



Mount Vernon
Council
of Citizens'
Associations

Record

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MVCCA COUNCIL MEETING

March 25, 2009 8 p.m.

Walt Whitman School, Jack Knowles Lecture Hall

PRESIDING: Katherine Ward.

ATTENDING: Co-chairs David Dale, Pat Rea, Katherine Ward; Committee Chairs Louise Cleveland, Frank Cohn, Queenie Cox, Judy Harbeck, David Plummer, Dallas Shawkey, Catherine Voorhees, David Voorhees; SFDC Rep Jim Davis; Treasurer Tonda Phalen; Secretary Carol Coyle. John Reynolds of Boy Scout Troop 1509, working on Citizenship and Community badge.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM: Belle Haven Terrace, Collingwood on the Potomac, The Fairfax, Hollin Hall, Huntington Club, Montebello, Mount Vernon Civic, Mount Zephyr, New Gum Springs,

Newington Forest, River Towers, Riverside Estates, Riverside Gardens, Sherwood Estates, Southwood, Stratford Landing, Stratford on the Potomac IV, Waynewood, Wellington, Wellington Heights, William H. Randall Estates, Williamsburg Manor North, Woodley Hills, Woodley Hills Estates.

Pinewood Lake's renewed membership was approved by acclamation; Secretary and Treasurer could find no documentation that their membership was voted on when they last joined.

Representatives from new member Huntington Club were introduced.

Federation's Citizen of the Year is Anne Andrews from Stratford Landing.

SUPERVISOR'S TIME

Supervisor Hyland gave a synopsis of LOBs restoration in the police and fire budget; more public comment is requested. Supervisor's Board Matters includes detailed recommendations for restorations in Police, Fire, HHS, Affordable Housing, Transportation. Task force is to be reinstated to study looming and lot coverage issues.

Boudinot Ramp will be built to/from the Fairfax County Parkway .

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MVCCA BOARD

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FCFCA	Karen Pohorylo	703-780-7825
SFDC	Jim Davis	703-799-3278
	Tom Hook	703-765-6869
Webmaster	Karen Keefer.....	703-660-6699

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2009 Gala! Save the Date—May 2, 2009! The deadline to RSVP for the 2009 MVCCA Gala has been extended until April 22, 2009. Please send in your reservation now or bring it with you to the General Council meeting on the 22nd. The Gala invitation and reservation form can be downloaded at the Council's website, www.mvcca.org. For more information, contact Carol Coyle at 703-780-7955.

Board Vacancies: Contact co-chair if interested in applying.
Planning and Zoning Chair
Editor of the Record

Council Minutes

Being confined to wheelchair and/or walker since his accident has made him personally aware of the difficulties encountered by the physically handicapped.

School Board Chair (MV Rep) Dan Storck will hold two hearings on the proposed school budget: April 15 at South County HS and on April 16 at Whitman MS.

MINUTES - Approved.
TREASURER'S REPORT – Accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance – See minutes. One resolution.

Consumer Affairs – No meeting. Next meeting will deal with trees.

Gala is May 2 at Mount Vernon Country Club; \$40.00. Honorees are Virginia Williams and United Community Ministries.

Education – See minutes. Schools are correcting student records by adding ½ point for AP and IB classes. Woodlawn ES will probably be getting about 200 students from Fort Belvoir. Judy is scheduled to testify on the 2010 Budget on April 1. One resolution.

Environment and Recreation – See minutes. April 1 meeting will have the LEEDS certified architect who has done a great deal of GREEN building design.

Health and Human Services – See minutes and delete reference to "\$25.50" in connection with the cost to average home owner of one (half) Rate Penny increase (stated incorrectly). One resolution, with detailed Attachment and LOB restorations.

Planning and Zoning – No meeting due to weather.

Public Safety – April 2 meeting will feature fire and rescue.

Transportation – See minutes. April 6 meeting will have representative from VDOT.

Affordable and Workforce Housing – See minutes.

Special Committee on Long-Range Strategic Planning – April 13 new state laws re: cul-de-sacs will take effect.

SFDC – New Director is Debbie Sandlin; she has a background in hotel marketing and comes to us from Manassas.

RESOLUTIONS

BF 2009-01 MVCCA RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FY 2010 BUDGET, AS ADVERTISED. Chair explained that the Resolution is based on the Advertised Budget and does not figure in the stimulus package. **Approved 20-2-3**

ED 2009-03 RE: FAIRFAX COUNTY FY2010 ADVERTISED BUDGET PLAN. Chair explained that this resolution is not inconsistent with the Budget Committee resolution, but explains more fully the Education aspects. **Approved 23-0-2**

Suggestion was made (Queenie Cox, New Gum Springs) that, since the dollar amounts are the same, the Budget resolutions be combined into one. Too late for this year, but it will be taken under advisement for next year.

HHS 2009-02 FY2010 HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PLANNING. Chair stressed that the Advertised Budget Plan proposes severe reductions in all public services levels, with damaging impact on both public and private services in the "human services network." The Attachment to the Resolution: "MVCCA

Treasurer's Report			
For Period January 1, 2009 through April 9, 2009			
	Budget 2009	Actual to Date	Budget/Actual
Balance Beginning Period		\$8,746.67	
RECEIPTS			
Dues	\$4,000	\$4,177.00	\$177.00
- Dues from new member drive	\$250	\$0.00	-\$250.00
Record Subscriptions	\$250	\$0.00	-\$250.00
Gala Income	\$4,100	\$0.00	-\$4,100.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$8,600	\$4,177.00	-\$4,423.00
DISBURSEMENTS			
Record Production ¹	\$3,470	\$283.63	\$3,186.37
Record Postage ¹	\$200	\$0.00	\$200.00
Administrative	\$300	\$130.98	\$169.02
Gala Expenses	\$3,200	\$0.00	\$3,200.00
Web Site	\$520	\$0.00	\$520.00
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Member Marketing	\$250	\$299.65	-\$49.65
Insurance	\$660	\$660.00	\$0.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$8,600.00	\$1,374.26	\$7,225.74
ENDING BALANCE		\$11,549.41	

¹ Board decision to eliminate mailed copies of Record eliminates any potential income from Record subscriptions and Record Postage expenditures, as well as decreases Record Production costs; these changes were disclosed prior to Council's November vote on 2009 Budget. These items will be adjusted, where appropriate, when an Editor is in place and the board has had an opportunity to make necessary adjustments.

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Recommendations to Restore Critical Health and Human Services" details 41 selected restorations to mitigate costly and long-term impact, and the Resolution states MVCCA's intention to support County revenue enhancement that will pay for these and other MVCCA recommendations for restoration of proposed service reductions (consistent with the overall Budget Resolution).

Approved 22-0-2

Suggestion was made from the floor that the Letter(s) of Transmittal make it clear to the BOS that the Education and HHS resolutions are consistent with the Budget Committee resolution.

TR 2009-01 PCA/FDPA 2004 L-012, SUPPORT STAFF'S DENIAL OF RIGHT-OUT ONTO ROUTE ONE. Transportation chair agreed to delete Whereas #6.

Approved 25-0-0

MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS' TIME

Eleanor Quigley, Wellington Heights, announced that Dr. Jeff Kirwan, co-author of *Remarkable Trees of Virginia* will speak at the American Horticultural Society on Saturday, April 18, at 10 a.m. She also provided information on Morningside Lane Clean Up Day on April 4 and Virginia Invasive Plant Removal Day (Lamond Park) on May 2.

Announcement that Shawn Akard (Wellington) has received national recognition for her work with the gardens at Hollin Meadows ES. She is working to help develop gardens at Carl Sandburg MS.

Carol Coyle, Secretary

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BUDGET AND FINANCE

Minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at 7:30 pm
Walt Whitman Middle School

Present: David Voorhees (Chair), Wellington, Huntington, Hollin Hall Village, Stratford on the Potomac Sect. 4, Mount Vernon Civic

The meeting followed a general discussion format in which various agenda items for future meetings were addressed. Specific items discussed included: 1) the Fairfax County BPOL tax structure and a comparison with surrounding jurisdictions, 2) how proceeds from the one penny for affordable housing is being spent 3) what communications infrastructure is presently available along the Route 1 corridor and what effects improvements in high speed

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internet availability may have on the desirability of Route 1 as a business location.

With respect to the BPOL it was observed that any change in BPOL tax rates in the county would only affect those having gross receipts over \$100,000 annually, since the county charges no BPOL for gross receipts up to \$10,000 and charges a two tiered flat rate (maximum of \$50) for those businesses having up to \$100,000 of gross receipts. The current BPOL ordinance can be found at Fairfax County Code sections numbered 4-7.2-1 through 4-7.2-36.

The committee plans to discuss the BPOL tax rates statewide at its next meeting.

The next meeting for the Budget and Finance Committee is scheduled for May 6, 2009 at 7:30 at the Walt Whitman Middle School Principal's conference room.

The budget committee has no resolution to present.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Consumer Affairs met on Tuesday, April 7th with association reps from: Mt. Vernon Lakes Condo & HOA; New Gum Springs; Sulgrave Manor; Williamsburg Manor; and Co-Chair Katherine Ward.

The committee completed a draft resolution on Tree Workers Certification and Licensing in response to unlicensed tree workers permanently harming trees in the Mt. Vernon District. The draft resolution will be forwarded for review and comment by the Environment & Recreation Committee prior to final action by the general membership.

COAF is also preparing a tree education packet for member associations. The education packet will be available at a future Council meeting and will include:

- a cover letter explaining its purpose/mission;
- definitions;
- steps to take prior to hiring anyone to trim or prune a tree;
- and other information to educate Mt. Vernon residents.

The next COAF meeting will be on Tuesday, May 5th at 7:30 p.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School in the Principal's Conference Room.

EDUCATION

The Education Committee did not meet in April.

The May meeting will discuss the school funding provided in the County FY2010 budget, scheduled for adoption in late April, possible testimony to the School Board on appropriate steps to reconcile

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the school budget with funds available, and a discussion of possible topics and activities for upcoming meetings through the Fall.

Next meeting: May 6, 2009, 8 pm, Whitman MS library

ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION

The committee met on 1 April 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in South County Government Room 217. Present were David Plummer (chair), Collingwood on the Potomac, Hollin Hall Village, Mount Vernon Civic, Sherwood Estates, Spring Bank, Sulgrave Manor, Williamsburg Manor, and Woodley Hills Community Association. Also in attendance were Katherine Ward (MVCCA co-chair) and special guest green architect Charles Bergen, AIA, CNU, LEED AP.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Guest Speaker

The entire meeting was taken up with an informative presentation and discussion with Charles Bergen, an architect concerned with incorporating green building concepts into redevelopment projects. His comments are particularly relevant as we approach another round of updating the Comprehensive Plan for the Richmond Highway corridor.

As a LEED-accredited individual, Mr. Bergen was able to review the fine points of LEED building certification, some of which were previously unknown to committee members. The presentation initially focused on the six areas contributing to certification: Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, Indoor Environmental Quality, and Innovation and Design Process. Mr. Bergen confirmed that standards exist for more than new commercial construction. Additional standards exist for existing buildings, commercial interiors, core and shell, schools, retail, health-care, homes, and neighborhoods. Extensive information on LEED can be found at www.usgbc.org, the site of the U.S. Green Building Council which created and maintains the LEED certification system. Mr. Bergen suggested that a good book on green buildings is *A Primer on Sustainable Building* published by Barnett and Browning. The discussion then progressed toward how we could get attractive projects in our area, particularly along Richmond Highway. Mr. Bergen noted that Arlington County uses zoning upgrades as incentives for environmentally friendly designs. Commercial developers incur the costs of upgraded design, but the benefits go to building occupants. If prospective occupants are only concerned with costs, it takes advanced planning, incentives, rules and regulations to get attractive buildings. He presented several slides on how Rockville, MD, accomplished transformational change within their historic downtown area. A library was chosen as an anchor for the project (instead of the ubiquitous big-box retail chain) with ground level retail and 3 or 4 stories of residential above.

Since the E&R and other MVCCA Committees review site applications, he suggested we should ask for a LEED scorecard for the proposed project and who the environmental consultant is. There is also a need to follow up after project completion, as some LEED buildings do not perform as advertised because the construction contract was

not executed properly. Virtually all design and construction firms are now familiar with LEED standards. Larry Zaragosa noted that Fairfax County has created its own set of "Cool Counties" standards, however it was not clear what level of LEED certification "Cool Counties" compares to.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the E&R committee will be held on Wednesday, May 6th, in Room 217 of the South County Government Center at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

On Tuesday, April 7, 7:30 PM, MVCCA Committee for Health and Human Services met at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, 2nd floor C/D Conference Room, to identify trends and issues in health and human services that may impact community planning in the next 10-20 years and therefore be relevant to the work of the MVCCA Special Committee for Strategic Planning (SP). Participating in discussion were committee members from 10 member associations: Collingwood on Potomac, Belle Haven Terrace, Hollindale, Hollin Glen, Hollin Hills, Stratford on Potomac-Sec. IV, Tauxemont, Waynewood, Woodley Hills Estates, Wellington; they were joined by MVCCA Co-chair Pat Rea, Special Committee on Affordable and Workforce Housing Chair John Jeszenszky, and Kahan Dhillon (Stratford on Potomac), a member of the SP.

The HHS Committee began its identification of County trends and ongoing strategic planning in 2009, with a Report to the January *MVCCA Record* that should be re-read, now, rather than repeated here, in order to understand (1) an evolving awareness of the manner in which housing issues are joined with analysis of human services issues and (2) the County effort to respond to emerging community crises strategically through a capable public and private network of health and human services.

HHS focus, in our February and March Reports, on the County's *Advertised Budget Plan for FY2010* reflected our consensus that the immediate fiscal crisis has imposed a real threat of severe and long-term damage to essential public services that the public expects local government to deliver. The steep decline in projected revenues from all sources was balanced by proposing to equalize the residential property tax rate (so that the bill on the average-valued home, which declined roughly 12% in value, would pay roughly the same dollars as in 2008) and then by proposing a long list of "reductions in services," many of which we and other citizen groups have examined and evaluated as severe in impact. At the very time when the public/private network of health and human services is straining to respond strategically to individual, family, and community crises, County services critical to this effort may be reduced or eliminated, with tragic and costly long-term outcomes. Our analysis led to recommendation that 41 specific human services be restored and \$11.74 million in revenue be added to rebalance the Budget Plan. (This portion of one added Rate Penny translates for the owner of the average-valued home to adding

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about \$26/year.) The Committee is grateful that Resolution HHS-02, "FY 2010 Health and Human Services Planning," was approved by unanimous vote in the March 25 General Council meeting and incorporated into the package of MVCCA Resolutions presented to the Board of Supervisors during the budget hearings.

Planning assumptions under review

In April, we ask whether major trends are reflected adequately in the County's Comprehensive Plan—both in countywide Policy sections and in Area IV (where parts of Mount Vernon District appear in 3 planning areas). Scott Taylor (Belle Haven Terrace) has volunteered to serve as the HHS Committee representative to SP meetings that will seek our input.

SP provided a brief document listing 20 *Planning Assumptions*, or conditions that may exist during the next 10-20 years, "without our intervention," including 6 items referred to H/HS for comment. Members discussed "assumptions" versus desired goals re:

- wide economic diversity in Mount Vernon,
- demand/need for housing in all price ranges,
- Aging-in-Place as the predominant choice among a fast-growing aging population,
- essential need for continued Inova Health System support for/retention of Mount Vernon Hospital and satellite clinics,
- development of available land in the southern portion of the MV District, and
- air quality (currently a Health Department as well as environmental issue).

HHS may wish to contribute to additional areas, beyond these six. For example, transportation needs are already a major concern: demographically, growing populations of both younger and older persons with special needs and/or disabilities will be seeking public transit to basic shopping, employment, and services (including health services). New approaches to paratransit are already under discussion for FY 2010, and the need for better long-term strategies is already upon us.

Housing

In the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, 2007 Edition Housing, Amended through 9-22-2008, members noted extensive market changes that have taken place in the last 5 years. Nevertheless, the added Objectives and Appendices 1 (guidelines for Workforce Housing) and 5 (accessory dwelling units) bring the document up to date in several important areas.

Upcoming Public Meetings

Thursday, April 16, 7 PM Southeast Health Planning Task Force meets at Mount Vernon Governmental Center. Chair Jeffrey McKay, 703 971-6262

The Task Force will be discussing the recent INOVA Health System decisions to place on hold the Lorton Healthplex and enhancements announced for Mount Vernon Hospital, while moving forward on a Loudon Healthplex. The Lorton Healthplex and

the investments in the Hospital are key components of the Task Force's Recommendation (March 2004) for assuring the future of Mount Vernon Hospital in serving the growing southeastern area.

Monday, April 27, Board of Supervisors meets (see Cox Channel 16) to vote adoption of the Fairfax County Budget Plan for FY 2010. Fiscal 2010 begins July 1, 2009.

Wednesday, April 29, 7 PM Route One Task Force for Human Services meets at Mount Vernon Governmental Center Community Rooms. Convener Anne Andrews, 703-780-1773.

Deputy County Executive Verdia Haywood will present outcomes of the County Budget Plan as adopted, and updates on state budget and federal recovery legislation. State legislators have been invited.

Tuesday, May 5, 7:30 PM, MVCCA Health and Human Services Committee meets at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, Engh Room, 2nd Floor. Chair Louise Cleveland, 703 780-9151. Focus t/b/a.

PLANNING AND ZONING

The April 2009 Planning and Zoning Committee meeting was called to order at 7:30pm and was attended by representatives from the following member associations: Engleside, Hollin Hall Village, Hollin Hills, Montebello, Mount Vernon Civic, Mount Zephyr, New Alexandria, Newington Forest, Potomac Valley Riverbend, Riverside Estates, Stratford Landing, Sulgrave Manor, Wellington Heights, Wessington Homes, and Williamsburg Manor North. There was one educational presentation, two land use cases that resulted in resolutions, and an information only presentation related to BRAC.

The first presentation was by Peter Leiberg and Mary Christesen of the zoning department of the City of Alexandria on how Alexandria has approached the issue of building height in in-fill situations, the same problem faced by many older Mount Vernon neighborhoods. Alexandria's recently adopted ordinance is primarily based three restrictions: 1) limiting building height, measured from the original grade, to the greater of a) 25 feet, and b) 20% more than the average of the blockface, 2) for each zoning district specifying the maximum ratio of building height to distance from the property line, and 3) restricting the first floor threshold height to 20% above the neighborhood average.

The second presentation was SE 2008-MV-031 by AT&T/Cingular for construction of a cell phone monopole at the Masonic Lodge at 8717 Fort Hunt Road. The height has been reduced from 105 feet to 85 feet and it will not be a flag pole (no halyard or lighting). Since there is still considerable objection by the adjacent property owners and there may be ways for the applicant to mitigate their concerns the Committee voted to oppose. The applicant agreed to meet with the neighbors.

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The third presentation was PCA 2003-MV-033 by the Lorton Arts Foundation. Phase I has been completed and is open for visitation – go see it! Lorton Arts wishes to make a few modifications to the approved plan for Phase II that provide better access, greater tree save area, increased buffers and landscaping, and limiting the residences to artists. The Committee voted to not oppose.

The last presentation was 08-IV-2LP by the Washington Real Estate Investment Trust on a BRAC related Comprehensive Plan Amendment. The property is the parcel known as the Northern Virginia Industrial Park and is located in the area of Telegraph Road and the County Parkway. The nomination is to increase the FAR from 0.5 to 0.8 and allow for mixed office, hotel, and retail uses. The applicant will return after the 527 traffic study results are available.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00pm. The next meeting of the Committee will be at 7:30 on May 4 in the Jack Knowles Lecture Hall of Whitman Middle School.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Associations represented: Hollin Hills, Mt. Vernon, Mount Vernon Manor, Riverside Estates, Riverside Gardens, Southwood, and Williamsburg Manor North.

The chair began with an update on the progress of making CERT training available to residents of the Mount Vernon District. Initially, it was hoped to have a session beginning in early April, however, as there was not sufficient time to get the pieces in place it was decided to try to provide the training beginning the first Monday after Labor Day. This will be pursued.

Next, the chair gave an update on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) efforts to improve community safety by transforming the way the federal government cooperates with state and local law enforcement agencies to identify, detain, and remove all criminal aliens held in custody. ICE has begun a program entitled 'Secure Communities: A Comprehensive Plan to Identify and Remove Criminal Aliens.' It uses technology to share information between law enforcement agencies and by applying methodologies to focus resources on assisting all local communities to remove high-risk criminal aliens. The Plan has four strategic goals:

- Strategic Goal 1. Identify and process all potentially removable criminal aliens in federal, state and local custody.
- Strategic Goal 2. Enhance current detention strategies to ensure no removable criminal alien is released into the community due to a lack of detention space or an appropriate alternative to detention.
- Strategic Goal 3. Implement removal initiatives that shorten the time criminal aliens remain in ICE custody prior to removal,

thereby maximizing the use of detention resources and reducing taxpayer costs.

- Strategic Goal 4. Maximize cost effectiveness and long-term success through deterrence and reduced recidivism or criminal aliens returning to the United States.

The Plan's risk based approach uses three levels to allocate appropriate resources to identifying and determining the immigration status of aliens arrested and/or convicted. Level 1 will better and more quickly identify individuals who have been convicted of major drug offenses and violent offenses such as murder, manslaughter, rape, robbery and kidnapping. ICE plans to have this level in place across the nation by the end of 2011. ICE has provided the Fairfax County Sheriff's Department with IT equipment and communications that allows the fingerprints of all persons brought to the Adult Detention Center (ADC) to be run through the ICE data base to identify any aliens that have a criminal record. Shortly, a television communication system will be completed that will allow ICE personnel to see and communicate with suspected criminal aliens. Additionally, should any alien be able to bond out, a system will shortly be in place to notify ICE so that their representatives can meet the alien as he/she is released so that he/she can be moved to ICE facilities until his/her status is resolved.

The committee then returned to its continuing review of the impact of budget cuts on Public Safety in the proposed Budget for FY 2010. The chair provided copies of his testimony as Vice Chair of the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) to the Board of Supervisors on April 1. In it he asked that the proposed deletion of the 28 School Resource Officer (SRO) positions in the middle schools and the deletion of the pay supplement to magistrates not be included in the approved budget for F 2010. Additionally, he provided copies of Supervisor Hyland's two Board matter submissions. One concerns the proposed elimination of 28 SRO positions in the middle schools and the other concerns the elimination of the pay supplement provided to the magistrates. He also asks that these eliminations not be included in the approved Budget.

The meeting then continued with a review of the proposed reductions to the Fire and Rescue Department (FRD). Our speakers were Battalion Fire Chief Jerry Roussillon and CAPT Glenn Kaplan, Station Commander, Mount Vernon Fire and Rescue Station (Station 9). Battalion Chief Roussillon provided copies of the presentation that Fire Chief Masten gave to the BOS Budget Committee on March 23. In the proposed Budget, the FRD will lose 89 uniform positions, 9 civilian positions, and 3 limited term positions in the funding reduction of \$10,164,728. In it he states that the loss of the uniformed positions will have a devastating effect on the ability of FRD to protect the life and property of the public. In addition to the impact on response times, it will include the loss of 24 Advanced Life Support (ALS) personnel positions. These are a critical component of a properly functioning Emergency Medical Support (EMS) system. Without the required levels of ALS personnel, FRD will be unable to appropriately staff units and will rely heavily on overtime

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and callback to fill staffing deficiencies placing a strain on existing ALS providers. Battalion Chief Roussillon noted that in the Mount Vernon District, 67% of calls are for medical assistance. The District has many senior citizens and seven nursing and retirement homes. In addition to this, when there is a call for fire or vehicle accident assistance, some medical assistance is almost always needed.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will begin at 7:30pm Thursday, May 7 in the Mount Vernon Governmental Center in Community Rm. 3.

TRANSPORTATION

The MVCCA Transportation Committee met on Monday, April 6, 2009 in the Library of the Walt Whitman Middle School. The meeting was chaired by Catherine M. Voorhees. Attending were Randy Dittberner and Hari Sripathi (VDOT Traffic Engineers); Katherine Ward, MVCCA co-chair; and representatives of 16 member citizen associations (Engleside, The Fairfax/Huntington, Hollin Hall Village, Marlan Forest, Montebello, Mount Vernon Manor, Mount Vernon on the Potomac, Riverside Gardens, Southwood, Stratford Landing, Stratford on the Potomac, Sulgrave Manor, Tauxemont, Wayneswood, Williamsburg Manor North, Woodley Hills).

The March minutes of the Transportation Committee, as written in the Record, were approved.

Guest Speakers - Randy Dittberner P.E., PTOE, VDOT Traffic Engineering Program Manager and Hari Sripathi, VDOT Traffic Engineer for the Northern Virginia District

VDOT has presented their pitch for lowering US 1 speed limit to 35 mph to a lot of audiences, including to the MVCCA Transportation committee, and has received a lot of feedback. The result of these discussions with stakeholders and elected officials is that VDOT currently plans to lower the speed limit to 35 mph as a pilot plan with a comprehensive analysis at the conclusion.

Since all attending this meeting were familiar with VDOT's rationale for lowering the speed limit, the session migrated immediately to Questions/Answers.

Q1. Since US 1 traffic flow improved after traffic signal synchronization, are there any more plans for that (as signal synchronization is still needed)?

A. Yes, VDOT can update but, speeds vary amongst vehicles in a wide distribution, so VDOT feels 35 mph will help.

Q2. What criteria will be used to measure the success of this pilot program?

A. travel times on US 1 plus crash data. In addition, VDOT will look for other parameters, and will compare US1 data with same 'time interval' data from similar highways in the area.

Q3. on pedestrian safety...

A. Lots of pedestrian efforts already done and are ongoing (They will get back to us as to which projects are being conducted and when).

Q4. The Mt. Vernon on the Potomac representative would like things to stay the same; Didn't accidents come down in 2004 and 2008?

A. Lots of things were going on. 2008 was light and 2007 was heavy in accidents. But, the data provided by Supervisors McKay and Hyland indicates that more accidents occurred in 2008 than in 2007, while still being less than the number of accidents in 2004 by 14.4%. That is, VDOT's goal of reducing accidents has been achieved.

VDOT goal with this pilot program: trying to consider ONLY speed in a trial, then use correlation with other corridors for 'control' data; VDOT is not saying speed is a silver bullet, but wants to conduct the experiment.

Arguments:

On traffic light optimization,
- VDOT says the lights are timed for 45 mph, audience says they are not.

On speed when most accidents occur, audience said the data indicates mostly at 5mph.

- VDOT: 35% of accidents one vehicle is moving over 35 mph. Audience replied the other vehicle is stopped in congested traffic and the vehicle moving just left a red light.

- VDOT feels 35 mph is best for US 1, There are a lot of factors as the roads/highways vary with number of lights, crossings, vehicles, driveways, lanes, etc.

Q5. What is the meaning of the double yellow line with respect to turning crossed it?

A. The double line refers to opposing traffic (a la 'do not pass'), it does not prevent left turns across it into a driveway on the other side of the road.

Q6. Has VDOT considered a pilot program temporarily closing excess ingress/egress breaks?

A. VDOT cannot close access points easily.

Chair: But, VDOT does has 'ownership' of its right of way. Curb cuts have been closed.

VDOT: we would have done it by now if it were easy; problems: citizen approval, time to activate, temporary changes hard to invoke.

Chair: VDOT needs to make tough decisions. The response should not be, the property owners have a right to several accesses when VDOT's own study states there are too many access points. Property owners along US 1 can be part of the solution (allowing VDOT to close excess access points temporarily), or be part of maintaining the problem. The MVCCA wants to work with property owners along US 1 to solve this problem together.

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Comments on lighting of US 1 (inadequate), walkways, cuts in/out of shopping centers, incompatible cuts & walkways, and variations in these side features which affect speeds.

Q7. Can the traffic speed limit vary by time of day?

A. The Virginia Assembly has provided legislation to allow on interstate highways, we are not able to vary the speed on regular highways.

Q8. What about the effect of BRAC, which implementation would occur in the middle of the study?

A. no way to do a perfect study, different factors always appear;

BRAC is a local variable; in the study, 1 mile of US 1 will be compared with averages over 5 miles of other roads. One of the study variables will be if the crash rate changes vs. vehicle density.

Q9. Why are there red lights on US 1 late at night?

A. Should not happen unless a vehicle at a side street has triggered a light change.

Q10. Will the speed limit go back to the original 45 mph after study is done?

A. takes time to analyze data, so limits will revert back while analysis is going on; also, before and after measures are needed; data is typically collected on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. A representative noted that Wednesday is not a core working day for U.S. government employees.

Q11. Any cost-study for rush hour trips being extended (in other words, time cost of vehicle occupants sitting in rush hour delays)?

A. (essentially, No) ... trips taken late at night (no red lights) show very little time difference between 35 mph and 45 mph speeds. (i.e. county line to Beltway).

Q12. It was noted that weekend congestion is requiring weekend timing of lights?

A. VDOT has invoked weekend timing now ... up to 4 different timing patterns on the weekends (morning peak, mid peak, evening peak, regular)

Q13. on study costs vs. widening costs?

A. study costs in thousands of dollars, while widening costs are in 100 Million of dollars.

Q14. If VDOT plans other things, could it delay the speed limit study and do these others 1st?

A. the speed study can be done now, the other things take more time and are not ready; lots of other improvements are 'spot' changes, and these changes can be subtracted out of the final analysis.

Q15. What is different now from VDOT's previous move to post the lowered speed limit?

A. We are planning to do the pilot study.

Q16. Why is there an analysis now?

A. VDOT got feedback and we heard from you.

Q17. Are there any cost constraints for US 1?

A. no

Q18. Is this speed change the best solution?

A. not necessarily; cost is a major factor

Q19. What criteria form the base line?

A. new data to be collected soon; i.e. a new base line, That is, they will be collecting current travel time data, but using the 3 year study of crash data 2004-2007 (Supervisors McKay and Hyland already have data over this period showing a reduction in accidents).

Q20. How long before the new data will be collected?

A. 2 weeks

Q21. How do you define success?

A. just analyze the data; thresholds unknown (no good/bad levels set a priori)

Q22. Can the traffic light timing be changed to 35 mph in rush hour and to 45 mph at other times?

A. yes, it is possible; VDOT can look into it.

Q23. base lines?

A. for accidents, the data is averaged over 3 yrs for travel times, it is measured over 1 week.

The Transportation Committee voted to re-confirm our former resolution to maintain the speed limit at 45 mph. **TRANS 2008-01, Richmond Highway Corridor Speed Reduction Study Resolution, passed in June 2008.**

Old Business - Draft resolution in progress that transportation committee has approved indicating a desire for 6 travel lanes from 235 (N) to Prince William County line while maintaining the current language in the Comprehensive Plan.

Frank Cihak (Southwood CA) volunteered to be the Transportation Committee representative to the Strategic Planning Committee.

New Business - April 29, 2009 Transit Bus Tour offered by Supervisors Hyland and McKay in partnership with SFDC, Community of Revitalization and FCDOT. The cost is \$30.

New Business - report by Frank Cihak on Metro Rail Class and the Citizens Police Academy

The next Transportation Committee meeting will be May 4, 2009. We meet at the Walt Whitman Middle School Library @ 8pm.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AFFORDABLE
AND WORKFORCE HOUSING**

The monthly meeting in March was held on the 26th at the Sherwood Regional Library. The following community organizations were represented: Mason Hill, Stratford Landing, Stratford on the Potomac Sec. IV, Wessynton, Woodley Hills Civic Assn., and Woodley Hills Estates. Also present were guest speaker Ms. Barbara Silverzahn of FCRHA, Elisabeth Lardner FCRHA and Pat Rea MVCCA Co-chair.

The committee reviewed and approved the minutes of the February 26 meeting. Ms. Silverzahn, invited to speak about County actions on foreclosures, provided an overview to the Committee on this issue. She noted that at the end of January, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded \$2,807,300 in Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds to assist the County in addressing the high rate of foreclosure and declining home values. As of the end of February, there are 1723 foreclosed homes in the County. The area around the Richmond Highway corridor is at the top of the list for amount of foreclosures for this period. The Board of Supervisors has taken action to a.) assist homeowners in danger of losing their home to stay; b.) continue the "Silver Lining Program" to assist first time home buyers with financing the purchase of a home; c.) set aside funds to purchase up to 10 properties that individual Supervisors declare as a blight on the community; d.) use additional funds made available by Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA).

The County is using the Multiple Listing Service to offer foreclosed homes to qualified first time buyers, using attorneys trained by VHDA. These attorneys help homeowners find ways to keep their homes. To date 670 families were helped this way. Ms. Silverzahn elaborated on each of the four actions mentioned above. The County also expects Stimulus Program funds to provide to non-profit organizations in the County that manage affordable housing.

The Committee confirmed its continued support of the MVCCA policy of maintaining the full Penny for Affordable Housing. The Chair also informed the Committee that one of the three V.O.I.C.E. action agenda items presented at their March 8 meeting included support for funds used for the preservation of affordable housing and the maintenance of "The Penny for Affordable Housing Fund".

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for **Thursday, April 30, 2009** at 7 pm, at Mount Vernon Government Center Conference Room.

PLANNING & ZONING**PZ-2009-02: RESOLUTION ON SE 2008-MV-031 – CINGULAR WIRELESS MONOPOLE**

1. **WHEREAS** Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC has filed a Special Exception application to construct a wireless antenna tower at 8717 Fort Hunt Road on the Masonic Lodge property, and
2. **WHEREAS** the tower will be an 85 foot monopole with internal antennas for up to three wireless service providers, and
3. **WHEREAS** the property is zoned R-3 and is surrounded by detached single family homes, and
4. **WHEREAS** County policy is to not locate telecommunication poles in residential areas, and
5. **WHEREAS** the equipment shed will be located next to the Masonic Lodge building and will be made to look as though it is part of the Lodge, and
6. **WHEREAS** the equipment shed is located on the only permeable part of the property and will likely increase stormwater run-off,

A. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations opposes SE 2008-MV-031 for construction of a mono-pole at the Masonic Lodge, as presented.

PZ-2009-03: RESOLUTION ON PCA 2003-MV-033 – LORTON ARTS FOUNDATION

1. **WHEREAS** The Lorton Arts Foundation has submitted an application to modify the proffered conditions in the approved rezoning application RZ 2003-MV-033, and
2. **WHEREAS** the application includes a net increase in tree save area, and in particular provides protection for two specimen white oak trees, and
3. **WHEREAS** the limits of clearing and grading have been moved further from the lot line in places, and the buffer plantings have been increased, and
4. **WHEREAS** the language for occupancy of the residential units has been changed to allow only artists-in-residence, and
5. **WHEREAS** an option has been added for an additional vehicle access point from the Occoquan Regional Park access road, and
6. **WHEREAS** the application includes many minor adjustments to the approved development plan for construction phasing, planting requirements, parking lots, and hours of operation.

A. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations does not oppose PCA 2003-MV-033 Lorton Arts Foundation, as presented.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, April 22, 8 p.m.
Walt Whitman Middle School
Jack Knowles Lecture Hall

AGENDA

Call to Order

Approval of Secretary's Minutes
Approval of Treasurer's Report
Committee Reports
Co-Chair's Report on Board Actions

Published Items and Resolutions

New Business

Member Association Representatives' Time
MV Supervisor's Time
Other Elected Representatives and Public Time

Adjournment

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

MVCCA Board—May 14, 7:30 p.m., MVGC Comm. Rm 1

Comm	Date	Time	Place	Chair
AWH	4/30	7:00	MVGC/Conf	Jeszenszky/McCormick
BUDG	5/6	7:30	WWMS	D. Voorhees
COAF	5/5	7:30	WWMS	Cox
EDUC	5/6	8:00	WWMS-MC	Harbeck
E&R	5/6	7:00	SCGC-Rm217	Plummer
H/HS	5/5	7:30	IMVH-Eng	Cleveland
PL/Z	5/4	7:30	WWMS-LH	Dale, Acting Chair
PSAF	5/7	7:30	MVGC	Shawkey
SP	5/11	7:00	WWMS-B43	Cohn
TRAN	5/4	8:00	WWMS-Lib	C. Voorhees

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