



**Meeting at SCHS Media Room
Tuesday, March 12, 2019 @ 7:30 PM**

1. President Dale Rumberger called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.
2. Administrative Matters and Officers' reports

- February Minutes – Cathy Bonnefil.

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

- Treasurer's Report – Larry Clark reported 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 and commented that the upcoming Job Fair on April 6 already has a healthy list of those coming in; so please contact Casey if you can help out. Dale Rumberger added that Fairfax Water will be at the Fair and they have internships available. Casey finished his remarks by encouraging everyone to attend the SFCC's Thirsty Third Thursday event on March 21 from 6 to 8 PM to network with Chamber members in a more relaxed atmosphere.



3. Supervisors' Reports.

Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity was neither present nor represented.

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck:

- Giles Run Road Funding Transfer for Laurel Hill Park - Good News! Tom Biesiadny and Kirk Kincannon have created the agreement to transfer the \$3.5 million (not \$5 million) from the FCDOT to FCPA for Laurel Hill Park. It is expected to come to the Board of Supervisors for approval in April.
- County Strategic Plan – “This plan plus the ‘Shaping the Future of Fairfax’ initiative are being led by James Patteson. This is the first time that the county has tried to create an overall strategic plan. Again, I encourage all to complete the survey at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/strategicplan/> You know, the folks on the west side of county have responded much better to similar questionnaires; and we need to do the same thing so that our part of the county can be fairly represented in the planning process.”
- Welcome to Lorton Sign – “Cheney Concrete is beginning the installation tomorrow and it should be 100% complete by next week including landscaping. This business is newly-arrived in our community, and they offered to create the sign as a good neighbor gesture. The Lorton sign is seen just as one exits from I-95, and there will be a grand opening.”
- Path parallel to Silverbrook Road is muddy near Southrun Road. County Staff is proposing that we install a pipe in this area and raise up the trail to prevent the standing water from causing this public safety issue. Timing of this work has not yet been determined; but it needs to be done during much warmer weather, so this is not something that can be done anytime soon. I would expect the improvements to be done more toward the summer.”



- Lorton Visioning 2040 - A task force will be formed to determine where we want our community to be in 20 years. The Task Force will work in conjunction with our office and County staff to guide future development, consider a Lorton Town Center and define what Lorton will become over the next 20 years. With several new projects underway, from the adaptive reuse of the Lorton Prison site at both the Workhouse Arts Center and the Lorton Liberty sites, the new South County Police Station and Animal Shelter and the new Lorton Community Center, much change is already underway. Contact Anna Smith (Development & Land Use Aide) if you are interested in participating.”
- Richmond Highway expansion just north of Ft Belvoir - VDOT is holding a public meeting to discuss plans on March 27 at Mt Vernon High School at 6:30 PM .
- zMOD - This is an effort trying to make zoning simpler. The initiative to modernize our Zoning Ordinance was first established 40 years ago, and aims to help the County carry out its strategic plan to grow and diversify its economy. In late March, proposed changes to the residential, accessory, and temporary use classifications will be posted on the zMOD project website for public review. We encourage you to review the draft recommendations at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/zmod/documents>
- Sign Ordinance – There is a proposed zMOD amendment to the current ordinance. If approved, it would require signs to be content-neutral (in response to a Supreme Court decision).
- Drones – We are developing policies that will meet public concerns, especially about privacy and civil rights
- Opportunity zones – There are 35 census tracts in Fairfax County eligible to be designated as Opportunity Zones, including part of the Route 1 Corridor. Because of this designation, significant incentives are available to encourage development along the northern part of Route 1.



- Affordable Housing – In the next 15 years, we will need over 18,000 new housing units for households earning less than 80 percent of the Area Median Income. In addition, we’ll need at least 5,000 new affordable homes. We have two housing committees working on the problem and will present this issue to the BOS.
- School nurse shortage – We need to increase the number of nurses so we can have at least one nurse per 1000 kids.
- “Mark your calendars for the 4th Annual Ides of Bark on March 24 at 1:00 at Grist Mill Park.”

4. Legislative Updates –

- **Congressman Gerald Connolly**, 11th District, was represented by Marlon Dubuisson, the Prince William County (PWC) Outreach Representative. In a very brief comment, he encouraged citizens to contact their office with any concerns; and he reinforced the Congressman’s support of the fix for the I-95 traffic bottleneck.
- **State Senator George Barker**, 39th district, began by saying that the legislators just “worked around” the recent scandals in Richmond, so that the session was still quite productive, including:
 - Tax Relief - The new Federal Tax law means that most people will pay more in taxes for tax year 2018. So we created a tax package for our state which will generally result in tax payers receiving a rebate check in the Fall 2019. For the 2019 tax year, we imposed changes which will remove the cap on state and local taxes relative to what one is allowed to deduct. Our standard deduction in 2019 will increase by 50%.
 - Teacher Salaries – We invested in education to allow a 5% increase in teacher salaries.
 - Education - We provided more money for schools with poorer kids. We need especially to invest in kindergarten for these children.



- Higher education – Our state’s public universities and colleges have been losing more and more middle-income students, and we need to reverse this trend. Therefore, we have established that all colleges and universities will get more state funding as long as they don’t increase tuition.
 - Water Quality – The Potomac River will be cleaner because of investments in water quality in the Alexandria area.
 - Proffer Law – We undid most of what was in the current Proffer law. Basically, we voted to restrict what local governments can ask homebuilders to do to offset the impact of their developments.
 - Coal Ash Pollution – We passed a bill in which Dominion Energy will have to fully excavate at least four coal ash impoundments around Virginia where the ash is currently stored. The ash will need to be recycled into concrete-making materials or safely landfilled within 15 years, according to the legislation.
 - Mental Health – Our budget includes additional money to increase staffing at mental health facilities and puts more than \$5 million new money into permanent supportive housing.
 - Overall economy – We supported a \$3.1 million action by Micron in Manassas to expand the business and create 1100 jobs. Development such as this, plus the Amazon project should encourage business development, and enable Virginia to return to the leading edge compared to other states.
- **State Delegate Kathy Tran, 42nd District**, was represented by Rodrigo Velasquez, who addressed a few issues.
 - Tuition Assistance - One of the bills cosponsored by Delegate Tran was legislation that strengthens our workforce with tuition assistance for technical careers.
 - Windstorm Damage - Del. Tran has held a meeting with Dominion Energy to discuss their response to windstorm damage. Call the Delegate’s office if Dominion doesn’t respond to you.



- REAL ID - Kathy is working with the DMV to implement this program. Holders of REAL ID cards will be able to use it not only as a driver's license, but also as identification to access federal buildings, including military installations, and even to board domestic flights.

5. Committee Reports

- **Public Safety** – Jonathan Kiell, Chair, mentioned
 - Fire Station 19 on Armistead Road - The old station has been completely taken down and construction on the new fire house now is under way.
 - April SCF Agenda – We will focus on public safety next month. We'll have the Office of Emergency Management and the Police Department to present on public safety and preparedness, and then to answer questions. This would be a very good meeting to invite your community to attend.
- **Environmental & Parks**, Howard Bishop, Chair, had no input
- **Education** (Seeking Chair), Karen Corbett Sanders, the Chair and Mount Vernon District representative on the Fairfax County School Board, provided the following comments:
 - Twenty-three students were awarded Fairfax Student Peace Awards for working “specifically for peace or to identify and resolve conflicts . . . demonstrating commitment to peace by engaging in activities that strive to end conflict.” The award includes certificates of achievement, a monetary gift and an additional \$100 to be donated to any nonprofit organization of the student's choice that operates in a spirit that is in keeping with the Peace Awards.



- On March 14, the Planning Commission’s Schools Committee, FCPS staff and Planning Division staff will continue their work on addressing land use priorities. They will be finalizing the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) recommendations, affecting zoning and reflecting collaborative efforts between the FCPS and the County.
 - During our meeting with the Board, we discussed the CIP and budget. We are very appreciative of their support, based on the fact that we will be fully funded. A bit of horse-trading substituted at-risk funding instead of lottery funding which provided an additional \$3.4 million.
 - We are waiting to learn if flexibility may be built into school calendars, leaving the first day of school to be determined by individual jurisdictions.
 - One big thing is that we will have a joint session with the BOS to establish a joint effort for sustainability effort.
 - An “Early College” program will begin at the old Mt Vernon High School campus, allowing high school students to take early college courses, and enabling them to enter college at an advanced level.
- **Transportation, Dale Johnson, Chair**
- Parkway public meetings. In a recent public notice, FCDOT announced “a second round of public meetings on the ‘*Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways Alternatives and Long Term Planning Study*’”. These meetings will feature survey results and community feedback from last fall, as well as potential future improvements for the Parkway.” The dates are March 27 at Willow Springs Elementary School, March 28 at Armstrong Elementary School, and April 4 at Sangster Elementary School.
 - Paving and restriping projects. In a similar public notice from February, FCDOT announced public meetings to “discuss 2019 paving and restriping projects.” The one to be held in our District will be on Thursday, March 28 at the South County Government Center (Alexandria) at 6:30p.m.



- **Land Use** - Nick Firth, Chair, made brief comments about the ongoing Panera Bread application, and also about a hotel that is proposed to be built off of Loisdale Road.
 - Lorton Landfill Update - Nick then introduced John Dottellis, the Lorton Landfill Site Engineer at the Lorton Landfill, who provided a very detailed update on the site, including the timeline (both accomplished and future milestones), a number of visually explicit depictions of the final waste elevation (and the “steps” leading up to the top) and the multi-layered covering process for the cap. There was great interest in John’s description of ongoing steps toward making Overlook Ridge Park a reality for our community. Toward that end, John and the WMI staff continue to collaborate with Supervisor Storck’s staff. The entire briefing may be viewed on the SCF web site.

Dale Rumberger praised the teamwork and corporate transparency provided to the community by Waste Management, Inc since their purchase of the landfill a year ago. William Marsh (Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Land Development Services) attended our meeting for the first time. He spoke about his work coordinating with Planning and Zoning, the Park Authority staff, the County Attorney’s office, and John Kellas (Deputy Director Public Works Fairfax County) regarding the Park access agreement, what gets built on the park, permits, etc. William’s role is coordination with all these players regarding all the required permits, so that everything is clear. Then, when the cap is complete, the Park infrastructure will be able to move ahead promptly.

What can we in the community do to support all this? John Kellas said, “Remember that it’s still an active site, so it cannot be open to visitors now. Please be patient in communications. Stress safety above all else!” William Marsh suggested that emailing will be the best way to ask any questions.



- Workhouse Arts Center Update– Dale Rumberger introduced Ava Spece (President and CEO, Workhouse Arts Foundation). In a wide-ranging presentation, Ava described:
 - Projects (current / recent), including the Lucy Burns Museum
 - Famous entertainers Frank Sinatra, Duke Ellington, and Louis Armstrong who performed here.
 - Famous inmates such as Tokyo Rose, Chuck Brown, Norman Mailer, and leading Suffragists
 - Programs, including Visual Arts, Performing Arts (300 performances per year), and Education programs
 - Community Events - Fireworks, Brewfest, Haunted Trail, 2nd Saturdays, and the Mural Festival
 - Workhouse Military Arts Initiative (Art Therapist, Recovery Forge, Special workshops, scholarships)
 - Summer Camps for Kids
 - Fundraisers, such as the annual Gala, described as “the best party around”
 - Mount Vernon Nights Concert Series

Following this, Ava discussed the Power of the Arts to transform communities and bring people together. She proudly noted that after its first decade, the Foundation is financially solvent, that there has been budget growth in the last 3 years, and that five “Small Theater” awards have been presented.

For more information:

- infor@workhousearts.org
- 703 584-2900
- avaspece@workhousearts.org
- REFI link: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/laurel-hill/workhouse-campus>



6. Old Business: Honey Bee Initiative -Dale Rumberger asked Eric Forbes, who happened to be present, about the current status of the Honey Bee Initiative (a partnership between George Mason, Fairfax County and Covanta) on the grounds of the old landfill. Eric replied, “Our bees did pretty well over the past year, although we lost a few hives. George Mason staff are still on site working with us.”

7. New Business – None

Dale Rumberger adjourned the meeting at 9:30 PM

NEXT MEETING: April 9th, 2019 at SCHS Media Room

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

May 14th, June 11th, July 9th, September 10th, October 8th, November 12th, December 10th (Workhouse Arts Center)