



Mount Vernon
Council
of Citizens'
Associations

Record

Together we make a difference

Volume LIII, No. 1, January 2020

FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

1. Change of location for the FEBRUARY 26th General Council Meeting: Our meeting will be held at the South County Hyland Center at 8350 Richmond Highway at 7:00 p.m.
2. Guest speakers/presentation FEBRUARY General Council Meeting: The County Executive (Bryan Hill), County CFO (Joe Mondoro) along with a Representative of the Public Schools -- They will present the County Budget and seek our comments.
3. In accordance with our bylaws, the Co-Chairs have established a special committee "Non-Member Relations". The committee will focus on issues that impact MV District and non-MVCCA authorized members, More details to be provided at the Jan GC meeting.

MVCCA BOARD

Co-Chairs	Katherine Ward	co.chair1@mvcca.org
	Lynn Pascoe	co.chair2@mvcca.org
	John Ribble	co.chair3@mvcca.org
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PS	Dean Sherick	chair.ps@mvcca.org
TRANS	Pete Sitnik	chair.tran@mvcca.org
SFDC	Ellen Young	rep.sfdc@mvcca.org
FCFCA	<i>open</i>	

MVCCA GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The General Council did not meet in December.

Committee Reports

BUDGET AND FINANCE

The Budget Committee did not meet in January.

The County Executive, CFO and School Board Reps will come to the February MVCCA General Council meeting on Feb 26, South County Hyland Center, 8350 Richmond Highway Room 221 at 7:00 pm to present the county proposed budget and seek our comments.

EDUCATION

The Education Committee did not meet due to the unavailability of the intended speaker. Members were polled and the Chair was asked to reschedule the speaker for the February meeting and try to set up a special meeting to review the Superintendent's Proposed Budget, released January 9, 2020.

Committee members and interested parties are requested to review the budget documents online at <https://www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/budget/budget-documents>.

Next regular meeting: 8 p.m., February 5, 2020, Whitman Middle School library

Tentative special meeting: TBA

ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION

The E&R committee did not meet in December.

Next Meeting, February 5, 2020, 7:15 p.m., Mount Vernon Government Center

PLANNING & ZONING

Planning & Zoning: No meeting

Next Meeting: February 3rd, 2020, 7:00 p.m., Mount Vernon Government Center

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Association's Public Safety Committee did not meeting in January. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mount Vernon Government Center.

TRANSPORTATION

The MVCCA Transportation Committee met at 7:00 p.m. on the evening of January 6, 2020 in the Community Rooms, Mount Vernon Government Center at 2511 Parkers Lane. Participating in the meeting were: Charles Cuvelier, Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway; Aaron LaRocca, Chief of Staff, George Washington Memorial Parkway; Sarah Rohrschneider, Outreach Coordinator for Congressman Donald S. Beyer; Sandra Sawin, Belle Haven Country Club; Katherine Ward and Lynn Pascoe, MVCCA Co-Chairs; and Earl Flanagan, Former Mount Vernon District Planning Commissioner. Transportation representatives of the following MVCCA citizens' associations were in attendance: Belle Haven, Belle View, Gum Springs, Hollin Hall, Montebello, Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon Manor, Mount Zephyr, Riverside Estates, Stratford Landing, Sulgrave Manor, Waynewood, Wellington, Westgrove, Williamsburg Manor North, and Woodlawn Manor.

Chairman Peter Sitnik called the meeting to order and introduced Charles Cuvelier, Superintendent of the George Washington Memorial Parkway and Aaron LaRocca, the Parkway's Chief of Staff. Superintendent Cuvelier led a lively discussion of the George Washington Memorial Parkway Safety Study process and where the study stands today. He described how the many hundreds of public inputs were assembled into some 90 individual recommendations and then winnowed to the 47 actions that are deemed implementable. He presented many of the criteria that bound the possibilities for Park Service action. Among these are maintaining

the Parkway's character as a memorial park with its limited signage, views out across the Potomac, low curbs, concrete pavement, absence of traffic lights and varied bridge designs. While the Parkway was not designed to support commuter traffic, it now supports about 33 million commuters annually as opposed to 7.3 million visitors. Commercial vehicles are all prohibited unless specifically permitted. However, enforcement of this prohibition is focused selectively on large, heavy vehicles that damage the parkway's surface. Busses are permitted and are not regulated since their passengers are among the visitors for which the Parkway was created. Superintendent Cuvelier categorized possible safety study results into four "buckets": education, enforcement, emergency responses, and engineering. He emphasized that the costs of safety initiatives would be important to selecting actions to try to implement among the various possibilities presented. For example the recently completed pot hole repair project took 5 years to secure the \$2 million needed to undertake the project before even beginning the work, and larger engineering projects would be expected to encounter a great deal of competition for very limited resources. Much of the discussion Superintendent Cuvelier generated among members of the Transportation Committee focused on speeding as a root safety issue. Intersection configuration seemed to come in second. Questions and comments touched on enforcement such as the limited number of enforcement officers on each shift (3), speed cameras and the data management problems they generate, rumble or "mumble" strips to augment the centerline's separation of on-coming traffic, and "road diet" changes that would reduce the lanes available to drivers on the existing right of way. This last area raised considerable interest. The idea is, while maintain the volume of traffic flow, to slow the traffic to or near the current speed limits. Think Sherwood Hall Lane where pavement four lanes wide is marked to provide only two lanes for moving traffic with the rest marked for parking and in that case a bicycle lane. Since all traffic is in single file, all cars are at or near the speed of the driver adhering to the speed limit. The road diet approach can also help to reconfigure some of the current problem intersections. Superintendent Cuvelier also discussed traffic circles or roundabouts. These tend to slow traffic enough to facilitate safe pedestrian crossings and, while not eliminating vehicle accidents tend to reduce their severity. Also addressed was the reason why Parkway speed limits do not comply with Virginia law that speed limits within residential neighborhoods not exceed 35 mph. The Parkway is not deemed as being within any neighborhood. It is a distinct federal enclave that, though parts of Wellington might be on both sides of the Parkway, is not within any community. The George Washington Memorial Parkway Safety Study final report should be completed in about the March 2020 time frame. Superintendent Cuvelier assured the committee that he will return to present it to us when it is done.

Katherine Ward informed the committee that the Co-Chairs have established a special committee seeking involvement of non-profit organizations in Mount Vernon District community actions. The Belle Haven Country Club, for example is one such organization.

Committee Reports

Sandra Sawin was here with us at this meeting representing the Belle Haven Country Club.

At our next meeting we will discuss the “blocking the box” problem at the intersections of Richmond Highway, Fort Hunt Road and Huntington Avenue intersections. Gary Drane and Sandra Sawin agreed to work together on this.

One committee member informed all of a Fairfax County web site some 80 different maps are available. See fairfaxcounty.gov/maps.

Chairman Sitnik reminded all that VDOT has a contact phone number for any transportation problem. It is 1-800-FOR-ROAD. If the problem can't be handled by VDOT, they will refer you to the proper agency. If VDOT is going to accept your request, get the work order number for follow-up.

The next Transportation Committee meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 3 in the Community Rooms at the Mount Vernon Government Center on Parkers Lane. Subsequent 2020 meetings are currently planned on the following Mondays: Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4, Jun 1, Jul 6, Aug 31 (In place of a September Meeting), Oct 5, Nov 9, Dec 7.

FAIRFAX FEDERATION

All things related to the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (FEDERATION/FED) can be found on the Federations Website (www.fairfaxfederation.org).

SFDC

Report at the General Council meeting.

Did You Know?

The County has awarded a contract for solar power purchase agreement contracts.

The County has established a County Wide Energy and Climate Action Plan- MVCCA has a representative on the Focus Group for the MV District. We will be gathering association member thoughts on issues to be provided to the County Wide Task Force. MV will have a representative on the County Wide Task Force. (more to follow as it becomes available)

Committee Resolutions

PROPOSED RESOLUTION: North Gateway SHUTTERED SUNOCO AND POTENTIAL FOR NEW BUILD GAS STATION at 5928 Richmond Highway under a Special Exception (number of the resolution)

1. **Whereas:** During the 2009-2010 APR process the MVCCA's nominations for redevelopment of the North Gate Commercial Business Center (CBC), where the now shuttered Sunoco Gas Station is located, we have been awaiting the completion of the Huntington Area Transit Study (HATS) and the 2.0 FAR study.
2. **Whereas:** the MVCCA has been approached on numerous occasions since 2012 regarding reopening of a Gas station and food service business at 5928 Richmond Highway;
3. **Whereas:** these approaches have been made by the Sunoco Company Headquarters, a private gas station vendor (contract buyer) and most recently by another private gas station vendor who actually bought the property;
4. **Whereas:** in 2019 a new group purchased the closed gas station and started meeting with the MVCCA Committees and some of the nearby community to seek support so that they would get their SE;
5. **Whereas:** the MVCCA position has remained the same- we are in opposition of this Special Exception. MVCCA Resolution Opposed the Sunoco Special Exception for A quick Mart/Gas Station in Jan 2013. Sunoco Corporation subsequently did not move forward and put the property up for sale;
6. **Whereas:** In 2018 the PZ and Transportation committees advised the contract buyer (represented by Walsh Collucci) that we continue to oppose a gas station/mini mart at this site. That contract buyer subsequently did not buy the vacant gas station site;
7. **Whereas:** the current owner has stated that he will use the existing building and lease it to a by-right business if he does not secure his SE;
8. **Whereas:** A by-right business leasing the vacant building is not a negative option. The site will be cleaned up and many potential businesses will offer useful services to the community. And it would not saddle the CBC with a long-term gas station, that will significantly impact the future greater redevelopment of the CBC consistent with the Comprehensive Plan.
9. **Whereas:** there are gas stations in close proximity to North Gateway and all are on commuter routes.

10. Whereas:

- A. This type of development is not consistent with the Comprehensive Plan;
- B. Traffic congestion will increase – especially commuters from the beltway heading elsewhere;
- C. New underground tanks will need to be installed;
- D. Just because there is no current application to consolidate these land units; it is our opinion that allowing a gas station under an Special Exception, even with a sundown clause, will make it even harder to get an application to consolidate and redevelop; .
- E. The county's tax abatement plan for consolidated properties has not yet gone into effect- that may very well create momentum for consolidation;
- F. Furthermore, the 2.0 FAR plan amendment has been stalled and now will be addressed by the PC and BOS in late 2020- this along with the tax abatement could aid in getting this property consolidated and redeveloped as a proper gateway.
- G. The HATS study has also been delayed and any gas station could very well hinder the beneficial road network proposed by county staff to accommodate the North Gateway redevelopment.
- H. Furthermore, a gas station may impact the traffic numbers for the HATS study therefore, potentially eliminating our desire to have VDOT approve the removal of the proposed flyover (at grade interchange).

Therefore, be it resolved: This SE with or without a sundown clause is absolutely not acceptable to the MVCCA and we oppose it being approved.

Treasurer's Report

Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations, Inc.

Treasurer's Report, Current Month and Fiscal Year to Date Compared to Annual Budget

Periods Ending December 31, 2019

(Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar)

	December	Total July 1 to December	2019-2020 Annual Budget	Budget Variance To spend or Favorable (Unfavorable)
Cash Receipts (including deposits in-transit):				
Dues - Current Members	\$ 156	\$ 2,304	\$ 3,100	
Money Market Interest	1	4	10	
Total Cash Receipts	157	2,308	3,110	\$ (802)
Cash Disbursements (including outstanding checks):				
Administrative	-	166	300	134
Insurance Premium	-	-	880	880
Outreach/Town Hall Meets	-	-	500	500
"Record" Production	-	290	1,390	1,100
Web Site	123	1,406	2,500	1,094
Total Cash Disbursements	123	1,862	5,570	3,708
Net Budget - Receipts in Excess(less than) Disbursements:	34	446	(2,460)	\$ 2,906
50 Year Anniversary Celebration				
Receipts	-	500		Note 3
Expenses	(20)	248		
Net Results	(20)	252		

Other Sources/Changes in Cash:

Cash at Beginning of Period	10,802	9,492	9,492	Note 2
Total Cash at End of Period	\$ 10,815	\$ 10,191	\$ 7,032	

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

Burke & Herbert - Checking	\$ 1,632
Burke & Herbert - Money Market	8,559
Total Cash	\$ 10,191

Respectfully
Submitted,
Sean McCarthy,
Treasurer
January 14, 2020

Notes:

- 1 This financial statement uses the cash basis of accounting except as noted on the face of the statement.
- 2 The "Annual Budget" and "Total" columns reflect actual Beginning of Period cash as of July 1, 2019.
- 3 Refund of the prior fiscal year deposit for the Fifty-Year Anniversary.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, January 22, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Mount Vernon Community Center, Community Room
2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria VA 22306

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Call to Order

- Member Association Time
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Secretary's Minutes
- Approval of Treasurer's Report and Budget
- Committee Reports
- Co-Chair's Report on Board Actions

Published Items and Resolutions

New Business

- Mount Vernon Supervisor Time
- Other Elected Officials and Public Time

Adjournment

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

MVCCA Council—Jan. 22, 7:00 p.m., MVGC Comm. Rm 3
MVCCA Board—Feb. 11, 7:00 p.m., MVGC Comm. Rm 3

Comm	Date	Time	Place	Chair
BUDG	TBD			<i>open</i>
EDU	2/5	8:00	WWMS/Lib	Harbeck
E&R	2/5	7:15	MVGC Comm Rm	Pohorylo
PL/Z	2/3	7:00	MVGC Comm Rm	Walzl
PS	2/6	7:30	MVGC Comm Rm	Sherick
TRAN	2/3	7:00	MVGC Comm Rm	Sitnik

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