



Mount Vernon
Council
of Citizens'
Associations

Record

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Volume XL, No. 11, December 2008

MVCCA COUNCIL MEETING

November 19, 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, Frank Cohn, Queenie Cox, Judy Harbeck, John Jeszenszky, John McCormick, David Plummer, Deb Sell-Pugh, Dallas Shawkey, Catherine Voorhees, David Voorhees; FCFA Rep Karen Pohorylo; SFDC Reps Tom Hook, Jim Davis; Treasurer Tonda Phalen; Secretary Carol Coyle; Planning Commissioner Earl Flanagan; Brett Kenney representing Supervisor Hyland.

Representatives: Belle Haven Terrace, Collingwood on the Potomac, Engleside, The Fairfax, Hollin Glen, Hollin Hall, Huntington, Marlan Forest, Mount Vernon Civic, Mount Vernon on the Potomac, Mount Zephyr, New Alexandria, New Gum Springs, Newington, Potomac Valley-Riverbend, Riverside Gardens, Spring Bank, Stratford on the

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MVCCA BOARD

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SCSP	Frank Cohn	703-780-5698
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SFDC	Jim Davis	703-799-3278
	Tom Hook	703-765-6869

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder - membership dues are due by 12/31/08. The December meeting is a **great** time give the Treasurer your renewal application and dues check! Download the application from the MVCCA website.

The Planning and Zoning Committee Chair position is vacant. ☺ Please send suggestions/nominations to co-chair David Dale at david.dale@mvcca.org.

Please note in the Resolutions section of this *Record* that there is an amendment to our Vision Statement. The Board will be seeking your ratification of this addition.

The MVCCA website home page has a search capability and a section to locate resolutions and their status. Both are useful tools for committees and their members.

At the December meeting we will have our long delayed official welcome to Capt. David Moyer, the new Mount Vernon Police Station commander.

The wisdom and value of the MVCCA resolution on remote public testimony was demonstrated on December 1 when six residents testified to the Environmental Quality Advisory Board (EQAC). A request by the Board of Supervisors to our state legislature calls for an expansion of the types of public hearings that are eligible for remote audio-visual testimony.

Comprehensive Plan Review Revision Schedule*

- Jan '09: Committee Chairs place item on Committee Agenda
- Feb '09: MVCCA Area Plan Review Task Force (APR) meets
- Mar '09: Committees select Plan Revision items
- Apr '09: Co-Chairs request Civic Assn. (CA) submissions by Jul
- May '09: Committees submit Revisions to MVCCA APR
- Jul '09: CA's submit Revisions/Recommendations to MVCCA APR
- Oct '09: MVCCA APR & Committees finalize Revisions/Recommendations
- Oct '09: MVCCA Council approves Revisions/Recommendations
- Nov '09: Co-Chairs forward Revisions/Recommendations to County

* Based upon letter sent to Committee Chairs 11/2008

** MVCCA Vision Statement Used As Guideline

MVCCA IS GOING GREEN! Beginning in January 2009, the *Record* will only be distributed electronically. Please sign up for the listserv so you don't miss your copy of this important document.

Council Minutes

Potomac IV, Sulgrave Manor, Waynewood, Wellington Heights, Wess-
ynton, William H. Randall, Williamsburg Manor North, Woodley Hills.

MINUTES - Approved as published.
TREASURER'S REPORT – Accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance – Minutes as published. Next meeting will be joint with Education Committee on December 3. David stressed that, with the budget crunch of the next year or more, if we want our voices heard re: needs v. wants, more neighborhood associations need to be represented at Budget meetings.

Consumer Affairs – No November meeting because of elections. December 2, 7 p.m. in the Engh Conference Room on the 2nd floor of IMVH, joint meeting with HHS to discuss Services for Seniors and family caregivers.

Education – Minutes as published. Next meeting will feature Susan Quinn, CFO for the Fairfax County School System.

Environment and Recreation – Minutes as published. Additionally, the Virginia Commission on Climate Change has a website:

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/info/climatechange.html>

December meeting will discuss budget priorities.

Health and Human Services – Minutes as published, excepting corrections to upcoming public events: On December 11, 7 p.m., the Route One Task Force for Human Services convenes with our state legislative representatives, to discuss critical needs in human services. The venue (previously announced, then changed) is now Walt Whitman Middle School. Chair Cleveland also pleaded, based on past years of experience with MVCCA, that the Council is effective chiefly when members work for informed consensus in and among committees, so that we are able to reconcile perspectives in the General Council and "speak with one voice." In this difficult fiscal environment, we need to see beyond divisive, competing "agendas," to develop broad-based support for public policies that sustain essential community services available to all.

Planning and Zoning – Minutes as published. One resolution.

Public Safety – Minutes as published. Crisislink.org. 211virginia.org
Next meeting will have the president and CEO of WRAP (who provide SoberRide). In answer to questions:

WRAP has people who will give presentations to Community organizations.

Mopeds operated at more than 35 mph are considered motorcycles and require a valid driver's license; operator must be 16 or older and wear a helmet; vehicle needs reflectors. Cars are not allowed to pass a moped going over 40 mph. [Code document will be posted to the PS website.]

Transportation – Minutes as published. Meeting 12/1/08 will feature the new PR person for Woodrow Wilson Bridge. Two resolutions.

Affordable and Workforce Housing – Committee meets after Council meeting, so no minutes. October 23 meeting had John Payne, Deputy Director of RHA discussing what the County is doing on Affordable and Workforce Housing:

- Assisting first time buyers, providing 2nd trust loans to buy fore-closed homes;
- One Penny Fund – up to 22,000 homes and apartments have been preserved in the County for people with limited incomes;

- Coan Pond Residences (near RHA offices), a building with 20 single-occupancy efficiency apartments for people with low income, fully occupied. Committee is working on a resolution encouraging the County to build more of these.

Next meeting tomorrow (Nov 20). See web page for announcement of December meeting.

Long-Range Strategic Planning – Future meetings will be 2nd Monday, 8 p.m., Room Whitman Middle School, Room B39

SFDC – Three committees (Economic Development, Design, Marketing) each have 10-12 members. Election of officers November 20.

CO-CHAIR' REPORT

New association: Summit Oaks (32 townhomes near Pohick Church) wishes to join.

Approved 24-0-1

South County will have the county's first remote testimony capability for Environmental Quality Advisory Committee (EQAC) December 1. Co-chair Pat Rea will attend at the Governmental Center in Fairfax; Co-chair Katherine Ward will attend at South County to see how effective this system is.

Co-chair Katherine Ward requested an opinion from the County Attorney on North Hill status and was told that the County can't comment until they have seen a plan. DPZ decides if plan needs to go to the Planning Commission.

Annual Budget: 2009 Budget: postage costs for The Record will go down when we distribute electronically, after January 1, 2009.

Treasurer's Report			
For Period January 1, 2008 through December 5, 2008			
	Budget 2008	Actual to Date	Budget/Actual
Balance Beginning Period		\$5,753.36	
RECEIPTS			
Dues	\$4,500.00	\$4,026.00	-\$474.00
Record Subscriptions	\$225.00	\$270.00	\$45.00
Gala Income	\$2,400.00	\$4,374.00	\$1,974.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$7,125.00	\$8,670.00	\$1,545.00
DISBURSEMENTS			
Record Expenses	\$4,000.00	\$1,422.97	\$2,577.03
Administrative	\$300.00	\$128.61	\$171.39
Gala	\$2,000.00	\$2,963.46	-\$963.46
Web Site	\$225.00	\$107.40	\$117.60
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	\$5,482.44	\$1,642.56
ENDING BALANCE		\$8,940.92	

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

Council Minutes

RESOLUTIONS

PZ 2008-09 (SO8-IV-RH1) Hilltop Sand and Gravel (out of turn amendment)

Representative from Newington requests a vote in opposition to "do not oppose."

Sheldon Hoenig explained that the resolution is to change the Comprehensive Plan to allow what the developers propose; what they present is not necessarily what will happen if the CP is changed.

Resolution defeated 8-9-6

TR 2008-04 Stop Waiving the Building of Trails or Build Trails at Alternative Locations

Resolution passed 20-0-3

TR 2008-05 Transportation Improvement Proffers Before Approval of Rezoning Applications

Improvement money should have been proffered by developers; resolution is to instruct the County to follow the funding language.

Resolution passed 14-4-5

STRATEGIC PLANNING VISION STATEMENT

This is intended to encourage proactive future planning for the Mount Vernon District, an inter-twining of committees, looking ahead 5, 10, and 15 years.

Friendly amendment (E. Quigley) would insert the word "planning" between 'that' and 'development' in the first bullet; accepted.

Passed 23-0-0

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Slate of Officers presented was accepted by acclamation. Nominating Committee will continue to pursue new blood and promote membership.

MEMBER ASSOCIATION TIME

Sheldon Hoenig (Wessynton) reports that Cox Communications is replacing cable in the area, apparently without advising homeowners ahead of time.

SUPERVISOR'S TIME

Brett Kenney filled in for Supervisor Hyland; he was in an auto accident and is recuperating but is in constant touch with his office. Members in attendance signed a get well card for Brett to deliver.

Development Process Committee will meet 12/12 at 2 p.m. at the County Building to discuss infill and height regulations in the hope of stopping the building of McMansions in established neighborhoods (see 2002 Resolution).

Legislative agenda will include remote meetings; prohibition of unwanted newspapers; critical needs for Human Services. Beeman Report will be presented to the BOS.

OTHER ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Deb Sell-Pugh stepped down as Chair of Planning and Zoning.

Treasurer reports that Renewal Notices went out today (November 19); renewals are due on or before December 31.

Carol Coyle, Secretary

Committee Reports

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Consumer Affairs held a joint meeting with the Health & Human Services Committee on December 2nd. The meeting was a public information forum on services for seniors and family caregivers. For more detailed information about the meeting to include attendees and guest speakers, please see the Health & Human Services Committee Report printed elsewhere in this issue of the *Record*.

Consumer Affairs next meeting will be Tuesday, January 6, 2009 at Walt Whitman Middle School at 7:30 p.m. in the Principal's Conference Room. Topic: Knowing your rights about automobile and homeowners insurance.

EDUCATION

The MVCCA Education Committee met at 8 pm, December 3, 2008, in the media center at Whitman Middle School. Associations represented were: Sulgrave Manor, Stratford Landing, Potomac Valley Riverbend, Wellington, Newington Forest, Riverside Gardens, Tauxemont, Belle Haven Terrace, Hollin Hall and Springbank. The Budget & Finance Committee, together with Co-chairs David Dale and Pat Rea also attended, as did about 10 interested citizens.

School and County budget issues both for FY2009 and FY2010 were discussed by Susan Quinn, FCPS Assistant Superintendent for Finance, and Michelle New, Coordinator, FCPS Budget Services. The Committee also considered a resolution printed elsewhere in this RECORD and discussed below.

For FY2009, Quinn reported that thus far the County has not included any reduction to the promised school transfer in its mid-year budget adjustments and the Commonwealth has likewise not reduced K-12 funding. Thus, FCPS has been able to compensate for loss of sales tax revenue and higher than expected enrollment without additional direct impact on instruction through hiring freezes, and reducing funds for carryover and instructional and other administrative action.

For FY2010, and looking forward to FY2011, the situation becomes extremely bleak. In order to hold to FY2009 (current year) service levels and compensate for student population growth (about 170,000 students for 2010), projected reductions from sales tax and Commonwealth, step and MSA adjustments and rising costs of benefits, maintenance and utilities, FCPS would need an additional \$219 million over the FY2009 transfer. Recognizing that, given the County's projected FY2010 shortfall of over \$500 million from FY2009 revenue levels (assuming no changes in tax rate or revenue sources and continued assessment and sales tax decline), even such a flat-line program budget is not possible, the Superintendent has presented 3 Tiers, representing the combination of increased transfer and cuts that would be required to compensate for growth and loss of outside funding:

Tier 1: \$176million increase and \$43million in cuts, but no further class size increase

Tier 2: \$ 95million increase and \$123million in cuts, including teacher MSA, class size increase;

Tier 3: \$0 increase and \$219million in cuts, including no MSA, step delay, 2.5 student class size increase, loss of over 2500 positions including instructional.

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The details of cuts can be found on the website (www.fcps.edu/news/fy2010/reductionimpacts.pdf) but suffice it to say that cuts at the Tier 2 level would impact performance for several years and at Tier 3 for decades. Of great concern in our area is the impact on various staffing initiatives and other resources that have greatly benefited our diverse schools, including Focus programs and Excel schools.

Also of concern is County suggestions that clinic aides and school resource officers, currently funded outside the school transfer may be eliminated. This naked burden shifting would certainly result in schools having to add clinic aides to the school budget because of student safety issues, legal requirements, and exposure to lawsuits. School resource officers, while a valuable enhancement to in-school security, also provide significant ordinary pro-active police functions in addressing issues outside school including gang and crime interdiction, and thus are at least as much a part of County public safety issues as school issues.

The "bottom line" is that County citizens will need to carefully consider the balance of tax burden, which for most households has been nearly flat for several years, against the damage to important County institutions, including schools, that recent County public dialogues have shown to be highly valued contributors to quality of life and continued prosperity.

In that light, the Committee considered and passed (5-1-3) the Resolution printed on page 11 in the *Record*, which is aimed at providing citizens a clearer picture both of the funding levels needed to maintain County and school services as they currently exist, taking into account growth, appropriate compensation, general costs and reduced state and sales tax revenue, and of the tax rates or other revenue enhancements which would be needed to support continued services. It neither suggests a tax rate, nor funding cuts, nor enhancements, and the Committee recognized that the tax rate proposed increase that would likely result would be insupportable for adoption. Still, that information would provide a clear picture and a starting point for citizen dialogue to assist the Board of Supervisors to arrive at an appropriate balance between tax burden and services in the final budget, since, although the Board may make any changes to the distribution of resources, it can only reduce, not increase, the tax rate in the Advertised Budget. Thus this would also give the Board flexibility to address a fluid budget situation.

The Chair also noted that the staff report on the issue of changing County grading policy will be presented to Dr. Dale the week of December 8, with a School Board Work Session scheduled for January 12, 2009. Interested parties should also check the school website for updates on Administrative consolidation and Keep-In-Touch changes.

The next meeting will be January 7, 2009, at 8 p.m., at the Walt Whitman Middle School library.

ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION

The committee met on December 3, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the South County Government Center (Richmond Highway) Room 219. Present were David Plummer (chair), Katherine Ward (MVCCA co-chair), Collingwood-on-Potomac, Spring Bank, Sulgrave Manor, Wessynton, Hollin Hall Village, Mount Vernon on the Potomac, Mount Zephyr, Riverside Estates, Newington Forest, and Woodley Hills Community Association.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The minutes from November were adopted.

Laurel Hill Baseball Diamond Update

Neal McBride presented the group with an update of the planned development of the Lorton Prison Site. The consultant is currently not willing to adjust their plans for placing town homes in and around the historic ball diamond site, which will negatively impact the ballfield's viability. Alarmed by this situation, various baseball organizations have begun to weigh in to ensure that this historic "Babe Ruth" and High School-sized regulation field, the only one in the southern part of the county, is preserved. Eleanor Quigley, Mount Vernon Tree Commissioner and Jessica Strother from the Fairfax County Urban Forestry Department also walked the site and addressed the town home development site proposal as well. Both offered the developer alternative solutions that would not only save the ball field, but possibly a majority of the high-quality trees in the hardwood forested area that would be impacted by the new access roadway to be built into the site off of Silverbrook Road. According to Neal, members from South County will be seeking MVCCA support if the developer is unwilling to alter their proposed plan.

Video Teleconferencing

Bill Cleveland (Collingwood on the Potomac) and Larry Zaragoza (Wessynton) offered their comments on the positive results of the video-teleconference EQAC (Environmental Quality Advisory Council) hearing that was held December 1. Larry stated that the EQAC board was very pleased with the process, noting that it offered residents from the Mount Vernon and South County areas an opportunity to participate in the hearing from the South County Government Center site. These individuals would possibly not have testified if it meant driving to the Fairfax County Government Center. It is anticipated that more such hearings will take place. Members of the committee recognized their own participation in this first-ever citizen participation via teleconference as it was an E&R resolution brought by the Spring Bank Association that was debated, refined, passed and forwarded to MVCCA for consideration. It passed unanimously in January 2007.

Long Term Planning

The remainder of the meeting addressed long-term goals for the E&R committee. The recently adopted MVCCA Vision statement and objectives were used as a baseline to develop these goals. Topping the list were storm water management, stream restoration, and impacts of traffic congestion on the quality of life in our area. Furthermore, the group discussed how they would begin the process of reviewing the comprehensive plan for the upcoming '09-'10 APR in order to offer E&R-related comments to the collective MVCCA nominations to the plan.

Katherine Ward, MVCCA co-chair, briefed the group on her recent meeting with the Executive Director of the Mount Vernon / Lee Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of this meeting was to begin to evaluate what areas of mutual interest there are that both organizations can work on together to seek enhanced quality of life for our District. Transportation rose to the top of that list of interest areas.

Catherine Voorhees (Hollin Hall Village), speaking in her capacity as the MVCCA Transportation Chair, stated that establishing a focused, collaborative relationship with such organizations as the Mount Vernon / Lee Chamber regarding transportation issues would benefit the MVCCA.

Committee Reports

The next meeting of the E&R committee will be held on Wednesday, January 7, in Room 219 of the South County Government Center at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Joint Meeting with Consumer Affairs

On Tuesday, December 2, the MVCCA Committees for Consumer Affairs and Health & Human Services met jointly, for a public informational forum on "Services for Seniors and Family Caregivers." Guest resources were Sharon Lynn, Assistant Director of the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging (Fx AAA), and Kae Wells, Board member for newly formed nonprofit Mount Vernon At Home (MVAT) and advocate for quality services that support successful "aging-in-place."

Participating in questions and discussion were more than 30 interested citizens from Lee and Mount Vernon communities, including MVCCA Co-chair Pat Rea and committee members representing 12 MVCCA member associations: Collingwood on Potomac, Belle Haven Terrace, Hollindale, Hollin Hall, Hollin Glen, Hollin Hills, Mount Zephyr, New Gum Springs, Stratford Landing, Stratford on Potomac/Sec. 4, Sulgrave Manor, Tauxemont, and Wellington. Chairs Queenie Cox and Louise Cleveland shared planning and reporting for the meeting.

Finding Services for Seniors and Caregivers

Sharon Lynn provided for participants a mini-bazaar of County information, in printed form, including a telephone/web site directory, "Services for Older Adults in the Fairfax County Area," (July 2008 update) and the Board of Supervisors (BOS) *Fairfax Fifty+ Action Plan 2007*. These items and many more (e.g. a *Scorecard* evaluating *Action Plan* progress to date) are available through links found on the County's web site:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults. Lynn guided the group through awareness of the broad array of services available here, as well as issues of quality and access (inc. affordability) for all. The chief role of the Fx AAA is to provide reliable public information and individual client assistance that links older adults and people with disabilities to resources and the network of services, provided publicly and privately, that meet their needs.

For those who use the internet at home (or with assistance available at senior centers), the county site opens doors to current information, any time. It also offers links to Virginia's statewide information service (www.seniornavigator.org) and the federally supported locator for out-of-state services (www.eldercare.gov).

Those who want information and assistance tailored to a particular multi-dimensional situation will want to begin by speaking directly to a trained Aging, Disability, and Caregiver Information Specialist: **703-324-7948**. (You will also reach a trained social worker through the "one-stop" County number for Coordinated Services Planning, 703-222-0880.) In-person assistance is available via office appointment or in-home visit. Caregiver resources are especially in demand, since one in four households contain a caregiver for a relative or friend at least 50 years old, and grandparents who care for grandchildren or foster children seek "kin care" resources. Professional care management—including in-home assessment of the situation, a care plan, and coordination of the many different services needed—is provided free through Fx AAA, for lower income clients; for others, affordable rates are offered through their partnership with Elderlink.

As discussion turned to such "consumer affairs" concerns as quality and access for all, Kae Wells reported important insights drawn from MVAT's experience in canvassing Mount Vernon area residents about their anticipated needs. (The newly formed organization plans a Spring 2009 launch of a 24-hour service, for their fee-paying membership, intended to complement what is available through the County: for information, call 703-768-6590.) Among older residents, the overwhelming majority of whom hope to "age in place" in the homes and community relationships they cherish, the single biggest worry is personal mobility and lack of nearby access to transportation. MetroAccess service and strategies such as taxi coupons discounted for seniors and those with disabilities are a start. Also in demand: careful identification of reliable services homeowners. The Fx AAA does investigate and list in-home health care agencies; but Wells notes that the County does not license most kinds of yard and in-home maintenance services, so this is an area for special MVAT attention. Others mentioned the spread of model urban neighborhood self-help organizations, from Boston's Beacon Hill to New York City's "vertical village" condos.

As suburban neighborhoods age, the role for volunteerism grows. This month, the Fairfax County area where drivers and a coordinator are most needed for Meals on Wheels is Mount Vernon! Other opportunities for active service abound: trained Ombudsman who monitor care in nursing homes and assisted living; trained counselors for VICAP (Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program) assistance with Medicare, Medigap, and long-term care insurance claims and billing issues; or Volunteer Solutions, assisting low-income older clients to maintain independence in their homes.

In the present fiscal climate, many worry about proposed County budget "Reduction Options" that may impact services such as senior centers that promote health, transportation for those with disabilities, or public information and referral for services. In weighing the personal cost of reduced services against increased tax rates, one hard truth emerges: Providing access for many who need services today is often key to maintaining availability for anyone tomorrow.

Fairfax Fifty+ Action Plan

The *Action Plan* (2007) is an extension of the County's demographic and planning study, *Anticipating the Future: A Discussion of Trends in Fairfax County* (March 2006). The BOS intends it to be a "living" Plan that starts from the idea that, "The communities we plan and build, and those we revitalize, must be livable communities for all ages." Progress in the early action steps is to be measured periodically by citizens serving on the Commission on Aging: the first *Scorecard* (July 2008) is now posted on the County web site. The Plan may help HHS representatives (and those in other committees) identify demographic and other changes that will intersect with the County's annual Budget Plan and 5-year Comprehensive Plan review (see January 6 meeting announcement, below).

Re 2009 participation in public policy planning

Other key documents for thoughtful citizen participation are published on the County web site.

--2009 *Fairfax County Legislative Program* (county advocacy for Virginia General Assembly actions) and *Supplement, Critical Needs in Human Services* (with detailed impact statements), are now on the County site. Copies were distributed to HHS representatives at the meeting.

--*Fiscal Year 2010 Fairfax County Advertised Budget Plan* will be proposed/published for public review Feb. 23, 2009. Now published are Agency "Lines of Business" Presentations, including prioritized "Reduction Options" for roughly 15% of each agency's current county funding, with

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impact statements, for consideration by the County Executive's Office and BOS in developing the Budget Plan (and setting tax rates). After public hearings and "mark-up," the BOS approves a Budget Plan on April 27, 2009. FY 2010 begins July 1, 2009.)

--*The Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan* (published on the County web site) is subject to public review and recommendations every five years, next in early 2010. In January 2009, MVCCA begins a new review process, with Committees scheduled for "introductory discussion to identify problem areas within their respective areas of expertise."

Upcoming Public Meetings, January 2009

Tuesday, January 6, 7 p.m., MVCCA Committee for Health and Human Services meets at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, 2nd floor Engh Conference Room, to identify trends and issues in health and human services that may impact community planning, in 2009 and beyond.

Thursday, January 8, 7 p.m., Southeast Health Planning Task Force meets quarterly in Mount Vernon Governmental Center community rooms for progress reports on Inova Mount Vernon Hospital and the future Lorton Healthplex.

PLANNING AND ZONING

The Planning & Zoning Committee met on December 1, 2008. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. In attendance were representatives from Hollin Hills, Skyview Park, Engleside, Collingwood on the Potomac, Mount Vernon Civic, Tauxemont, Riverside Estates, Stratford Landing, Stratford on the Potomac Section IV, Williamsburg Manor North, Wellington Heights, and Wessington. Council Co-Chair David Dale chaired the meeting.

An information-only presentation was made by Cingular/AT&T (SE 2008-MV-031) for the installation of a flag pole type cell phone tower on the Masonic Lodge property at 8717 Fort Hunt Road. All antennas would be inside the pole and not visible. This tower would provide cell phone reception for an existing hole in the Cingular/AT&T coverage area. There was considerable concern expressed about the diameter, and hence appearance, of the tower. The applicant is in the process of meeting with nearby communities and will return to the Planning and Zoning Committee.

Ginny Wells, the representative from Engleside, gave a heads up to the Committee that a proposal for a cell tower is slowly moving forward for the Knights of Columbus building at 8592 Richmond Highway. Her community has expressed concerns about the tower presenting a safety hazard to police helicopter that frequent that area.

David Dale spoke briefly about the efforts of the Strategic Planning Committee and the need to move forward with a review of the Comprehensive Plan. He encouraged members to become active in providing suggestions for the assumptions that will guide the vision for the Mount Vernon District, and for their community's comments on the hopes and plans for the next 10-20 years.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. The next Planning and Zoning meeting is Monday, January, 5, 2009.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Public Safety Committee met December 4, 2008. Associations represented were Collingwood on the Potomac, Hollin Hills, Mt. Zephyr, Riverside Estates, Riverside Gardens, Waynewood, Wellington, Williamsburg Manor North.

The Chair began with a continuation of the review of the reductions offered by the various Fairfax County agencies in response to the anticipated funding shortfall for the FY 2010 Budget. The month there was a review of the LOBs of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court (JDR Court). The County Executive directed JDR Court to review its lines of business (LOBs) in detail to identify priorities, and to recommend budget reductions/cuts equivalent to 15% of its adopted FY 2009 budget. For JDR Court, the proposed reduction is \$3,398,081.

For FY 2008, the JDR Court represented 5% of the total public safety budget and had 312 total employees and 258 volunteers. The JDR Court processed over 15,000 new charges involving 8,358 individuals, supervised 1,000 new juvenile cases and 595 new adult cases on probation, and had 1,602 new placements to JDR Court residential facilities.

The proposed JDR Court reductions have been ranked by priority. If a service or program must be cut, JDR Court intends for the program with the lowest priority to be eliminated first.

Reduction Priority 1 – the Enterprise School Contract. The Enterprise School is a co-ed alternative day school which serves as a prevention program for up to 40 delinquent adolescents. Youth in this program are typically on suspension or have been expelled and have a history of poor academic performance or disruptive behavior in school. Loss of this contract would mean that these at-risk adolescents and their families would have fewer alternative school options and may be denied the resources which would enable them to improve their academic skills, build positive social attitudes and develop good decision making skills. The total net reduction from elimination of this program is \$330,000.

Reduction Priority 2 – Gang Intervention, Prevention, Education Contract. This service provides community outreach and services to youth who are involved with or at risk of becoming involved in gangs. Loss of this service means that the JDR Court will not be able to provide community and street outreach, individual intervention, volunteer monitoring, or employment opportunities to these at-risk youth. The total net reduction from elimination of this program is \$120,000.

Reduction Priority 3 – Youth Offender Treatment Services. This program provides timely and age appropriate intervention for children ages 9 to 13, charged with serious crimes, such as sexual offenses, property crimes, and assaults. Loss of this contract would mean no immediate access to age appropriate intervention, greater potential for further court involvement, a reduction in public safety, and a negative impact on families who cannot afford to pay for private treatment. The total net reduction from elimination of this service is \$82,000.

Reduction Priority 4 – Sex Offender Treatment Services. This service provides specialized treatment for youth and families before the JDR Court for offenses such as sexual assault, rape and sodomy. Services can be provided in the least restrictive and most cost effective method. Loss of this service would mean that the JDR Court would not be able to provide

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timely sex offender evaluations for dispositional hearings or to provide the specialized type of treatment that the offender requires. The total net reduction from elimination of these services is \$130,000.

Reduction Priority 5 – Supervised Visitation and Exchange Program. This program provides a safe, neutral, affordable and age appropriate setting for visitation and exchange of children in court referred cases. Families who participate in this program have a history of domestic violence, sexual abuse, drug use, mental illness and/or family dispute issues. Without this program, parents and children may be denied visitation due to lack of alternatives. The total net reduction from elimination of this program is \$106,525.

Reduction Priority 6 – Family Counseling Unit. This service provides counseling, educational groups, and family evaluations for approximately 500 court involved families each year, the majority involved in serious custody disputes and domestic violence, in addition to coordinating the Juvenile Drug Treatment program. Loss of this unit would have a negative impact on programs across the entire continuum of court services. This service could no longer be an option for the diversion of children at the earliest state of criminal behavior and judges would not have access to timely family evaluations. Also, elimination of this unit would mean no substance abuse education services at the residential programs. The total net reduction from elimination of this unit is \$614,865.

Reduction Priority 7 – Girls Probation House. This facility is a 12-bed highly structured, community based residential treatment program for court-involved girls who exhibit chronic behavior and delinquent problems. It serves 25 to 30 girls and their families each year. If this facility is closed, an inability to provide residential treatment in a local community setting will occur. Youth could be returned to their homes and the community without the intensive intervention these girls need and the risk of reoffending would remain high. The total net reduction from closure of this facility is \$833,910.

Reduction Priority 8 – Boys Probation House. This facility is a 22-bed community based residential treatment facility for male delinquent youth placed on probation or parole. It has a therapeutic program which is highly structured and designed to reduce chronic delinquent behavior and emphasize personal responsibility. The therapeutic program also has a strong family counseling component. Closure of this facility would result in youth not receiving the intensive residential intervention necessary for significant behavior change. In addition, family dysfunction would most likely continue and the risk of reoffending would remain high. The total net reduction from closure of this facility is \$1,180,781.

As with the Police Department reductions offerings, JDR Court was forced to offer its preventive services and retain funding for the mandated enforcement directed by the state and Fairfax County. The obvious result is that if these preventive services are ended, there will be a greater recidivism rate and the requirement to either jail minors or let them back out on the street without providing services to help them overcome their anti-social behavior.

The Chair then provided copies of the 'Criminal Justice Information Technology Annual Assessment Report' dated December 4, 2008. Three years ago the Fairfax County Community Criminal Justice Board (CCJB) through its Criminal Justice Information Technology Committee (CJ-ITECH) began work on how to recover from a disaster by developing an inventory of agency information systems and prioritizing which systems within each

agency will need to be recovered and made operational to continue necessary business operations. Almost all agencies have now integrated their technology disaster plan into each agency's overall COOP plan. During this past year CJ-ITECH members have begun to analyze information flows between the various CCJB IT systems to better identify and prioritize which IT systems should be restored according to a pre-determined schedule. This work will continue into 2009.

An update was provided on the effort to meet with Battalion Chief Roatch concerning proposed improvements to the providing of CERT training services. The meeting has been delayed due scheduling conflicts among the committee members who want to meet with Chief Roatch. It is now planned to schedule a meeting in January. He has agreed to come to the Mount Vernon District.

The chair gave an update on the Elaine McConnell Police and Transportation Operations Center (PSTOC). (PSTOC is located off West Ox Rd. near I-66 and the Fairfax County Parkway.) So far, the VDOT Traffic Operations Center has moved in from its old location off Columbia Pike in Arlington and is operational, the Virginia State Police Dispatcher has moved in and is operational, and the Fairfax County Police Forensics has moved in and is operational. The only major component that has not moved in is 9-1-1 services. It is expected that they will move in next summer. The PSTOC building came in on time and under budget!

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, January 8 in the Supervisor's Conference Rm., Mount Vernon Governmental Center. Our speaker will be Kurt Erickson, President of the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP). WRAP is public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington metropolitan area. Through public education, innovative health education programs, and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the area's alcohol-related traffic deaths consistently lower than the national average. WRAP, however, may best be known for its popular free cab ride service for would-be drunk drivers, SoberRide.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Strategic Planning Committee met on Monday, November 10, 2008 in Room B-43 of the Walt Whitman Intermediate School. In attendance were: Co-Chairs David Dale, Pat Rea and Katherine Ward; Planning Commissioner Earl Flanagan; John Byers; Bill DeMaso; Sheldon Hoenig and Frank Cohn.

The Committee addressed the problem of how the adopted Vision Statement can be implemented by the MVCCA. While the Vision Statement identifies the venues which formulate the policies, ordinances and laws involved, which structure the legal arrangements within our Commonwealth, essentially changes to the existing arrangements are effected through enabling legislation and modifications of the Comprehensive Plan. The process by which this is done can be extremely intimidating to the uninitiated. And this maybe the reason why the MVCCA has been primarily reactive rather than proactive in the past, as Committee Chairs felt unequipped to take proactive actions. It was pointed out that the County staff can provide assistance in training personnel in the methodology to affect change. Training sessions can be scheduled within Committees or can precede Council meetings.

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To assure that the Comprehensive Plan is kept current, Committees Chairs should be requested to formally review and update the existing Comprehensive Plan every two years. This process will also reveal if legislative action is needed, to provide the desired results. To assist this process, the Co-Chairs of the Council, should cite a concrete example how a request for a Comprehensive Plan was achieved, leading through the entire process from the idea for a specific change to the culmination of change within the Comprehensive Plan. Similarly, a concrete example should be documented showing how the Legislative Agenda of the Commonwealth Legislature is accessed. As an example, we have a current problem which requires legislative intervention, the need to secure a waiver for the 527 fees imposed on non-profit organizations such as the MVCCA. A successful legislative resolution of this problem would serve as an excellent example.

To secure the implementation of our Vision Statement, the current mindset of the MVCCA needs to be altered. The Council needs to be proactive. Our Vision Statement is designed to assist in this viewpoint change. Committees must understand that the adopted Vision Statement is not a 'feel good' piece of prose. It provides guidance for action to develop appropriate enabling legislation and Comprehensive Plan changes, in order to make a difference for the future. The existing Committee processes may have to be modified by increasing joint meetings held to address cross-committee problems and with experts invited to address groups of Committee Chairs as they depict the interrelationship of actions, stretching over the entire spectrum of faculties involved in the political process of the Commonwealth. It is just not enough to address and solve existing, current problems. Committee Goals need to be established which look to the future, as well as the lessons learned from past problems need to be used to lead to requirements for legislative action and changes to the Comprehensive Plan; this will assure that future needs are addressed.

There are many tools available to assist in this process:

- One way is to elicit a response to the statement: "There Ought To Be a Law!"
- Another way would be to develop our own MVCCA Comprehensive Plan wherein that document can be cited, as we support or reject proposals brought before the Council.
- A third way might be the establishment of a Mount Vernon Conservation District similar to, but broader than, the currently existing Huntington Conservation District which was established by the Board of Supervisors. While the official recognition of such an arrangement has benefits, a disadvantage maybe the need to draw in the County staff whenever a change is desired.

The Strategic Planning Committee must be prepared to assist in this process. It is not enough to take on our vision of five years hence. We must also envision how our District will or should look up to 20 years into the future. To develop a likely picture, we need to agree on certain 'Assumptions'. The Committee needs to identify these assumptions in order to facilitate the planning process. The assumptions used will transcend Committee boundaries while incorporating Committee fundamentals. This should be an immediate task. Before our next meeting, Committee members are charged to identify governing assumptions. We have started with two:

"The District's population will continue to age." This assumption should impact the goals developed by all of our Committees, as they adjust their targets to accommodate the needs of a larger, older population segment within our District.

"The Mount Vernon Hospital and Health Plex will remain viable for the next 20 years." This assumption will not only affect the Health and Human Services Committee, but should also impact the Budget, Consumer Affairs, Planning and Zoning and the Transportation Committees, as they plan for the future.

It is of course recognized that if any of our adopted assumptions change, our entire planning effort needs to be re-examined to accommodate the new insight. New requirements for legislative action and/or Comprehensive Plan changes will have to be identified and initiated.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 8, 2003, in Room B-43, Walt Whitman Intermediate School. The agenda will incorporate a review of proposed 'Assumptions.'

TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation Committee, MVCCA met on Monday, December 1, 2008 in the Library of the Walt Whitman Middle School. The meeting was chaired by Catherine M. Voorhees. Attending were representatives of 17 member citizen associations (The Fairfax/Huntington, Hollin Hall Village, Montebello, Mount Vernon Manor, Mount Vernon on the Potomac, Pavilions at Huntington Metro, Potomac Valley-River Bend, Riverside Estates, Southwood, Stratford Landing, Stratford on Potomac, Section IV, Sulgrave Manor, Waynewood, Wellington, Williamsburg Manor North, Woodland Park, Woodley Hills).

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

VDOT Slurry Application

The Hollin Hall Village CA representative noted that VDOT had hung door tags or flyers out to those on Shenandoah Road that a slurry application would occur at the end of October/beginning of November time frame. This slurry application did not occur. The Wellington CA representative discussed their community's experience with VDOT as being very responsive to the community after a slurry treatment was applied that was worse than the roads not being treated.

At the November Wellington CA meeting, the VDOT operation manager for the area, Steve Shannon, and a pavement engineer, Robert Wilson, answered most of the citizens' concerns. Steve Shannon's goal is to get all the neighborhoods paved, milled, etc. so that all citizens have the same type of road surface and the result is good, smooth roads. The Wellington community was taken by surprise because VDOT officials had been in negotiations with the Tauxemont community for a year and a half concerning their roads. However, VDOT mistakenly went outside the Tauxemont community and applied a tar and sand slurry that left a rough surface on the Wellington community. VDOT recognized that the applied slurry did not provide a good, smooth road surface and redid all of the Tauxemont and Wellington roads that were initially slurred with a tar and sand combination that gave a washboard effect to those driving on the road. Bicyclists were not able to ride their bikes on the streets to get to the Mt. Vernon bike trail.

The second application used a different type of slurry treatment that smoothed out the road surface. An example of the second application of the slurry treatment can be seen on Washington Avenue off of Wellington Road. During the VDOT meeting, the language used by VDOT as opposed to that used by the citizens resulted in misunderstandings. According to VDOT, a repavement is when they mill down a road to its substructure and then put down new asphalt. The Tauxemont and Wellington com-

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munities do not have curb and gutter, and VDOT does not like to mill and pave those streets. The transportation committee will invite Steve Shannon and other road maintenance personnel to a future meeting to learn more about the maintenance cycles of our road (every 10 years?), the allocation of resources (\$) for each county for maintenance, and why milling is not done in communities without curb and gutters because "infill" results in houses being built 2 feet above the existing grade so that the driveway has the proper slope according to VDOT regulations.

Transportation Goals for Richmond Highway

In 1991, the adopted Comprehensive Plan listed 9 items, in their order of importance, for accomplishment within the next 20 years to improve the flow of traffic on Richmond Highway. The adopted Comprehensive Language is shown with the bullet points. Unfortunately, at this time, only the first item (access to/from the City of Alexandria) appears to meet this goal. In order to go forward, the Transportation Committee reevaluated the priority order of this list and their recommendations are:

#1: Create the Funding Mechanism. Without money, improvements are not possible.

Funding Mechanism - In order to pay for the transportation improvements needed to support new development and redevelopment, create an impact fee, contribution formula, a special tax district or other mechanism to assess fees on any new commercial and residential projects along the Richmond Highway Corridor that involve an increase in density from present levels. South of Fort Belvoir, the creation of any funding mechanism should be coordinated with, or folded into, any Lorton Area Funding Plan being considered or adopted for that area. Develop standard formulas based upon formulas used elsewhere in Fairfax County.

#2: Identify key bottlenecks, such as the bridge at Dogue Creek, bridge at Walmart, etc. and work to widen those bottleneck areas, one area at a time, if necessary. Close curb cuts along Richmond Highway to limit access to signalized intersections etc.

Richmond Highway Widening and Access - **Widen to six travel lanes from the Buckman Road/Route 235 intersection to the Prince William County line. Limit access to the Richmond Highway main roadway between the Capital Beltway and the Occoquan River to signalized intersections**, grade-separated interchanges, and slip ramps from service roads to the maximum extent possible. Where necessary, realign intersecting streets to eliminate offset and angled intersections with Richmond Highway. (emphasis added).

#3 - Conduct the rail mass transit study to ease congestion and spur redevelopment along the Richmond Highway corridor.

Public Transportation - Establish regular bus service along Richmond Highway between the Huntington Metro station and the Lorton commuter rail station, to serve the needs of residents and businesses in the vicinity of Richmond Highway. Provide paved, pull-off bus loading areas separate from the travel way, and paved and covered waiting areas within the public right-of-way along the length of Richmond Highway. {In progress at some key intersections.} **Evaluate the long-term feasibility of using the median along Richmond Highway for development of a people mover, rail or bus rapid transit system.** (emphasis added).

#4 - Provide adequately marked and appropriately controlled crosswalks.

Pedestrian/Bicyclist Services - Provide trails within the public right-of-way along the length of Richmond Highway. Provide sidewalk access to the Richmond Highway main roadway between the Capital Beltway and the Occoquan River, where needed, to serve adjacent residential and commercial development. Provide adequately marked and appropriately con-

trolled crosswalks to encourage pedestrian/bicyclist movement and assure pedestrian/ bicyclist safety.

The Committee felt that the following Comprehensive Plan items should be addressed by the widening of Route 1 and the limiting of access only at signalized intersections (#2). With respect to traffic signalization, if Richmond Highway was programmed correctly so that traffic signals would work efficiently even with emergency vehicles and bus transponders that break the program, the traffic flow would be improved. However, the program and transponder technology should work together instead of resulting in mistimed traffic signals.

Service Roads - Develop and implement a Service Road Design Plan and Map for Richmond Highway between the Capital Beltway and the Occoquan River. Permit interparcel access distant from Richmond Highway, as substitute where a service road is not needed to complete an existing system, or would generate traffic problems. In developing the Service Road Design Plan, consider the desirability of one-way versus two-way service roads. Develop a Service Road Design Plan which provides for construction of the remaining section of service road where needed to serve commercial and residential development and elimination of perpendicular curb cuts to reduce marginal friction for through traffic, construction of slip ramps between intersections, signalization, and turn prohibitions. Construct service roads which intersect cross streets as far back from the main roadway on Richmond Highway as practical, connecting directly with Richmond Highway at intersections. Until such a Service Road Design Plan is adopted, all development or redevelopment of properties fronting on Richmond Highway should provide or should dedicate land for a service road, with appropriate setback of the service road from the main roadway at signalized intersections.

Traffic Signalization - Connect all traffic signals to a centrally controlled and performance monitored computer system. Minimize the addition of new traffic signals at any intersection currently without signals and encourage other alternatives for handling access to the main roadway on Richmond Highway. When new traffic signals are installed, consider the consolidation of existing traffic signals. Prohibit left hand turns onto and off of unprotected Richmond Highway intersections.

The Committee felt that a grade-separated interchange may only be appropriate at the Fairfax County Parkway to allow Fort Belvoir traffic to flow across to the Parkway.

Interchanges - Construct grade-separated interchanges to accommodate major turning movements onto and off of Richmond Highway only where such interchanges will not adversely impact on adjacent commercial or residential development and/or historic areas. Consider such interchanges, when constructed, on a north/south priority after the Fairfax County Parkway interchange is constructed.

New Business -The Southwood Civic Association representative requested that a member of VDOT discuss snow removal plans for our neighborhoods. What is the snow removal plan? The chair will discuss with Steve Shannon of VDOT when arranging a Transportation Committee meeting with Mr. Shannon.

Mt. Vernon Circle work appears complete, but why is the median that was built creating a narrow passageway for traffic going around the circle north to Alexandria. The chair noted that she thought that traffic was to avoid the narrow passageway so she drives in the wider drop-off area. Apparently, the median is supposed to be a traffic calming measure. But, does it work, or is it necessary?

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The next Transportation Committee meeting will be held on January 5, 2008 at 8 p.m. at the Walt Whitman Middle School library. Byron Johnston for the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project is our invited guest.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AFFORDABLE AND WORKFORCE HOUSING October 2008 Meeting

The Committee held its regular monthly meeting on October 23, 2008 at the Woodley Hills Estates Community Center. Community organizations represented were: Mason Hill, MVCCA Education Com., Riverside Estates, Stratford Landing, Stratford on the Potomac Sec. IV, and Woodley Hills Estates. Earl Flanagan MV Planning Commissioner also attended.

Mr. John Payne Deputy Director for Development and Real Estate FCRHA was the guest speaker. Mr. Payne provided a comprehensive overview of affordable housing projects throughout Fairfax County. He pointed to the success of the Coan Pond Residences, a 20-unit project of efficiency apartments for low and moderate income single residents located at the Pender Drive offices of the Department of Housing and Community Development. Although these units are fully occupied and there is a recognized need for additional units, the County has not built more of them.

The One-Penny-Fund that was supported by the MVCCA was reported to have preserved up to 2200 affordable housing units in the County. Mr. Payne also mentioned that a board is being formed to monitor the progress of the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. In answer to questions on planned use for surplus land in the County, some of which could be used for development of affordable housing, Mr. Payne indicated that as yet no directive has been given for their use. He pointed out that some of the limitations that impact further development includes: environmental restrictions, zoning limitations and the actual cost of land in the various areas.

With regard to of the increasing supply of foreclosed homes, Housing and Community Division (HCD) is assisting first-time homebuyers to purchase a foreclosed home through a Home Equity Loan Program (HELP) second trust. HELP loans provide shared- equity loans to new purchasers allowing them to afford a home with the FCRHA sharing in future equity returns on the property. Up to 100 homes are anticipated to be purchased by first-time homebuyers through this **Silver Lining** initiative. HCD and other County agencies will provide assistance and counseling. Members were reminded of the Fairfax County Park Authority workshop on North Hill scheduled for October 28, at the Hybla Valley Elementary School, at 7 p.m.

SCAWH—November 2008 Meeting

The Committee met on November 20 at the Woodley Hills Estates Community Center. Community organizations represented were: Collingwood on the Potomac, Hollin Hills Civic Assn., Stratford Landing, Stratford on the Potomac Sec. IV, Woodley Hills Civic Assn. and Woodley Hills Estates. Patrick Rea MVCCA Co-chair also attended.

In review of the October 23 minutes it was noted that by mistake Woodley Hills Civic Assn. was not listed among the organizations attending. This

was corrected. Co-chair Jeszenszky informed the committee that the next County presentation on the North Hill development would take place late December or early January. The Regional Housing Office expects to have information on the design of the manufactured units that are planned for the development.

Discussing the shortage of single resident efficiency units available in the County, like the Coan Pond Residences mentioned in presentation by Mr. John Payne of the FCRHA, the committee members focused on the zoning limitations that prevent construction of single occupancy units. The members discussed various ways the Committee could take action to bring about change that could allow alternatives such as use of basement apartments that meet safety criteria; modify zoning to permit constructing single units over decks in parking areas. The Committee will consider such modifications as it reviews the County's Comprehensive Plan. Joan McLellan and Robert Kinzer have agreed to make an initial review of the Comprehensive Plan for the committee. The Committee will also work on a list of issues to pursue in the coming year.

Joan McLellan updated members with a handout on a County public meeting on the environment scheduled on Dec. 1, 2008, 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center in Fairfax with remote testimony at the South County Center.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for **Monday, January 5, 2009** at 7 p.m., at the Mount Vernon Government Center.

Committee Resolutions

EDUCATION

Focus Change Request for Fairfax County's FY2010 Advertised Budget Plan

1 WHEREAS Fairfax County's Fiscal Year 2010 Advertised Budget Plan ("FY2010 Advertised Budget") will include a variety of expectations, presumptions and recommendations with respect to revenue sources ("Revenue Sources") and funding levels for County services ("Funding Levels") including but not limited to the transfer to Fairfax County Public Schools ("School Transfer"), and will be a major basis for public comment in eventual hearings before the Board of Supervisors ("BOS") as the BOS prepares to adopt a final FY2010 Budget Plan; and

2 WHEREAS according to guidance previously given by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors ("BOS") the FY2010 Advertised Budget will also include as part of Revenue Sources any change in residential and commercial real property tax rates (collectively "Tax Rate") needed to support the Funding Levels, including the School Transfer, and the Tax Rate so advertised will represent the highest rate which may be later adopted by the BOS; and

WHEREAS in recognition of serious budget deficit issues caused by general economic conditions, but particularly the decline in residential real estate assessments which historically is the major source of County revenue, the County and Fairfax County Public Schools ("FCPS") have conducted lines of business reviews ("Reviews") aimed at identifying cost savings and have jointly conducted a series of open public dialogues and provided on-line comment opportunities (collectively "Dialogues") allowing citizens to comment on County services and budget priorities and make suggestions on addressing the expected deficit; and

3 WHEREAS County and FCPS websites detail the comments and suggestions from the Dialogues and indicate that participating citizens generally encouraged continuing Reviews and identification of new revenue sources but also demonstrated both satisfaction with current County service levels with FCPS, public safety and certain social services such as mental health as particular priorities, and an understanding that Tax Rates (as distinguished from actual tax bills) would need to increase or other sources found to avoid serious consequences to County services and to FCPS; and

4 WHEREAS in view of information from the Dialogues, public discourse on budgetary priorities and the appropriate balance of services and tax burden would be enhanced and would provide superior input to the BOS in adopting the eventual FY2010 Budget, if the FY2010 Advertised Budget included Funding Levels necessary to, at a minimum, maintain all current County services, including FCPS, including additional costs from growth, employee benefits and ordinary expectable compensation increases, other rising expenses or decline in state or federal funding, as well as necessary enhancements, together with the Revenue Source enhancements, including Tax Rates, which would be needed to support and balance those Funding Levels;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, in order to improve and enhance public discourse on budgetary priorities and the appropriate balance between County services and tax burden, respectfully request the Fairfax County Board of

Supervisors to direct the County Executive to include in the FY2010 Advertised Budget Plan at a minimum those Funding Levels and Revenue Enhancements, including Tax Rates, necessary to maintain both County and Fairfax County Public Schools services at current levels, including any additional costs related to growth, employee benefit and reasonable compensation increases, other rising costs or decline in state or federal funding, as well as any needed enhancements to services.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The following is a proposed amendment, to be added as the last 'Objective' in the Vision Statement, as ratified by the MVCCA Council in its November meeting:

"Work collaboratively with other organizations, such as but not limited to, SFDC and Mt Vernon/Lee Chamber of Commerce to find areas of mutual interest that will enhance the quality of life in our District."

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, December 17, 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

Introduction of new MV Station Commander,
Capt. David Moyer
Member Association Representatives' Time
MV Supervisor's Time
Other Elected Representatives and Public Time

Adjournment

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

MVCCA Board—January 8, 7:30 p.m. at MVGC—SUPV

Comm	Date	Time	Place	Chair
AWH	1/5	7:00	MVGC	Jeszenszky/McCormick
BUDG	TBD	7:30	WWMS	D. Voorhees
COAF	1/6	7:30	WWMS	Cox
EDUC	1/7	8:00	WWMS	Harbeck
E&R	1/7	7:00	SCGC	Plummer
H/HS	1/6	7:00	IMVH-Engl	Cleveland
PL/Z	1/5	7:30	WWMS-LH	Co-Chair Dale, acting
PSAF	1/8	7:30	MVGC	Shawkey
SP	1/12	8:00	WWMS, B-43	Cohn
TRAN	1/5	8:00	WWMS	C. Voorhees

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