



Mount Vernon
Council
of Citizens'
Associations

Record

Volume XLII, No. 6, June 2010

MVCCA GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING

May 26, 2010 8 p.m.

Walt Whitman School, Jack Knowles Lecture Hall

Meeting called to order at 8:06

Presiding: Al Bornmann.

Attending: Co-chairs - Al Bornmann ; Committee Chairs Louise Cleveland, Queenie Cox, Judy Harbeck, Betsy Martin, Catherine Voorhees, David Voorhees, Kahan Dhillon. Guest Secretary: Tonda Phalen.

Representatives from: Collingwood on the Potomac; Collingwood Springs; The Fairfax; Hollin Glen: Hollin Hall Village; Hollin Hills; Huntington; Huntington Club; Mount Vernon Civic; Mount Vernon Manor; Mount Vernon on the Potomac; New Gum Springs;

Newington Forest; River Towers; Southwood; Stratford Landing; Stratford on the Potomac; Stratford on the Potomac IV; United Voice at Kings Crossing; Waynewood; Wellington; Wellington Heights; Wessynton.

Minutes from previous Council meeting were approved as published in the Record.

Treasurer's report was accepted as published in the Record.

Supervisor's Time: Brent distributed a handout. Catherine Voorhees inquired about Transportation 6 year fund; county has only \$1,989 budgeted, a 99% reduction! See handout. Greg Vanortem, Collingwood Springs, inquired about Cell Tower at Sandburg; Brent responded that the issue is still going through a 2232 hearing. Katherine Ward inquired about Penn Daw study approved on May 11; Brent stated that the study will have members of Lee and Mt. Vernon Districts and we are awaiting staff guidance on appointment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance – Minutes as published. Next meeting is June 2.

Consumer Affairs – Minutes as published. No meeting in June, but will update next month on WICKY.

Education – Minutes as published. School board adopted budget with reduced funding, so additional fees will be required for sports, testing, etc. Discussion regarding actual curriculum taught in schools and how to find that out. Next meeting is June 2.

Environment & Recreation - Minutes as published. Next meeting is June 2.

Health and Human Resources – Minutes as published. Next meeting is June 1.

Planning & Zoning – Minutes as published. Next meeting is on June 7.

Public Safety – Minutes as published. Next meeting is June 3.

Transportation – Minutes as published. Next meeting is June 7.

Special Committee on Affordable and Workforce Housing – Minutes as published. Next meeting is May 27.

Special Committee for Strategic Planning – No published minutes. Listening Tour was launched with four stops in May. Huntington Club and Huntington Creek representatives shared their

MVCCA BOARD

Co-Chairs	Al Bornmann	703-360-5964
	David Plummer.....	703-360-7964
	Robert Reynolds	703-439-7490
Treasurer	Brenda Hebert.....	703-615-3947
Secretary	Carol Coyle	703-780-7955
Editor	<i>vacant</i>	
BUDG	David Voorhees.....	703-765-7551
COAF	Queenie Cox	703-360-2414
EDUC	Judy Harbeck	703-780-1883
E&R	Betsy Martin	703-360-0691
H/HS	Louise Cleveland.....	703-780-9151
PL/Z	David Dale	703-765-8247
PSAF	Dallas Shawkey.....	703-360-2185
TRANS	Catherine Voorhees	703-765-7551
SCAWH	John Jeszenszky.....	703-799-9635
LRSP	Kahan Dhillon	703-768-8437
FCFCA	Karen Pohorylo	703-780-7825
SFDC	Karen Pohorylo	703-780-7825

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very positive experience with the Listening Tour. Next meeting is on June 14.

SFDC - created fundraising committee, Karen Pohorylo is the chair.

Federation - Nomination committee has been established for new officers. Karen Pohorylo is on that committee. Anyone interested in serving as an officer of the Federation should contact Karen.

Gala – Success for purpose of gala, but lost money because of space rental and additional costs. At least 50 people were in attendance. Survey results of attendees is available; contact Queenie. Date for 2011 is April 30 and will be held at Mt. Vernon Country Club.

New association president Kendra Chambers of Hollin Hall introduced.

Katherine Ward inquired whether hard copy of Record brought more people to meetings.

Larry Zaragoza commended Betsy Martin for looking at air quality in the Mt. Vernon District.

John Skudlarek, Mt. Vernon Civic, discussed peculiar paving in his community.

Greg Vanorten, Collingwood Springs, further discussed cell towers.

No Resolutions

Meeting adjourned at 9:20!

— Carol Coyle, Secretary

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BUDGET AND FINANCE

Minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 2, 2010 at 7:30 pm
Walt Whitman Middle School Lecture Hall

Present: David Voorhees (Committee Chair), Al Bornmann (MVCCA Co-chair), John Jeszenszky (Chair of Special Committee for Affordable and Workforce Housing), Hollin Hall Village, Riverside Gardens, Stratford Landing, Stratford on the Potomac, Sect. 4, Tauxemont, Wellington Estates, Williamsburg Manor.

The guest speakers at our meeting were Mary Stevens, Deputy Director Fairfax County Dept. of Housing and Community Development and Tom Fleetwood, Fairfax County Strategic Planner. The speakers outlined Fairfax County's new Housing Blueprint which aims to eliminate homelessness in the county in 10 years. Current estimates will require 2,650 additional units of housing over the next 10 years. The 2011 county budget includes \$4.1 million to be used for the housing. This funding will be used to pay for three capital projects including the Lewinsville project, \$3,000,000 for rehab/replacement of the Lincolnia Senior assisted living center and \$500,000 for North Hill project predevelopment.

The county survey conducted in 2009 counted 1,730 people living in the county as homeless.

It was also noted that the county has seen an increase in the number of people using federal vouchers to obtain housing due to those coming to the county from other areas seeking jobs.

The next Budget and Finance Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, September 1, 2010 at 7:30 at the principal's conference room at Walt Whitman Middle School. There will be no meetings in July and August.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Consumer Affairs met on Tuesday, May 25th at 7:30 p.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School in the Principal's Conference room. A member association, Ron Altemus (Potomac Valley/River Bend), provided an informative presentation about creating and maintain-

Treasurer's Report January 1, 2010 through May 31, 2010

	Actual Receipts/ Disb.	Budget	Difference
Beginning balance Jan. 1, 2010	\$ 11,219.16		
Receipts			
Dues-Current Members	3,804.00	4,000.00	(196.00)
Dues—New Members	84.00	200.00	(116.00)
Gala Income	2785.00	4,100.00	(1,315.00)
MM Interest Income	0.22		
Drawn from reserves	-	-	-
Total Receipts	\$ 6,673.22	\$ 8,300.00	\$ (1,627.00)
Disbursements			
Record Production	675.00	2,200.00	(1,525.00)
Postage	-	-	-
Administrative	44.00	500.00	(456.00)
Gala Expenses	4,059.71	3,200.00	859.71
Web Site	-	600.00	(600.00)
New Member Marketing	-	200.00	(200.00)
Insurance	660.00	700.00	(40.00)
Strategic Planning Meetings	-	-	-
Student of the Year Stipends	951.75	900.00	51.75
Membership Meeting Exp	100.00	-	100.00
Training	45.00		
Total Disbursements	\$ 6,535.46	\$ 8,300.00	\$ (1,809.54)
Ending Balance May 31, 2010	\$ 11,356.92		
Wachovia Checking acct bal	\$ 6,356.70		
Wachovia Money Market bal	5,000.22		*Money Market acct. opened 4/26/10.
Total Money Available at 5/31/2010:	\$ 11,356.92		

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ing a wiki. The presentation included a "hands-on" session for attendees. A "draft" wiki for Consumer Affairs was created and a few of us joined to obtain a sense of "look and feel." The wiki will not be public until certain questions on liability are resolved. We hope to resolve those concerns and will continue to develop the wiki during July so that we will be able to "invite" other member associations to not only join but to review and provide feedback on how to improve the wiki.

Our next meeting will be a webinar on Tuesday, September 7th at 7:30 p.m. Have a safe summer!

EDUCATION

The MVCCA Education Committee met at 8 pm on June 2, 2010, in the media center of Whitman Middle School. Associations represented were: Sulgrave Manor, Waynewood, Pinewood Lakes, Potomac Valley Riverbend, Huntington, Williamsburg Manor North, Stratford on Potomac IV, and Riverside Estates. Citizens from Hollin Meadows, Hybla Valley Farms and Milway Meadows also attended as did Co-chair Al Bornmann.

Prior to the main presentation, a member spoke briefly about an initiative to develop a local "Youth Build" program to address the needs of youths beyond the assistance of local schools (expulsion, aging out, dropping out). The program provides mentoring, job training particularly in the construction trades, and other services. Local proponents are seeking a federal grant and may ask for support from the Council and Committee later.

The main part of the meeting was a presentation by Assistant Superintendent Scott Brabrand on the new Priority Schools Program (PSP) and School Support Composite Index (SSCI) which is intended to replace Project Excel, Focus and other existing programs in terms of delivery of additional services and resources to struggling schools and students.

Brabrand emphasized that for elementary schools and middle schools, staffing consideration based on poverty percentages is unaffected. Rather, PSP is an add-on for schools identified pursuant to the SSCI and/or are in "sanction" under NCLB. In addition, the SSCI adds other levels of evaluation including limited English percentages and numbers of SOL failures to identify schools for additional help.

The result for our area is a mixed bag: some schools such as Woodley Hills and Hollin Meadows will lose substantial resources while others such as Washington Mill, Whitman and Sandburg may get additional specific resources.

The Committee expressed concern that there had not been adequate opportunity for the public and for schools to understand the changes, identify problems or express objections. This is in

contrast to the careful pre-establishment evaluation of Project Excel and the other programs about to be scrapped.

Some concerns raised by the Committee included (1) the SSCI methodology may unfairly advantage large schools and schools with high ESOL populations over smaller schools with other high minority achievement issues; (2) the SSCI methodology may create "Catch-22" disincentives in that score improvement results in loss of the resources that created the improvement while school demographic challenges continue unabated; (3) while the Committee has often urged better professional development and greater assistance from central offices in identifying problems and promulgating best practices, the PSP may have too much emphasis on teacher and principal training and not enough on actual staff assistance in the classroom.

Brabrand indicated that he would communicate concerns and that there would likely be considerable tweaking as the changes go forward.

However, as he noted and the Committee is aware, the impetus for the programs came from inadequate resources to meet the needs of all schools experiencing high achievement gaps and large numbers of struggling students and failed SOLs. Thus the effort seems to be to try a way to spread resources more thinly but reach additional schools in a new way with hopefully positive results overall.

While the Committee recognizes the need to re-evaluate programs and find innovative cost effective ways to meet student needs, it has grave doubts that the PSP and the SSCI will have the desired results.

The Committee may meet in July but the date and program are uncertain. The Chair will e-mail notice of any July meeting. Other wise the Committee will next meet on September 1, 2010.

ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION

The committee met on 2 June 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 219 of the South County Building. Present were Betsy Martin (chair), David Plummer (MVCCA co-Chair), Collingwood-on-the-Potomac, Riverside Estates, Spring Bank, Stratford Landing, Tauxemont, Wellington, Wessynton, Williamsburg Manor, and Woodley Hills. A reporter from the Mount Vernon Gazette also attended.

Air Quality Monitoring in Mount Vernon District: Charles Turner (Director, Office of Air Quality Monitoring, VA Department of Environmental Quality) explained changes in Virginia's air monitoring network. In the past, Fairfax County has funded 4 air quality monitors, in addition to those run by the VA DEQ and required by EPA to monitor air quality for the Washington DC MSA (metropolitan statistical area). Last year the county announced that it was getting out of the air quality monitoring business, which means that the Mount Vernon ozone monitor will cease operation in July. This

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has caused community concern, because Northern Virginia exceeds the federal standard for ozone (75 parts per billion), and the Mount Vernon monitor historically has shown the highest ozone readings in Northern Virginia.

Mr. Turner addressed these concerns, stating that ozone readings from the Lee Park and Mount Vernon monitors are so highly correlated that they are essentially redundant, and that the differences between the two monitors are not statistically significant. Both monitors (and all Northern VA monitors) show too-high levels of ground-level ozone, which causes respiratory problems. Thus, the VA DEQ believes that the Lee Park ozone monitor will provide adequate information about ozone levels in our area. In addition, this monitoring station is owned by the state and includes monitors for other pollutants, so it is more efficient for DEQ to run and maintain.

Mr. Turner pointed out that our area has more ozone monitors than are required by federal regulations (the Washington MSA has 18, including the four that have been run by Fairfax County, but is only required to have three). Other monitors that produce redundant information are also being eliminated.

Mr. Turner also briefed the committee on the changes being made by EPA in the air quality monitoring system. First, standards will become stricter for ozone and other air pollutants monitored by EPA. In addition, criteria for where air quality monitors are located are being revised, so that monitors must be placed closer to pollutant sources, and (in the case of ozone) monitors must be added in rural areas. The expansion of the air quality monitoring network is another factor in the VA DEQ's plan to reduce the number of redundant monitors, in order to make better use of scarce resources.

By July 1st, the VA DEQ submits its annual network plan to the EPA for review and approval.

Mr. Turner also briefly explained special studies of air quality done by VA DEQ at the request of communities with a particular air quality issue or problem, because they are located close to e.g., a dump or fertilizer plant. Special studies in our area would be requested of DEQ's Northern Regional Office (www.deq.virginia.gov/regions/northern.html).

The committee's questions and comments focused mainly on the statistical basis for the conclusion that the Lee Park monitor is sufficient and the Mount Vernon monitor can be eliminated without loss of information. Some on the committee continue to be concerned that the Mount Vernon monitor has historically provided the highest values (and hence was designated the "design value") and should be kept, while others pointed out that the differences were very small. There was concern about the precedent set by eliminating the monitor with the highest value. Mr. Turner pointed out that all of the monitors show non-attainment, which will only grow more dramatic when the standard is made more stringent. Another concern was that the Mount Vernon monitor provides data going back

20 years, a longer time series than Lee Park. Mr. Turner noted that the data will be kept and could be analyzed in conjunction with more recent series. (Note: ozone monitors in Alexandria, Arlington, and McLean do have 20-year data series which could support analyses of trends.)

E&R committee members were asked for their individual opinions on the air quality monitor issue. Most were satisfied that VADEQ had made its case for not continuing the Mount Vernon monitor and that Lee Park would provide adequate information. Some expressed the view that resources could better be devoted to the additional monitoring that will soon be required, and that E&R should devote its attention to the uses and policies that are developed by the state to correct problems. Some regretted losing "our" monitor, and a question was raised about what will be done with the Mount Vernon monitoring equipment (sold? Used for research?).

Updates:

- Martin Tillet (Spring Bank), E&R's representative to the Long Range Strategic Planning committee, reported that the LRSP has met with just a few citizens' associations, with more planned in the summer and fall. So far, feedback is very consistent: groups want metro down Rte 1, and redevelopment on Richmond Hwy. Fairfax County has issued a proposed policy plan amendment concerning conditions in which disturbances to Environmental Quality Corridors may be acceptable. Paul Phelps (Hollin Hills) volunteered to review it. A draft resolution will be distributed in advance of the next meeting for consideration by the committee.

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

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the E&R committee is July 7 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 219, South County Government Center.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

The MVCCA Health and Human Services Committee (HHS) met on Tuesday, June 1, at 7:30 PM in Conference Room C/D of Inova Mount Vernon Hospital with South County Regional Director for the Dept. of Human Services Systems Management *Dr. Telly Whitfield*, focusing on progress in neighborhood and community programs in our area in the past year and on the extensive reorganization anticipated in FY 2011 (which begins July 1).

Participating were representatives from MVCCA members Collingwood on Potomac, Hollin Glen, Hollindale, Hollin Hills, Potomac Valley-River Bend, Riverside Estates, Stratford on Potomac-Sec. 4, Tauxemont, and Wellington. Also attending was Gerald Fill of Connection News.

Dr. Whitfield provided members with several informational perspectives on the reorganization:

(1) A County map depicting "Density of Basic Needs Requests" (based on the calls to Coordinated Services Planning)

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along with a more detailed view of our own Human Services Region I, where 7 zones of intense needs appear along the length of the Route 1 corridor;

(2) an organizational diagram of the reconfigured Fairfax County Human Services System that reflects cost-saving consolidation of 2 departments and a heightened emphasis on "Cross-system Infrastructure Support" among the remaining 8 County human services departments and also among the many public and private agencies of the broad "Service Delivery Partner Network";

(3) a presentation outlining goals for each of 4 other County "Human Services Strategic Focus Areas" for 2010-2012: Children's Services, Health Access, Affordable and Stable Housing, and Long-term Care; and

(4) an Agency Reorganization Update for the consolidation of two departments (Community and Recreation Services / Human Services Systems Management) into the new Dept. of Neighborhood and Community Services. The consolidation has cut in half the number of division managers, saving over \$1 million, while "combining the strengths of the two agencies" and offering hope that it "maintains and/or enhances services by pooling resources" from the agencies and their private partners in the communities they serve. With respect to service delivery and presence in our Region I neighborhoods, Whitfield hopes it will put "more boots on the ground" where they are most needed. The director for the new agency will be named by the start of the new fiscal year (July 1), with a goal of completing the transition and training for all staff by the September start of the school year.

Whitfield described progress this past year in building neighborhood pride and community resilience in community centers through participation of children, youth and seniors. He thanked citizens for their strong support for restoring funds for crucial community services (not only human services agencies) such as the middle school resource officers, who become trusted adults and much-needed mentors for youth. He expects Neighborhood and Community Services to be working hard, along with our local nonprofits, to meet the special challenges that come with economic uncertainty.

Whitfield commented that the focus areas recently selected by the HHS Committee for attention in coming months (please see the HHS Report in the May MVCCA RECORD) are a "perfect fit" with the County's own analysis of needs and strategic focus in the next two years.

On June 2, several committee members participated in the Route 1 Task Force for Human Services, hearing Director Paula Sampson of the County's Department for Housing and Community Development present the basic goals and FY 2011 funding priorities of the Housing Blueprint and also engaging with Supervisor Hyland in a brainstorming session on what human services priorities for advocacy should be for the "next decade" of this forum, now in its 35th year.

MEETINGS ON HUMAN SERVICES

Tuesday, June 15, 7-9:30 PM, "NEXUS—On Successful Strategies" meets at Walt Whitman Middle School in the Media Center.

At this 4th Round Table sponsored by the Advisory Board of the (newly renamed) Joe and Fredona Gartlan Center for Community Mental Health, outstanding presenters engage in "Building Together—Better Mental Health Services for Children and Youth."

Tuesday, July 6, 7:30 PM MVCCA Health and Human Services Committee meets, in Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, focus T/B/A.

Please consult www.mvcca.org, Health and Human Services Committee page, for links to our annual summaries of monthly reports and to informational resources for Fairfax County health and human services as well as for Inova Mount Vernon Hospital.

PLANNING & ZONING

Minutes of the June 7, 2010 Planning & Zoning Committee meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 and was attended by representatives from the following member associations: Collingwood Springs, Crosspointe, Hollin Hall Village, Hollin Hills, Huntington Club, Mount Vernon Civic, Mount Zephyr, Riverside Estates, Riverside Gardens, Spring Bank, Stratford Landing, Sulgrave Manor, Wellington, Wessynton Homes, and Williamsburg Manor North. There were two new land use cases and one resolution passed.

First, the Committee had a presentation by Milestone Communications on their application for a cell phone tower at Sandburg Middle School. The proposal has two different possible locations on the school grounds. One is positioned next to the fields and would look (vaguely) like a standard monopole among the light stations. The second location is closer to the building and would look (vaguely) like a very large evergreen tree. The Sandburg school principal was present and spoke in favor of the proposal. If built, the school would receive one-time payments of \$15,000 per carrier (currently two are contracted) plus \$1,800 per year after that. Milestone will be holding additional information sessions for the surrounding communities and the school community via the PTSA. No vote was taken pending the decisions of the communities and the determination of which pole location and style would be implemented.

Next, the Committee heard a short review presentation on the Inova Lorton Healthplex rezoning application (RZ/FDP 2009-MV-023). Inova has presented before and returned primarily for a vote. The traffic issues appear to be resolved; additional buffering has been included; the emergency entrance was redesigned so that ambulances won't need to back up thereby preventing the beep-beep-beep noise; and the limits of clearing and grading no longer encroach upon VDOT owned property. The plan includes 28% tree cover and 56% open space. When built, the healthplex will provide needed medical services to the Lorton area and will contribute to the financial health of the Mt. Vernon Hospital. The Committee voted to support the rezoning.

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The meeting adjourned at 9:30. The next meeting is Monday, July 12, 2010, at 7:30pm in the Jack Knowles Lecture Hall of Whitman Middle School. Note that this is one week later than normal due to the July 4 holiday.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Associations represented: Hollin Hills, Riverside Estates, Stratford, and Stratford on the Potomac Section 4.

Public Safety Committee Chair Dallas Shawkey was out of town, so MVCCA Co-Chair Al Bornmann chaired the meeting. Officers C. J. Burbrink and R. R. Lazisky of the Franconia District Station gave a presentation on the Springfield Mall Police Officer Positions. Officer Burbrink began the presentation by stating that the duties and responsibilities of police mall officers include:

- Responding to any calls for service from stores or citizens on or around the mall property;
- Investigating associated crimes that would normally be handled by a major crimes detective;
- Acting proactively by vehicle and foot patrol inside the mall and parking areas; and
- Serving as a liaison between the police department, county leadership, and mall management.

Officer Burbrink stated that two officers are permanently assigned to Springfield Mall and their schedules are configured for maximum coverage and officer safety. The police officers may be in uniform or wearing street clothes. Throughout the year, auxiliary officers supplement and assist these two officers. During the holiday season, additional officers are assigned to patrol the shopping center as part of holiday retail and anti-theft (RAT) teams.

In addition to the Fairfax County police officers that patrol the shopping center, Springfield mall retains its own private contract security through Securitas Security Services USA, Inc. The private security officers are assigned to the interior of the mall as well as to the parking lots and one security officer is dedicated to monitoring the security cameras and telephones 24 hours per day. Both the police and security officers receive training on the relevant statutes applicable to shoplifting. However, the private security officers have no police powers or arrest authority and must contact the police during an incident.

Officer Burbrink also reported that the Fairfax County police officers participate in bi-weekly meetings with mall management and security supervisors. Although Springfield Mall is private property, the mall management has granted the police department the authority to enforce selected traffic and parking violations on the property.

The police officers noted that some stores are reluctant to prosecute shoplifters. The various stores have their own rules and regulations governing shoplifters or calling the police and others limit the value on which they can prosecute. For example, there are

some stores that will not notify the police unless the stolen merchandise is over \$500, because they believe that an employee's time is worth more to the company in the store than being in court. Furthermore, other stores are concerned with potential liability issues that can arise from dealing with a shoplifter and prefer to avoid potential injury to any parties and avoid such situations.

Officer Burbrink also reported that at no cost, Springfield Mall provides the Fairfax County Police Department, a large store to use as a police substation inside the mall. The space is located in the lower level, directly outside of Macy's Department Store. From that office, the Fairfax County police officers who patrol the mall have access to the Fairfax County police computer network, which is also equipped with direct access to video feeds from the mall security. The substation also has facilities to process prisoners and evidence, which minimizes police time away from the mall, and areas to interview suspects or witnesses.

Officer Beckett then discussed the concept of organized retail crime, which refers to professional shoplifting, cargo theft, retail crime rings, and other organized crime occurring in retail environments. All aspects of the retail industry can be victims including major retailers, suppliers of electronic equipment, grocery stores, drug stores, and the freight industry. Officer Beckett specifically mentioned that shoplifters in Springfield Mall often use large, specially-lined shopping bags to hold stolen merchandise, which will not trigger the sensors located at the entrance doors. He then passed around examples of such bags. Reports of these incidents occur approximately once per month and can involve as much as \$40,000 of missing merchandise. In such instances, merchants often notice whole displays of missing clothing and occasionally observe the crime.

The next Public Safety meeting will begin at 7:30pm Thursday, July 1 in Community Rm. #3 at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center.

TRANSPORTATION

The MVCCA Transportation Committee met on Monday, June 7, 2010 in the Library of the Walt Whitman Middle School. The meeting was chaired by Catherine M. Voorhees. Attending were our guest speaker and representatives of 17 member citizen associations (The Fairfax, Hollin Hall Village, Huntington, Montebello, Mt. Vernon Manor, Mt. Vernon on the Potomac, Mt. Zephyr, Potomac Valley-Riverbend, Riverside Estates, Riverside Gardens, Southwood, Stratford on the Potomac, Section IV, Tauxemont, Waynewood, Williamsburg Manor North, Woodland Park, Woodley Hills). In addition, a reporter from the Mount Vernon Gazette was present.

The May 2010 minutes of the Transportation Committee, as written in the Record, were approved.

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Guest Speaker - Phillip Ellis, Sierra Club Sustainable Metro DC Coordinator

The Sustainable Metro DC campaign (SMDC) is the voice of 17,000 Sierra Club members in the Northern Virginia/Suburban Maryland/DC area, advocating for a more balanced transportation system that respects pedestrian and bicycle users and prioritizes investment in transit. The SMDC has a 10-member steering committee that focuses on providing rail service on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, Bus Rapid Transit and Smart growth (business/residential). Thus, the Sustainable Metro DC campaign envisions a Metropolitan Washington region where our transportation systems and community design are part of the solution to declaring our independence from oil, not part of the problem.

Mr. Ellis wanted to introduce SMDC to the Transportation Committee and to explore mutual interests. He is working on 2 projects that he wanted to share with us: 1) a Council of Government report entitled Region Forward and 2) Metro Funding.

SMDC concerns regional planning using both smart transportation growth (i.e., job location vs. residence location) and Metro funding. For example, most of the growth in Fairfax County was in the west where it was necessary to build new infrastructure to move those in the east to the west thereby resulting in the cutting down of tree canopy. Smart growth would allow areas to grow while not requiring new roads to move people to new jobs.

Metro funding - last year Metro was \$189 M in deficit. Thus, in order to balance Metro's budget, the proposed fix was to cut service (severely) and to raise fares (significantly). SMDC created the Fairshare Campaign where riders would have to pay more for Metro, but they would experience less service cuts. SMDC also helped Metro ask local jurisdictions to increase their metro funding support. While Metro was severely under funded, the recession made things much worse. The Metro Board of Directors has approved fare increases and final approval is expected on June 24, 2010. These fare increases include a peak of rush-hour surcharge, in addition to increases to base fares (e.g., base fares will increase to \$1.60 with a \$.20 peak-of-the-peak surcharge). The rationale is that government employees get subsidized for riding Metro and thus, the increase in fares should not be a problem. This coupled with no service cuts for the next fiscal year should provide adequate Metro service.

Regional Planning - Comprehensive guide for regional planning is set forth in the Washington Council of Governments (COG) 2050 Coalition report entitled "Region Forward". While the members from Northern Virginia, Suburban Maryland and DC recognize that the ability to effect transportation in the area, the vision set forth in the report does not tackle how to move to a transit oriented development region.

The Federal government is changing the way it is distributing grant money to promote an integrated regional plan. The focus is on plans that integrate environment, transportation, housing and commercial developments. Both the Sierra Club and the COG are mirroring the Federal focus when reviewing our shared priorities. There is a spirit of cooperation between transportation and housing.

The next meeting for the HUD sustainable communities task force will be held on June 15th from 2:00pm-4:00pm at the Council of Government building in DC. Sustainable communities are about using limited funds to improve our transit systems so that people can move along our roadways. Long commutes are less attractive to the public. Thus, sustainable communities is about developing communities with better transportation options.

Question: For about 10 years (or longer), the MVCCA council and the transportation committee have been advocating transit down the Richmond Highway corridor. A U.S. Route 1 (Richmond Highway) transit study (rail to Fort Belvoir) was funded at one point, but the study was never conducted and the money is long gone. Can SMDC help us?

Answer: Yes; SMDC goes where the public interest is, especially concerning transportation system extension. Stewart Schwartz (Coalition of Smarter Growth) informed the SMDC that the public along the Richmond Highway corridor wanted smart growth after he attended the MVCCA's public work meetings held to obtain what attendees envisioned for Richmond Highway.

Question: Does SMDC focus on trails for pedestrians and bicyclists?

Answer: Yes; Trails are our bread & butter and safety is always a factor in developing communities.

Discussion:

There does not appear to be interest on developing US Route 1 with high-rise, corporate buildings. There was one developer that wanted to redevelop King's Crossing, but for whatever reason, that folded and now U.S. Route 1 is getting a second Wal-Mart. While the Mt. Vernon citizens may want redevelopment, it appears that there is no political support for the desired land use component.

There are disparate voices with conflicting interests, and the demographics of the US Route 1 corridor have been a deterrent to corporate investment. Basically, affordable housing does not attract corporate businesses that produce well-paid jobs, but does attract Wal-Mart types of business. Unfortunately, all governments (federal, state, local) have limited funds, and corporations have to see profit potential in order to justify relocating to the Richmond Highway (US Route 1) corridor.

Mr. Ellis: Government grant money is available to help planning.

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Transportation Chair: The MVCCA would be interested in learning how to obtain Federal grant money to improve the Richmond Highway/US Route 1 corridor. Since BRAC is coming, this is an economic opportunity that both the Lee and Mount Vernon magisterial districts, as well as Fairfax County, should embrace. Businesses that will support BRAC agencies will need transportation infrastructure (either rail service or dedicated rapid bus service). As a result of drawing BRAC agencies to the area should attract higher-end retail than those that are currently willing to locate to our area.

The transportation committee and the MVCCA have been focusing on this "planning" problem for about 20 years. In fact, Fairfax County created a Richmond Highway Commercial Revitalization District in 1998, but little progress has been made on changing the commercial strips to a revitalized transportation road with businesses relocating to US Route 1 that would attract higher-end retail.

Mr. Ellis: The SMDC wants to cooperate with transportation committee and will work with past studies that include, among others, Fairfax County pedestrian staffer, Chris Wells' bus stops and the centerline study where a centerline was never established for our section of U.S. Route 1.

The Mount Vernon magisterial district has the Potomac river, federal and private parks, and should be an attractive area. Perhaps, these features have not been leveraged enough in past requests for redevelopment of the Richmond Highway corridor. While a number of studies have been conducted, it is unfortunate that no centerline was established for US Route 1 on our section due to the lack of a mass transit study. That is, the elusive mass transit study that the MVCCA has been requesting for years may be holding up revitalization of US Route 1.

Mr. Ellis: There has been a lot of growth in this (DC Metro) area over past 20 years (most of which was in the western part of Fairfax County and along I-270) and there will be significant growth over next 20 years. The DC Metro area will grow faster than other parts of the United States because job growth is here. Mr. Ellis referred to the Region Forward report, which can be found at <http://www.greaterwashington2050.org/> on the Internet.

5. Updates on Road Projects in our Area

5a. **BRAC/US Route 1** - According to Congressman Moran's aide, they are working hard to protect the \$150 Million dollars appropriated for widening of US Route 1 for better access to the new Fort Belvoir Hospital and are very optimistic that appropriate language will be added to the FY2010 Supplemental Appropriations Bill to ensure that the money is used for widening US Route 1. Congressman Moran's aide explained that the current language does not have a lapsing time period, but they need to write language in the FY2010 Supplemental Appropriations Bill because they realized too late that the original language should have been added to

a military construction bill and Congressman Moran is pushing the language to other legislators who they believe are on board. The Chair will monitor the status of this project, which will start at the Fairfax County Parkway and go north.

One idea: Since 85 cars exit Tully Gate from 3pm-5pm and most of those cars turn onto the Fairfax County Parkway, our Supervisor asked Fairfax County staff to consider a flyover so that the significant cars leaving Tully Gate avoid the lights in this area. There was some discussion about relocating Tully Gate so that it is opposite the Fairfax County Parkway. However, the land opposite the Fairfax County Parkway is environmentally protected and such a shift is not possible. Fairfax County staff indicated that a written agreement with Fort Belvoir was secured regarding the right-of-way land-width negotiations. Woodlawn Estates is another problem and the cemetery outside of the Baptist Church may pose another concern.

5b. **Mount Vernon Presidential Library** - Since the conference center, library and retreat house are not contemplated in the County's Comprehensive Plan for this location (the area is zoned for two houses per acre and the comprehensive plan states that the institutional use should not be expanded), normally a Special Exception for Institutional Uses in a residential zoned area must be established which would include any conditions or requirements imposed by the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). However, Fairfax County staff has made a determination that the "use" is "most akin to a public use" (nonwithstanding that the public is not invited) and thus, it is the County staff's opinion that no conditions or requirements can be imposed on the development. It is unclear what zoning regulations, if any, would apply.

The transportation committee's concerns deal with traffic issues and if no Special Exception is needed, there will be no Fairfax County or VDOT control over these transportation issues. Consequently, the transportation committee voted 16 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstaining to move the resolution to the Council. However, the Board of the MVCCA asked that the resolution be rewritten and the rewritten resolution will be presented next month.

5c. **Mulligan Road** - Jan Vaughn of VDOT explained that the right-of-way land acquisition for the widening of Telegraph Road and at US Route 1 was taking longer than was originally scheduled. VDOT will not rush land acquisition as it is important that all property owners be heard and have their concerns addressed. Thus, the advertisement of construction bids will be delayed until February 2011, which would be followed by the relocating of telephone poles and the widening of Telegraph Road with the opening of traffic scheduled for the end of 2012 (rather than Spring of 2012).

Adjourned

The next Transportation Committee meeting will be Tuesday, July 6, 2010 at 8pm in the Walt Whitman Middle School Library and

Committee Reports

Colonel Mark Moffitt will be our guest speaker regarding the Transportation Demand Management Plan for moving traffic around Fort Belvoir.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AFFORDABLE AND WORKFORCE HOUSING

The Committee met at 7:30 pm on May 27th at the Mount Vernon District Government Center. The community organizations representatives attending were: Collingwood on Potomac, Hollin Hills Ca., Stratford Landing, Stratford on the Potomac Sec. IV and Woodley Hills Civic Assn. Also attending was Elisabeth Lardner, Mount Vernon Representative to the Redevelopment Housing Authority.

The Committee first reviewed a recently published report on Homelessness in Northern Virginia by the Northern Virginia Housing. The report examines trends in homeless individuals and families over the last five years in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax-Falls Church and Loudoun and Prince William Counties. The rates of homelessness have fluctuated over this period but because of the faltering economy and high unemployment rates, the number of homeless is significantly higher than five years ago. The biggest challenge, the report found for these jurisdictions, is the lack of affordable housing. The full report is available at: http://nvaha.org/pdfs/NVAH001VA_HomelessnessReportWEB.pdf.

The discussion of the County's Housing Blueprint continued with a look at the "Bridging Affordability" plan presented to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on May 18th. This plan was developed in collaboration with the communities, non-profits and the County agencies but executed by non-profits through competitive RFPs. For FY 2011, the BOS identified \$842,400 to address the Blueprint goal of ending homelessness and \$3,276,000 for the goal to provide housing through non-profits for very low/extremely low income households on waiting lists. Requirements for this plan include that tenants pay rents of 30% of income; that housing units be inspected before occupancy and then annually; that housing projects be in Fairfax County and comply with zoning, occupancy and federal, state and local regulations.

The Committee considered the next steps to take in looking for ways to make accessory dwelling units more available as low cost housing in the County. Discussion on the May 26th Kojo Nnamdi radio show about accessory housing revealed that several communities in the Washington DC area reviewing their regulations with regard to this type of housing to make the standards clearer and the procedure for authorization for this type of housing easier. The Committee resolved to discuss this subject with interested organizations.

Members of the Committee expressed interest in obtaining information at a future meeting about the County's plan for group homes and residential studio units. At the next meeting, Mr. John Payne,

the County Deputy Director for Real Estate will talk about ongoing affordable housing development projects and explain what is available from the "Penny for Housing" in the current fiscal year.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for June 24, 2010, 7:30 pm. at the Mount Vernon District Government Center.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON LONG RANGE STRATEGIC PLANNING

The MVCCA Special Committee on Long Range Strategic Planning (SCLRSP) didn't meet in the month of May due to the MVCCA Listening Tour. The Committee will be meeting next on June 14th at 7:30 pm in Room 1 at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center. Please contact the MVCCA SCLRSP Chair Kahan Dhillon should you have any questions or to sign your Community Association or Organization up for a Listening Tour stop either by e-mail ksdjr@regentcompany.com or phone 703-768-8437.

Committee Resolutions

PLANNING & ZONING

P&Z-2010-004: RESOLUTION ON REZONING RZ 2009-MV-023 - INOVA LORTON HEALTHPLEX

1. **WHEREAS** Inova proposes to construct a Healthplex at the intersection of Lorton Road and Sanger Street in Lorton, and
 2. **WHEREAS** The rezoning application includes 14.5 acres of land from C-3 with an FAR of 0.2 to PDC with an FAR of 0.4 for tax map lots 107-4 ((1) 75A, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, and
 3. **WHEREAS** The Healthplex will provide emergency services, outpatient surgery, medical imaging, and other medical services, and
 4. **WHEREAS** The Healthplex emergency care will operate 24 hours per day but will not provide any overnight care, and
 5. **WHEREAS** The development plan includes a second building for complementary uses such as doctors' offices, and
 6. **WHEREAS** The development plan provides for 28% tree cover and 56% open space, and transfers almost 2 acres to VDOT for I-95 interchange improvements,
- A) THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations supports rezoning RZ 2009-MV-023 for the Inova Lorton Healthplex, as presented.

END: MVCCA RESOLUTION P&Z-2010-004

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, June 23, 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—July 8, 7:30 pm, MVGC Supvrs Conf Rm

Comm	Date	Time	Place	Chair
AWH	6/24	7:30	MVGC	Jeszenszky
BUDG	9/1	7:30	WWMS/PrinConf	D. Voorhees
COAF	9/7	7:30	Webinar	Cox
EDUC	9/1	8:00	WWMS/Lib	Harbeck
E&R	7/7	7:00	SCGC/Rm. 219	Martin
H/Hs	7/6	7:30	IMVH/Eng	Cleveland
PL/Z	7/12	7:30	WWMS-LH	Dale
PSAF	7/1	7:30	MVGC-ComRm3	Shawkey
LRSP	6/14	7:00	MVGC-Rm. 1	Dhillon
TRAN	7/6	8:00	WWMS-Lib	C. Voorhees

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