



**General Membership Meeting Via Zoom
Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 7 pm**

Summary

In the meeting, the Federation discussed various projects and received a presentation on the Sportrock Liberty Heights indoor climbing gym facility. They also discussed the General Assembly's legislative session, transportation issues, and the introduction of the new Major at the Lorton police station. Lastly, they discussed local issues and frustrations, including affordable housing, property taxes, and police staffing, and planned to draft a resolution addressing their concerns.

Call to Order- Ms. Wendy Henley, President

Ms. Henley called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Approval of the Minutes (Secretary position vacant)

Ms. Henley presented the February minutes and Ms. Henley motioned to approve, seconded by Dale Rumberger, approved unanimously by show of hands.

Treasurer Report- Mr. James Fenton

Mr. Fenton presented the treasurer's report, indicating a healthy balance in the checking and money market accounts. The CD will mature on October 10th.

Truist Checking	\$1,191.07
CD	\$5,064.88
Total	\$6,255.95

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Report - Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck

Supervisor Storck gave a concise report on various issues:

County Budget. We had about over 100 people at both town halls and I think they went well, a lot of questions for those of you who may follow what the Board is doing. We had committee meetings today on the budget with a presentation today on the meals tax.

Federal Job Cuts. We had a meeting of the Economic Initiatives Committee specifically targeted at the Federal employee job loss. There's significant impact so far. To summarize the conversation with Victor Hoskins, head of the Economic Development Authority, we had about 90 job listings on our website 3/4 weeks ago, and we've got about 45,000 on them now. We're just following it very closely.

SSPA. We've approved a new SSPA nomination process that will get started with with three different entities. One is the new hotel and storage that's being proposed in the Newington Road area in Loisdale. Second, the residential development facility on Pohick Road. Third is up by Kings Crossing.

Air Quality Monitoring. I know that we talked before and really looking for you all to help to identify what it is you'd like or want to be considered, and we're happy to facilitate and work with Federal and State regulators.

Reworld Annual Report. We've not gotten it recently. We're going to ask them again to make sure we get that. They are doing a very nice job of reporting to us anytime. There's noise, and we we push that information out there.

Gunston Plaza Traffic Study. VDOT study requested by Delegate Henson led that.

Furnace Road Dumping. We've had many conversations and recognize it's a problem. We clean it up when we get something reported. We know we have a need to get some additional signs out there that

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say no dumping, although we all know that that's probably of limited value. Maybe additional lighting or some other things that are possible to try.

School Bus Camera Program. Worked with School Board for school bus arm camera program. It's something we've worked on for a long time to identify. 50 bus camera systems, 30 day notice to warn drivers, which begins on April 9th and fines start on May 12th.

Lorton Station Commanders. New police station commander, Major Patrick O'Hara, and the assistant commander that's been working with us, Captain Anthony Stancampiano, is moving on to major crimes.

Question from Keith F. Shovlin, has there been any update on the Praseum takeover of the former Sunrise rest home? **Answer,** there's been no movement on that. We reached out a couple months ago but there was no update.

Question from Dale Rumberger, about Furnace Road, commended staff work so far, but at a loss for what else can be done, noting Broken Window Theory. **Answer,** I think that's a very apt and fair. What will improve that is when Overlook Ridge is open, and we have a little bit more regular traffic, and we do a better job of policing it.

Question from Wendy Henley, has the Board of Supervisors received a response from Governor Youngkin to the letter sent on March 4th concerning Federal agency relocations? **Answer,** I saw the response this morning. We didn't address it in our our meeting today. I would say it was not very supportive of the issues that we raised. It essentially accused the chairman of playing politics rather than trying to get the Governor more engaged. The consequences of this are significant. We don't have any idea what it will be overall, but we know it's heading down a dark and dangerous path and you see that in some of our budget decision making this year. **Follow up,** have you considered a date where you will travel down to Richmond to have a conversation with him? **Answer,** the Board is very willing to. We are planning a follow up meeting in 4 weeks to see the data for February that comes out at the end of March. We're meeting on April 8th. The House of Delegates approved a committee headed by chairman, Delegate David Bull. They're meeting on April 8th as well to take testimony and talk with individuals about what the consequences of all of this are. They're to provide a report by the end of September, which doesn't address our more immediate needs.

Fairfax County Park Authority Update- Mr. Linwood Gorham

Park Needs Assessment. We're kicking off our latest needs assessment. I think we did the last one about a decade ago. I don't know exactly the interval that we're supposed to, but it's the tool that we use to make decisions on prioritizing projects in and outside of the bond. There's some meetings coming up for public input in the next couple weeks. There's a virtual meeting Wednesday, March 19th at 6:30 pm and an in-person meeting at the Franconia REC Center on Saturday, March 22nd.

Overlook Ridge Park. There are monthly meetings that Supervisor Storck set up a couple of years ago, to make sure things were progressing and all the people working on the project were in sync with each other. It's been a very successful group. That group is shrinking pretty significantly now, because there's so many of the steps that are checked off.

Reallocation of Bond funds. Going over tomorrow night's Park Authority board package, I noticed that we are reallocating some of the previous bond dollars. We initially thought that the monies that we had on the fields around the Barrett house were going to go towards the REC Center. Then there was an influx of Federal money so we didn't have to do that. Well, they've got on the agenda for tomorrow night, reallocating those funds again to other projects in the county, that there are now not enough funds to do just like there's not enough funds left to do that one right now. I'm alarmed when I see that. We have a situation where we can only spend so much per year, but we have to spend so much in 6 years. So if you don't spend all the money in each year, you won't be able to spend all the bond money. I hope I explained that so it makes sense. So it's necessary to move these funds or frankly move funds from other places onto this project. It's not a bad thing completely that that money's going away, because there's not enough money to do it, anyway, and I will, in the discussion tomorrow night, try to

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leverage making sure all the funds come back in the next bond to realize that project which there wouldn't be the funds to finish, anyway.

Question from Dale Rumberger, is it possible, within the constructs of the Board meeting, that it can go on record, stating that the money would be returned at the earliest possible time? One of the reasons there's not enough money to do the project is, it's been delayed. Those costs have increased, and there's been other things that have been overlaid on that. **Answer**, absolutely yes, and we will as part of the needs assessment. I will likely vote to let the money be designated to something else to maintain a team spirit and the true perception that I support all the projects for all the areas. **Follow up**, at the next meeting can you share with us where the money was reallocated to? **Answer**, I actually have the documentation of where it's anticipated to go already. I am confident that I will get that money back and leverage the need for bathroom facilities. There is a need for a cricket facility and soccer fields and I'm confident I'll get it back.

Special Presentation: Sportrock Liberty Heights, Sportrock CEO Michael Nanney, VP Jeremy Harden, and Liberty Heights Gym Director Pauline De Montebello

Mr. Nanney, Mr. Harden, and Ms. De Montebello, presented their plans to turn the former Lorton Reformatory Dining Hall into a climbing facility.

- We've gone to 3 ARB workshop meetings on our proposal.
- So we'll be doing bouldering, yoga, and fitness in the basement area. We're also doing an outdoor bouldering element in the prison courtyard, which on the screen shows the outdoor seating and event area which has been fun working with Fairfax County's ARB on that as well.
- We've been around for 30 years, and one of the biggest things that keeps everybody coming back is the connections that they form.
- We're really proud to provide existing communities with a place to hang out and an activity to enjoy together. We work a lot with different community groups ranging from veteran groups, university students, government contractors, women's groups, etc.
- We're coming back for the ARB action meeting on April 10th. So, that's our first big milestone. In advance of that meeting, we will likely submit our building permit, which will sit there until we've gone through the ARB. Then the county will review the permit, so we won't be able to start construction until the building permit is done. We're hoping to be open by approximately Labor Day in that range.

Question from Dale Rumberger, are there shorter rocks for more senior members? **Answer**, they have membership discounts for veterans and active duty members.

Question from Jonathan Kiell, what is the expected participant load on a typical day? How many customers and staff? thinking about parking. **Answer**, there's about 450 parking stalls, both on the south side of the great lawn and up in the main parking field outside of the Lidl grocery. We tend to be busy from about 6 to 8 in the morning and then we start getting busy again at 4 in the afternoon. 75% of all of our check-ins happen from 4 o'clock on. So those will be our busier periods of time in terms of daily check-ins. My guess is that at this facility we'll have something like 400 or so daily check-ins. Maybe in the winter it'll be a little bit higher than that in the summer. That would be spread around through opening hours, which would be about 6 am, depend on programming, but to about 10 or 11 pm, so 400 might sound like a lot, but that's spread out between 17 hours.

Question from Dale Rumberger, is the main entrance in the front or can you enter from the back?

Answer, our main entrance will be from the Lidl parking lot. To get access to our outdoor boulder, you will need to go through our space. We do that because we need everyone in our space to sign a participant waiver. **Follow up**, signage for parade ground or alternate entrance? **Answer**, we prefer you park to the south and cross the parade ground. Arcades on either side that are covered, weather-protected, for those walking around.

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Question from Linwood Gorham, possible competition from the Mount Vernon REC Center with its climbing wall? **Answer**, our Sterling facility is across the street from Claude Moore Park, which has an indoor climbing wall. We used to maintain it but they have let it go. Our product is way better.

Comment from Wendy Henley, appreciates the presentation, looking forward to visiting the finished facility, though she won't be climbing.

Legislative Updates

Laura Jane Cohen - 15th District, Virginia State Delegate

Ms. Cohen recapped the legislative session that had just ended.

- There will be a reconvene session on April 2nd where we get our bills back from the Governor.
- Special sessions may also be called in response to Federal actions, such as Medicaid funding.
- Today there were cuts to the Federal Department of Education. There may be cuts to Title 1, and we have several Title 1 schools. Cuts to free and reduced meals may occur.
- Bills are awaiting Governor's signature or veto, including: \$10,000 credit for new homebuyers, playground accessibility, IEP's accepted by high schools must also be accepted by state colleges, also for IEP safety plans, and language added to Medicaid sign up to be automatically checked for Medicaid Works Program eligibility.
- Attempted to include funding for pedestrian and cyclist safety in the budget.
- April 8th, meeting of Special Committee formed by the Speaker on responding to the Federal workforce cuts.
- For Veterans, the Tricare online patient portal system ends on April 1st. Download your personal health records before the portal closes.

Question from Nick Firth, concerning affordable housing, what can be done? **Answer**, on the state level, we can incentivize counties to work with developers to build more affordable units. There's an opportunity to designate housing for first responders, frontline workers, etc. **Follow up**, review regulations to remove those that make the process unnecessarily difficult? **Answer**, agrees with the issue, perhaps create a model of a streamlined process for counties to emulate.

Comment from Linwood Gorham, piggy-backing onto Nick's question, anything that can be done to help with certainty in the development process

Question from Dale Rumberger, are they considering converting commercial space into residential space? **Answer**, there have been conversations with developers, but it is a difficult process. Brought up Bailey's experiment in converting an office building into a school.

Kathy Tran - 18th District, Virginia State Delegate, represented by Ben Hermerding, Chief of Staff

Mr. Hermerding provided updates from Delegate Tran's bills during the session

- Passed ten bills, detailed in our constituent newsletter
- Approved a biennial budget, awaiting the Governor's actions.
- Thank you to everyone who attended our transportation town hall. It was our best attended one yet.
- **Southrun at Silverbrook**. VDOT completed the signal warrant study and found it only met one of three criteria so no recommendation for a traffic light. Not enough vehicle traffic on side street and very few accidents in the past three years.
- **No Left Turn from South County High School** exit onto Silverbrook was designed for right turn only. Drivers are turning left and its causing a lot of near misses. A no left turn sign can be put up but it would not be enforced by FCPD currently as the road is being transferred from County to State control.

Roza Henson - 19th District, Virginia State Delegate, represented by Max Jenkins, Chief of Staff

Mr. Jenkins provided updates from Delegate Henson's bills during the session

- Passed eleven bills, four as chief patron, and 15 as a co-patron.
- Gearing up for election season this summer and fall.

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- **Gunston Plaza Traffic issues.** Working with VDOT and Supervisor Storck to ban left turns from the main entrance. VDOT is expected to reach out to Storck's office this week.
- **Utility Pole placement.** Dominion Energy and VDOT are working on a cost-effective fix to the issue. VDOT is installing additional signage to alert drivers, especially at night. VDOT is also conducting a speed limit assessment to be completed in May.

Committee Reports

Land Use Committee, Co-Chairs Nick Firth and Keith F. Shovlin

Mr. Firth recapped the the February meeting and Mr. Shovlin shared updates on local projects.

- **Pohick Road development,** Christopher Companies filed through SSPA to build six single-family homes on Pohick Road and a five story condo building next to Pohick Estates. This was a preliminary discussion as the Board of Supervisors will review the submission this summer. It is a controversial proposal because of the physical attributes of the site and the proximity to Pohick Estates as well as parking and traffic issues.
- **Taco Bell on Gunston Cove Road,** the proposal would replace the current Shell station at the intersection of Gunston Cove and Lorton roads. A new gas station would be built with an expanded convenience store and a separate restaurant with drive thru. The service station would not be part of the redesign. Currently Taco Bell is listed as the possible restaurant. Questions about access and placement are discussed, this discussion is also preliminary ahead of a potential filing.
- **Bunnyman Brewery at the Workhouse,** grass around the restaurant has been damaged from patron use even after being resodded in September. The Architectural Review Board will review a proposal on Thursday night to replace it with synthetic grass.
- **Southern Oaks Reserve,** construction has begun on the six-home development on Southern Oaks Place off of Hooes Road. Originally planned by Yoshi Holdings, Christopher Companies have purchased the property and have removed the trees from the site.

Environmental and Parks Committee, Co-Chairs Larry Clark and Dale Rumberger

Mr. Rumberger shared a brief report.

- **Overlook Ridge Park,** the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has received the packet concerning Overlook Ridge and it is now in the administrative review process.

Transportation Committee, Co-Chairs Peter Weyland and Dale Rumberger

Mr. Rumberger shared a brief report, noting Mr. Weyland's absence.

- **Dumping on Furnace Road.** Supervisor Storck has discussed it during his report. The road remains the worst looking road in the County. There are few businesses along the road so not likely to be adopted.
- **AutoTrain loading traffic.** We have been in contact with administrative office of the AutoTrain station. Three times this past week it was a problem. We believe they need to allocate more space on their land for vehicles to line up and review their policy of allowing people to pay extra so their car will be unloaded first, as it leads to many of the backup issues.
- **Delegate Tran's Transportation Town Hall.** We attended it was very well done. Lots of good information and I wish to applaud a moment of honesty about the Rolling Road widening. She noted it was approved before she took office and she had sought to reallocate some of the money to projects on Route One, unsuccessfully..

Question from Jim Fenton, asked about build up of sand and debris on Route One at Lorton Road from all of the trucks that previously took Gunston Cove Road/Lorton Market Street. **Answer,** report it to Supervisor Storck's office. They are very good about following up on that.

Public Safety Committee, Chair Jonathan Kiell

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Mr. Kiell introduced Major Patrick O'Hara, the new commander for Lorton Police Station and he spoke on several issues..

- **Retiring.** He has been with Fairfax County Police Department for 26 years. In full transparency, he shared that he is in the final year of "DROP," which is the deferred retirement program. He will retire at the end of the calendar year
- **Captain Stancampiano reassigned.** He worked with Major O'Hara before being transferred to the Major Crimes Bureau. He had been at Lorton since before opening and regularly attended and contributed to Federation meetings. No replacement has been named yet.

Question from Nick Firth, asked about a neighbor parking on the gravel shoulder of a public road obstructing traffic. **Answer,** if there's no response on the website, call the non-emergency help line.

Question from Dale Rumberger, similar issue on Southrun Road, including garbage, reported repeatedly but not dealt with. **Answer,** continue to report it, be persistent and West Springfield should respond.

Contact the community liaison officer if necessary. **Follow up,** can I reach out to you on this to get their attention? **Answer,** try the non-emergency number first and I will see what I can do as a conduit.

Comment from Wendy Henley, welcomed Major O'Hara and thanked him for attending and his patience during the meeting. She also reiterated the request for tours of the facility after next month's meeting, and he confirmed the request. She also noted that there isn't much he can do about staffing deficiencies and he appreciated that acknowledgment.

Education Committee, Co-Chairs Wendy Henley & James Fenton

Ms. Henley had little to report. There will be an impact aid update either in April or May from Mount Vernon School Board Rep Matteo Dunne concerning the changes at the Federal Department of Education.

Closing Comments or Issues

New Representative from Crosspointe. Ms. Henley introduced Ms. Shauneen Werlinger and invited her to speak. Ms. Werlinger thanked her for the welcome and said she is looking forward to future meetings and is considering joining a committee.

Committee membership. Ms. Henley reiterated the need for members on all of our committees and continued involvement to help communicate the important issues to our communities.

Question from Andy Normand, asked whether the meeting was being recorded. **Answered by Mr. Firth,** yes it is and he will share the link to the recording with him.

County FY2026 Budget. Ms. Henley thanked everyone that attended the February 19th town hall meeting on the budget. The Federation Executive Committee is now drafting a resolution on our concerns with the proposal. Any members are welcome to share their thoughts by email by March 21st.

Meeting adjourned

President Henley thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:57 pm. The next scheduled meeting is on April 8th, 2025 at 7 pm at the Lorton District Police Station, 8855 Lorton Road.

Action Items

- Nick Firth to share the meeting recording link with Andy Normand.
- Wendy Henley to send out links directing members to the budget documents.
- Federation members to review the proposed budget and submit concerns by March 21st.
- Keith F. Shovlin to organize the Adopt-a-Highway cleanup of Lorton Road on April 12th.
- Federation members to prepare for the in-person meeting on April 8th at the Lorton Police Station.
- Major O'Hara to coordinate a tour of the Lorton District Police Station for the April 8th meeting.
- Executive Committee to draft a resolution containing budget concerns for the April meeting.
- Keith F. Shovlin to follow up on the status of Yaffa Grill at Liberty Market and share updates.
- Federation members to consider joining a committee if not already part of one.