



Mount Vernon  
Council  
of Citizens'  
Associations

# Record

Together we make a difference

Founded in 1969

Volume LVII, No. 09, October 2024

## FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

1. There are many security and safety issues your community should be aware of- The MVCCA Public Safety committee is back up and running. Please appoint someone from your community to that committee.
2. There have been 4 major accidents long the GW Parkway near the Belle Haven and Belleview Blvd intersections in the past 3 weeks. Alert our community - Speed and not paying attention is dangerous.
3. The Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations completed this years legislative survey. But the responses are from a very few zip-codes, so the results are lopsided.

## MVCCA BOARD

Co-Chairs	Katherine Ward ..... co.chair1@mvcca.org
	Judy Harbeck ..... co.chair2@mvcca.org
	Scott Taylor ..... co.chair3@mvcca.org
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PL/Z	Bindu Mathur ..... chair.pz@mvcca.org
PS	John Lincoski ..... chair.ps@mvcca.org
TRAN	Jason Zaragoza ..... chair.tran@mvcca.org
SFDC	Ellen Young ..... rep.sfdc@mvcca.org
FCFCA	Marty Lowery ..... rep.fairfaxfederation@mvcca.org
Stormwater	Leo Milanowski specialcommittee@mvcca.org

## MVCCA General Council Meeting Minutes

### MVCCA GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

9/25/2024 Virtual Meeting/ZOOM

**PRESIDING:** Co-Chair Judy Harbeck

#### ATTENDING

- Secretary – Tamara Srader
- Treasurer - William Kane

#### Committees

- Environment and Recreation - Larry Zaragoza
- Planning and Zoning - Bindu Mathur
- Transportation - Jason Zaragoza
- Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation - Ellen Young
- Storm Water Management Special Committee - Leo Milanowski
- Public Safety – John Lincoski

#### Communities Attending

Huntington  
 Bell Haven Citizens Association  
 Wellington Civic Assoc  
 Belle View  
 Holland Court Property  
 Gum Springs Homeowners  
 HHV  
 Hollin Hills  
 Mt. Zephyr  
 Montebello  
 Mt Vernon Civic  
 Wellington Civic Association  
 Huntington Club  
 Villamay  
 MVMCA

Dan Storck-FFX County  
 Peyton Smith -FFX County  
 Community Members - Erica Christ - Mt Vernon on the Move;  
 Mateo Dunne, Fairfax County School Board; Nelda Brown,

# ----- Council Minutes -----

# ----- Council Minutes -----

Fairfax County School Board Aide; Fatimah Dandashi, District Director Scott Surovell's office; Zachary Williams

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM

August 2024 minutes - Minutes approved unanimously.

Treasurer Report: July and Aug information was published in the Record; income is low compared to what we should have at this stage in the game; Treasurer Report was unanimously accepted.

Membership - Goal is the same members (41) as last year. 33 applications in and 32 have been paid. Have 8 left to get to goal. Did submit annual report and paid the fee for VA State Corporation Commission

EDU - No report

ER - Minutes of the meeting are in The Record

PZ - Met and topics were related to IMP building with presentation and changes that are being planned; tier 3 to tier 1 site plan with the request and letter which is in the Record; Alexandria Crossing redevelopment project with sewer upgrade; next meeting joint meeting with Transportation on 7 Oct

Co-chair – No report

TRANS - Met and had presentation with VDOT - looking at Huntington Ave and a potential road diet; current design encourages cut through traffic and speeding; with future development of the area more dense and transit oriented; idea is to make Huntington Ave more pedestrian and bicycle friendly. Will be a public meeting on Oct 8th; Fairfax County DOT met with the Huntington Community Association, and they were supportive of the plan.

Fairfax Federation - meeting was last week and board met and drafted 15 questions that will be on survey issued for county residents; wanted to distribute as widely as possible; questions asking about issues that could be impacted through legislation such as affordable housing, data centers and environmental issues. Please distribute to communities.

Stormwater - No report

Public Safety - resuming monthly meetings starting this month.

SFDC - VDOT approval for approval gateway sign to Mt Vernon along with plantings. Hoping this will be completed by next summer; SW corner of Huntington and Richmond HWY will be new sculptures - total of 12 new sculptures.

## Resolutions -

IMP Building Letter for General Council vote - Letter provided in Sept 2024 Record

Resolution passed unanimously.

## Mateo Dunne - Mount Vernon District Representative on the Fairfax County School Board.

Provided presentation and overview on the School Board information.

He highlighted his top priorities, which include academic excellence and providing equal opportunities for all students, regardless of their background or school. Mateo also mentioned that he would leave time for questions at the end of his presentation.

## Supervisor Storck comments -

Dan discussed the approval of the Parker rezoning application and an 11-family home development off Lukens Lane, highlighting the efforts of the Jones family and the ongoing work of the South Flow Alliance. He also addressed the issue of increased loitering and trespassing along Richmond Highway and the ongoing challenges of property acquisition and management. Dan emphasized the need for a 60 to 90-day timeline for disconnecting utilities and hiring contractors and encouraged the team to contact his office for updates and to report any issues. He also shared updates on the improvements in safety on the George Washington Memorial Parkway, the ongoing construction at the Workhouse Arts Center, and the upcoming 9th annual tour of Mount Vernon. Lastly, he mentioned a meeting with the Bell Haven Community regarding the wastewater system upgrade and the county's plan to acquire the property for park purposes. Judy encouraged members to join a committee and attend meetings.

Adjourn: 8:17 PM

Respectfully submitted by Tamara Srader

# ----- Committee Reports -----

## Budget & Finance

We are looking for a chair for this committee. If you are interested, please contact a co-chair.

## Education

Meeting minutes not available.

## Environment & Recreation

Wednesday, October 3, 2024, Meeting of the Environment and Recreation Committee (Zoom meeting)

E&R Representatives: Hollin Hall Citizens Association, Huntington Community Association, Spring Bank Community Association, Belle View Condominium Unit Owners Assn, Tauxemount Community Association, and Wellington Civic Association

The meeting was convened at 7 pm

Guest speaker: John Burke, Natural resources Branch Manager, Fairfax County Park Authority

Mr Burke outlined activities of the Fairfax County Park Authority with respect to invasive plants. He noted that the FCPA has recently undergone an reorganization and he is responsible for invasives work.

The E&R committee noted that we see Collingwood as an example of a park that is being degraded due to invasives and is a symptom of a greater problem. In exploring options to address invasives, Mr. Burke noted that personnel limitations make it hard to expand citizen programs to address invasives. He explained that they cannot create more citizen volunteer groups to address invasives because a full-time staff person funded by the regular budget, not the Environmental Improve Plan funds, is needed to hire permanent positions. He also noted that the Tree Stewards program might be an option to address some of the threats to trees from invasive plants.

We explained that we plan to provide a recommendation to the Fairfax County Board to help address the issues of invasive plants and that the information that we received would be used to help support our recommendations.

Motion to adjourn made by Kevin and seconded by Anita. Passed with agreement by all.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

## Planning & Zoning

Planning and Zoning met jointly with Transportation in October. See minutes under Transportation.

## Public Safety

The Zoom meeting was convened on Oct. 1 at 7:00 pm by Chair Lincoski. Katherine Ward, Co-Chair and Judy Harbeck, Co-Chair Liaison were also in attendance.

Attendees included representatives from Wellington Civic Association, Mount Vernon Civic Association, Stratford Landing Citizens Association, Villamay Community Association, Mt. Vernon Manor Citizens Association, Huntington Club, and Potomac Valley River Bend Civic Association.

This meeting focused on identifying community concerns and setting an agenda moving forward as the committee had not met recently and is under new leadership.

Chair Lincoski solicited input from the attendees and several themes emerged, with drug use and trafficking in the local area, speeding, large gatherings, traffic safety and violent crime being prominent. Crime prevention, emergency preparedness and school safety were also discussed.

The committee discussed an incident at Mount Vernon Manor Park during the July 4th holiday, where a large gathering of several hundred people disrupted the neighborhood, and the police response was insufficient. This will be raised in an upcoming meeting with FCPD.

Amanda Williams, of Huntington Club, shared her community's struggles with a significant drug problem, including overdoses and drug raids. She mentioned community efforts to install camera systems and work with the police department, noting that law enforcement has been helpful.

John Hurley, of Mount Vernon Civic Association, discussed the challenges presented by police staffing, also raising concerns about increased traffic incidents and violent crime.

Katherine Ward raised the continuing safety problems on the George Washington Parkway, with speeding and accidents being common. She noted the need for speed cameras and added that Congressman Beyer is working on legislation to support the Park Service ticketing and enforcement efforts.

The committee also discussed the need for updated crime statistics from the County and explored crime prevention

# ----- Committee Reports ----- Committee Reports -----

strategies, with security cameras being a topic of particular interest for further discussion.

School safety will be discussed in conjunction with the Education Committee in coming meetings and emergency preparedness was of interest to the Committee as well.

Next steps for the Committee will include inviting police representatives to speak at an upcoming meeting about local crime issues and police staffing/deployment. Additionally, the chair will get updated crime statistics and police staffing data for Fairfax County to share with the committee.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The committee will next meet jointly with the Transportation Committee on Nov. 4, 2024 at 7 p.m. via Zoom to discuss speed cameras on the Parkway.

## Transportation

The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Association (MVCCA) Transportation Committee met jointly with MVCCA Planning and Zoning (P&Z) at 7:00 p.m. on October 07, 2024 in a virtual gathering hosted on Zoom. Participating in the meeting were Michelle Holland, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Communication Manager for Megaplans; Michelle Shropshire Director of VDOT's Northern Virginia Megaplans; Tara Christiansen, and Nick Nies also from VDOT; Jason Zaragoza, MVCCA Transportation Committee Chair & Attendance-Taker for tonight's meeting; Bindu Mathur MVCCA Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Committee Chair & Attendance-Taker for tonight's meeting; John Lincoski, MVCCA Public Safety Committee Chair; John Bioty, MVCCA Transportation Committee Note-Taker for tonight's meeting and Katherine Ward MVCCA Co-Chair.

Transportation Committee representatives from the following MVCCA Associations were in attendance: Gum Springs Homeowners' Association; Huntington Community Association; Riverwood Homeowners' Association; Stratford Landing Citizens' Association; Waynwood Citizens' Association; Wellington Civic Association; Wellington Heights Civic Association and Westgrove Citizens' Association. Planning & Zoning Committee representatives from the following MVCCA Associations were in attendance: Belle View Condominiums' Association; Gum Springs Homeowners' Association; Mt. Vernon Citizen's Association; Mt. Zephyr Citizens' Association; and Riverwood Citizens' Association.

Total attendance, including several other interested individuals, was 29.

Jason Zaragoza, MVCCA Transportation Committee Chairman, called the meeting to order and introduced MVCCA P&Z Chair,

Bindu Mathur who thanked Chairman Zaragoza for the opportunity to join the meeting and welcomed respective P&Z members.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

In the published Zoom meeting link, Chairman Zaragoza indicated that Committees would be provided an update on VDOT's [I-495 Southside Express Lanes Study](#) from Michelle Holland, VDOT's Communications Manager for Megaplans.

Bindu Mathur, P&Z Committee Chair noted that the letter sent to Supervisor Storck's office regarding the IMP Building at 8850 Richmond Highway was received. The office is working on a response to MVCCA. In addition, 2550 Huntington Avenue was passed by the Board of Supervisors on September 24, 2024 and the project on Lukens Lane to rezone from an R-2 to R-3 was also passed by the Board of Supervisors. The rezoning will allow the development of eleven (11) single family homes.

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

#### **Interstate I-495 Southside Express Lane Study - Update:**

Chairman Zaragoza introduced Michelle Holland, VDOT's Communication Manager for Megaplans who in turn, introduced Michelle Shropshire VDOT's Northern Virginia Megaplans Director. Michelle provided the I-495 Express Lane Update Presentation.

Ms. Shropshire indicated that VDOT, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and other federal, state and local agencies in Virginia and Maryland, is conducting the Study to potentially extend the express lanes on the southern section of I-95/I-495 (Capital Beltway), by approximately 11 miles. The extension would go from the Springfield Interchange (I-95/I-395/I-495) in Fairfax County, Virginia, across the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge, to the Maryland (MD) 210 interchange in Prince George's County. The graphic below shows the proposed expansion to the I-95/I-495 Express lanes.



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Ms. Shropshire mentioned that the I-95/I-495 Southside Express Lanes Study is included in VDOT's current Six Year Improvement Program (SYIP) as well as National Capital Region's Visualize 2045 Constrained Long range Plan (CLRP) as of June 2021. The estimated cost of the I-495 Southside Express Lanes "Study" is \$6.8 M.

The Study, itself is informed by agency and public input, and evaluates three alternatives:

- (1) A "no-build" scenario;
- (2) An alternative that adds one express lane in each direction; and
- (3) An alternative that adds two express lanes in each direction.

Ms. Shropshire noted that the current Woodrow Wilson Bridge includes the space that can accommodate future transit across the bridge.

Ms. Shropshire stated that the reasons to extend the express lanes include:

- (1) Providing additional travel choices to area residents,
- (2) Reducing congestion and improving travel reliability, and
- (3) Improving safety while providing consistency with local and regional plans.

With respect to motorists' costs, Ms. Shropshire said the project would allow free High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV-3) travel in the express lanes. Additionally, bus system through-lanes would be provided. The plan preserves space for future Metrorail routing across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Also being considered are bike/pedestrian alternatives and facilities.

VDOT mentioned that the I-95/I-495 Southside Study was first introduced at a Public Information Meeting in May 2022. In September 2023, VDOT shared the concepts for review and input at other meetings to include a virtual public meeting on September 12, 2023. Additionally, three in-person meeting options were offered to citizens on September 13, September 19 and September 20, 2023. Ms. Shropshire concluded her presentation by saying that VDOT's future plan includes Public Information Meetings in early 2025 to present findings of traffic evaluations. Also, in mid-2025 VDOT hopes to provide a Public Hearing on the Environmental Assessment for the recommended preferred alternative. Later in 2025, VDOT hopes to engage the Regional Transportation Planning Board vote on inclusion in the Visualize 2050 Plan.

### Discussion:

Transportation Chairman Zaragoza opened the floor to questions by asking Ms. Shropshire when the Study will make

a final decision on the three (3) options presented. Additionally, he asked her about the issues regarding Route 1 egress (Richmond Highway) from the express lanes should they be implemented. Ms. Shropshire indicated in that in the spring of 2025 she hoped to have the Study completed and ready for public engagement. As for egress to Route 1, she said VDOT's Traffic Analysis will identify Route 1 mitigation issues, however, that work is still in progress. Another Committee member asked whether there would be an added lane to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge should the express lanes be implemented? Ms. Shropshire indicated "no"; the Woodrow Wilson Bridge upgrade in 2008 had planned for future transportation expansion therefore the Bridge can absorb the express lanes.

During the question and answer period, several members spoke out regarding the current lengthy delays to egress I-95/I-495 at rush hour starting at Van Dorn all the way to Route 1. Members commented that if one, or more, of the existing lanes are used to create the express lanes, egress times will only increase. Several other members noted that Southside Express Lanes, if enacted, would benefit through traffic while penalizing those that desired to egress at Van Dorn, Telegraph Road, North Kings Highway, and Route 1. Again, Ms. Shropshire stated that egress issues will be highlighted and discussed in the public engagement process. She hoped that in the final analysis, the Southside Express Lane Study will show overall improvement and get the Beltway running better.

Unwilling to let the issue rest, several members stated they could not support any course of action other than a "no build" option – noting that Express Lane Prices are currently too high and the Southside Express Lane concept is based upon faulty economic assumptions.

Another Committee member asked if the State of Maryland was going to create express lanes beyond Route 210? He inferred that if not, this would only create a bottle neck further down the road. Ms. Shropshire said that VDOT is engaged with the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), however at present, she did not know what MDOT was going to do past Route 210.

Ms. Shropshire concluded her discussions by stating that the Southside Express Lane Study is a work in progress and as soon as she has more details, she will incorporate that information into the public engagement process. Chairman Zaragoza thanked Ms. Shropshire and VDOT for their presentation and opened the floor to new business.

### New Items:

Chairman Zaragoza informed the Committees that Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) was having a virtual public meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7 PM regarding

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the proposed Road Diet for Huntington Ave. That initiative would reduce the current 4 lanes to 2 lanes (one in each direction) and construct bike lanes on each side. Chairman Zaragoza said he would send out the meeting announcement and encouraged all members to attend.

Chairman Zaragoza also announced that there would be discussions regarding speed cameras on the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) with Congressman Don Beyer on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024. MVCCA Co-Chair Katherine Ward added that the other night there was another GWMP accident at the Belle View Blvd. Intersection.

## **Meeting Adjourned:**

Without any new business, Chairman Zaragoza asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was initiated and quickly seconded. Chairman Zaragoza thanked P&Z for attending tonight's meeting and also thanked all Committee members for sharing their thoughts, interests and concerns to MVCCA related items. The joint Transportation and P&Zoning meeting concluded at 7:46 PM.

## **Future 2024 Transportation Committee Meetings:**

The next Transportation Committee Meeting will take place on November 4, 2024 as a joint meeting with the Public Safety Committee. The final Transportation Committee Meeting for this year is scheduled for December 9, 2024.

Note: Until further notice, all meetings will be held remotely.

## **Fairfax Federation**

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The Federation conducted a legislative survey. They received 529 responses out of a county with a population of 1.14 million. Plus it included 150 comments from Loudoun County..

## **SFDC**

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No report.

# ----- Treasurers Report -----

## Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations, Inc.

Treasurer's Report, Current Month and Fiscal Year to Date Compared to Annual Budget  
Periods Ending September 30, 2024

	September	Total July 1 to September 30	2024-2025 Annual Budget	Budget Variance To spend or Favorable (Unfavorable)
<b><u>Cash Receipts (including deposits in-transit):</u></b>				
Dues - Current Members	\$ 600	\$ 3,275	\$ 3,955	
Money Market Interest	0	0	2	
Total Cash Receipts	600	3,275	3,957	\$ (682)
<b><u>Cash Disbursements (including outstanding checks):</u></b>				
Administrative	37	219	540	321
Insurance Premium	-	-	707	707
Outreach/Town Hall Meets	-	-	-	-
"Record" Production	80	150	1,400	1,250
Web Site	30	30	800	770
Total Cash Disbursements	147	399	3,447	3,048
Net Budget - Receipts in Excess(less than) Disbursements:	453	2,876	510	\$ 2,366

**Other Sources/Changes in Cash:**

Cash at Beginning of Period	12,318	11,545	11,545
<b>Total Cash at End of Period</b>	\$ 12,771	\$ 12,771	\$ 12,055

**End of Period Cash Balances by Account (adjusted for outstanding items):**

Burke & Herbert - Checking	\$ 6,549
Burke & Herbert - Money Market	6,162
<b>Total Cash</b>	\$ 12,711

Respectfully Submitted,  
William J Kane, Treasurer  
October 1, 2024

**Notes:**

- 1 This financial statement uses the cash basis of accounting except as noted on the face of the statement.
- 2 Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar.

## NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

**Wednesday, October 23, 2024, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual**

### AGENDA

GUEST speaker: Superintendent of the GW  
Parkway - Christine Smith

- Call to order
- Minutes Approved
- Committee Reports
- Treasurer Report
- Resolutions
- Supervisor's Time
- Members Time
- Adjourn

## COMMITTEE CALENDAR

**MVCCA Council—October 23, 7:00 p.m., Virtual**  
**MVCCA Board—November 12, 7:00 p.m. Virtual**

Comm	Date	Time	Place	Chair
BUDG	TBD	7:00	Virtual	<i>open</i>
EDU	TBD	7:00	Virtual	Hosek
E&R	11/6	7:00	Virtual	L. Zaragoza
PL/Z	11/4	7:00	Virtual	Mathur
PS	11/4*	7:00	Virtual	Lincoski
TRAN	11/4*	7:00	Virtual	J. Zaragoza
MSCS	TBD	7:00	Virtual	Milanowski

\*JOINT Public Safety/Transportation meeting

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