



Mount Vernon
Council
of Citizens'
Associations

Record

By Subscription \$15 Per Year

Volume XL, No. 8, September 2008

MVCCA COUNCIL MEETING

July 23, 2008 8 p.m.

Walt Whitman School, Jack Knowles Lecture Hall

PRESIDING: Co-chair Katherine Ward.

ATTENDING: Co-chairs David Dale, Pat Rea, Katherine Ward; Committee Chairs Louise Cleveland, Queenie Cox, Judy Harbeck, John Jeszenszky, David Plummer, Dallas Shawkey, Catherine Voorhees, David Voorhees; Treasurer Tonda Phalen; Secretary Carol Coyle. Dean Shute, Boy Scout Troop 654.

Representatives (20) from Collingwood on the Potomac, Engleside, The Fairfax, Hollin Hall Village, Mount Vernon Civic, Mount Vernon on the Potomac, New Gum Springs, Newington Forest, Potomac Valley-Riverbend, River Towers, Riverside Gardens, Spring Bank, Stratford Landing, Stratford on the Potomac IV, Sulgrave Manor, Tauxemont, Waynewood, Wellington Heights, Williamsburg Manor North, Woodley Hills.

MINUTES - Approved as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Accepted as published.

SUPERVISOR'S TIME

Having just come from the funeral for Virginia Senator Joseph Gartlan, Supervisor Hyland asked for a moment of silent recognition and then reminded everyone of Gartlan's legacy in the state legislature and in local community involvement: environmental stewardship, improved treatment of the mentally ill and disabled, and concern for dignity of all including the poor. After working tirelessly to assure the future of Mount Vernon Hospital, Gartlan was unable to attend the June 16 community task force meeting at which the chief executive of INOVA Health Systems reported that the hospital is at last operating "in the black" with enhancements underway and planned.

The BOS is considering many strategies for dealing with the projected \$430 million deficit in the next fiscal year. One strategy, switching to a four-day work week for County employees (not school or safety workers), to save energy will positively impact traffic and has resulted in interest from as far away as the BBC. One question that arises is the impact on delivery of services, i.e., would fewer but longer work days meet the needs of people who need/want face-to-face meetings. Another suggestion is to use "increment financing" wherein the anticipated tax revenues from increase in real estate values would be kept "off the books, temporarily" and the monies diverted to revitalization. (**see page 2)

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MVCCA BOARD

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FCFCA	Jim Davis.....	703-799-3278
SFDC	Jim Walton.....	703-780-9555
	Tom Hook.....	703-765-6869

ANNOUNCEMENTS

At the September Council meeting, the membership of the MVCCA will elect three people to be on the nomination committee. Names of volunteers to serve on the nomination committee will be taken from the floor. The nomination committee is charged with selecting the slate of candidates for the election of the three co-chairs, secretary, and treasurer.

Save the date for the 4th Annual Community Golf Tournament on Monday, October 27. Registration starts at 11:30 a.m., with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. The Mount Vernon Country Club will host this annual event, a fundraiser for the Council's Trail Fund. You don't need to be an expert golfer, any swingers are welcome! This is a great chance to settle scores with Honorary Tournament Chair Supervisor Gerry Hyland, too! Visit the web site, www.mvcca.org, for more information and a registration form.

Council Minutes

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance – No meeting.

Consumer Affairs – No meeting.

Education – No meeting. In September, the major focus will be budget issues.

Environment and Recreation – Minutes as published. Canoe trip will be August 10, leaving at 7:30 a.m., not 6 a.m. as previously advertised.

Health and Human Services – Joint with PS. Minutes as published with the exception that reference to changes in State mental health programs should read **20 years**, not 30. Virginia Sen. Toddy Puller led an outstanding panel able to describe major changes in state mental health laws and funding, particularly with respect to the process for "involuntary" treatment. The detailed report in the July Record includes many important questions from both committees that deserve careful watch during this year of implementation. The State changes, regarded as a "down payment" only, with more to come, are the most extensive since the 1988 reform legislation that owed so much to the work of Sen. Joe Gartlan. Chair Cleveland expanded on Supervisor Hyland's description of the work of the Southeast Health Planning Task Force (to which Sen. Gartlan also contributed greatly), reporting on current developments at Mount Vernon Hospital and a (delayed) schedule for completion of the Lorton Healthplex in 2011.

Planning and Zoning – Two meetings, one in conjunction with E&R and Transportation. Minutes as published. Resolutions.

Public Safety – Joint with HHS. Chair Dallas Shawkey noted that the General Assembly has taken a large and important first step to better address treatment needs and support for persons with mental illness. This will need to be observed in application so that recommendations can be made for improvement.

Transportation – Joint with E&R and P&Z, (q.v.)

Affordable and Workforce Housing – Meeting changed to August 14 at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center.

RESOLUTIONS -

PZ/TR 2008-07 (Oppose) New Hope Church SPA 2005-MV-010 8905 Ox Road, Lorton, VA. Neal McBride reports that South County Federation opposes for the same reasons as MVCCA.

(Resolution to oppose) Passed 16-0-0

ER/PZ/TR 2008-01 BRAC APR Nominations' Impacts

Eleanor Quigley presented a 'friendly amendment' (to be inserted after first 'resolve'), accepted by two of the committee chairs and co-chair David Dale, liaison to P&Z, (in the absence of the committee chair).

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations request that the BRAC APR Task Force and the Planning Commission and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors amend all nominations to state that any use that would degrade tree cover and increase run-off would required the offset of 100% of the lost tree canopy, contributions to the Tree Preservation Planting Fund in amounts equal to the values of the lost trees, the planting of non-exotic, non-invasive ground cover, shrubs and trees as listed by the Department of Conservation and Recreation of Virginia, the use of pervious pavers and rain gardens, provision for sufficient planting space for large, shade-producing parking lot trees, and reliance on underground parking wherever possible and structured parking elsewhere.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that building design should maximize the use of green roofs and roof top gardens, including trees, to mitigate storm water runoff, increases in impervious surfaces, and tree loss."

Motion to eliminate from the Resolution all but the published Resolve #2 failed to receive a second. **Resolution as amended passed 14-1-2**

Carol Coyle, Secretary

***Clarification from the Supervisor's office:*

"On Monday, the Board of Supervisors approved a Statement of Principle that would allow the new Office of Revitalization to enter into Tax Increment Financing arrangements, pending staff and Board approval.

"Tax Increment Financing is a tool used by many other jurisdictions where the cost of a revitalization project is too high and requires public involvement to ensure that the project moves forward.

"TIF allows you to borrow money against the increase in tax revenue that the revitalization project will bring in to build public infrastructure, thus reducing the overall cost of the development.

"This will become an important tool in Fairfax County's toolbox to attract, entice and permit construction of new revitalization projects in the County."

Treasurer's Report			
For Period January 1, 2008 through September 11, 2008			
	Budget 2008	Actual to Date	Budget/Actual
Balance Beginning Period		\$5,753.36	
RECEIPTS			
Dues	\$4,500.00	\$3,984.00	-\$516.00
Record Subscriptions	\$225.00	\$270.00	\$45.00
Gala Income	\$2,400.00	\$4,374.00	\$1,974.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$7,125.00	\$8,628.00	\$1,503.00
DISBURSEMENTS			
Record Expenses	\$4,000.00	\$881.36	\$3,118.64
Administrative	\$300.00	\$100.89	\$199.11
Gala	\$2,000.00	\$2,963.46	-\$963.46
Web Site	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$225.00
Postage	\$300.00	\$200.00	\$100.00
Miscellaneous	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Insurance ¹	\$0.00	\$660.00	-\$660.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$7,125.00	\$4,805.71	\$2,319.29
ENDING BALANCE		\$9,575.65	

¹ Unbudgeted item approved by the General Council on 1/23/2008.

Committee Reports

BUDGET & FINANCE

The Budget and Finance Committee met at 7:30 p.m. on September 3 in the Principal's Conference room at Walt Whitman Middle School. Issues discussed at the meeting included various proposals for budget cuts in the upcoming year and diversification of the tax base of Fairfax County to reduce the upward pressure on Residential Real Estate taxes.

The agenda for the next meeting will include discussion of Fairfax county's proposed cuts as a result of hearings being held this month throughout the county. We will further discuss Gerry Connolly's response to the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations meals tax referendum proposal.

The next meeting for the Budget and Finance Committee will be on October 1, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Walt Whitman Middle School Principal's Conference Room.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Consumer Affairs did not meet during September. The next meeting will be October 7 at 7:30 p.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School.

EDUCATION

The Education Committee held its first meeting of the new school year at 8 p.m. on September 3, 2008, in the media center at Whitman Middle School. Associations represented were: Newington Forest, Wellington, Hollin Hills, Mount Vernon Manor, Sulgrave Manor, Spring Bank, Riverside Estates and Woodley Hills. Co-chair David Dale also attended.

The major purpose of the meeting was to identify specific issues or areas of focus for the year, with the recognition that the overarching concern for several years to come will be the budget crisis which threatens not only the progress in our area schools but the health of FCPS as a whole.

While the Committee encourages the on-going efforts to identify areas where savings may be made without unduly impacting instruction, it is also painfully aware that, when enrollment is significantly rising both in absolute terms and in terms of students with special needs, not to mention the impact of fuel costs and the ever-increasing requirements of under-funded state and federal mandates, staying the same will mean falling behind. Students, parents and teachers are already feeling the effect in significantly larger class sizes and the elimination or reduction of some course offerings and of instruction not directly related to mandated SOL topics, such as enrichment activities. Moreover, given inflationary pressures, most teachers are falling behind in income, even considering both Market Scale Adjustments and step increases together.

It is especially ironic that this "crisis" exists even though as a whole the County is growing in population, income and employment in no small part due to the nationally-known educational system and the other amenities and services important to quality of life.

That being said, not all improvement in services or education necessarily requires infusion of new resources. The Committee's discussion was wide-ranging but if there was a common thread it was perhaps in the area of accountability and follow-up both on the part of FCPS staff but also the Committee itself. Concerns centered around the mechanisms and procedures in place to adequately evaluate whether, for example, a program or staffing initiative is needed, is properly implemented at the school level, and is having the desired or intended effect. Similarly, there was discussion about how the Committee can effectively follow-up on information presented by speakers, as well as how to balance principals' needs for adequate discretionary/autonomous authority to meet individual school circumstances, with the need for central office authority/oversight to assure goals are met across the system and no significant disparities exist.

As an initial step, at its next meeting, the Committee will host Dr. Brian Binggeli, Cluster 4 Assistant Superintendent and Mount Vernon District School Board member, and Chair Dan Storck. Topics include the annual "State of the Cluster" on school progress and initiatives in our area, as well as discussing the issues of accountability in the context of the new format School Improvement Plans; i.e., how school-specific goals and plans are set, evaluated periodically and/or at the close of the year to determine the degree to which the goals were met; how the evaluation of the plan at the close of one year feeds into the development of the next year's plan; and the roles played by central offices, cluster offices, school leadership team and other staff, and parents in that process.

As the year progresses, the Committee expects to revisit some continuing areas of concern, such as efforts to better address the achievement gaps which both disadvantage affected students' futures and unfairly skew public perception of the overall quality of instruction and student performance in our highly diverse schools. Other areas will include efforts to ensure that needs of higher performing students—including those also with learning disabilities—are not lost in the SOL shuffle and indeed that all students are not limited in their instructional opportunities by excessive emphasis on SOL requirements. A relatively new area will be the "Fair Grades" issue, as the School Board considers changes to FCPS's stricter grading policies to reflect general practice and avoid possible disadvantage to FCPS students competing for college admission and scholarships.

The next meeting is October 1, 2008 at 8 p.m. in the Walt Whitman Middle School Media Center. Our speakers will be Dr. Brian Binggeli and School Board Chair Dan Storck.

Committee Reports

ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION

The committee met on September 3 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the South County Government Center (Richmond Highway) Room 221C. Present were David Plummer (chair); representatives from Collingwood-on-Potomac, Hollin Hall Village CA, Hollin Hills, Mount Vernon Civic Association, Mount Vernon on the Potomac, Riverside Estates, Riverside Gardens, Spring Bank, Sulgrave Manor, Woodley Hills Community Association, and one interested citizen.

The chair called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. The minutes from July were adopted.

Posting, Notification and other Issues Regarding Pesticide Application in Virginia

Frank L. Filipy, Pesticide Investigator with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), Office of Pesticide Services, presented information regarding the rules, regulations and enforcement of pesticide application in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Of note to the committee were the following facts:

- The "label is the law," meaning that whatever application directions are identified on the label by the manufacturer determine how a particular substance is to be applied correctly.
- The biggest enforcement challenges lie with unlicensed businesses.
- "enforcement actions" are usually civil in nature and range from simple citations to more than \$20K for egregious repeat offenders.
- Certification must be achieved by all individuals involved in pesticide application, and may be either "applicator" or "technician" certification.
- All "cides" - herbicides, fungicides, etc. - are all "pesticides."
- All pesticides are designed to kill, there is always risk, none are "safe."
- Lawn care companies are not required to post warnings or other information.
- Information about violations and violators may be found at the Virginia VDACS website www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides.
- Information about pesticides in general may be found at the National Pesticide Information Center at www.npic.orst.edu.

Piped Perennial Streams

Jim Davis, President of Sulgrave Manor, provided a brief update on the recent proposal from County staff that a portion of a Resource Protection Area (RPA) within the Sulgrave Manor subdivision be reclassified as non-RPA, as the perennial flow in that area is through a subterranean pipe. The Chesapeake Bay Act is silent with respect to piped sections of perennial streams. "Drop inlets" are also not addressed. A principal environmental planner on the Chesapeake Bay Local Assistance Board (CBLAB) has indicated that piped sections farther than 100' from either an inlet or outlet are not required to be included nor required to be excluded from an RPA, unless there are intrinsic water quality benefits from such a designation. This proposal is scheduled to go before the Planning Com-

mission in September. The committee did not take any action on this item at this time, however will revisit this issue and its implications in October.

Riparian Buffer Stakeholders Meeting Report

The county is considering expanding watershed protection by extending riparian buffers upstream of the existing Resource Protection Areas (RPAs) and restricting the activities that will be permitted in the buffers. The Department of Public Works and Environmental Services held two "stakeholder meetings" to gather public input on this topic. Paul Phelps of Hollin Hills attended the two meetings and reported on the events. The first meeting dealt with (1) how far upstream should buffers extend and (2) how wide should they be. Participants were asked to identify the issues that should be taken into consideration when any decisions are made. The second meeting approached the topic from a slightly different direction, asking participants to comment on the uses of the proposed buffers, specifically (1) whether reforestation of expanded buffer areas should be required and (2) what other uses should be permitted. Participants were again asked which issues should be considered. There will be another workshop in September or October to develop the actual regulations for these extended riparian buffers, which indicates that a decision to implement extended buffers has probably already been made.

Infill and Loss of Tree Cover

A general discussion about the relationship between infill development and loss of tree cover was led by Hollin Hall CA representative Catherine Voorhees. Ms. Voorhees pointed out the difficulties in achieving the County's goal of 45% tree canopy given that new homes are being designed and constructed to the limits of the building envelope. According to many sources, only trees that are planted 1.5 times the mature height of the tree away from the new construction foundation should be planted. For example, in an R-3 zoning district with side setbacks of 12 feet, only trees with a height of 8 feet after 10 years should be planted (and then only on the property line). This is because trees with a taller mature height and presumed larger root area could eventually adversely affect the neighboring foundation and, according to Virginia law, be forcibly removed by the adjoining neighbor via a court order. Smaller trees do not significantly contribute to canopy cover and thereby contribute only slightly to improving water and air quality. In addition, according to the County Urban Forester, 50% of planted trees die within 10 years.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the E&R committee will be held on Wednesday, October 1, in the Mount Hybla room of the South County Government Center at 7:00 p.m.

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HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The Health & Human Services Committee met Tuesday, September 2, with seven MVCCA member associations represented and MVCCA Co-chair Pat Rea also participating: Collingwood on Potomac, Belle Haven Terrace, Hollindale, Mount Zephyr, Stratford on Potomac/Sec. 4, Sulgrave Manor, and Wellington.

Our September guest resource, *Inova Mount Vernon Hospital (IMVH) CEO and Inova Health System (IHS) Vice President Barbara Doyle* provided an update on recent developments in operations, renovation of facilities, and longer term planning for the Hospital (as well as the future Lorton Healthplex), in a lively Q & A with committee members.

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital progress report

Since CEO Doyle's first meeting with the MVCCA General Council (July 26, 2006) and her annual meetings with our committee (Nov. 2006, Sept. 2007), dedicated work by IMVH staff, managers, and physicians is bearing fruit. (1) The Hospital is demonstrating excellence in both safety and quality of care. Intensive attention to consistent protocols, training, and monitoring of performance is producing the good results measured in the successful Joint Commission survey, increased physician satisfaction (up 20% over 2006-2007), and demonstrated team skill and speed in response to emergency conditions such as heart attack. (2) Such success helps breed successful retention and recruitment, despite heavy competition, with 56 net new nurses and 6.5 new physicians (including 4 surgeons) attracted to our area YTD. Surgical growth (y/y in June) was up 5% for Joint Replacement and Inpatient categories. IMVH has 9 Operating Rooms; two small ORs are being expanded and upgraded into state-of-the-art facilities, to meet increased demand. (3) Major renovation of Hospital facilities is underway, with a 5,500 square-foot expansion of Radiology to open in December and other Phase One renovations, in outpatient and emergency services, on track for completion in late 2009. Meanwhile, dialogue moves ahead over the specifics for Phase Two (extensive plans for IMVH) and for the financially linked Lorton Healthplex (groundbreaking now anticipated Spring 2009), all within the framework of a total Inova five-year plan (2005-2010) for capital investment of \$101.7 million. With Phase Two investment, potential enhancements of services include expanded telemetry for monitoring and electronic record transfers, availability of private rooms, and introduction of the first Long Term Acute Care Hospital (LTACH) unit in Northern Virginia.

Because many recent developments—including improvement in the Hospital's fiscal balance, together with Inova's public commitment to major capital investment—have been reported at length in the two Mount Vernon weekly newspapers, both Doyle and HHS Committee representatives were eager to discuss complex questions about how best to grow the Hospital's ability to attract new patients and to anchor the medical services most needed in the fast-growing southeastern area of Fairfax County.

Balancing Needs and Resources

Families are apparently growing younger and older, simultaneously. As medical care becomes more high tech and professionally specialized, and much more costly to deliver, community hospitals everywhere are rethinking the spread of services they can offer and their day-to-day role in residential (overnight) care. Mount Vernon as a high quality community hospital must strike a balance, between offering regionally recognized Centers of Excellence (such as Wound Care, Rehabilitation, and Joint Replacement), while also providing the broad array of services that are much better delivered nearby in the community hospital rather than by transporting patients longer distances. On the one hand, the people in the IMVH service area benefit from strong specialized treatment centers available—by ambulance or heloport—elsewhere in the Inova system, at the Hospital for Children, Heart and Vascular Institute, and Regional Trauma Center. On the other hand, when residents think about needed services they want nearby, diagnostic imaging, repeating treatment for renal failure or cancer, routine pre- and post-natal care, and many outpatient services come to mind. Excellent, speedy Emergency Department services—for heart attack and stroke, for injuries, for infections, for crises in mental/behavioral illnesses—are especially crucial for the community. Childbirth—once the most obvious condition to provide care for, at any community hospital—is deferred to fewer, more specialized facilities, concentrating a very high volume of obstetrics practice where intensive (and very costly) neonatal care is also available (as at Inova Fairfax and Alexandria hospitals). Excellent care at IMVH is leading to shorter stays for most medical/surgical treatment, including joint replacement surgery, yielding high rankings for quality and efficiency but lower average daily census of bed use. Regionally, meanwhile, a growing group of patients with complex or multiple severe chronic illnesses is seeking care too acute for crowded nursing homes to treat successfully. Doyle believes this is an opportunity tailor-made for IMVH, licensed for more beds than it fills regularly, to become the regional leader for a new Medicare-recognized specialty in Long Term Acute Care, for those needing 25 or more days of hospitalization. Behavioral Health is another area of both local and regional need. At a time when Northern Virginia has a severe shortage of licensed Psych beds, IMVH has 30 and is expanding Behavioral Health services through two new outpatient programs, the Partial Hospital Program and the Medication Management Clinic, both intended improve outcomes while reducing cost and length of stay needed for residential treatment. IMVH has played an early role in developing Inova's all-hazards community disaster preparedness plan, participates in frequent area drills, has a strong "surge" capacity for an extraordinary event, and is a fully qualified member of the regional disaster response network of hospitals (though IMVH was erroneously omitted from the feature on disaster response systems in the Sept. 4-10 *MV Gazette*).

Patient/Hospital Communication

Committee members asked how IMVH is responding to the most frequent patient/family anxieties. During a visit, when a patient/family has concerns about specific treatment issues, who can they

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contact? And, especially after discharge, when confusion over billing arises (for example, whether Medicare is “primary vs secondary” or why separate bills keep arriving, at long intervals, from so many different hospital and physician services), what patient representatives are available and dedicated to helping find answers? Worst of all, perhaps, what happens when a patient receives quality care but is billed at extraordinary, financially devastating “retail” rates? What portion of patients find themselves in an “insurance doughnut hole”—not “poor” enough to qualify for Medicaid (or for nonprofit Inova’s large waivers for “indigent” patients) yet not “rich” enough to afford health insurance—and thus lacking any advocate able to negotiate an affordable group rate or individualized payment plan? Doyle emphasized Inova’s ongoing effort to communicate better over tough issues of both care and costs. At intake, every patient receives a packet of information about hospital protocols for their care, including the assurance they can always ask to speak to their nurse or the nurse supervisor, or call an internal office directly. Upon discharge, patients receive information on contacting appropriate offices. Nevertheless, Doyle expressed strong interest in suggestions for ways to improve communications and reduce confusion for patients and their family caregivers. Developing a new “protocol” for delivering financial information and assistance was offered as a way to make policies more transparent for all and more navigable for many.

Throughout the long community involvement in planning for the future of IMVH that began in November 2002 and climaxed in the 4-point March 2004 “Recommendation” of the Southeast Health Planning Task Force (SEHPTF), the MVCCA has encouraged greater public transparency in the key fiscal issues and community dialogue over the planning choices, among the community served (especially the Mount Vernon and Lee Districts), the doctors and healthcare providers serving the community, and the Inova Health System administrators and trustees. The committee welcomed this opportunity for dialogue with our Hospital’s chief executive and appreciated her clear and direct responses to our questions. Doyle welcomes invitations to meet with other interested community groups, including neighborhood associations.

Upcoming public meetings on H/HS matters:

Tuesday, September 30, 7 p.m., Community Update on North Hill Plans, for housing and park, Mount Vernon Government Center Community Rooms. Ron Fitzsimmons, 703-780-7518.

Tuesday, October 7, 7 p.m., HHS Committee meets with County Director of Dept. of Systems Management for Human Services, to consider the role of “Lines of Business Review” for County FY 2010 budget planning, at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, Engh Room, 2nd floor. Chair Louise Cleveland, 703 780-9151.

Thursday, October 23, 6:30 p.m., Southeast Health Planning Task Force meets quarterly, on the status of planning for Mount Vernon Hospital and the Lorton Healthplex, at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center (Community Rooms). Secretary Harriet Piper, 703-780-3104.

Tuesday, October 28, 7 p.m., HHS Committee, jointly with Route One Task Force for Human Services, meets for a presentation of the Beeman Commission Final Report/Recommendations on transforming the system for public mental health services, with Deputy County Executive for Human Services Verdia Haywood and Supervisor Gerry Hyland present, at Walt Whitman Middle School, Jack Knowles Lecture Room. (Note venue, and note that HHS will NOT meet on November 4, Election Day.) Convener Anne Andrews, 703-780-1773.

PLANNING & ZONING

The meeting was held in the Knowles Lecture Hall at Walt Whitman Middle School beginning at 7:30 p.m. and was chaired by Chair Deb Sell-Pugh. Seventeen member associations attended. (Collingwood on the Potomac, Engleside, Hollin Hills Citizens, Hollin Hall Village, Huntington Community, Marlan Forest, Mt. Vernon Civic, Newington, Newington Forest, Potomac Valley-River Bend, Riverside Estates, Spring Bank, Sulgrave Manor, Williamsburg Manor North, Wellington Heights, Wessynton Homes Assoc, Woodley Hills Civic).

Informational Session Presentation by Proffer Interpretations
Kevin J. Guinaw, Chief Special Projects/Applications Management Branch Zoning Evaluation Division, DPZ Fairfax County Zoning Evaluation Division, DPZ

Mr. Guinaw provided an information session on *the Guidelines for Interpretations of Proffers and Development Conditions*. He explained that staff is making an effort to increase transparency to the public when interpretations are requested. He and Mrs. Coyle answered questions regarding zoning enforcement, penalties for non-compliance and stated that when interpretations are received, many agencies will make the actual interpretation; UFM for tree preserves, FCDOT for transportation for example. For each request received, the staff notifies the Planning Commissioner and the Supervisor of the district. Generally 30 days is the guideline for a response to the applicant, but this is not law; staff may extend the 30 days as needed to allow for community input. Both Sheldon and David applauded staff on their efforts to notify the community when interpretation requests are received.

Information on Interpretations is located in the Zoning section of the Fairfax County website: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/zoning/interpretations/>

Vacation and/or Abandonment of Regan Street

Hersha Hospitality Trust proposes to develop a hotel on approximately 2.25 acres located on Richmond Highway. The property is identified on the Fairfax County tax assessment records as 93-1 ((1)) 31, 90, 91, 92 and 93. The Subject Property is zoned to the C-8 District. The Applicant proposes to construct a four-story limited full service hotel with approximately 84 rooms. Amenities will include a twenty-four (24) hour kitchen, an exercise room, an outdoor

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pool, and other features. The Applicant proposes a hotel of a quality similar to a Hilton Garden Inn that caters to a professional clientele, typically between the ages of 25 and 45, which type necessitates larger rooms than may be found in other hotel chains.

Applicant has proposed the vacation and/or abandonment of adjacent right-of-way. Regan Street is unimproved and serves 1 other property. The vacation and/or abandonment of the adjacent Regan Street right-of-way will allow for a slightly larger building footprint to accommodate the amenities and room sizes proposed.

Hilltop Village Center-Comprehensive Plan Amendment

Hilltop Sand and Gravel Company, Inc. ("Hilltop") owns over 100 acres located at the intersection of Telegraph Road and Beulah Street. A very small area of the Hilltop Property is located in the Mount Vernon District. As previously presented, Hilltop has filed a series of applications to permit the development of a mixed-use village center on approximately 33 acres located at the intersection. This proposal will require an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan (the "Plan"). A Plan amendment was authorized by the Board of Supervisors, and hearings are presently scheduled for October 16, 2008 before the Planning Commission and October 20, 2008 before the Board of Supervisors.

The submitted land use applications include three (3) rezoning applications and two (2) special exception amendments. Hilltop proposes a mix of uses including a Wegman's grocery store, approximately 200 residential units, a freestanding office building and first floor retail lining a main street. The main street and other design features will enhance the walkability of the development. In concurrent applications filed to the north of the village center, Hilltop proposes the closure of an existing construction and demolition debris landfill and the conversion of approximately 43 acres to recreation uses. Lastly, several minor modifications are proposed to the existing nine-hole golf course that will remain as it currently operates.

All of the land use applications will not be presented to the Planning Commission until December. Hilltop continues to work with various communities and the planning staff in the evaluation process.

The Newington Community presented its opposition to the development stating that the traffic analysis results depended on Federal and State funding of improvements to Telegraph Rd, storm water run off, flooding of yard in Newington, and increases in density.

Comfort Inn

DD&B Construction, Inc. is proposing to build a three-story, sixty-room Comfort Inn hotel on the property known as 8847 Richmond Highway. This project is permitted by right; however, the property is located within the Woodlawn Historic District and requires architectural review board approval. The client has presented its proposal during two work sessions before the Fairfax County ARB. Hotel would be next to the Hampton Inn, facing Richmond Highway, and constructed of stucco and brick. 63 parking spaces are provided in the side and toward the rear of the building. A loading dock and dumpsters on the back with a retaining wall between the two ho-

tels. Percentage of tree cover is 12.6% 2-3 caliber, red maples, willow oaks and pin oaks are planned.

Suggestions included: 1) more trees to reduce noise between hotel rooms and Route 1; 2) increase the median beyond the entrance so cars don't try to make a turn from the left lane of Route 1; and 3) developers to look into the possibility of shuttle services to and from metro, which could be shared service with the Hampton Inn. Final hearing before the ARB is October 9.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 pm.

The next meeting will be held October 6, 2008 in the Jack Knowles Lecture Hall at Walt Whitman Middle School at 7:30 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Public Safety Committee met Thursday, September 4 at 7:30 p.m. Associations represented were King's Crossing, Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon Manor, Riverside Estates, Riverside Gardens, Spring Bank, Stratford on Potomac Sect. IV, and Waywood. We were joined by Co-chair David Dale.

Our speakers were Major Mike Kline, the outgoing Commander, Mount Vernon Police Station, and the incoming Commander, Capt. David Moyer. The meeting began with Major Kline introducing Capt. Moyer. Capt. Moyer has over fifteen years with the Fairfax County Police. Although he has not had significant duty at the Mount Vernon Police Station, he has had a number of assignments at other police stations including the Mason Police Station which experiences problems similar to those at Mount Vernon. He grew up in this area. He is a graduate of Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO.

Major Kline then made a presentation about the Mount Vernon Police Station and crime in his district. The Station currently has 127 positions. Included are 1 Capt, 1 1st LT, 8 2nd LTs, 16 MPOs, 29 officers, 65 PFCs, 6 SGTs, and 1 OFC/Traffic. They are broadly assigned as follows: 33 day shift, 37 evening shift, 33 midnight shift, 10 criminal investigation, 9 neighborhood patrol, 2 crime prevention, and 6 SRP?SEO. In addition are 1 Crime Analyst and 7 Crossing Guards. The 'neighborhood patrol' was formerly known as the 'bike patrol.' Officer assignments change to meet current needs and seasons.

He reviewed the crime statistics for his police district so far this year against the same period last year (Jan 1 to Aug 1 2007 and 2008) ; auto theft is up from 96 (2007) to 153 (2008); burglary is up from 85 to 102; larceny is up slightly 1,033 to 1092, and tampering is up 357 to 379. Property destruction is down from 382 to 289; robberies are down from 79 to 74; and sex crimes are down from 62 to 57. Total crime is up slightly from 2094 to 2146 (2.5%). When compared to total County statistics for the same period, overall the Mount Vernon Police Station has 13% of the County crime. The county has eight police stations. The committee discussed possible causes for the slight increases in crime in the County. Most causes

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centered on the current state of the economy. Later, there was a discussion about police response time to security alarms. The County average for responding to a business/home alarm system is 5.3 minutes. Some responses take less time and others more depending on the distance the nearest available officer has to travel. Owners need to be aware of this in safeguarding their possessions. Professional robbers know the police response time and plan to be in and out before they arrive.

We reviewed the School Resource Officers (SRO) program. There are three officers assigned full time to each of three high schools: Bryant Alternative School, Mount Vernon, and West Potomac; and two assigned full time to each of the middle schools: Carl Sandburg and Walt Whitman. A sixth officer is assigned to the elementary schools. In order of problems the SROs experience, the first is larceny, then marijuana, assaults, and trespassing. With regard to larceny, the major items stolen include iPods, cell phones, electronic items, and computer items. Trespassing is when a person is removed from the school and yet returns for whatever reason. The SROs have been very valuable in addressing problems in schools and forestalling crime. The police provide two officers at interschool athletic games. At major rivalries, such as Mount Vernon/West Potomac games, they provide as many as six officers. It is agreed that the assignment of SROs to middle schools has been of particular value as SROs help address the behavior in the most vulnerable students before they move to high school where they will be more independent and expected to behave as responsible adults.

Gang activity has remained at a low level as a result of the continuing activity of the police. There have been 544 cases of gang related activity in the County so far this year. Of these, only 66 occurred in Mount Vernon. The largest number of cases of gang activity is related to the MS-13 gang at 170 cases in the County with 20 of these in Mount Vernon.

There followed a discussion of the Police participation in the apprehension of illegal aliens. The Police have a liaison who works with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on deporting criminals who are illegal aliens and have a felony conviction. The Police do not go out to apprehend illegal aliens. However, when a person is apprehended for a crime, if convicted that person's immigration status will be checked. If he or she is an illegal alien the ICE will be notified and they will start the deportation procedure. Normally, this action is initiated by the Sheriff when the person is still in jail.

We asked for a review of the sobriety check point results. Sobriety check points are rotated through the eight stations. Each week, an officer from a station along with traffic personnel is selected to participate in a sobriety check point in the station's enforcement area. Through August 18 this year, there have been 283 DWI arrests in the Mount Vernon area. This tracks with the number of DWI arrest each year. There a sobriety check point set up on every major holiday weekend. Mount Vernon leads the County with DWI arrests.

The Mount Vernon Police conduct two pedestrian safety enforcement periods of two weeks in length. The first week consists of educating citizens by handing out information through flyers/leaflets and officers speaking with citizens about pedestrian safety. A signboard is also set up to inform citizens. The second week is enforcement. In March 1008, 802 flyers were handed out; 110 warning tickets were issued; and, 51 summonses were issued. Working for improved pedestrian safety is a continuing effort. The next pedestrian safety enforcement period is scheduled for October 13-18.

The committee members congratulated Major Kline on his promotion to major. They also expressed their thanks for his excellent service to Mount Vernon. His last day at the Mount Vernon Police Station will be Friday, September 12. The turnover ceremony will held be on Wednesday, October 1.

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 2 in the Supervisor's Conference Room, Mount Vernon Governmental Center.

TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation Committee did not meet in September. The next meeting of the committee will be Monday, October 6, 2008 at 8 p.m. at the library in Walt Whitman.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AFFORDABLE AND WORKFORCE HOUSING

The SCAWH meeting took place on August 14 at the Mount Vernon Government Center. Community organizations represented were: Hollin Hills, MVCCA Education Com., Riverside Estates, Stratford Landing, Stratford on the Potomac Sec. IV, and Woodley Hill Estates. Pat Rea Co-chair MVCCA and Elisabeth Lardner FCRHA were also present.

The next North Hill meeting will take place on September 30, from 7-9 in the community room at the Mount Vernon Government Center. Committee members were encouraged to attend. Staff from Housing and Parks will provide updates on the project. The Committee was informed that the four new residential units in Woodley Hills remain unoccupied.

The Committee reviewed five submitted BRAC nominations that contain residential units and will monitor them for what is planned for affordable and workforce housing. The nominations reviewed included 08 IV 1MV Huntington Gateway at the corner of Huntington Ave. and US1; 08 IV 2MV three story garden apartment complex in Jefferson Manor; 08 IV 3MV a mixed us/apartment complex near the Huntington Metro; 08 IV 4MV redevelopment of Riverside

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Apartments; and 08 IV 9MV residential apartments with retail on first floor on Huntington Ave. next to Huntington Metro.

The Committee was reminded that the County Comprehensive Plan will be reviewed in early 2009. Members should view appropriate portions of the Comprehensive Plan available at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/comprehensiveplan>.

Joan McLellan reported on a meeting of V.O.I.C.E. in NOVA, an interfaith community organization, where community action on affordable housing was a main topic of discussion. The organization is aiming to gain support from corporate leaders to improve availability of housing for low and middle-income residents of Northern Virginia.

An update from the County Regional Housing Office, discussed at previous meetings, is now planned for October.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Thursday, September 25 at 7 p.m., in the Mount Vernon Government Center.

ever it is imperative that the Comprehensive Plan reflect current needs – and that, in essence, is the process which the Committee is trying to initiate.

Paul Everson from Sulgrave Manor joined us for the first time. We welcome his leadership, thoughtful thinking and interest in strategic planning.

There was a discussion reference the take-over of the Chairmanship of the Committee before the end of the year, since Frank Cohn has accepted the Transportation Commissioner position for the Mount Vernon District. This matter remains unresolved.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for 8 p.m., on Monday, October 13, to be held in the Supervisor's Conference Room in the Mount Vernon Government Center.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

A meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee, MVCCA was held at 6:30 PM on September 8, 2008 in classroom B-43, in the Walt Whitman Middle School. Attending were: Co-Chair Katherine Ward, Co-Chair Pat Rea, John Byers, Paul Everson, Martin Tillett and Frank Cohn.

The Committee agreed that the draft letter to Committee Chairs to prepare for the needed revisions of the Comprehensive Plan, scheduled for early 2010, was now in final form and ready for dispatch pending the final revision of the Vision Statement. Martin Tillett agreed to provide specific wording deemed necessary to assure that the Vision Statement encompassed desired direction for environmental concerns. Proposed added wording will be disseminated by e-mail to Committee members within the next day or so. As soon as the Vision Statement is finalized, Pat Rea as Co-Chair will sign and dispatch the letter to the Committee Chairs. This matter will be discussed in the upcoming MVCCA Executive Meeting.

John Byers discussed the interaction between the Comprehensive Plan and County Ordinances. There was discussion if the existing zoning needs to be changed every time the Plan was changed. While the Comprehensive Plan is obligatory for compliance in proposed zoning changes, the county ordinances are the law governing all construction. John deemed the existing situation in the County in regards to their interface as satisfactory, since the community frequently changes its collective mind between APR cycles about what kind of land use and density level it wants in a specific area. Changes in the Comprehensive Plan are only required as needs and desires of communities and citizen groups evolve. How-

COMMITTEE RESOLUTIONS

There are no resolutions for Council consideration this month.

**Sponsored by Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations
and Connection Newspapers**

4th Annual Mount Vernon Community Golf Tournament



Honorary Tournament Chairman:

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerry Hyland

Tournament benefits the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations Trail Funds

Monday, October 27, 2008

\$75 entry fee

Mount Vernon Country Club

4-Person Captain's Choice Scramble

11:30 a.m. Registration

12 noon Box Lunch

1 p.m. Shotgun Start

6 p.m. Reception & Awards



***For Additional Tournament & Registration Information,
please call Bryan Armstrong, PGA, at 703.780.3565***

4th Annual Mount Vernon Community Golf Tournament Registration Form

Foursome Registration:

Name: _____ Handicap or approx. score _____ Phone # _____

Name: _____ Handicap or approx. score _____ Phone # _____

Name: _____ Handicap or approx. score _____ Phone # _____

Name: _____ Handicap or approx. score _____ Phone # _____

Individual Registration: (please pair me)

Name: _____ Handicap or approx. score _____ Phone # _____

Contribute to the MVCCA Trail Fund

No, I can't play but I would like to contribute:

Patron: \$25

Other: \$ _____

Payment

Enclose check, \$75 per player or \$300 per foursome, made payable to
Mount Vernon Country Club & mail to:

Mount Vernon Country Club
Attn: Bryan Armstrong, PGA
5111 Old Mill Road
Alexandria, VA 22309

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, September 24, 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—October 9, 7:30 p.m. at MVGC—SUPV

Comm	Date	Time	Place	Chair
AWH	9/25	7:00	MVGC	Jeszenszky/McCormick
BUDG	10/1	7:30	WWMS	D. Voorhees
COAF	10/7	7:30	WWMS	Cox
EDUC	10/1	8:00	WWMS-MC	Harbeck
E&R	10/1	7:00	SCGC-Hybla	Plummer
H/HS	10/7	7:00	IMVH-Engh	Cleveland
PL/Z	10/6	7:30	WWMS-LH	Sell-Pugh
PSAF	10/2	7:30	MVGC	Shawkey
SP	10/13	8:00	MVGC	Cohn
TRAN	10/6	8:00	WWMS	C. Voorhees

The Record (USPS 702-510, ISSN 1055-5986) is published monthly except August for \$15 per year by the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations, P.O. Box 203, Mount Vernon, VA 22121-0203. Periodicals postage is paid at Alexandria, Virginia.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes for the *Record* to:
MVCCA / P.O. Box 203
Mount Vernon, VA 22121-0203



P.O. Box 203
Mount Vernon, VA 22121-0203
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Periodicals Postage
Paid at
Alexandria, Virginia