

P.O. Box 442, Lorton, Virginia 22199

**Meeting at Laurel Hill Community Center
Tuesday, December 8th, 2009 @ 7:30 p.m.**

****** MINUTES ******

BOARD REPORTS (10 Minutes)

Called to order at 7:39.

President's Report, Michael Grogan. President Grogan recognized elected and appointed officials in attendance. He noted that although Supervisor Herrity was not here, he sent a representative from his staff to bring copies of his "Herrity Report" for distribution.

Approval of recent Meeting Minutes on voice vote.

Treasurer's Report, Calvin Smith: as of December 1st, TIAA/CREF \$6,479.87 + SunTrust \$2,187.27 = \$8,667.14

Distribute attendance sign-in sheet.

SUPERVISORS/LEGISLATORS TIME and DISCUSSION

Supervisor Hyland

Spoke of a request by school system that the county take action on the site plan for the middle school.

MVHS meeting tomorrow night with school board representatives about budget, specifically in regards to schools.

Supervisor Hyland referred to his handout about truck safety.

Expects hearing to make Laurel Hill a residential parking district. Board supported the motion. Spoke briefly of debris landfilling. Staff got pushback from VDOT in regards to additional exit on 95. Hearing regarding deer management: citizens are concerned with method of bow hunting to cull deer; sharpshooters more humane. But there are areas where rifles would pose a hazard. It is not a simple issue. Hearings will continue. We do have deer overpopulation in the county.

Lorton Road widening. A traffic study has been done.

Pleased to see resolution from LUC regarding Laurel Hill adaptive reuse. Upcoming adaptive reuse PAC meeting. APR nominations.

Mason Neck has requested traffic count for some intersections of Gunston Road.

Board vote on putting meals tax before the voters in January. Vote did not pass 7-3.

Member expressed need for sidewalk from where Silverbrook narrows at northeast corner of SCSS and Southrun.

State Senator George Barker

Expecting a challenging session. The legislature will be working on the biennial budget.

Many things that escaped cuts in the last budget will certainly be cut this time.

Expecting two budgets of declining revenue for the first time since the Great Depression.

Still working on addressing transportation. Commonwealth may even find itself unable to match federal funds.

Mental health funding formula is one of the oddest he's seen. Alexandria gets 3x[per capita?] as Fairfax County.

HOT Lanes. Seeking to restrict the contractor to maintain historical speeds in the HOT Lanes.

State Senator Dave Albo

Though there is little money, it is an opportunity to decide what in government is really necessary; i.e. an agricultural program started when Fairfax County largely farms that still exists today despite little demand.

Spoke briefly of the possibility of using data mining to determine residency and eligibility for government services. [This would help prevent DC & Maryland residents from utilizing services meant for Virginia residents and prevent Virginia residents from getting residency based services from multiple municipalities.]

Chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova

Meals tax: the BoS meeting will be played on the county channel on Saturday.

Usually, the agenda items at the end of a meeting are ‘board matters’. Supervisors may bring items of interest to the board. Though the idea of meals tax has been discussed, it had not passed any vetting via committee before being brought before the board. There were those who were not against the meals tax, but against the timing. The issue was referred to a committee to examine it further. Voters, when given the chance, will often vote against taxing themselves. A meals tax was voted down in the early 90s. There has not been a similar referendum since. Cities and towns tend to have meals taxes. Counties must get OK from voters to impose a meals tax. Bulova believes that if it is made clear that the revenue from the tax will go to a specific purpose such as schools or will go to lower a specific current tax such as property tax, it will be more likely to be acceptable to voters. It is also critical to engage the restaurant industry. If it is voted down again, she thinks the issue may not ever come up again. It would be a significant source of revenue.

Spoke of the community dialogues about county budget. On Jan 7th, school board releases the budget. On Feb 2nd, the school board votes, near end of February, county exec issues his thoughts on the school budget.

Question about if Bulova has heard about tying meals tax to education. She has heard from some and personally requires a meals tax be tied in a similar manner as she spoke of tonight in order to give her support to it.

Question about \$80 million figure she talked of tonight; gross or net. \$80 million is the gross amount of revenue.

Question about daily comments around school about list of proposed cuts. How to get the message across to the board? The board is definitely hearing opposition to the proposed cuts. Stated that education is her highest priority. It is the “best thing going for us in Fairfax County.”

Question from Storck about Fairfax County’s legislative “package” and meals tax. Counties do not have the same taxing authority as cities and towns. The counties have been seeking taxing authority similar to cities and towns.

Del. Albo said cities would ask “If you give counties the same authority, why remain a city and, therefore, have to maintain our own roads?” Bulova spoke of unfamiliarity with funding formulas and about specific county charters that Arlington & Henrico have which authorize different taxing authority than most counties in the commonwealth.

Mount Vernon District School Board Member Dan Storck

Spoke of the ~120 million the school board expects to cut. This is based on expectation of similar county funding. These cuts are just the beginning. The board is deeply concerned about the cuts, but does not see much of an alternative. Spoke of large disparity between Fairfax and Prince William counties. Fears our reputation as a top school system may also be a casualty of these cuts. Urges the federation community to be involved, let the school board know their thoughts.

Springfield District School Board Member Liz Bradsher

Concurred with Dan Storck’s assessment. The cuts are severe. The board needs public input. Looking at some issues including school year calendar; along with Delegate Albo.

Planning Commissioner Earl Flanagan

APR process occurs every five years. Gives citizens a voice to change the comprehensive plan. Staff has completed screening to determine which they will recommend be set aside. Commission will be voting soon. He will be bringing the federation nominations to the hearing process.

President Grogan criticized inaccuracies in a [Fairfax County?] Chamber of Commerce letter regarding one of the nominations.

STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Education (Christine Morin)
 - Invited school board members to January 12th meeting; both said yes
- Land Use Committee (Linwood Gorham)
 - Priorities
 - Continue establishing future vision of south county
 - Closure dates on undesirable land use facilities
 - APR
 - Adaptive reuse
 - Enhance access to/from I-95
 - Resolution 09-xx not opposing most recent Laurel Hill adaptive reuse plan. Passed via voice vote with some opposition. President Grogan called for a recorded vote. Vote carried 31-5-0.
 - Resolution source is land use committee
 - Federation had opposed previous incarnation of plan because of concerns with viability, low income housing tax credits and mix of housing.
 - Peter Dickinson spoke of changes that have occurred since to address the concerns
 - The current plan is not perfect, but appears to be as good as we can reasonably get
 - Question about demolishing some of the walls. Concern that for appearance sake, there must be some demolition. The LUC deemed a reasonable balance has been struck between viability and preservation.
 - In Gerry's handout is some visual
 - Question about students expected from new housing. 96 students across K-12.
 - There is a cap on total housing units and cap on units to be used for tax credits
 - If ARB decides no demolition of wall...
 - Big concern, there is a process to overrule their decisions
 - ARB did not take a vote to support or oppose
 - Chris Caperton feels that an agreement can be reached
 - Clarification on 12.5% affordable housing requirement
 - New housing comprising of 50 or more units required to have 12.5%
 - Developers can buy their way out of the requirement or make concessions about density to lower the required affordable portion
 - Current policy is that developers bridge the gap to 12.5%
 - In Supervisor Hyland's handout is a relevant letter
 - Supervisor Hyland and Chair Bulova could not recall having to go as far as overruling the ARB. It is usually reasonably handled before it come to being considered overturned by the board of supervisors.

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- Question about wording used “magnet housing/low income housing”
 - 12% now required by county for new developments be affordable
 - difference between the two terms is not significant
 - county does not restrict affordable housing to teachers/police/firefighter/etc.
 - Decision to trade off 10% income requirement to help viability
- Environmental (Gloria Bannister)
 - Resolution 09-xx recognizing and thanking Linwood Gorham. Passed via voice vote.
 - President Gorgan noted that we often don’t take the time to recognize the
- Transportation (Mike Grogan)
 - Resolution 09-xx calling for public land be used instead of private land taken when widening Lorton Road, passed via voice vote.
 - Plan proposed took private land across street from public land near Silverbrook
 - There is likely an instance that it will be necessary
 - Four large issues
 - Widen/re-align Lorton
 - Reduce trucks on side roads
 - Address unsafe Silverbrook and Hooes intersection
 - HOT Lanes

OLD BUSINESS

- Lorton Community Action Center LortonAction.Org (5 Minutes)
 - Holiday drive this Saturday
 - Support On Suspension(SOS) Program: call for volunteers

NEW BUSINESS

- Change to bylaws joining Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary into Secretary. Passed via voice vote.
- Nomination of slate of officers President Peter Dickinson, VP Linwood Gorham, Treasurer Gloria Bannister, Secretary Alan Salisbury
- Election of slate passed via voice vote
- President Grogan asked us to keep Dale Johnson in our thoughts and prayers. He has had a profound impact on several aspects of the federation including membership. Dale Johnson really took on the task of the federation ‘identity’; who we are, what we do, where we are. He can say with confidence the federation speaks for the community. Dale was instrumental in that.
- President Grogan had asked the committees to think of and list their priorities. He sees those priorities helping to build a roadmap for the future.
- President Grogan is pleased by the activism in our community, but we can do more. He is pleased with the nominating committee slate and looks forward to continue working with them as immediate past president.
- 2010 First Tuesday meeting exceptions: January & September meetings will be the 2nd Tuesday

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- Next meetings
 - January 8th meeting is at South County Secondary School
 - February 2nd meeting is at South County Secondary School
 - March 2nd meeting is at South County Secondary School

Adjournment at 9:33

Note: South County Federation website is at <http://www.southcountyfederation.com/>

Members	Member Through	Present	Non Aligned Caucus Members	Member	Present
Afton Glen			Gomolinski-Lally, Eleanor		
Barrington	2009		Fedorshick, John		
Cavanaugh Crossing			Clifton, Irma		yes
Courts of Laurel Crest			Meeker, Rose		
Crosspointe	2009		Dreude, Thomas		
Gunston Corner THOA					
Gunston Manor	2010		Other Attendees		
Gunston Square					
Hallowing Point Civic Assoc	2009		Sharon Bulova (Chair of Supervisors)		
Harbor View			Gerry Hyland (Mt Vernon Supervisor)		
Hollymeade			John ??? (Supervisor Herrity's staff)		
Laurel Hill Community Association	2011		Tim Sargeant (planning commissioner)		
Laurel Highlands			Earl Flanagan (planning commissioner)		
Lorton Station	2009		George Barker (39th District State Senator)		
Lorton Valley			Dave Albo (42nd District Delegate)		
Mason Neck Civic Association	2010		Christine Morin (Supervisor Hyland staff)		
McGuire Woods			Dan Storck (school board)		
Newington Forest			Liz Bradsher (school board)		
Newington Woods					
Non-Aligned Caucus					
Occoquan Overlook			Mike, Peter, Calvin, Christine, Alan, Linwood		
Occoquan Park			Irma, Marty, Gloria, Rob Robertory, Lowell,		
Overlook Point					
Pohick Square					
Saratoga Community Association					
Shepherd Hills					
Springfield Oaks					
Shirley Acres					
Silverbrook Hunt	2009				
Southpointe	2009				
Spring Hill					
Stone Manor	2009				
Wildwood					
Williamsburg Square	2009				