



Together we make a difference

Mount Vernon  
Council  
of Citizens'  
Associations

# Record

Volume LIII, No. 10, November 2020

## FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

- The sale of River Farm by the American Horticultural Society is still moving forward.

## MVCCA BOARD

Co-Chairs	Katherine Ward	co.chair1@mvcca.org
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TRAN	Pete Sitnik	chair.tran@mvcca.org
SFDC	Ellen Young	rep.sfdc@mvcca.org
FCFCA	co.chair1	rep.fairfaxfederation@mvcca.org

## MVCCA General Council Meeting Minutes

### MVCCA GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 28, 2020  
Virtual Meeting/Zoom

Presiding: Katherine Ward, Co-Chair  
Attending: Co-Chair Lynn Pascoe, Treasurer Sean McCarthy, Secretary Matt Dunne, Transportation Committee Chair Pete Sitnik, Southeast Fairfax Development Corp. Representative Ellen Young, Planning & Zoning Chair Gretchen Walzl, Planning & Zoning Vice Chair Karen Pohorylo; Public Safety Committee Chair William Kane

Elected and Appointed Officials and Staff: Supervisor Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District; Nick Rinehart, Land Use Aide to Supervisor Storck; Stephany Ospino, Outreach Representative to Congressman Gerry Connolly

Invited: Thomas Burke, FCDOT; Meghan van Dam, FCDOT

Voting Representatives:  
John Kohout, Waynewood  
Ellen Young, Belle View Condominiums  
Michael Kowalksi, Wellington Civic Association  
Terry Jemison, Hybla Valley Farms Civic Association  
William Kane, Holland Court Property Owners Association  
Kathy Lehner, Stratford Landing  
Tom Russell, Mount Vernon Civic Association  
Alene McMahan, Civic Association of Hollin Hills  
Scott Taylor, Belle Haven Terrace Civic Association  
Mark Viani, Collingwood-on-the-Potomac  
Alan Golombek, Mt Vernon Manor Community Association  
Gretchen Walzl, Hollin Hall Village  
Katherine Ward, Wellington Civic Association  
Pete Sitnik, Woodlawn Manor Community Association  
Karen Pohorylo, Engleside Civic Association  
P Alferis, Montebello Condominiums Unit Owners Association

Minutes:  
- Previous meeting minutes submitted and approved by acclamation

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

## Treasurer:

- 26 members
- Needs to renew insurance coverage

## Co-Chair:

- Fairfax County is seeking to eliminate use of plastic bags for yard waste
- Appointment of committee chairs ratified by General Council
- Co-Chair Ward will testify on November 4 on North Gateway
- Planning to meet with Supervisor Lusk to strengthen relationship with Lee District strike Council
- FCDOT is apparently reconsidering its negative approach on undergrounding utilities on Richmond Highway, but unfortunately seems to be open to sound walls. Fully behind lowering speed limit to 35mph.

## Membership Concerns:

- Cancellation of the 11Y bus
- Drag racing near Belle View and Belle Haven
- Entrance signage to neighborhoods

## Education:

-

## Environment and Recreation:

- Received informational briefing on North Gateway and zMod
- Seeking briefing on CCAP next year
- MVCCA has not taken a position on Lorton landfill ski slope project, but members may act as they wish

## Public Safety:

- Nothing to report

## Planning and Zoning:

- Received informational briefings on zMod
- Received informational briefing on Lukens Lane property

## Transportation:

- Canceled meeting

## SFDC:

- Held Beautification Awards
- Continuing to try to identify property in need of development along Richmond Hwy and matching developers with property owners
- Strong encouragement for Fairfax County to proceed with redevelopment of Old Mt Vernon HS
- Katherine Ward and Ellen Young met with SFDC representatives to encourage SFDC to focus on its core mission

## Resolutions:

- RESOLUTION 2020-PZ-01 FOR 8805 A-C LUKENS LANE, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22309. Unanimously approved by General Council.
- JOINT RESOLUTION (TRANSPORTATION, PLANNING & ZONING, AND PUBLIC SAFETY) JOINT (PZ, TRAN, PS) 2020-04. Unanimously approved by General Council.

## Fairfax Federation:

- Seeking someone to assume this position
- Published 2021 Legislative Issues package

## Supervisor Storck:

- River Farms is seeking to sell to a single developer for approximately \$33 million. The land is zoned R-2. Wants to find buyer that could keep property undeveloped and open to public. Seeking to establish a historic overlay district.
- Tour de Mount Vernon
- From carryover money, Supervisor Storck obtained funding to complete the Turning Point Memorial and conduct a historical study of Gum Springs to ensure its preservation for future generations.

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

### Budget & Finance

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The Budget Committee did not meet in November.

### Education

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The Education Report will appear in the December RECORD. See [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) for updates on Covid issues and school reopening. Next meeting is TBD.

### Environment & Recreation

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Please see the Planning & Zoning report for minutes of the joint meeting.

The next E&R meeting is Dec 2, 2020 at 7:00pm via Zoom. We will discuss goals for the coming year.

## Planning & Zoning

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Joint Planning and Zoning and Environment and Recreation Committees Minutes, Monday, November 9, 2020

Attending Citizens' Associations: Hollin Hall Village, Mt. Vernon Manor, Engleside, Pavillions at Huntington Metro, Huntington Club, Collingwood on the Potomac, Collingwood Springs, Belleview Condominiums, Montebello, Hollin Hills, Huntington, Riverside Gardens, Stratford Landing, Wellington, Tauxemont, Belle Haven Terrace

Guests: Ross Irwin, Roger Stephens - Huntington Club; Carlos Cecchi, Jolene King, Ronaldo Cintron, Eugenia Dmitrieva - IDI; Mark Looney - Cooley LLP; Bruce Leonard – Sreetsense; Dave Post – PostModern Landscape; Jeff Kreps, Steve Crowell - VIKA

Joint meeting of P&Z and E&R committees started at 7:03pm

IDI presented the latest updates on the Huntington Club project. Ross Irwin gave an overview of Huntington Club. The first phase is set along Huntington Avenue with multi-family and two- over- two design. The first part of the project requires a buyout that has to occur before the beginning of the project can move forward. There are ongoing conversations with Fairfax County about expectations of the overall project. Mark Looney with Cooley LLP shared the revised development plan. The latest rendition encourages walkability and shared facilities including two urban plazas. There are consolidated entries to allow for better vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Extensive landscaping and hardscaping are necessary because of the topography of the land. Part of the project currently envisions a senior living facility and hotel within the property. Conversations are ongoing with WMATA to align parcels with integration between the different properties.

During the Q&A some of the topics included: stormwater runoff (separate holding areas will be managed throughout the property, more information pending at this time. Bird friendly buildings and open spaces were encouraged.

A public hearing is scheduled for early 2021. The Huntington Club must close on the deal by 2022 according to the original project documents. The MVCCA is looking at it as a Concept Development Plan (CDP). Additionally, it is noted that we will have several opportunities to review this development as it progresses with more details such as building and green space design.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm. The next P&Z Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 7 at 7pm via Zoom.

## Public Safety

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The committee met via Zoom on November 5th at 7:30.

Attending associations were: Collingwood on the Potomac, Hollin Hills, Mason Hill, Mount Vernon Civic, Potomac Valley River Bend, Riverside Estates, Sulgrave Manor, and Wellington Civic.

This was the first meeting for the new Chairman and it was the first meeting of the committee by itself since the pandemic started in early 2020, so some time was spent getting acquainted. The remainder of the meeting was spent chatting about the need to develop and populate a work plan per Section 2, Article XI of the Policy and Procedures Manual. The discussion identified several likely topics for which to develop annual goals. The topics include pedestrian safety on Route 1, speeding on neighborhood streets, police reform, police morale, police staffing/pay/retention, status and needs briefings from police and fire and rescue. These topics will continue to be expanded, discussed and refined at subsequent meetings in order to define specific goals and timelines for completion of resolutions for action. Our liaison co-chair offered his perspective on the issues discussed just before the meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting will be by Zoom on December 3 at 7:30.

## Transportation

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The MVCCA Transportation Committee met at 7:00 p.m. on November 9, 2020 in a virtual gathering hosted on Zoom. Participating in the meeting were: Tom Burke, Senior Transportation Planner, Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT); Claudia Llana, Assistant Director for Transportation and Land Use, VDOT's Northern Virginia District; Lynn Pascoe, MVCCA Co-Chair; Sandra Sawin, Belle Haven Country Club; Cole Balderson and Michael Bennett, Ourisman Automotive; and Alexis Glenn, President, Jefferson Manor Citizens' Association in Lee District. Transportation representatives of the following MVCCA citizens' associations were in attendance: Belle Haven Terrace, Belle Haven, Belle View Condominium, Holland Court, Hollin Hall Village, Hybla Valley Farms, Mason Hill, Mount Zephyr, New Alexandria, Stratford Landing, Sulgrave Manor, Waynewood, Wellington, Wellington Heights, Williamsburg Manor North and Woodlawn Manor. Total attendance, including several interested citizens, was 26.

Transportation Committee Chairman Pete Sitnik called the meeting to order and took the following actions:

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

- Reviewed Zoom meeting participation protocols and thanked Ann Rowan for her new role in keeping track of attendance.
- Requested that members contribute to assembling our “Work List” for the year, volunteer to take charge of specific projects and work items, and review the proposed 2021 meeting schedule contained in this evening’s agenda.
- Notified attendees that the Committee resolution in support of reducing the speed limit on Richmond Highway to 35 mph from the Beltway to Fort Belvoir was passed by the MVCCA General Council on September 23rd.
- Reported that the resolution in support of the North Gateway plan amendment and FCDOT’s Hybrid Plus concept was passed by the MVCCA General Council on October 28th. Peter Aliferis suggested an article on the North Gateway concept in Alexandria Living Magazine. [info@alexandrialivingmagazine.com](mailto:info@alexandrialivingmagazine.com)
- Announced that Jeff Todd Way is now being patrolled by Fairfax County Police. Supervisor Storck’s office provided the following link for more information. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nIHLQtK-3T0&feature=youtu.be>
- Reported that the 11Y Metrobus service interruption in response to COVID-19 (that resulted in zeroing it out in the current budget and may be eliminated in a post-pandemic future) has generated significant community response. This rush hour express service from Mount Vernon north on the Parkway, Vernon View, Forth Hunt Road, Waynewood Boulevard, the Parkway through the City of Alexandria, across the Fourteenth Street Bridge into the heart of DC and return in the evening has long served a loyal ridership. MVCCA action generated letters in support of the 11Y from both
- Supervisor Storck and Delegate Krizek. Steve Ditmeyer also suggested that we might want to consider pushing for restoration of long-canceled 11Z bus service.
- Announced that Sally Kidalov in Supervisor Storck’s office is our contact on the Quander Road sidewalk project.
- Reported that a “safety/speed study” is needed so VDOT can move ahead on reducing speed on our section of Richmond Highway. Funding will be secured by Thanksgiving 2020; the study should start in January 2021; public outreach by summer 2020; and implementation roughly one year from now.
- Notified attendees of an innovation in Transportation this past month in Fairfax County. Adventurous passengers can now get a first-of-its-kind, free, zero-emissions electric autonomous shuttle ride from the Fairfax County Mosaic District to the Dunn Loring Metrorail station. See: [fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/autonomous-shuttle-pilot](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/autonomous-shuttle-pilot)

Other opening remarks and actions:

- Steve Ditmeyer suggested the following link for more information on the Long Bridge project over the Potomac. <https://www.progressiverailroading.com/mow/news/Long-Bridge-project-poised-to-advance-to-design-phase--61494>
- MVCCA Co-Chair Lynn Pascoe gave a brief review of Richmond Highway right-of-way status being worked by FCDOT and VDOT on their respective halves of the widening/BRT projects. He also noted that undergrounding utilities along Richmond Highway has move from “No” to “We’ll keep looking at it”.

Mike Rioux presented an update on the aircraft noise situation. COVID-19 had several impacts on the issue. The number of flights into and out of Washington Reagan International Airport (DCA) dropped, initially 90% and more recently slightly recovering to 65% to 70% below pre-COVID levels. Reduced air traffic has led to reduced noise complaints but it has also reduced funding of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) with whom negotiations must be conducted. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is also reluctant to enter into any serious effort to explore flight path change to curb noise in and out of DCA. The communities north of National Airport, Arlington and Montgomery County, are investing more in their efforts to move the Federal bureaucracy. These communities are suing and have hired a technical expert to advance their cause. While no movement is apparent, the possibilities such as bringing in arriving aircraft in a fan distribution that would keep all aircraft from flying over exactly the same neighborhoods are being looked at. The new Standard Instrument Departure this committee supported in the past still seems an excellent idea. A small adjustment to get south departing aircraft a bit farther east away from Old Town is the only change being considered. Some thought is being given to raising the altitude of aircraft approaching from the south an additional 500 feet to reduce noise impact to some degree. Some 33 Congressmen are asking the GAO to investigate. What can we do? Mike suggested that we hire a technical expert to pursue more detailed development of options we have previously identified since the FAA is now our only source of relevant expertise and they do not appear to be acting. Mike Rioux suggested that expert support might be had for about \$250,000. Chairman Sitnik proposed a letter to Supervisor Storck to initiate action from the Board of Supervisors to obtain the needed funding. A vote was taken and the committee unanimously agreed to send such a letter.

Gary Drane led a discussion on the safety problems with the Richmond Highway and Fort Hunt Road intersection. Claudia Llana of VDOT’s Northern Virginia Division joined us for that discussion. She is new to that position and was most attentive to what the committee had to say. Some time ago we had identified significant problems with this busy, sometimes congested and all too dangerous intersection that involved a pedestrian fatality only a few hundred yards north a few months

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

ago. The MVCCA Transportation Committee had requested a large elevated marker where Old Richmond Highway meets Richmond Highway so drivers heading north from Fort Hunt Road could identify the correct lane to aim at as they enter Old Richmond Highway. Our other requests were to better mark the pedestrian crossings across both Fort Hunt Road and Richmond Highway. This involved removing the “puppy tracks” that seemingly meander across Richmond Highway to lead drivers from Old Richmond Highway to Richmond Highway northbound. VDOT reviewed the requests and completed the work they chose to do. They removed the “puppy tracks” and painted pavement markings for a larger exclusion zone around the existing small elevated marker. The pavement markings, however, remain invisible (and the small elevated marker indistinguishable) to drivers trying to cross over Richmond Highway from Fort Hunt Road until they pass the crown in the middle of Richmond Highway. Therefore, drivers have had to guess where the correct lane entering Old Richmond Highway is to be found. Nothing was done to better mark the pedestrian crossing across Richmond Highway, and the pedestrian crossing markers on Fort Hunt have already been compromised by heavy traffic. Claudia Llana agreed to bring this intersection up with VDOT engineers yet again and coordinate with FCDOT. Gary Drane will continue to monitor this intersection problem.

Chairman Sitnik presented thoughts on roadway management measures used for evaluating existing traffic and developing alternative approaches. For many years we have used Level of Service (LOS) as the standard. This is based on the length of time a vehicle has to wait at a traffic light before clearing the intersection which is normally measured or simulated at peak rush hour time periods. LOS focuses on throughput traffic. In California, a frequently applied measure is Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). A third approach is Multimodal Traffic Assessment (MTA). These methods take other modes of travel into account such as walking and biking and also life style of the community resulting from different transportation infrastructure. This supports notions of “place making,” “traffic calming” and creating a “main street” approach. Chairman Sitnik suggested that we could have a presentation on these measures of traffic management at a future meeting,

Chairman Sitnik then introduced Alexis Glenn, President of the Jefferson Manor Citizens’ Association in Lee District. She expressed concern over planning for North King’s Highway, particularly from School Street north past the upper level of the Huntington Metro station. As it currently stands this stretch of North King’s Highway, which forms the border between Lee and Mount Vernon Districts, mixes a high volume of through traffic with significant pedestrian activity. Of particular note is the question of safe access to Mount Eagle Elementary School. As the Embark Richmond Highway and Bus Rapid Transit planning took shape, ideas for improving the configuration of North King’s Highway were drafted, but then dropped.

Jefferson Manor C.A. would like our support in convincing VDOT and Fairfax County to restore planning to that area. This would result in extending to North King’s Highway the traffic calming and “Main Street” improvements proposed for Richmond Highway. Chairman Sitnik asked for a committee vote on the subject, and the committee unanimously supported this initiative.

The next Transportation Committee meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 7. This and subsequent meetings will be virtual meetings until the COVID-19 health situation is resolved. Transportation Committee meetings for 2021 are planned for January 11, February 1, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, July 12, August 30 (September meeting), October 4, November 8 and December 6.

## Fairfax Federation

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

## SFDC

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The SFDC had a presentation on a proposed non-profit theater and culinary school at the Old Mount Vernon HS. This will be discussed at a later date, to see if supporting a feasibility study is possible.

Planning for the “parklet” construction at Mount Vernon Plaza is ongoing. A grant from the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors has been received. There will be updates in the coming months.

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

## Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations, Inc. Treasurer's Report, Current Month and Fiscal Year to Date Compared to Annual Budget Periods Ending October 31st, 2020

	October	Total July 1 to October	2020-2021 Annual Budget	Budget Variance To spend or Favorable (Unfavorable)
<b><u>Cash Receipts (including deposits in-transit):</u></b>				
Dues - Current Members	\$ 460	\$ 2,227	\$ 3,145	
Money Market Interest	0	1	8	
Total Cash Receipts	460	2,228	3,153	\$ (925)
<b><u>Cash Disbursements (including outstanding checks):</u></b>				
Administrative	110	241	450	209
Insurance Premium	-	-	844	844
Outreach/Town Hall Meets	-	-	-	-
"Record" Production	190	310	800	490
Web Site	83	164	2,200	2,036
Total Cash Disbursements	383	715	4,294	3,579
Net Budget - Receipts in Excess(less than) Disbursements:	78	1,513	(1,141)	\$ 2,654

**Other Sources/Changes in Cash:**

Cash at Beginning of Period	9,877	8,717	8,717	Note 2
<b>Total Cash at End of Period</b>	\$ 9,955	\$ 10,230	\$ 7,576	

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

Burke & Herbert - Checking	\$ 4,166
Burke & Herbert - Money Market	6,064
<b>Total Cash</b>	\$ 10,230

Respectfully  
Submitted,  
Sean McCarthy,  
Treasurer  
November 10, 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, 2020.
- 3 Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar

## NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

**Wednesday, November 18, 2020, 7:00 p.m.  
Virtual**

### AGENDA

Call to order  
Members Time  
Committee reports  
Treasurer report  
Co-chairs report  
Resolutions  
Elected Officials Time  
Adjourn

## COMMITTEE CALENDAR

**MVCCA Council—November 18, 7:00 p.m., Virtual  
MVCCA Board—December 16, 7:00 p.m., Virtual**

Comm	Date	Time	Place	Chair
BUDG	TBD			<i>open</i>
EDU	TBD	8:00		Harbeck
E&R	12/2	7:00	Virtual	<i>open</i>
PL/Z	12/7	7:00	Virtual	Walzl
PS	12/3	7:30	Virtual	Kane
TRAN	12/7	7:00	Virtual	Sitnik

*The Record is published monthly except August by the  
Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations, P.O. Box 203,  
Mount Vernon, VA 22121-0203.*