Nike concrete pad site for possible court use.
- Diego Rodriguez Cabrera will check on the \$26 million budget surplus and its full allocation.
- Diego Rodriguez Cabrera will inform us when the Board of Supervisors reviews VDOT's program concerning the intersection of Silverbrook and Lorton roads.
- Delegate Kathy Tran will be seeking input from constituents on legislation for the 2025 session.
- Tran Chief of Staff Ben Hermerding will check with VDOT about traffic light length and synchronization along Lorton Road.
- Ben Hermerding will check the status of plans to improve Hooes Road.
- Captain Anthony Stancampiano will follow up on traffic backups at Gunston Elementary
- Ben Hermerding will check on utility poles along Silverbrook Road between Monacan and Hooes roads.
- Shirley Ginwright will reach out to local organizations about finding affordable housing for police recruits
- Bunnyman Brewery will hold a grand opening celebration on September 27th at 5 pm