



General Membership Meeting Via Zoom
Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 7 pm

Summary

Various topics were discussed during the meeting, including personnel changes and community events. Supervisor Storck gave a comprehensive presentation on issues such as the landfill gas monitoring project, the I-95 project, and the upcoming concert series. Congressman Connolly's office, State Senators Scott Surovell and Jennifer Carroll-Foy, and Delegates Kathy Tran and Rozia Henson provided legislative updates covering issues related to education, transportation, environment, and healthcare.

Summary

Call to Order- Ms. Wendy Henley, President

Ms. Henley called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and proposed the approval of the April and May meeting minutes.

Treasurer Report- Mr. Jim Fenton

Mr. Fenton presented the treasurer's report, indicating a healthy balance in the checking and money market accounts. This balance is significant as it reflects the financial stability of our organization and our ability to meet our financial obligations.

Truist Money Market	\$4, 014.12
Truist Checking	\$1, 092.31
Nuveen Money Market	\$1,435.85
Total	\$6,542.28

South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce (SFCC)- Mr. Casey Whitmarsh

Mr. Whitmarsh delivered updates on SFCC's recent activities, spotlighting small businesses and upcoming events while underlining the importance of community engagement and support. He proudly announced the recognition of three exceptional individuals by the South Fairfax Chamber for their remarkable impact on local businesses and the community through their selfless acts of service, community development efforts, and spirit of generosity. These individuals, Mr. Brian Gottlieb, Ms. Rebecca Geller, and Ms. Karen McGinnis, have significantly contributed to the growth and development of our community. Their remarkable contributions will be celebrated at the SFCC's Annual Gala on June 20th.

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Report- Supervisor Dan Storck

Supervisor Storck gave a comprehensive presentation covering revenue diversification, South County Federation area developments, and various community events and initiatives. He also announced personnel changes, bidding farewell to Mr. Nick Rinehart and welcoming the return of former team member Mr. Diego Rodriguez Cabrera.



General Membership Meeting Via Zoom

Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 7 pm

Supervisor Storck briefly discussed a recent Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting, during which they reiterated their budget instructions to the County Executive and emphasized the difficulties we are facing with our revenue. He mentioned that the County Executive was advised to consider different possibilities and present recommendations to the BOS on maintaining a lower real estate tax rate in the fall.

Additionally, Supervisor Storck announced his partnership with the Mount Vernon District School Board Representative, Mr. Mateo Dunne, to collect supplies for the 2024-25 school year. The supplies can be dropped off at the MVD government center office by July 21st. The donations will help to fully stock backpacks for students at the back-to-school community event on August 3rd at the Lorton Community Center.

Supervisor Storck spoke about the ongoing landfill gas monitoring well project in Fairfax County, which involves installing 49 wells around the landfill complex property. This Project aims to improve the monitoring of potential underground landfill gas migration to adjacent properties, ensuring that methane emissions from the landfill do not affect neighboring properties. The county aims to comply with the required monitoring standards by increasing the number of monitoring wells, thereby enhancing the safety and well-being of our community.

Supervisor Storck addressed the concerns surrounding the Milestone properties on Gunston Cove Road, emphasizing that the storage containers would not be visible from other areas. He also highlighted the need for a liaison to oversee the cover's maintenance for a potential cover amendment. During the discussion, Mr. Dale Rumberger expressed his concerns about a resolution by the Board of Supervisors that allowed for multiple property uses, including metal recycling, industrial, building supply, and landscaping storage. Supervisor Storck clarified that only one use at a time was permissible and stressed the importance of community members reporting non-compliance to the supervisor's office for immediate action.

Fairfax County Park Authority Update- Mr. Linwood Gorham

Mr. Gorham discussed the upcoming concert series at Grist Mill Park featuring military bands. He also recognized the South County Federation executive committee members for attending the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Central Green restrooms and Trails Day celebration.

Legislative Updates

Congressman Gerry Connolly, 11th District, US House of Representatives | Ms. Anh Phan- District Director

Ms. Phan led the legislative updates segment, highlighting that Congressman Connolly sent a government funding bill for fiscal year 2024 to the president's desk. The bill included a mechanism to avoid a costly government shutdown through September. It also ensures that federal employees and military service members will receive a 5.2% pay raise in 2024, the most significant federal pay raise in 43 years. Additionally, Congressman Connolly is proud that the bill will increase Head Start funding for early childhood education by \$1 billion, provide an additional \$220 million for Alzheimer's and Cancer



General Membership Meeting Via Zoom

Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 7 pm

Research, and offer more special immigrant visas for Afghans. Congressman Connolly's office assisted approximately 26,000 Afghans during the evacuation period.

The recently passed security and humanitarian aid package showcases bipartisan efforts to provide crucial support to Ukraine, Israel, Taiwan, and the Palestinians. Additionally, the successful passage of the Veteran Fraud Reimbursement Act, HR4016, ensures that disabled veterans affected by fraud receive full financial restitution. This bill gained widespread bipartisan support, with a resounding vote of 416 to 0 in the House. Furthermore, the proposed Not Just A Number Act, HR4157, emphasizes the need for a comprehensive approach to address factors contributing to veteran suicide. The urgency of this issue is underscored by its designation as the top priority by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Senate will hopefully soon advance this legislation out of committee to provide essential support to our veterans.

After meeting with the families of truck crash victims, Congressman Connolly authored the Mail Traffic Deaths Reporting Act, which will require the Postal Service to start tracking, monitoring, and evaluating severe crashes and deaths caused by vehicles transporting mail. The House recently passed the bill without opposition through a voice vote.

While serving as the ranking member in the Subcommittee on Oversight, Congressman Connolly worked collaboratively and bipartisanly to support bills to improve the government's utilization of artificial intelligence (AI). Furthermore, he pushed for increased investments in federal IT modernization and conducted comprehensive oversight of federal IT modernization efforts through the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) scorecard. The recent release of the 17th iteration of the scorecard signifies the longest-running congressional oversight effort for any piece of legislation.

Mr. Marty Schumacher raised concerns about police officer retention and recruitment due to a bill allowing the detention and deportation of undocumented immigrants who assault police officers. Ms. Phan will research the problem and update Mr. Schumacher.

Scott Surovell- 34th District, Virginia State Senator/Senate Majority Leader

Senator Surovell continued the legislative session, noting that many bills were passed but vetoed by the governor; 150 bills were vetoed, setting a record. Senator Surovell passed a bill to expand community solar in Virginia, benefiting many, especially those in densely wooded areas without access to solar panels. This allows people in apartments or rented spaces to purchase solar energy from others and offset it against their meter, providing solar power opportunities to those who can't afford their panels. Senator Surovell also passed an insurance bad-faith bill requiring insurance companies to honor consumer contracts.

He announced his appointment to a study group called DMV Moves to determine how to fund Metro in the future. The study group comprises the DMV Board, the Senator, and three northern Virginia county representatives. They are working on establishing a sustainable funding model for the metro to avoid financial crises and the need for state bailouts every 5-6 years.



General Membership Meeting Via Zoom
Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 7 pm

Senator Surovell discussed various education-related issues and addressed concerns about how the local composite index determines school funding. He also talked about potential short-term solutions for increasing funding. Additionally, the Senator mentioned a letter of support for a grant application submitted by the Virginia Rail Authority. This grant is intended to complete the third rail between Lorton and Franconia, and the Senator emphasized the importance of improving rail service in this area and securing funding for the extension of the third rail. He highlighted the need to build a new bridge over Route 1 and extend the rail to the Occoquan River. While significant funding has already been allocated, more is needed to complete the project. Senator Surovell has been advocating for the Rail Authority to prioritize this project.

Lastly, one of the bills that the Senator introduced but didn't pass was a bill to study the rules for grandfathering on living shorelines by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission. Many residents of Mason Neck are confused about what they are allowed to do with their shorelines. The Senator proposed that the Virginia Marine Resources Commission adopt clear regulations on what is grandfathered and what isn't. The bill was sent to the Water Commission, which Senator Surovell chairs. A meeting is scheduled for June 24th to gather more information and testimony to help provide better clarity to homeowners on what's grandfathered and what isn't on their living shorelines, especially if they need to repair a bulkhead.

Jennifer Carroll Foy- 33rd District, Virginia State Senator

Senator Carroll Foy informed the membership that of the bills she introduced, approximately seven bills were passed, many bipartisanship. One of the bills that the Governor and Senator Carroll Foy worked together on was a school-connected overdose policy. This bill established guidelines for parental notification and response whenever there is a school-connected overdose. The Senator emphasized the importance of both parties working together in a bipartisan effort to address this problem and ensure that parents are informed.

She spoke about the significant challenge affordable housing presents in Fairfax and Prince Williams counties. One key concern is the limited availability of affordable housing options, particularly starter homes, given the low interest rates. Moreover, the heightened presence of Airbnb investments in single-family residences further compounds housing supply shortages and elevates prices. Addressing this issue is crucial. In response, Senator Carroll Foy passed a bill to establish a work group to assess the feasibility of creating a residential development infrastructure fund. Developers have identified infrastructure funding as a significant barrier to building more starter homes in Fairfax and Prince William counties. She is optimistic about procuring funding for this project within the next couple of years to enhance the availability of starter homes.

Senator Carroll Foy discussed the importance of ensuring a more significant presence of renewable energy in Virginia. Renewable energy was integrated into the portfolio standards, incorporating



General Membership Meeting Via Zoom

Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 7 pm

hydroelectric power. Incentivizing more communities to adopt these standards and support additional viable projects is essential. This will significantly contribute to the Virginia Clean Economy Act.

Senator Carroll Foy also highlighted the widespread mental health crisis. By earmarking over \$1,000,000 for the Prince William Crisis Receiving Unit, all jurisdictions stand to gain. This allocation will enable officers to reallocate their time by redirecting individuals with mental health emergencies. As a result, they can resume their duties on the streets, while affected individuals can access the diagnosis and wraparound services they need and deserve.

Lastly, Senator Carroll Foy highlighted the issue of rising prescription drug prices. She emphasized that pharmacy benefit managers actively eliminate minimums, substantially increasing prescription drug costs. Ensuring transparency in drug development and pricing is imperative for gaining insight into prescription costs and considering alternative treatments. Improving your quality of life is a top priority, which is why she was elected to make a positive impact in Richmond.

Kathy Tran- 18th District, Virginia State Delegate

Delegate Tran discussed her new leadership role in the Democratic caucus, where she serves as the chair. Working with the 51 members and 31 newcomers to the Virginia House of Delegates this year has proven to be an invaluable experience for her. She stated that collaboration with new members, particularly Delegate Henson and Delegate Cohen, has presented an exceptional opportunity and underscored that both individuals are highly regarded South County Federation community members.

Delegate Tran shared information about a proposed constitutional amendment that aims to provide property tax relief for surviving spouses of military service members who died in the line of duty. This critical amendment will be on the November ballot, and support is crucial.

Delegate Tran proudly discussed two bills that passed unanimously or near-unanimously. The first one reduces the number of years nurse practitioners must practice before they can work autonomously. This change aligns us more with other states, allowing nurse practitioners to apply for independent practice after three years instead of working under a physician's supervision for the same period. This expansion of healthcare providers will benefit vulnerable communities with limited access to care. The second bill focuses on assisting immigrants and refugees living in Virginia who obtained their medical licenses from their home countries. Previously, it was very challenging for them to enter our residency program. This new bill addresses this issue. Starting on July 1, an alternative pathway to obtaining a license in Virginia will be introduced. This new pathway will ensure culturally competent providers can practice in the state. It will offer individuals who have demonstrated competencies, skills, and knowledge a route to licensure.

Delegate Tran concluded her update by discussing the state's efforts to support public health and marine life by banning toxic driveway sealants along the Chesapeake Bay watershed. She also highlighted the passage of a bill to introduce an accessible all-terrain wheelchair pilot at state parks so



General Membership Meeting Via Zoom

Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 7 pm

that everybody, regardless of physical situation, can enjoy the outdoors. Delegate Tran noted that Mason Neck State Park is set to receive one of the wheelchairs.

Rozia Henson- 19th District, Virginia State Delegate

Delegate Henson proudly announced his appointment as deputy by the House Majority Leader, marking a historic achievement for a freshman delegate. He successfully shepherded eight bills to passage, with six being signed into law by the governor. Notably, House Bill 174, which he championed, introduces affirmative protection for same-sex marriage and interracial marriage into the Virginia legal code. While this marks a significant achievement, further action is required to enshrine these rights through a constitutional amendment. Delegate Henson stated that it is imperative to incorporate protective language into the Virginia legal code and constitution to safeguard these rights, particularly given potential reversals of pivotal legislation by the Supreme Court. The bill garnered bipartisan support and was subsequently signed into law by Governor Youngkin.

Delegate Henson talked about another bill he passed, House Bill 349, which pertains to medication aides administering medications in assisted living facilities. The previous law only allowed medication administration in assisted living facilities, excluding certified nursing facilities. The new law consolidates both, enabling medication administration in both types of facilities. This change gives aspiring healthcare professionals more flexibility, whether they opt for the CNA route or pursue a nursing career directly.

Delegate Henson shared that he met with the Bicycle Association to discuss House Bill 1071, which enables localities to reduce speed limits to below 25 mph, with a minimum limit of 15 mph. This change is significant for areas like Mount Vernon Route One in the northern part, which has faced numerous bicycle safety issues, along with other areas in Fairfax and Virginia. Thanks to the passage of this bill and the combined efforts of various stakeholders, including the governor, Fairfax County is slated to implement these changes starting July 1st. It's worth noting that the new speed limits cannot be set lower than 15 mph and will apply to state highways, business districts, and residential areas.

Delegate Henson is fervently advocating for a bill many have overlooked. Starting this July, he aims to establish Uterine Fibroids Awareness Month. In our Commonwealth, numerous individuals endure the hardships of uterine fibroids. This dedicated awareness month will be a crucial platform to address uterine fibroids and their associated health risks. Delegate Henson is committed to pursuing legislative action next year to provide essential resources for women battling uterine fibroids.

Lastly, Delegate Henson mentioned his appointment to the Privileges and Elections Committee and the Human Services and Community Technology and Innovation Committees. He also mentioned his work on the Secure and Resilient Commonwealth panel, where he collaborates with the Secretary of Public Safety, the State Police, and the Virginia State Corrections. The panel focuses on various issues, including human trafficking, which is a significant problem along the I-95 and Route 1 corridor in Virginia.

Other Reports



General Membership Meeting Via Zoom

Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 7 pm

Although not a legislative update, Captain Anthony Stancampiano, the representative of the Lorton District Police Station, shared his efforts to enhance traffic enforcement with the membership.

Meeting adjourned

President Henley adjourned the meeting at 8:42 pm. The next scheduled meeting is on July 9th. Please note that there will be no meeting in August due to the summer recess. The September meeting will be our first in-person meeting post the pandemic and will take place at the Lorton District Police Station.