



Meeting at SCHS Multi-media Room Tuesday, November 12, 2019 @ 7:30 PM

1. President Dale Rumberger called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.
2. Administrative Matters and Officers' reports
 - Minutes – Vivian Drake / Cathy Bonnefil. Dale Rumberger asked if anyone had corrections for the October minutes as distributed this evening. After one minor correction, and the minutes were approved as written.
 - Treasurer's Report – Larry Clark provided the following account balances:

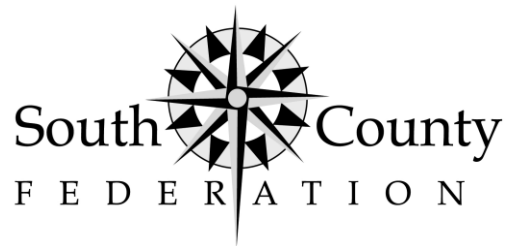
Sun Trust Checking:	\$1,526.99
TIAA CREF Money Market:	\$6,629.31
Total funding:	\$8,219.93
 - South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce Report (SFCC) – Casey Whitmarsh highlighted several events:
 - Nov 14th – Holiday Open House at Gunston Hall – From 2:00PM -6:00PM; if you'd like a first look at the Museum Shop's holiday merchandise.
 - Nov 16th – Phantom of the Workhouse Masquerade Ball– 6:00PM – 10:00PM at the Workhouse Arts Center
 - Nov 30th– Liberty Lorton Turkey Trot - 7:45AM to 10:30AM. The race will begin and end next to Liberty Green, the former baseball field. Register by Nov. 23 to get discounted price.
 - Dec 7th – Christmastide at Gunston Hall – 10:00AM to 7:00PM, at George Mason's Gunston Hall; families are invited to attend.
 - Thirsty Thursday will not be held this month.



3. Supervisors' Reports.

- **Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity** was not present or represented

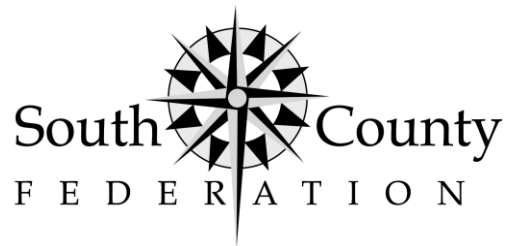
- **Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck** had several topics to address:
 - New “Welcome to Mt. Vernon” pamphlet - “We are trying to deliver these pamphlets to every new resident of our district,” so that new arrivals are quickly informed about police, fire & rescue, parks, libraries, utilities, community centers, farmers markets, and also a senior citizen guide.” Supervisor Storck complimented the work done by Anna Smith and Camela Speer in developing the pamphlet.
 - Legion Bridge enlargement will finally happen, based on an historic accord between MD and VA to split the cost.
 - Coat and Blanket drive for Syrian Refugees - For the 6th year, the drive is organized by the NOVA Relief Center. There are several drop-off locations for lightly used blankets and coats. Find the location of your closest drop-off spot on the NOVA Relief Center website.
 - Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance Modernization Project (zMod) – The end of the zMod process is nearing, an effort to reorganize and update the county’s complicated, often inconsistent regulations. The ordinance should now be more user-friendly, more readable, the language is simpler, and include overlays to make it easier.
 - 2nd Annual Environment Expo- Will take place on Nov 16th at Walt Whitman Middle School from 8:00AM to noon. There will be 25 exhibitors at tables addressing how citizens can act on climate change. We expect to have approximately 150 attendees. Eight workshops will offer more targeted environmental education .



- Mt Vernon District Holiday Open House -“Will be on Dec 5th from 5:30 – 7:30PM at the Mt Vernon Government Center. Please join us!”
- Anna Smith is leaving soon for private employment.
- Site Specific Plan Amendment (SSPA) Process – “We’ve gotten one new proposal so far. Dec 3rd is the deadline to submit additional proposals to the SSPA. Then, our task force will begin meetings in early 2020.
- Four new District Supervisors have joined the BOS, so “there are a lot of reassignments of duties within the BOS as we do our best to support all of you. The first BOS meeting in 2020 will address this issue.”
- Staff turnover - Anna Smith, Development and Land Use Aide, is leaving for a position in the private sector. Good luck!
- Lorton Visioning 2040 (County Strategic Plan) – The Lorton Visioning survey closed today (630 responses) . Anna Smith said that an analysis should be ready by the end of the next couple of weeks and that they will make that available to the public. Supervisor Storck added that “The next Visioning meeting will be around February or March. We’ll bring different concepts together.”

4. Legislative Updates –

- **Kathy Tran, State Delegate 42nd District**, was represented by Rodrigo Velasquez, her Senior Legislative Aide. He started by passing along Kathy’s appreciation for all who voted. She has moved up in seniority, so is happy to be getting a bigger office during the Legislative Session.
 - New Legislative Session - Begins on Jan 8. Please contact us with your concerns/ideas, or sign up on our website if you’d like news on Delegate Tran’s bills.
 - Fairfax Delegation Public Forum – Will be held on Jan 4th at 9:00 AM at the Fairfax Government Center. Almost the entire Fairfax County Delegation will be there, including the new Caucus Chair and Speaker, who hails from our county!



- I-95 Auxiliary Lane Design Public Hearing - This hearing is scheduled for Wed Dec 4th, 6:30 – 8:30 PM at the Old Bridge Elementary School in Woodbridge. Information will include the plans to construct a 1.5-mile auxiliary lane on southbound I-95 from Route 123 (Gordon Blvd) to Prince William Pkwy (Route 294).
- Sand Barrels under the Lorton railroad overpass are still there and still ugly. No progress has been made, although Delegate Tran has tried multiple times to get a response from VDOT and includes Supervisor Storck’s office in all correspondence. VDOT’s last response on November 5 was simply that they “are working on it.” Dale Rumberger expressed frustration with this answer and asks that the Delegate renew her efforts. Rodrigo promised to update ASAP.

5. Committee Reports

- **Transportation**, Dale Johnson, Chair
 - Laurel Hill Parking - Laurel Hill was among the first communities to try to address their growing parking problems. They successfully established several restrictions, such as no parking of boats. “Residential Parking Districts” were promised by the County but so far not implemented.

The President pointed out that, if we don’t do anything, parking problems will inevitably continue to grow over the years. Chronic problems continuously are on-street parking, fleet and long-term parking, etc. Property values, safety, transportation, and upward trends in car ownership all impact community parking. We should develop our recommendations for Supervisor Storck and soon-to-be-Chairman McKay. We have to try to overcome roadblocks from VDOT (e.g. nonsense answers). The spring board for us is to learn from the effort of Laurel Hill.



Mike Gilmore and others talked about the impact of parking issues on their property values.

Dale finished by saying that he is looking for a committee to form up and then to bring forth recommendations for several issues. So far, he has input from Crosspointe, Sanger Street and a couple of others. He proposes putting out requests for input from specific HOAs.

- Gateway Issues -
 - Part of our Gateway includes the Route 1 CSX overpass, which is a 19th century situation with constricted lanes. During 2020, the SCF wants to move to address this as much as possible.
- **Land Use**, Nick Firth, Chair –
 - **Resolution on Loisdale Rd Hotel/ Storage** -
 - **Discussion:** The proposed development is on a site near the Wendy’s on Loisdale Rd. Realizing that the total trips generated by the new building would be expected to be 2,623, the land use committee’s main fear has had to do with ingress and egress in an area that already has terrible traffic congestion. Nick said that, despite spending considerable time reviewing ingress and egress, his committee was only able to get it “from horrible to poor”. There’s already an Embassy Suites hotel with a restaurant in the immediate area. The applicant may be back with another proposal. The Committee recommends “Opposing this application for a Comprehensive Plan Amendment,” because Comprehensive Plan amendments won’t work unless other improvements are made in the area.
 - **Vote:** The **Resolution** opposing the Hotel and Storage facility was passed by a vote of 16-0, with 1 abstention.



- In-process Land Use issues
 - Site near Walgreens on Route 1 – The applicant wants to rezone a bank site for a dental office.
 - The former Kmart at Springfield Plaza - Giant is taking it to renovate by June 2020
- Presentation by Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS)

Dale Rumberger introduced Eric Goplerud, FACS Chairman of the Board, to explain how they work and what they do. He said, “We unite people of faith to develop local solutions to the climate crisis. We help people of faith live and act on their shared core values of reverence for life, stewardship and compassion We pursue four purposes in our work: (1) sound an ethical and spiritual call to address climate change; (2) encourage moral climate policies from a nonpartisan perspective; (3) enable congregations to do good works that protect our planet and its people; (4) empower congregations to become champions of change”.

 - History – We have 75 faith-based organizations, and we work at 3 levels, trying to make it possible for people to act based on our stewardship for this planet. We see this not as Democrats or Republicans, but as a moral and religious activity. This is really “we”. Starting small 5 years ago, we have grown to include the members of 5 Catholic churches, several Jewish synagogues, 2 Mosques, 2 Hindu temples, a Sikh temple, and members of the Peace Corps.
 - How FACS works – We get people out of their pews and talking to people like Delegate Tran and Supervisor Storck about environmental issues and climate change. Speaking up at County budget meetings is important! But whereas there are always very large numbers of school advocates for their issues, and 200 – 400 police advocates, there may be only one person who speaks up for the environment.



We organize advocacy teams in each district who meet on regular basis with their Supervisor regarding climate change, etc.

We advocate for: energy dashboards at each of the county buildings (took 2 ½ years to do this). The schools have done it themselves. In the 1st year, 5 of the high schools competed on how much they could decrease their energy use. By the 2nd year 51 schools competed. So now we have a “Fairfax Zero” campaign in the County, and are pushing to make commitments as to how to achieve the goals of that plan.

Eric went on to discuss a wide variety of current and future efforts such as: converting incandescent street lights to LED, establishing vehicle recharging stations, converting school and other county buildings to solar power, decreasing the amount of aluminum cans and plastic bags, and advocating for electric school buses.

Eric’s PPT briefing slides are on the SCF web site for more details

- **Public Safety, Jonathan Kiell, Chair**, provided timely cautions to all about so-called “gypsy repairmen” who are being brought in from out of town and knock on doors to try to convince homeowners to pay them to do “repairs”, frequently pressuring large pre-payments, and sometimes even trying to get inside homes to steal. Get out information for your neighbors to be aware of this threat. Frequently elderly residents are targeted. Even seeing your trash can give a crook ideas. For instance, putting out a large TV packing box is an advertisement that something of value is now inside your house.



- **Education** (Seeking Chair) - Karen Corbett Sanders, the Chair and Mount Vernon District representative on the Fairfax County School Board, addressed:
 - School Board Election Results – “There has been a massive turnover on the school board! Of the 12 Board members, eight are new to the Fairfax board, and will begin their four-year terms in January. They will be responsible for overseeing one of the nation’s largest school systems, with nearly 190,000 students and a \$3 billion annual budget.”
 - Tech Pathways Initiative – “Amazon is now collaborating with our school system in this initiative, which seeks to create multiple pathways to careers in cloud computing, and to make these careers more exciting and accessible to students across Northern Virginia. We will be starting the initiative at the 8th grade level.”
 - Graduation Rates – “Thru the VA Department of Education, we have learned that in 2019, 91.3% of FCPS students graduated within four years. More than three out of five of those students earned Advanced Studies Diplomas; plus 60.8% of FCPS students earn those distinguished diplomas compare to 51.5% of students in Virginia as a whole.”
 - Climate and Energy Leadership Award – “Our school system is one of three recipients of the prestigious Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) 2019 Climate and Energy Leadership Awards for its outstanding efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and engage and serve underserved communities.”
 - Bridging School Achievement Gaps – The Fairfax County School Board has recognized schools throughout the county that have made great strides in bridging educational achievement gaps in 2018-2019. Gunston Elementary School employees are among those receiving awards.



- School Bond passed - The school bond referendum on the general election ballot was passed by a large plurality, and Ms. Corbett Sanders thanked all who voted.

6. Old Business

- Central Green at Laurel Hill Park: Dale Rumberger says he will bring a resolution next month regarding the need to construct Laurel Hill Park bathroom facilities. These are really needed because there are no facilities anywhere nearby.
- Rumble Strip Noise at South Run Oaks - Chris Chessnoe from this neighborhood reminded us about seriously severe noise from an unwanted rumble strip that was installed last year along Ox Road between the former prison property and Lee Chapel Rd. He and his neighbors would like to remove the strip or ameliorate the noise; but they have been unable to get much response from VDOT, and now asks if the SCF could help and revisit the issue.

- ## 7. New Business – Deterioration of the Ox Road Walkway – One attendee states that there is a very serious deterioration along the walkway which goes from the Shops in Lorton to Lee Chapel Road. Also, there is inconsistent placing of stop signs. The complainant has contacted VDOT, but has not received any helpful response. Several SCF members recommend to contact Sally Kidalov in Supervisor Storck’s office and / or Rodrigo Velasquez in Delegate Tran’s office.

- ## 8. Attachment: PPT Presentation regarding Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS)



Faith Alliance for
Climate Solutions

Dale Rumberger adjourned the meeting at 9:35 pm



NEXT MEETING: December 10th (Workhouse Arts Center) in the multi media room

FUTURE MEETING DATES in 2020:

- January 14, February 11, March 10, April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14, August (No Meeting), September 8, October 13, and November 10 in the South County High School Media Room
- December 8 at the Workhouse Arts Center

Recorded by Cathy Bonnefil