



Together we make a difference

Mount Vernon
Council
of Citizens'
Associations

Record

Volume LIV, No. 2, February 2021

FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

1. Young Adult Council of Fairfax County was formed in 2020. They are advising the BOS on what the county should look like.
2. ZMOD Planning Commission decision- was to defer decision until Feb 24th with the record remaining open.
Send your questions and concerns to :
plancom@fairfaxcounty.gov
walter.clarke@fairfaxcounty.gov
Cc: mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov
3. The survey monkey on ZMOD- was sent to you. Please complete it. To date results show that you do not want the County staff to be the decision makers for approving or denying Accessory Living Units or home-based businesses.
4. We need 3 people from the membership to be on the MVCCA Boards nominating committee. Please let one of the cochairs know if you are interested.
5. Abby Wells has agreed to step into the MVCCA Secretary position on a temporary basis. Many of you will remember her from several years ago when she was our secretary.
6. Congratulations - you won a big battle! The BOS approved the North Gateway CBC Comprehensive Plan changes we've been fighting for since 2009. The traffic flow changes, removing the flyover and increasing the CBC density FAR to 2.0. The comp plan has now been amended to reflect what we fought for!

MVCCA BOARD

Co-Chairs	Katherine Ward	co.chair1@mvcca.org
	Lynn Pascoe	co.chair2@mvcca.org
	open	co.chair3@mvcca.org
Secretary	Abby Wells	secretary@mvcca.org
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PS	Bill Kane	chair.ps@mvcca.org
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
January 27, 2021

Meeting minutes not available at this time.

Budget & Finance

The Budget & Finance Committee did not meet in February.

The next meeting will take place Monday, March 1 at 7pm in conjunction with the Mount Vernon Budget Town Hall Meeting, hosted by Supervisor Dan Storck. FCPS Mount Vernon District Representative Karen Corbett Sanders will be in attendance, as will other county representatives TBA.

The meeting will be joint with the Transportation Committee and Supervisor Storck's office. A Zoom notice will be sent out.

Council Minutes

Education

The Education Committee did not meet at its regular date; members were asked to virtually attend the televised School Board work session on February 2, 2021, where FCPS Superintendent Brabrand was to present a "final" plan for reopening schools to in-person instruction for all students.

Brabrand's plan, which was overwhelmingly approved by the School Board, will phase in the availability of in-person instruction for all students by the end of March. For specifics see [https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/files/BXQTCT768A5D/\\$file/Return%20to%20School%20Update%20Presentation%202-2-21.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/files/BXQTCT768A5D/$file/Return%20to%20School%20Update%20Presentation%202-2-21.pdf)

Of course, some high risk/high need students have already returned and there have been several plans to return more students which did not come to fruition due to community pandemic conditions. However, the very successful plan to provide vaccinations to teachers and school staff makes it highly likely that the hybrid phased plan will actually be implemented barring drastic changes in community conditions.

There does remain some fairly small disconnect between the numbers of students who want to return to in-person school (some students will remain all virtual by choice) and the numbers of teachers willing/able to return based on personal health issues or considerations. Some classes may be taught remotely by the teacher with monitors in place to assist and keep students on task.

Further, the concurrent hybrid model is certainly less than ideal and presents many difficulties for teachers, parents and students alike. Basically, at any given time ½ of a class is present with the teacher while the teacher simultaneously provides virtual instruction to the other ½. This will be extremely challenging to the teacher but at least students will be getting some (socially distanced) personal interaction with the instructor and peers and perhaps some inkling of normalcy.

Vaccine testing for children (particularly elementary and middle school age) may be underway this summer leading to the hope that children will be able to be vaccinated in the Fall. Universal vaccination will not immediately end Covid restrictions but will provide evidence that normalcy will return.

A robust remediation/recovery program will be required to try to undo some of the academic and social deficits caused by the pandemic. The Governor recently announced formation of a committee to highlight best practices and assist localities in implementation. Schools hope that various Federal and Commonwealth programs will provide necessary funding for this but there remains the possibility that the County will need

to direct additional funds to preserve the quality of education we expect and to assure deficiencies from the pandemic will not truncate any student's future educational prospects.

Next meeting: 7:30 pm, March 3, 2021 (by ZOOM)

Environment & Recreation

E&R Committee was held on February 3rd, 2021.
7:02pm - Call to order

Roll Call:

The following communities had members in attendance:
Belle Haven Terrace, Belle View, Hollin Hills, Collingwood-on-the-Potomac, Engleside, Holland Court, Hollin Hall Village, Mount Vernon, Riverside Estates, Stratford Landing, Sulgrave Manor, Wellington, Wessynton, Mount Vernon Manor

Other Attendees:

Katherine Ward, Co-chair MVCCA
Adam Wynn, Project Manager & Senior Planner, Planning & Development Branch
Paul Shirey, Fairfax County
Phil Hagar, Fairfax County

Guest Speaker: Adam Wynn

Adam gave a presentation on the North Hill Park development park component. It will be heavily trail-oriented. The committee had several questions and concerns about operational issues, but no concerns with the capital project. Questions did include if there would be controls to preserve the dedicated parking lot for park visitors, not residents of the townhouses. It was asked if the trails would be appropriate for bicycles. Park signage was addressed.

Roll Call and Attendance Analysis

Analysis of last month's committee meeting was presented and discussed. The Chair outlined the following suggestions:

- Associations need to assign E&R Reps.
- E&R Reps need to attend the meeting.
- The database is >85% accurate, but members should keep their email addresses current.

E&R Mission Statement

A review of the committee's mission statement was discussed. It will be taken up as an item within the year.

Active Committee Items

- Sale of River Farm. A motion was passed to send a letter to the AHS Board.
- EMBARK Route 1 Project. Members were directed to take the branding survey.

----- Council Minutes ----- Committee Reports -----

- North Hill Project. Guest speaker.
- Penn Daw Fire Station / Co-Location Supportive Housing. No change.
- EIS for Humphreys Engineer Center Training Support Facility. New item. Larry Zaragosa will review. The Army has requested MVCCA comments on the environmental study by mid March.
- Little Hunting Creek Oil Spill. A resolution for process improvement was discussed, but not voted upon.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm

The next meeting will be at 7:00 PM via Zoom on March 3, 2021.

Planning & Zoning

Planning & Zoning Minutes February 1, 2021

Members Attending: Belle View Condominium, Belle Haven Terrace CA, CA Hollin Hills, Collingwood Springs CA, Engleside CA, Hollin Hall Village CA, Montebello Condominium, Mt. Vernon CA, Mount Zephyr CA, Riverside Gardens CA, Spring Bank CA, Tauxemont CA, Wellington CA, Woodlawn Manor CA

Guests Attending: Kathryn Taylor-Walsh, Colucci; Wanda Suder-Fairfax County staff coordinator, Casey Judge, Carmen Bishop, Leslie Johnson-FC Planning & Development, John Levto, Will Ramsey – Christopher Consultants, Will Johnson-Wells & Associates, Planning Commissioner Walter Clarke, Co-chairs 1 and 2-MVCCA

Call to Order: 7:30PM

Agenda: Two Presentations, One Resolution

Presentation: Dunkin Donuts Application SE-2020-MV-018

Dunkin Donuts has applied for a Special Exception permit at the former Best Smokes site in Woodlawn Shopping Center.

Although a drive-thru is already in place, (before Best Smokes the site was a bank), the applicant intends on re-opening the drive-thru which would require a Special Exception.

There are four vehicular movements to the drive-thru component, 1) Pre-Post Order, 2) Stacking Ordering Station, 3)

Stacking Mobile Lane Order and 4) Post Stacking Drive-Thru Exit. This application does not require a traffic study.

In addition, landscaping would be added throughout the area with a seating area outside. A Planning Commission date has not yet been set.

The presentation can be viewed on the Planning & Zoning page at www.mvcca.org

***Presentation: ZMOD**

It was learned that changes to the Zoning Ordinance through the ZMOD process might negatively affect Mount Vernon residents. County staff answered questions from the P&Z committee regarding at-home businesses, Accessory Living Units (formerly Accessory Dwelling Units), County Staff signoff for the home businesses without neighbor input and business signage in front yards. Committee expressed their concern about increased density in neighborhoods because of these changes and strongly expressed how displeased they were that suburban neighborhoods could quickly become urban because of the proposed changes.

What most worried members was that the community was lead to believe there would be minor tweaks to update the ZMOD regulations, not a complete rewrite, or perceived rewrite that has occurred. Committee urged a 6-month delay before approving or not the changes to the ZMOD recommendations.

Many other concerns were expressed, which prompted a county-wide community forum that has been garnering information on the proposed ZMOD changes, act4fairfax.net

The ZMOD document can be viewed on the Planning and Zoning page at www.mvcca.org

The Planning Commission will vote on February 10, 2021 and the Board of Supervisors on March 9, 2021

****After this meeting on February 7, 2021, the MVCCA put out a survey about the proposed changes to the County Zoning Ordinance to the member association presidents to be completed by February 9, 2021***

Resolution: Fairfax County Housing Element and Workforce Housing Dwelling Unit Policy Plan Amendment 2020-CW-2CP

This MVCCA Resolution PZ 2021-01 can be viewed on the website, and in this newsletter. The Resolution passed.

Adjourn: 8:40pm

Next Meeting: March 1, 2021, 7:00PM by Zoom

Public Safety

The committee met via Zoom at 7:30 pm on February 4, 2021.

The joint meeting minutes are in the Transportation section of this edition of the Record. The slides used for the briefing are on the MVCCA PS committee web page at the Tab for Recent Meetings.

The next meeting of the Public Safety committee will be by Zoom at 7:30 pm on March 4, 2021. The Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management will provide an overview of their organization and operations.

Transportation

The MVCCA Transportation Committee met at 7:00 p.m. on February 4, 2021 in a virtual gathering hosted on Zoom. This was a joint meeting with the Public Safety Committee. Participating in the meeting were: William J. Kane, MVCCA Public Safety Committee Chairman; Tom Biesiadny, Director, Fairfax County Department of Transportation; Tom Burke, FCDOT Senior Transportation Planner; Claudia Llana, Director, Transportation and Land Use for VDOT's NOVA District. Also participating were; Dan Reinhard, Nhan Vu and Jason Oldham, Virginia Department of Transportation briefers; Chris Wells, Vanessa Aquayo, Houda Ali and AJ Hamidi, FCDOT briefers; Katherine Ward and Lynn Pascoe, MVCCA Co-Chairs. Transportation representatives of the following Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) member associations were in attendance: Belle Haven Terrace, Holland Court, Hollin Hall Village, Mason Hill, Montebello, Mount Vernon, Stratford Landing, Waynewood, Wellington, Wellington Heights, Williamsburg Manor North, and Woodlawn Manor. Public Safety Committee attendees represented the following MVCCA member associations: Belle Haven Terrace, Collingwood on the Potomac, Mason Hill, Mount Vernon Civic, Mount Zephyr, Potomac Valley River Bend, Riverside Estates, Sulgrave Manor, and Wellington. Total attendance, including both committees and several interested citizens, was 38.

William J. Kane, MVCCA Public Safety Committee Chairman called the meeting to order and introduced Claudia Llana who discussed The Richmond Highway Pedestrian Safety and Accessibility presentation and who made further introductions of participants in the course of the briefing. This briefing reviewed Richmond Highway improvements in the past, as well as improvements for the near and far term future extending to 2040 and beyond. Past improvements were presented in the context of the Richmond Highway Public Transportation Initiative (RHPTI) based on the Route 1 Corridor Study prepared by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission.

The RHPTI was a \$55 million program begun in 2004 intended to upgrade transit and pedestrian facilities along Richmond Highway. To make REX and Connector bus services more accessible it included 32 spot and intersection improvements as well as 18 upgraded bus shelters. Sidewalks and walkways were also added.

The presentation also addressed pedestrian related crashes since 2015 and compared Richmond Highway with other Northern Virginia highways. Richmond Highway led the pack with 72; Leesburg Pike had 44, Little River Turnpike 42, Lee Jackson Memorial Highway 33 and Lee Highway 29. VDOT and FCDOT are working together to implement safety enhancement measures along Richmond Highway that include: traffic light leading pedestrian intervals, pedestrian recall and rest-in-walk, "Turning vehicles Yield to Pedestrians" signs, high-visibility crosswalk markings, adding additional crosswalks and "No Turn on Red" signs. Among the short-term improvements VDOT and FCDOT are focusing on the Richmond Highway and Fort Hunt Road intersection which has been the subject of considerable community attention. No fewer than ten changes are being added to this intersection to facilitate pedestrian safety while crossing Fort Hunt Road, Richmond Highway and Old Richmond Highway and reducing driver confusion as they seek to navigate this complex intersection.

Among near-term improvements, VDOT and FCDOT are undertaking a Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Initiative establishing and equipping Richmond Highway, from Huntington Avenue to Gunston Road, to be a priority corridor in the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. Some 25 signalized intersections in this corridor are being considered for high-tech pedestrian crossing countermeasures beginning in 2022. Fairfax County has requested VDOT to conduct an in depth engineering study regarding the speed limit on Richmond Highway. Data collected will include traffic volumes, vehicle speeds, crashes, roadway characteristics and public outreach. All users will be taken into account. Fairfax County has identified funding for the study which is to be completed by the first quarter of 2022. Execution of this study will be subject to traffic pattern stabilization after the COVID-19 pandemic subsides. Long-term improvements including Richmond Highway widening and Bus Rapid Transit had been briefed earlier to the Transportation Committee so were addressed briefly. National Environmental Policy Act actions related to widening are complete and design is at 75%. Right-of-Way authorization and acquisitions will begin this year. An intersection will be added at Wyngate Manor Court to shorten the distance between pedestrian crossing points.

While the two-phase approach to widening will see many preliminary steps occurring simultaneously, actual construction will be staggered with phase 1 construction starting in 2025 and ending in 2027. Phase 2 construction will begin in early

----- Committee Reports ----- Committee Reports -----

2027 and end in late 2028. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) revenue service is expected to begin in 2030. Richmond Highway Corridor and BRT implementation will include continuous sidewalk and bicycle lanes on both sides of the highway, four quadrant crosswalks where possible, raised driveways and continuous lighting for both roadway and pedestrian/bicycle lanes. Build-out improvements in the out years will reflect the concepts developed under the Embark Richmond Highway Plan.

An enthusiastic Q&A session followed the presentation. The overall reaction was one of gratitude for one of the most thorough and carefully constructed presentations either of our committees had been presented. VDOT/FCDOT cooperation on constructing it was evident. One attendee mentioned that a recent Fairfax County Police spot speed check on Richmond Highway had detected top speeds at night with relatively low traffic levels of one driver at 92 mph and another at 86. Lynn Pascoe reminded the briefing team of the priority we place on undergrounding utilities along the highway. Tom Biesiadny responded that State Senator Surovell had a bill before the Senate that would authorize adding the cost of undergrounding to electric utility bills. Chris Wells observed that most pedestrian fatalities were at mid-block at night, whereas most minor injuries were at intersections. Often both driver and pedestrian were “doing the right thing” at the time of the accident. Human factors are evident, but there are no clear answers. Katherine Ward asked about pedestrian underpasses at the bridges over Little Hunting Creek and Dogue Creek. They are still in the plan along with pedestrian safety measures while they cross under the highway.

The next Transportation Committee meeting will be joint with the Budget and Finance Committee and Supervisor Storck’s Budget Town Hall meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, March 1. A zoom notice will be sent out.

This and subsequent meetings will be virtual meetings until the COVID-19 health situation is resolved. Subsequent Transportation Committee meetings for 2021 are planned for April 5, May 3, June 7, July 12, August 30, October 4, November 8, and December 6.

Fairfax Federation

The Federation has supported vote NO for the ZMOD.

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

SFDC

The SFDC Board was just informed by the Executive Director that he intends for SFDC to purchase options on properties along Richmond Highway. In my opinion, SFDC does not have the authority to do this, nor is there money to do so. I will be strongly advocating for this to be voted down.

Verbal report from the February 17 SFDC meeting at the February General Council meeting.

From the Board

Some members have asked us to consider a Bylaw amendment to change to a weighted voting system where associations could be assigned more than one vote at Council based on numbers of households represented. As you know, we already have a tiered dues system where larger associations pay more dues. A weighted voting system is used, for example, by the Fairfax Federation and the South County Federation and may be a more accurate or persuasive reflection of the magnitude of citizen/constituent participation and opinion; certainly as a matter of optics that appears to be true since weighted voting produces higher vote tallies.

Bylaw amendments should not be undertaken lightly, and before proceeding further the Board wants your opinion on this matter which directly affects all members. We will take a “straw” poll at the Council meeting to determine if there is enough interest to proceed. Your “vote” is non-binding and because we seek only the sense of the body you can also email your opinion to the Cochairs prior to the Council meeting if you are not able to attend.

Did You Know?

Check out the Fairfax County climate action plan YouTube videos:

<https://youtu.be/gFQIGBxmYFE>

<https://youtu.be/7glnln5wlJY>

----- Committee Resolutions -----

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE
FAIRFAX COUNTY
HOUSING ELEMENT AND WORKFORCE DWELLING UNIT
POLICY PLAN AMENDMENT 2020-CW-2CP
PZ 2021-01**

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors authorized the consideration of a Countywide plan amendment to consider changes to the Housing and Land Use elements of the Policy Plan; the Glossary; and the Area Plans volumes of the Comprehensive Plan related to rental Workforce Dwelling Units (WDUs).

WHEREAS, Proposed county-wide policy changes include a reduction in the rental WDU commitment level from 12% to 8% of the total dwelling units, and a reduced maximum household income tier for rental WDUs from 120% to 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

Table 3: Countywide Income Tiers for Workforce Dwelling Units.

<u>Income Tier</u>	<u>For- Sale Units</u>	<u>Rental Units</u>
<u>101-120% of AMI</u>	<u>4% of total units</u>	<u>==</u>
<u>81-100% of AMI</u>	<u>4% of total units</u>	<u>==</u>
<u>71-80% of AMI</u>	<u>4% of total units</u>	<u>4% of total units</u>
<u>61-70% of AMI</u>	<u>==</u>	<u>2% of total units</u>
<u>Up to 60% of AMI</u>	<u>==</u>	<u>2% of total units</u>
<u>Total</u>	<u>12%</u>	<u>8%</u>

WHEREAS, the Comp Plan, Proposed Revisions: Housing Element of the Policy Plan and Zoning Modification (ZMOD) are interwoven into the Zoning Ordinance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the MVCCA does support a six-month extension before approval of proposed ZMOD changes to further clarify the ramifications of such changes to our community;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The MVCCA is neutral to AMI recommendations for Tyson's Corner;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED In accordance with the proposal as provided in the chart above, the MVCCA supports the area-wide for sale and rental AMI's;

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS supports the proposed county-wide plan amendment 2020-CW-2CP.

Committee Resolutions

Planning & Zoning

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL
CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE
DUNKIN DONUTS, 8702 RICHMOND HWY SE-2020-MV-018
PZ-2021-02**

Whereas: The Woodlawn Shopping Center endcap building is vacant and Dunkin Donuts wants to renovate the building to include a drive through internal to the shopping center that will not interfere with Richmond Highway;

Whereas: the developer will use green building elements, include a bike parking area, and complement the building with native plantings; and

Whereas: There will also be an outdoor seating area.

Therefore be it resolved, the MVCCA wants outdoor seating with a canopy of some sort to be provided;

Further be it resolved: The MVCCA wants the outdoor seating to be blocked off from the parking lots and drive through by the use of large planter pots using with large native grasses installed in them in order to soften the view for the patrons.

Further be it resolved: providing the Dunkin Donuts provides the seating area and planters with native grasses then the MVCCA supports the approval of SE-2020-MV-018.

END: PROPOSED RESOLUTION PZ-2021-02

Proposed Letter

MAXIMUM TAX LETTER

The Chairs of the Education and Budget & Finance Committees, in continuation of MVCCA's long position on the selection of the Maximum Tax Rate to be advertised by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in advance of budget hearings, have asked the Co-chairs to send a letter reiterating MVCCA's stance as to FY2022. This letter would be in lieu of a formal Resolution and the Board has approved. The proposed text follows:

"Re: FY2022 Maximum Tax Rate to be set March 9, 2021

For a number of years, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens (MVCCA) has annually urged the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to advertise Maximum Tax Rates at levels which would, if eventually adopted, generate revenue adequate to fully fund the School Transfer requested by the School Board's Advertised Budget, the County Executive's Advertised Budget and additionally provide flexibility to the Board of Supervisors to respond to citizen input during the budget hearing process or otherwise demonstrated needs through the fiscal year.

FY2022 presents a number of unique challenges but we continue to urge you to set and advertise the FY2022 Maximum Tax Rate according to the above principles in order to enhance public discourse on the proper balance of services and taxes, increase transparency and provide flexibility to respond to citizen concerns, demonstrated needs and changing conditions.

Very truly yours, "

----- Committee Resolutions -----

For membership ratification vote.



The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, Inc.

P.O. Box 203, Mount Vernon, VA 22121-9998

<http://www.mvcca.org>

Walter Clarke
Mount Vernon Planning Commissioner

Dear Planning Commissioner Clarke,

Ref: Zmod Changes

Feb 10, 2021

The enclosed resolution is being sent to you on behalf of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Association (MVCCA). We are asking for you to vote NO on the proposed changes the ZMOD.

Our initial request was for the decision by the planning commission to be delayed by 6 months so all citizens can have more time to understand the implications of the changes. And while we originally believed that the delay would be helpful, after watching the Planning Commissions Q & A session with the county staff and the consultant we now believe that the words constantly used by the Zoning Administrator in her responses to the commissioners questions " we can revisit that" are simply a way to ignore the citizens and the commissioners genuine concerns about this document and a number of the proposed changes, in particular the home based-businesses and Accessory Living Units.

As we said before the structural format updates are needed. However, the modifications to remove the citizens input to such decisions as home-based businesses and accessory living units are simply a bridge too far. Giving all the authority to an employee without any notification to or public hearings, where citizens most impacted can share their concerns, is just not right. It is tantamount to moving Fairfax County towards an autocracy.

The MVCCA communities want our voices heard for all matters that impact our daily life, our communities and neighborhood infrastructure.

We want to keep our democracy in place.

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----- Committee Resolutions -----

Please vote NO on this matter.

Katherine Ward

Katherine Ward
Cochair
MVCCA

Enclosed: ZMOD MVCCA Resolution

cc: Fairfax County Planning Commissioners

MVCCA Resolution Zmod- All committees 2021-01

Whereas, the County has proposed to modify the current zoning ordinance;

Whereas, the MVCCA testified that we want the process stopped for 6 months so citizens could become more informed on the following changes:

Home-based businesses --numbers of clients/customers per day and the parking and traffic implications;

Accessory Living Units (ALU) and their traffic and parking implications;

The use of the Zoning Administrators approval process vs public notices and public hearings resulting in the loss of democracy; and

While not mentioned in the hearings or by staff we want to know what the resulting future Real Estate tax implications will be when an ALU or home-based business is added to single-family homes in our communities.

Whereas, the county staff has briefed the MVCCA on two separate occasions (Oct 24, 2020 and Feb 1, 2021) our members are still **NOT** satisfied with the direction Zmod is heading with respect to removing citizen participation in decisions regarding home-based businesses and ALU's ;

Whereas, members watched the Planning Commissions public hearing Q & A session with county staff on Feb 3, 2021 and where shocked at the dismissive attitude towards the citizens by the Clarion Groups consultant;

----- Committee Resolutions -----

Whereas, senior county staff kept stating that the questions from the Commissioners would be revisited- we anticipate there will be no revisiting before the BOS public hearing and vote;

Whereas, once a law or ordinance is put into place it will never be reversed (case in point it's taken 40+ years to take action on the current ordinance) no matter how much data is collected to see if these changes are for the better;

Whereas, the MVCCA does support structural administrative changes to make the zoning ordinance more user friendly;

Whereas, MVCCA has been conducting a membership survey and the resounding responses say NO to the Zoning Administrator being in charge of approvals of home-based businesses and ALU permits;

Whereas, a resounding response to our survey question "did you get to take the county Zmod survey"? was NO.

Therefore, be it resolved: The MVCCA does not support the changes to Zmod as proposed regarding home-based businesses and ALU's;

Further, be it resolved: The MVCCA does not support removal of citizen notifications and public hearing for home-based businesses and ALU's;

Further, be it resolved: that the MVCCA does not support the Zoning Administrator being the decision maker regarding home-based businesses and ALU permits.

Approved by the MVCCA Board and Supported by the MVCCA's Membership Feb 9, 2021

----- Resolutions - Approved -----



The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, Inc.

P.O. Box 203, Mount Vernon, VA 22121-9998

<http://www.mvcca.org>

February 4, 2021

Dear Board Members of the American Horticultural Society:

Terry Hayes, Bob Murray, Tim Conlon, Holly Shimizu, Laura Dowling, Amy Bolton, Skipp Calvert, Marcia Zech, Cindy Tyler

We are writing to you today because we are dismayed that you have failed repeatedly to follow your own mission statement managing your headquarters property.

We are a 501(c)4 representing the many citizens and communities located throughout the Mount Vernon District of Fairfax County Virginia. Many of us are long time members of AHS and have volunteered at River Farm and attended your events there over the years.

The following are some of the ways you have failed the public trust and violated your mission.

Your mission statement, taken directly from your website states:

The American Horticultural Society (AHS) is one of the most respected, longstanding national gardening organizations in the country.

Since 1922, we have been a trusted source of high-quality gardening and horticultural information.

Today, our mission blends education, social responsibility, and environmental stewardship with the art and practice of horticulture. Our vision is a land of

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sustainable gardens, cultivated by a diverse population with a common passion for plants.

The American Horticultural Society educates Americans about and advocates Earth-friendly and sustainable gardening practices, as well as models them at our River Farm headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia.

1. The lovely trees at River Farm are dying due to the invasive ivy growing up them and lack of property maintenance. The volunteers can easily and properly remove the vines under their normal maintenance volunteer duties. Yet you fail to ask them to do this.
2. The memorial wildflower meadow is overrun with invasive plants and vines, a result of not being mowed or burned in years, a normal practice in keeping invasive species under control. The previous Boards and Executive Directors would either mow or work with the local fire department to do a burn. Your neglect is destructive.
3. The brick HaHa wall is falling down. Replacing bricks can be done by simply asking your volunteers for help or a donor to fund the repair.
4. The stone seating area and patio in the meadow has been allowed to deteriorate with grasses and weeds growing through the mortar this summer, spring and fall. Again, a task for volunteers had you paid attention and asked them to do it.
5. The Green Garage located at River Farm, which years ago was AHS's display at the Philadelphia flower show, has been allowed to deteriorate. Furthermore, the educational items displayed in it related to being a green sustainable gardener have been removed. Once again this shows your lack of understanding of your mission.

The story told here is that feel no longer invested in your mission, especially as related to River Farm. You have stated repeatedly that you are broke; but when your Form 990's and the auditor reports are reviewed they tell a different story.

Most of you claim to be passionate about sustainable horticultural and gardening, yet you have failed in the simplest leadership actions while you continue to market this property for sale.

You are shamefully allowing this historic property to deteriorate, while refusing to place a conservation easement on it that could bring you somewhere between \$5 million and \$8 million dollars in cash.

We look forward to hearing what you intend to do regarding “AHS in a Nutshell- The American Horticultural Society educates Americans about and advocates Earth-friendly and sustainable gardening practices, as well as models them at our River Farm headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia”.

River Farm was a generous and significant gift to AHS, and we believe that Enid Annenberg Haupt trusted future Boards and Executive Directors to preserve its legacy, and faithfully adhere to the AHS mission.

We encourage you to visit River Farm and to reassess your actions, and to preserve the integrity of the mission and the property as well as make arrangements to keep it permanently open to the public.



Christopher Morgan
Chair, Environmental and Recreation Committee
Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations

Enclosed photo's

cc:

Attorney General DC and VA
Virginia Governor
Supervisor Dan Storck
Adrian Higgins Washington Post

----- 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 January 31st, 2021

	January	Total July 1 to January	2020-2021 Annual Budget	Budget Variance To spend or Favorable (Unfavorable)
<u>Cash Receipts (including deposits in-transit):</u>				
Dues - Current Members	\$ -	\$ 2,549	\$ 3,145	
Money Market Interest	0	2	8	
Total Cash Receipts	0	2,551	3,153	\$ (602)
<u>Cash Disbursements (including outstanding checks):</u>				
Administrative	-	241	450	209
Insurance Premium	930	930	844	(86)
Outreach/Town Hall Meets	-	-	-	-
"Record" Production	120	490	800	310
Web Site	-	164	2,200	2,036
Total Cash Disbursements	1,050	1,825	4,294	2,469
Net Budget - Receipts in Excess(less than) Disbursements:	(1,050)	725	(1,141)	\$ 1,866

Other Sources/Changes in Cash:

Cash at Beginning of Period	10,395	8,717	8,717	Note 2
Total Cash at End of Period	\$ 9,345	\$ 9,442	\$ 7,576	

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

Burke & Herbert - Checking	\$ 3,378
Burke & Herbert - Money Market	6,064
Total Cash	\$ 9,442

Respectfully
Submitted,
Sean McCarthy,
Treasurer
February 9, 2021

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
- (January Paid Association(s) Update - Quander -Rollins)

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, February 24, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Virtual

AGENDA

- Call to order
- Minutes Approved
- Guest Speaker: Purpose of the Fairfax County
Young Adult Advisory Council to the BOS
Diego Rodriguez Cardrera, Graham Owen
- Committee reports
- Treasurer report
- Co-chairs report
- Resolutions
- Members Time
- Elected Officials Time
- Adjourn

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

MVCCA Council—February 24, 7:00 p.m., Virtual
MVCCA Board—March 9, 7:00 p.m., Virtual

Comm	Date	Time	Place	Chair
¹ BUDG	3/1	7:00	Virtual	Zaragoza
EDU	3/3	7:30	Virtual	Harbeck
E&R	3/3	7:00	Virtual	Morgan
PL/Z	3/1	7:00	Virtual	Walzl
PS	3/4	7:30	Virtual	Kane
¹ TRAN	3/1	7:00	Virtual	Sitnik

¹Joint BUDG and TRAN meeting

* All committee meetings are virtual until further notice

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