



**Meeting at SCHS Media Room
Tuesday, April 9, 2019 @ 7:30 PM**

1. President Dale Rumberger called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.
2. Administrative Matters and Officers' reports

- March Minutes – Cathy Bonnefil.

A **Motion** was made to approve the March minutes as posted on the SCF web site. Since there were no comments, the minutes were approved as written.

- Treasurer's Report – Larry Clark not present but sent in a report with no change from last month

Checking: \$2,202.51

Money Market: \$6,567.93

Total funding: \$8,770.44

- South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Report – Casey Whitmarsh was present from the SFCC
 - Saturday was the Job Fair. It was a great event, and thanks to all for your help. We are definitely planning to repeat this event next year!
 - SFCC's Thirsty Thursday will be on March 21 from 6 to 8 PM.



3. Supervisors' Reports.

Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity was neither present nor represented.

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck commented:

- Teen Job Fairs – About 200 students got good advice last weekend; and there still is one more Fair on April 27 at Mount Vernon High School
- Lorton Vision 2040 – This effort is not moving as quickly as we thought it would. Anna needs a bit more time to work into it. I plan a meeting in July or September.
- Fairfax Initiatives – We have approved C-PACE, a loan program for businesses that want to implement “green” projects. This program will be the first in the state to make storm water and climate change resiliency projects eligible for loans.
- Energy Conservation – We’ll be working more on this in the Fall.
- UCM –United Community Ministries of Alexandria is celebrating 50 years of service to our community, during which time they have provided food, clothing, financial assistance, health education, employment services, and emergency assistance. To recognize this, the BOS will present a proclamation to the directors and volunteers of UCM.
- CECAP – Dan and other BOS members are moving to develop a Community Energy and Climate Action Plan.
- Lorton Community Center – A public hearing is coming up soon.
- New Police Station should be completed in 2022.
- Welcome to Lorton Sign - The sign is up! A Ribbon cutting will be held on May 3 at 9am.
- Restriping and repaving – This is one way that can improve traffic safety. Supervisor Storck referred all to his handout this evening for examples of current / proposed projects in our area.
- Budget 2020 – The BOS continues budget hearings 2 more days, so come and testify if you want to!



- Strategic Planning –Supervisor Storck briefly described a meeting held in late March on the strategic plan process. The process is included in the Supervisor’s handout this evening. The next steps between April to October will be to conduct SWOT analysis, identify key factors that influence desired outcomes, and identify evidence-based strategies to achieve desired outcomes.
- Community Cleanup events - April 20 will be the date for the Occoquan River Cleanup, as well as the Mason Neck State Park Clean up.

4. Legislative Updates –

Congressman Gerald Connolly, 11th District, was represented by Marlon Dubuisson, the Prince William County (PWC) Outreach Representative. He raised a few of Connolly’s current activities.

- On Mar 20th, the Congressman launched a major joint project to combat phone scam schemes.
- He proudly supports the annual Congressional Art Competition to showcase the artistic creativity and talent of high school students from across the United States. The first place winning entry will be announced on May 11, after which that art piece will be displayed for one year in the United States Capitol.
- A Community Town Hall will take place in Prince William County on June 8th 11AM to 1 PM.

5. Committee Reports

- **Public Safety** – Jonathan Kiell, Chair, introduced:
 - POLICE: Crime Prevention Officer Alice (Allie) Eggars (Franconia) and Community Outreach Officer Robert (Bubba) Urps (West Springfield).
 - They addressed some strategies about crime prevention, including a warning about an anticipated increase in thefts from cars now that the weather is warming. Lock your car! They suggested that, if you are up at night, peak out the window to see what’s going on in the neighborhood.



- Another word of warning was given regarding “Woodchucks”: these are people from out of our area who do-door-to-door solicitations, but are always looking for easy left opportunities. Answer the door, but don’t open it, and check for their solicitor’s license. They particularly prey on the elderly. Call the non-emergency number (703-691-2131) if you have any concerns.
- So far, gang activity has not been over the top in our area, but it does exist.
- The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is a monthly meeting, open to all and a great opportunity for citizens to meet and engage with their local police officers; in Franconia, the meeting is at 7pm on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the Franconia station; The West Springfield CAC is held on the first Tuesday of every month. This is also an opportunity for the police to listen to the local community:
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/getinvolved/citizenadvisorycommittee>
- Officers Eggars and Urps emphasized that citizens know what is normal in their community, frequently much better than the local police; the police rely on people in the neighborhoods to let them know when something does not look right. Please help the police keep your community safe.
- EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Grelia Steele, the Community Outreach Manager from the Office of Emergency Management, spoke to multiple emergency-related concerns.
 - May 5 – 11 is Hurricane Preparation Week; so we are looking at the potential for flooding in our communities. Help us get our message out to your communities.”
 - Grelia focused heavily on the relatively new 150-plus-page Community Emergency Response Guide (CERG), available in the libraries and on line at:
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergencymanagement/cerg>
The Guide provides information and templates to help



individuals, families, and communities prepare for a wide variety of emergency and disaster scenarios. The Office of Emergency Management can work with neighborhoods and organizations to help them plan for disasters and even arrange training workshops.

- Fairfax Alerts is the easiest way to stay in contact regarding urgent information on traffic, weather, and other emergency information.
- It's important for communities to become part of a larger network, which we do through the Community Resiliency Groups (CRGs) – organizations networked to share information and help each other during disasters. During an emergency, since most public agencies (first responders) are fully engaged, the smaller neighborhood Resiliency groups need to be able to be self-sufficient for a few days, at a minimum of 72 hours.
- In closing, Grelia encouraged everyone to maintain important personal documents in waterproof “document bags” available from OEM; and she encouraged everyone to access the “CERG” (Community Emergency Response Guide)
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergencymanagement/cerg>

• **Environmental & Parks**, Howard Bishop, Chair, had no comments

• **Education** (Seeking Chair), Karen Corbett Sanders, the Chair and Mount Vernon District representative on the Fairfax County School Board, was unable to attend and sent no comments.

• **Transportation**, Dale Johnson, Chair

○ Paving / Restriping Meeting on March 28th Mount Vernon District –

- Topics discussed at this meeting included: Pavement condition ratings, Government oversight upon project completion, Types of repaving methods (4 kinds), Roads



not accepted by VDOT and the impact on paving. Lorton Station Boulevard is becoming an overflow route for the chronic backups on I-95. Three potential options are being considered to ameliorate this problem:

(1) Convert the outside travel lanes into buffered bike lanes, (2) Convert the outside travel lanes into onstreet parking and a bike lane, (3) Combination approach – add parking lane and bike lane where desired; but install a buffered bike lane where parking is not desired.

- Fullerton Road could be redesigned between Rolling Road and Boston Boulevard with a center turn lane, two travel lanes and bike lanes on the outside travel lanes.
- Fairfax County Parkway Meeting April 4th. FCDOT held a second round of community meetings on March 27, March 28, and April 4 at various locations around the County. There was greater attendance than during the 2018 meetings, especially because of the possibility of adding HOV/HOT Lanes to the Parkway (this is now off the table). The tone of the April 4th meeting focused on potential impacts to adjacent neighborhoods, related to adding extra lanes. Dale opined that there seemed to be a lack of understanding among the attending citizens as to the potential beneficial impact of working through their HOAs, and from there through the SCF.

- **Land Use**, Nick Firth, Chair, commented that yet another store (Mathnasium) is leaving The Shops of Lorton Valley.

He then proposed a **Resolution** regarding Urban Search and Rescue exercises at the USAR site, 9900 Furnace Road. On paper, about half of the acreage will still be available as a park; but the reality is that supporting the Resolution means that we will lose 55 acres, because no one will use park land that is next to the noise of live-ordinance exercises.



The Resolution reads:

Therefore, be it resolved that the South County Federation supports the use of Urban Search and Rescue as a permanent site at this location, however, we ask that the County look to fund and identify other sites to replace the loss of parkland from the community. The site that is adjacent to the USAR facility will no longer be an appropriate use for recreation.

The Resolution carried unanimously.

6. Old Business: none

7. New Business –

- Church parking lot at Liberty - Dale Rumberger will be speaking on April 11 at the ARB against an expansion of parking spaces next to the church at Liberty, because this would abut the property lines of residents. The tenant church has requested this because of the size of their congregation.
- Proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments for Front Yard Gardens - Walter Clarke, our Planning Commissioner, was not here; but Earl Flanagan did raise this issue of front yard gardens which is coming up at the planning commission. The current Zoning Ordinance Provisions do not permit front yard gardens on any lot less than 36,000 sf. A proposed amendment (pasted in the next paragraph) could allow gardens in front yards regardless of the lot size. Would HOA covenants supersede this new ordinance? The Planning Commission will have a public hearing and a possible vote on Apr 24, with the BOS slated to vote in early June. A more complete statement of the current and proposed ordinances may be found at:

zoning/files/assets/documents/zoning%20ordinance/proposed%20amendments/communitygardensfarmersmarketsandgardeningasanaccessoryuseandrelatedchanges.pdf

The most pertinent paragraph is pasted here:

"Proposed Zoning Ordinance Provisions (for) Gardens, for the cultivation of herbs, fruits, flowers, vegetables or ornamental plants, are an accessory use that is permitted on single family residential lots



and elsewhere when deemed accessory to the principal use. On lots less than 36,000 square feet, gardens (not to be confused with landscaping) are allowed only in the side and rear yards. However, some residential lots have sufficient sun and growing space in the front yard only, yet gardening is not currently permitted in that area on lots of less than 36,000 square feet. Staff proposes to permit gardening in the front yard no closer than 15 feet to the front lot line and limited to no more than 100 square feet in area. Composting would not be permitted in the front yard of a lot less than 36,000 feet, nor in the minimum required front yard of a larger lot. Staff recommends these specific regulations in terms of size and setback, but has advertised a range of unlimited area for the standards to allow for discretion in the adoption of the regulations."

Dale Rumberger adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM

NEXT MEETING: May 7th, 2019 at SCHS Cafeteria

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

June 11th, July 9th, September 10th, October 8th, November 12th, December 10th (Workhouse Arts Center)