



Together we make a difference

Mount Vernon
Council
of Citizens'
Associations

Record

Volume LIV, No. 3, March 2021

FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

1. ZMOD is moving along. The BOS heard from the public and will make their decision on March 23rd. Based upon committee and GC inputs we testified at the March 9th BOS Public Hearing. The text of the testimony is included on [page 11](#) of this Record. It covers your displeasure with ZMOD giving too much power to the Zoning Administrator regarding approvals of Home based businesses and Accessory Living Units.

The BOS will discuss the complaints aired by county citizens at the BOS March 9th Public Hearing at their Land-use Committee meeting March 16th. That can be viewed on Channel 16. The record is still open until the 22nd if you want to send your comment to the BOS.

2. A Storm Water Run Off Special Committee was established by the Cochairs in accordance with our bylaws. Leo Malinowski, President of Hollin Hall, will chair it. We are looking for committee participants to help Leo out.
3. River Farm update: The County will hold public hearing on the Historic Overlay District (HOD) as follows - March 17th Planning Commission and April 13th the BOS. Please sign up to testify. The MVCCA's resolution for your ratification is under resolutions in this Record. A link to historical info is included in the did you know section of this Record.

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MVCCA General Council Meeting Minutes

MVCCA GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES Wednesday, February 24, 2021

Virtual Meeting/Zoom Convened 7:00PM

Presiding Co-Chair Katherine Ward

Attending Co-Chair Lynn Pascoe, Treasurer Sean McCarthy, Secretary Abby Wells, Budget & Finance Chair Jason Zaragoza, E&R Chair Christopher Morgan, Education Chair Judy Harbeck, Planning & Zoning Chair Gretchen Walzl, Planning & Zoning Vice Chair Karen Pohorylo, Public Safety Committee Chair Bill Kane, Southeast Fairfax Development Corp. Representative Ellen Young, Transportation Committee Chair Pete Sitnik

Elected and Appointed Officials and Staff:

Supervisor Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District, Nick Rinehart, Land Use Aide to Supervisor Storck

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Invited Guests:

Diego Rodriguez Cabrera, Transportation aide to Supervisor Storck and Graham Owen Department of Planning and Development for Fairfax County attended to present information about the Fairfax County's Young Adults Advisory Council

COMMUNITY MEMBERS Associations Present:

Wellington Civic Association, Montebello, Mt Vernon Civic Association, Woodlawn Manor Community Association, Engleside Civic Association, Hollin Hall Civic Association, Holland Court Property Owners Association, Belle View Condominiums, Hybla Valley Farms Civic Association, Stratford Landing, Mount Vernon Civic Association, Belle Haven Terrace Civic Association, Williamsburg Manor, Williamsburg Manor North, Spring Bank Civic Assoc., Huntington Community Association, New Alexandria, Collingwood on the Potomac, Mount Zepher Community Assoc. Several other Mount Vernon District citizens also joined this meeting.

Minutes:

January 2021 General Council Meeting minutes were not available.

Guest Speakers

Graham Owen, Diego Rodriguez Cadrera from the newly formed Fairfax County Young Adults Advisory Council discussed the council's mission and how they plan on engaging other young adults throughout the county to become involved in community engagement. They also discussed membership opportunities and encouraging young people to join committees, participate in Leadership programs – through County and/or Mt Vernon. Several questions were asked by the MVCCA members related to just what the group is engaged in and how they will reach out to county wide communities to ensure there is a cross cultural and generational interchange of ideas. The presentation can be viewed at <http://mvcca.org/docs/YAA-Council-MVCCA.pdf>.

Co-Chairs Report:

Based on results from a survey about ZMOD, 100% of respondents oppose the zoning administrator's authority to approve home businesses or accessory living units.

Undergrounding of Richmond Highway Utilities progresses despite funding measures failing to pass at state legislature. Next step is to seek bonds to finance undergrounding and have conversations with the county executive.

Three people are needed from the membership to form a Nominating Committee to fill upcoming Board positions. Pete Sitnik is being encouraged to act as the chairperson of that committee once again.

A straw poll was taken regarding weighted voting by MVCCA members. The motion passed and Judy Harbeck will chair a committee to study the issue to determine if the council should change its bylaws to allow for increased representation based on number of members per individual organization.

Community wide climate action plan (CECAP) a survey was sent out to all communities – please complete survey and help the county determine how best to stop green house gas emissions.

Committee Reports

Budget and Finance:

March 1 Supervisor Storck and School Board Rep Karen Corbett Sanders will host a virtual town hall meeting to discuss the proposed FY2022 budget for the county and schools. Please tune in to channel 16 on March 1 7PM. Questions can be submitted in advance or during by email: MtVernon@fairfaxcounty.gov

Education:

Superintendent's budget has been greatly reduced for 2022. Also strongly encourage community to join Proposed Budget Virtual Town Hall on Monday, March 1 at 7PM.

Committee Meeting Minutes are in the Record.

Environment and Recreation:

Ft Belvoir Environmental Impact Study for the Humphreys Engineering Facility has been provided to the MVCCA for comment. It is being reviewed by members of the ER committee.

North Hill Park Project was presented by the County Parks Authority to the committee. They discussed the design, which includes an integrated county "trail" park for public use, public parking and how they intend to use the existing old trailer park street next week to provide handicapped accessibility throughout the park complex.

Committee will tune in to the March 1 Budget Town Hall meeting to ensure they are also aligned with the county budget.

Planning and Zoning:

Presentation from Dunkin Donuts corporation and their land use attorney was delivered to the committee. The project is proposed for the endcap building within the Woodlawn

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Shopping Center. It will include a drive through within the shopping Center and outside seating area for patrons. The committee continues discussion with ZMOD and full committee meeting minutes in the Record.

Public Safety:

Investigation underway regarding recent break-ins at Hollin Hall Shopping Center, similar to incidents in Annandale area. Held joint meeting with Transportation Committee with a guest speaker from VDOT. Reviewed near term and long-term vision and programs scheduled. Discussed pedestrian safety on Route 1. The March committee meeting will feature a guest from the Office of Emergency Management.

Transportation:

Held joint meeting with Public Safety Committee and reiterated high praise for the VDOT presentation on pedestrian safety. National Park Service to finalize plans for GW Parkway and deliver its finding to the Committee at the April meeting. Transportation committee seeking a new recording secretary.

Treasurer:

Treasure's Report for January 2021 was approved by the council.

SFDC:

Minutes from January meeting in Record. SFDC is working diligently with the landowners and potential developers to bring redevelopment to the Richmond Highway Corridor.

Fairfax Federation:

The Fairfax Federation passed a resolution urging the County Park Authority to pass a Resolution to build pickleball courts.

They also passed a resolution opposing ZMOD's home based businesses and accessory living units changes.

Resolutions:

Resolution PZ-2021-01 Housing Element and Approved Workforce Dwelling Unit 2020-CW-2CP to allow for lower percentages of Area Medium income (AMI). A motion was made and ratified and resolution passed unanimously.

Resolution PZ-2021-02 Dunkin Donuts SE-2020-MV-018 at Woodlawn Shopping Center: Existing building, refurbished with outdoor seating and a drive through that will not impact Rich Hwy traffic pattern. Requesting outdoor planters to be added to site. Motion was made to approve. Resolution passed unanimously.

Letter for MAX TAX Rate: Motion to send as a letter instead of a resolution for FY Budget. BOS will advertise a Maximum

Tax which they cannot raise. Resolution seeks to allow for public hearing prior to the decision. MVCCA Board approved as a letter that the council has approved for years. Passed.

River Farm action: Letter from the MVCCA ER committee was sent to Board of AHS, Governor of Virginia and the Attorney Generals of DC and VA to support the purchase of River Farm by the NVA Regional Park Authority and leave the property open to the public. Motion passed unanimously.

Ratification on ZMOD All Committees 2021-01 Letter: A letter sent to Supervisor Storck, and the Planning Commission opposing ZMOD changes to Home based businesses and ALU's was ratified unanimously.

Member Time:

Belle Haven Terrace Community Association raised the issue of National Wildlife Federation selling the property at 6514 Cygnet Drive. The property is in an RPA. They feel the sale for development is not appropriate and the County should weigh in to stop it.

They, furthermore, raised the issue of the County doing a tax sale on an unbuildable lot on Yale Drive which is also in an RPA. The Community resident asked Supervisor Storck to weigh in on these matters.

Hollin Hall Village Association raised serious concerns regarding stormwater runoff and flooding in Hollin Hall due to extensive new construction. Impervious surface limits being exceeded. Developers purchasing off-set credits that are being used elsewhere in the state without adequate recognition or enforcement. Would like to see issues taken up with E&R and P&Z committees. Asked Supervisor Storck to investigate the issue.

Supervisor Storck:

March 1st at 7PM: FY 2022 Proposed Budget Virtual Town Meeting / Channel 16 – send questions and /or call in.

Undergrounding progress is being made and a letter was sent to the state legislature to seek undergrounding funding to assist the county.

Assessments re: Home based business and accessory living space issues to be addressed.

River Farm: More positive news regarding Scott Surovell's collaborative efforts with the county, Northern Virginia Conservation Trust on additional tools through state legislation towards the restriction of development and preservation of the property.

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BRT Station: Please get your comments in, fill out survey. This will affect the Mt Vernon district for decades to come.

Airplane noise mitigation ongoing efforts and an agreement between the County and the City of Alexandria to secure a consultant to assist meeting our goals is being considered.

Spread the word - Using plastic bags for yard waste is now prohibited. BOS officially approved the requirement to use non-plastic bags or reusable containers for yard waste.

Covid vaccinations sites are being determined and will be publicized as soon as the information becomes available.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM

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Budget & Finance

The Budget & Finance Committee did not meet this month. Instead the committee participated in the Mount Vernon Budget Town Hall hosted by Supervisor Storck. A replay of the presentation can be found here: <https://fb.watch/4etOQgp9IA/>

Full details about the proposed FY 2022 budget can be found here: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/advertised-budget-plan>

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 6 at 7pm via Zoom.

Education

The Education Committee met by Zoom on March 3, 2021, at 7:30pm. Associations represented included Mount Vernon Civic, Sulgrave Manor, Mt. Zephyr, Wellington, Newington Forest and Collingwood Springs.

The main purpose for the meeting was to consider the school support proposed in the County Executive's FY 22 Advertised Budget (County Budget) as compared to the school funding required from the County to meet the needs set forth in the School Board FY22 Advertised Budget (School Budget), and to draft a resolution stating the Committee's position. That resolution, which was adopted unanimously, is printed elsewhere in this RECORD.

The County Budget proposed an increase for the school operating budget of about \$13M (less than 1%) compared to the \$104M increase requested by the School Budget, leading to a shortfall of about \$90M.

The School Budget incorporated about \$43M from the FCPS Superintendent's Proposed Budget, which the County Executive noted was derived from largely unavoidable increases in costs and anticipated drop in outside revenue. Nevertheless, the County Budget proposal was inadequate to cover even these unavoidable costs by about \$29M.

The School Board added about \$60M to the base in order to provide a 3% salary increase for teachers and qualify for Commonwealth partial funding of about \$13M. Although it has been reported in the press that Virginia had provided a 5% raise for teachers that statement is very misleading; the provided "raise" required some matching local funds, applied only to SOL required teachers leaving the locality to completely fund raises for all other teachers, and additionally applied the Local Composite Index.

The Committee discussed the teacher pay issue at some length. The School Board and the Board of Supervisors (BOS) recognized several years ago that teacher pay was not competitive with compensation offered by surrounding school systems, leading to loss of experienced teachers and poor morale. With BOS support FCPS began a multiyear plan of targeted increases to bring FCPS pay scales in line with competing systems; that plan was not yet complete when pay was frozen in FY21.

If teachers receive no pay increase for the second consecutive year, FCPS will fall even farther behind other systems some of which did not freeze salaries for all of FY21, have already announced raises for FY22 and will take advantage of Commonwealth partial funding. Many teachers will actually receive less pay in FY22 than in FY20 because of increased required insurance contributions.

Highly qualified teachers are the bedrock of FCPS. Failure to offer competitive compensation historically has led to loss of experienced educators and difficulty attracting new teachers. Moreover, it disrespects the efforts of all staff and leads to loss of morale and effectiveness.

Thus, the Committee considers it critical to provide teachers a pay raise in FY22, as requested in the School Budget.

As homeowners, Committee members are well aware that the bulk of County revenue comes from our residential real property taxes and that there are few other revenue sources that can be tapped when additional funding of an important County asset is needed. The legislature has recently provided some additional taxing authority to the County but not in time to provide homeowner relief this year. Pandemic relief funds may provide some assistance in the short run.

The Committee after much discussion concluded that even in this pandemic year, at a tax rate of \$1.16 (which the Committee preferred for adoption), the average homeowner would pay

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only \$1.00 more per day, a small price to pay to try to assure that FCPS and the County will have the tools and ability to move past current economic uncertainties to a better future. However, on March 9, 2021, (after the Committee met) the Board of Supervisors held the maximum FY22 tax rate at FY21 levels, or \$1.15; this rate if adopted would raise \$70M, enough to meet the non-discretionary needs of FCPS but not enough, by itself, to prevent further slip in teacher pay scales and stem the accelerating loss of experienced teachers to surrounding jurisdictions. It may be that new pandemic relief funds can be applied in such a way to permit some salary scale enhancement for Fairfax teachers.

In other matters, the Committee expressed satisfaction that, barring significant change in pandemic conditions, all students will have some opportunity for in-person instruction by the end of March. However, the public, parents and students need to be aware that the experience will be very different and will require flexibility and patience. Child care issues will continue to be a challenge. Teachers also will have to develop new strategies for the concurrent model ie simultaneously teaching part of the class in-person and part virtually. Anecdotal evidence suggests that some students (particularly high school) prefer to continue all-virtual finding the 2 days of in-person instruction not worth the disruption. The same anecdotal information suggests that some student grades and attendance are improving, perhaps as a result of increasing familiarity with the virtual technology.

The Committee plans to investigate further the lessons learned and outcomes both as applied to the current year and for possible application in the future to expand opportunities for students.

Another area of concern is the plan for remediation/restoration of skills for students who have struggled. Funding is anticipated from the Federal government and/or Commonwealth but it seems unclear at this time what the format or extent of instruction will be. The Commonwealth has established a commission to determine best practices and provide guidance to local systems and the FCPS website also has resources for parents. [Secretary of Education - COVID-19 Education Response and Recovery Work Group \(virginia.gov\)](https://www.doe.virginia.gov/education-recovery-work-group)

Next meeting: 7:30pm, April 7, 2021 by Zoom

Environment & Recreation

Presentation: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1PanSz_aZ1eXBGTBOjZ7d6KOpyPJ-JHyAzoPeouhG2E/edit?usp=sharing

Attendance:

Belle Haven Terrace, Belle View, Hollin Hills, Hollin Hall Village, Riverside Estates, Stratford Landing, Sulgrave Manor, Wellington, Wessington, MVCCA Co-Chair

Minutes:

- Roll Call
- Reviewed Mount Vernon District 2021 Focus & Investments
- Question about the Grist Mill Master Plan
 - Located near Ft. Belvoir
 - Master plan has been created - can go on parks site or view it in Dan Storck's office. Currently refining and trying to get the money to start it
 - MVCCA wrote a resolution 6-7 years ago. Have a cow barn with an old silo- many suggestions about what that could be turned into

Reviewed Active Committee Action Items

- Sale of River Farm
- EMBARK Rt. 1 Brand Survey extended
- North Hill
- Penn Daw Fire Station / Co-Location Supportive Housing
- EIS for Humphreys Engineer Center (HEC) Training Support Facility TSF
 - Larry Zaragoza needs to look at it
 - Katherine says we need to respond my middle of the month to avoid them shutting us out
- Sale of 6514 Cygnet
 - National Wildlife Federation owns the lot, much of which falls in the RPA and 100 year floodplain, and is attempting to sell the property. Belle Haven Terrace Civic Association is opposed.
 - Next step: BHTCA reps speaking with NWF CFO to attempt to come to a resolution
 - Katherine reached out to Alan Rowsome, NVCT to alert him and see if they might be able to negotiate a transfer to preserve the land
- Tax Sale Yale Drive
 - Private owner has not paid property taxes
 - Most of the lot is a county easement used as a stormwater management facility
 - BHTCA is planning to allow the auction to proceed assuming it will fall back into county ownership
- Stormwater in Hollin Hall / Mount Vernon District
 - Video of water bubbling up / running backwards? County (and to some extent VDOT) not taking inspections seriously enough.
 - Recommendation to form subcommittee relative to stormwater issues in the district. Intersection with our committee and P&Z
 - Katherine Update
 - Previous director of public works - James Pattison. Katherine called and described the problem. We would be

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willing to give a presentation regarding stormwater management, runoff credits, etc.

--- Reached out to Rachel, deputy county executive: Go-to person when citizens have a problem.

--- Should get subcommittee moving with people who are involved

--- Can we find a civil engineer in our district who would be willing to be on our committee?

Calendar

- Board of Supervisors Meeting - Might happen on March 9
- March 17 public hearing for planning commission on River Farm Historic Overlay District. Need citizens to approve the historic overlay district for River Farm. Can do so in writing and/or attend.

- April 10, Little Hunting Creek Cleanup

- April 13 - Board of Supervisors meeting on River Farm

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

Planning & Zoning

MVCCA Planning & Zoning Committee March 1, 2021

Hybla Valley Farms CA, Belleview Condominiums, Mason Hill CA, Holland Court Property Owner's Association, Belle Haven Terrace CA, Wellington CA, Hollin Hall Village CA, Tauxemont CA, Stratford-on-the-Potomac CA, Riverside Gardens CA, Westgrove CA, Woodlawn Manor, Mt. Zee CA, Riverwood HOA, Mt. Zephyr CA, Huntington CA, Engleside CA, Collingwood Springs CA, CA Hollin Hills, Montebello Condominiums

Guests: Laura Arseneau, AICP-Branch Chief, Heritage Resources and Plan Development, Dept of Planning & Development Fairfax County Government; Walter Clarke-Planning Commissioner, Mt. Vernon District; Aina Babkowska-resident, Hollin Hall Village, Nicholas Rhinehart-Land Use Issues for Supervisor Dan Storck's office

The meeting came to order at 7:02pm. The MVCCA E&R committee also joined us for the presentations.

Our first presenter for the evening was Laura Arseneau, AICP-Branch Chief, Heritage Resources and Plan Development, Dept of Planning & Development Fairfax County Government to discuss the Wellington at River Farm Overlay Proposal (PA-2020-IV-MV1 concurrent with RZ 2021-MV-001 and Zoning Ordinance Amendment). Laura presented us with slides explaining the process and where it currently resides within the county planning process. (Slides to be available on the MVCCA P&Z webpage). Also brought forward was Delegate Scott Surovell's bill before the VA legislative stating specifically

this particular property and encouraging moving forward with the Historic Overlay District. Following our meeting on Tuesday, March 2nd, 2021 the Wellington Civic Association would again be addressing the possible Historic Overlay District and what it would mean to the Wellington community and the Mt. Vernon District at large. A resolution followed the meeting and was approved unanimously by committee.

Our second presenter of the evening was brought by one of our committee members (Hollin Hall Village). Ania Babkowska shared with us her stormwater issues since the building of larger homes adjacent to her property. She had shared her story on NextDoor, thus bringing it to our attention. She had been in repeated contact with county staff only to be told it was her problem. Her basement continues to be flooded every time it rains from the water runoff next door. Her neighbors have been supportive but don't know what they can do to mitigate the problem. Other committee members joined in by sharing their own stories of the now more frequent flooding in their yards and neighborhoods. It was suggested and voted on to create a subcommittee with interested members of the council to address stormwater issues in the Mt. Vernon District. Additionally, an appeal was made to Nicholas Rhinehart, Land Use Issues with Supervisor Dan Storck's office to get the county involved responsibly to assist Ms. Babkowska with the current issue at hand. Several members of the committee offered suggestions on possible solutions to the matter as far as the next steps to take on the issue. As always, the discussions were lively and informative.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm. The next P&Z Meeting will be held on Monday, April 5, 2021 at 7pm via Zoom.

Public Safety

The committee met via Zoom at 7:30 pm on March 4, 2021. Attendees were: Civic Association of Hollin Hills, Collingwood on the Potomac, Mason Hill Citizen's Association, Mount Vernon Civic Association, Potomac Valley River Bend, Sulgrave Manor Civic Association, Wellington, Wellington Heights Civic Association, Williamsburg Manor North Citizens Association, our liaison co-chair and the chairman. Guests in attendance were Sulayman Brown, Assistant Coordinator, Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management.

After introductions, Mr. Brown started an overview briefing on the composition and operation of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM). The briefing slides are posted on the Public Safety page of the MVCCA website, <http://www.mvcca.org/committees/public-safety-committee>. The four phases of emergency management are Mitigation, Preparation, Response, and Recovery. The first two phases include actions prior to an emergency, the third is during the incident and the

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last phase defines activities after the emergency. In an emergency, OEM manages the assets (subject matter experts) provided by the other county departments (police, fire and rescue, public works, etc). OEM is located at the Mc Connell Public Safety and Traffic Operations Center, MPSTOC or PSTOC, on Alliance Drive in Fairfax. The entities collocated in the PSTOC include:

- The Department of Public Safety Communications (DPSC - the county's 9-1-1 Call Center), which receives and dispatches all 9-1-1 emergency and nonemergency police, fire and rescue calls in the county.
- The Emergency Operations Center which oversees the county's activities during emergency incidents when activated by OEM. The EOC is equipped to receive and transmit Homeland Security and emergency information to state, regional and federal partners. The EOC has three levels of activation, Monitoring, Partial, and Full, which have variable crew compositions, shifts, and activity levels. There are backup facilities and equipment in a ready status in case a relocation is warranted.
- The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and Police Department have staff on the operations floor assisting with specific fire and police dispatching.
- The Police Department's Forensics facility is housed in a separate building connected to the McConnell PSTOC.
- The Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Northern Region Transportation Operations Center (TOC) and Signal System. The TOC monitors traffic and incidents by using cameras and other information-gathering mechanisms to better manage day-to-day traffic flow and large incidents.
- The Virginia Department of State Police (VSP) Division 7 communications center, which receives and dispatches all #77 (interstate-related) calls for the Northern Virginia region.

The PSTOC has the capacity to host additional teams of specialists should there be a need to augment the existing staff(s).

The Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Guide (CERG), at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergencymanagement/cerg> contains a complete description of all emergency planning from county-level down to family-level and includes emergency contacts and materials to be kept in readiness kits. [Everyone should at least take a look at the CERG table of contents to get an idea of what the guide contains for emergency planning.](#)

The county has an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergencymanagement/emergency-plans> that defines how all county assets and programs will be deployed in an emergency as well as the procedures to be used to save lives and minimize damage during and after disasters. The plan establishes the framework

for the management of major emergencies, no matter the hazard or disaster type. The plan outlines the roles and responsibilities for emergency operations, as well as the "concept of operations" for the county. It is reviewed every year and updated at least every four years.

The next meeting of the Public Safety committee will be a joint meeting with the Transportation committee by Zoom at 7:00 pm on Monday, April 5, 2021.

Transportation

The Transportation Committee did not meet in March - members were invited to join the Budget & Finance Committee at Supervisor Storck's budget town hall meeting.

The Transportation Committee meeting will be joint with the Public Safety committee by Zoom at 7:00 pm on Monday, April 5, 2021. The National Park Service will present the final report on the George Washington Parkway safety study.

Fairfax Federation

The Fairfax Federation is in search of a land-use committee chair.

They have been asked to help support the HOD for River Farm.

They supported our position regarding ZMOD to not allow the Zoning Administrator take on the role of approving home based businesses and accessory dwelling units.

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

SFDC

Recently the SFDC Executive Director, Evan Kaufman, submitted an entry to the Smart Cities contest (learn more at <https://www.smartcityworks.org/scc2021/>). We were selected as a Pilot Project winner. We'll be working with the County to launch (in some fashion), the proposed Historic Walking Tour in Gum Springs, using Augmented Reality.

Report on our March meeting at the GC meeting.

Committee Resolutions

Education

PROPOSED MVCCA RESOLUTION EDU-2021-04 RESOLUTION WITH RESPECT TO SCHOOL TRANSFER IN FY 2022 COUNTY ADVERTISED BUDGET

WHEREAS the Fairfax County Executive's FY2022 Advertised Budget Plan, released on February 23, 2021, (County Budget) proposed an operating fund increase (Proposed Transfer) for Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) of \$13.07M compared to the \$104.4M (Transfer Request) requested by the Fairfax County School Board (SB) in its Advertised Budget (School Budget) resulting in a shortfall of about \$90.3M (School Shortfall); and

WHEREAS about \$60M of the Transfer Request was intended as a required match for announced Commonwealth of Virginia school salary increases to provide a 3% compensation increase for teachers, who otherwise would receive no compensation increases for two consecutive years (and some would actually receive less pay than in FY2020 due to insurance increases) while local competing jurisdictions have announced compensation increases and will take advantage of Commonwealth funding; and

WHEREAS the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) and the SB recognized the need to provide competitive compensation for teachers in order to attract and retain a highly qualified staff and had adopted a data driven multiyear plan for targeted increases to ensure FCPS could maintain its value as a critical County asset, but failure to provide competitive compensation for the second consecutive year will disrupt that plan, and, as it has in the past, cause the loss of experienced teachers to surrounding jurisdictions which continue to pull ahead in competitive advantage; and

WHEREAS the Transfer Request includes about \$42.7M in necessary spending primarily for rising contractual obligations, health insurance costs, mandated retirement contributions and preschool special education enrollment, but the Proposed Transfer is inadequate to fund these largely nondiscretionary needs by about \$29M even without any compensation increases; and

WHEREAS the pandemic continues to create many financial uncertainties about revenue and expenses, but also about additional relief funding which may be received by the County and/or FCPS and, depending on conditions or restrictions imposed, could be used to directly provide funds to FCPS or permit reallocation of County funds to fund the Transfer Request in whole or in part; and

WHEREAS homeowner real property taxes provide the bulk of County revenue and some homeowners have seen spendable

income decline while the increasing value of homes, while desirable, creates higher tax liability; yet homeowners realize that to maintain home values and economic recovery future, County assets and infrastructure must be preserved, that FCPS is the single most important asset to the County's future, and a highly qualified and motivated school staff is the most critical asset to FCPS; and

WHEREAS based on an average assessed home value of \$607,000, holding the FY2022 tax rate at FY2021 rates would raise almost \$70M while costing the average homeowner less than \$25.00 per month while each penny thereafter would raise \$27M at a cost to the taxpayer of \$5.00 per month; thus at homeowner cost of less than \$30.00 per month, or \$1.00 a day, the County could have raised nearly \$100M for schools and other critical priorities to preserve the County's economic future but the BOS chose to truncate that possibility by setting the FY22 Maximum Tax Rate at FY21 rates (\$1.15),

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, to protect our institutions and encourage future growth, urges the BOS to adopt a real property tax rate for FY2022 of \$1.15 per \$100, and to fund the Transfer Request from that revenue increase or otherwise.

END: PROPOSED RESOLUTION EDU-2021-04

Committee Resolutions

TO BE RATIFIED by General Council

Planning & Zoning

MVCCA RESOLUTION PZ-2021-03 SUPPORTING THE HISTORIC OVERLAY DISTRICT (HOD) RZ 2021-MV-001 AND PA 2020-IV-MV1 FOR WELLINGTON AT RIVER FARM

Whereas: The property known as River Farm, located at 7931 East Blvd Drive Alexandria, VA 22308, has a long and historic past, once owned by George Washington as part of his River Farm Estate and then by the Matheson family from 1919-1973;

Whereas: In 1973 the property was sold by the Matheson family to the American Horticultural Society (AHS) for their headquarters using funds given to them by Mrs. Enid Annenberg Haupt;

Whereas: The AHS's website dating back to the time of their purchase and continuing through today indicates that River Farm was to be kept "open to the public and act as a model for their mission to educate and advocate for Earth Friendly and Sustainable gardening practices";

Whereas: The AHS mission further states "AHS connects people to gardening, raises awareness of earth-friendly gardening practices, introduces children to plants, brings together leaders to address important national issues, and showcases the art and practice of horticulture."

Whereas: The AHS Board of Directors has closed the property to the public and is pursuing its sale; and

Whereas: The AHS Board of Directors has rejected the offer made by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NOVA Parks); and

Whereas: The Historic Overlay District recommendation from Fairfax County Planning staff retains the R-2 zoning therefore, it does not preclude future development or other uses for the property.

Therefore, be it resolved: The MVCCA acknowledges the historic nature of River Farm; and

Further, be it resolved: The MVCCA strongly encourages the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors to adopt the HOD as recommended by the county staff.

Approved MVCCA Board and PZ Committee March 10, 2021

Did You Know?

River Farm: Click the link below for a River Farm video and historical timeline.

https://video.wixstatic.com/video/cafa8d_0ebe3437c1cf4bd286934cfb3b0b6563/1080p/mp4/file.mp4

----- ZMOD-BOS Public Hearing Testimony -----

ZMOD-BOS PUBLIC HEARING

MVCCA TESTIMONY BEFORE THE FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS---ZMOD

March 9, 2021

Good evening Chairman McKay and Supervisors, my name is Katherine Ward, I live on Gladstone Place in the Mount Vernon District. I am the Cochair of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, (MVCCA) and am speaking on their behalf. The MVCCA's membership is slightly over 10,000 households and we have been a 501c4 since 1969. We care about what happens in the Mount Vernon District as well throughout Fairfax County.

The MVCCA has been engaged in the ZMOD process since its inception and were surprised when the details of the ZMOD changes came to full light in mid Jan 2021.

We subsequently had staff come back to discuss these major modifications with us. We greatly appreciated them taking the time to do that. Their presentation and justifications for many of the staff recommended changes did not sit well with us, in particular giving so much authority to the Zoning Administrator in areas that drastically impact our communities.

After that second presentation we once again sent in comments to our Supervisor and Planning Commissioner.

After watching the Planning Commission's decision only discussion on March 3rd, we are pleased that our interests were taken into account by the Commission. And that their recommendations which, align with our position on ZMOD, have been sent to you for approval.

Their discussion was in-depth, and the debate well thought out. Chairman Murphy's comment was particularly heart felt and important when he said (I'm paraphrasing here) that the motion to accept the staff's recommendations regarding home-based businesses and accessory living units being approved by the zoning administrator took the citizens of Fairfax County out of the process- a historically valued process that the County is highly regarded for.

The MVCCA steadfastly believes that a special permit must be required for home-based businesses and accessory living units. Furthermore, we support the 0 customers for home-based businesses but agree with the continuation of educational and sports classes in private homes based on no more than 8 customers in a day. We do not want signage on residential properties where home-based businesses are operated. We also want the +55 requirement for ALU's to remain in place.

Furthermore, we support the Planning Commission's recommendations regarding establishing a stakeholder task force; a staff evaluation report in 18 months to assess how the County can improve issues related to housing; continuing virtual testimonies; implementing on-line permit application processes; and improvements to all related websites pertaining to application submissions, BZA processes and how to educate the citizens on the functions of code enforcement and complaints.

We also concur with the Planning Commission's denial of the staff's recommended changes to the flag and flagpole ordinance and urge you to support that decision.

We thank the staff and the Planning Commissioners for their efforts with this complicated issue. And thank you as well in advance.

We look forward to participating in the stakeholder task force. We also look forward to the County expediting the construction of more affordable housing stock based upon the recently approved new AMI structure.

The bottom line is the MVCCA encourages you to deny the staff's ZMOD recommendations regarding Home based businesses and ALU's. We strongly recommend you approve the Planning Commission's modifications and recommendations regarding ZMOD – they will ensure Fairfax County remains a vibrant place for all of us to live and will ensure that all our citizens have an affordable comfortable place to call home.

Thank you for your time I'm happy to answer any questions.

----- 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 February 28th, 2021

	February	Total July 1 to February	2020-2021 Annual Budget	Budget Variance To spend or Favorable (Unfavorable)
Cash Receipts (including deposits in-transit):				
Dues - Current Members	\$ 45	\$ 2,594	\$ 3,145	
Money Market Interest	0	2	8	
Total Cash Receipts	45	2,596	3,153	\$ (557)
Cash Disbursements (including outstanding checks):				
Administrative	-	241	450	209
Insurance Premium	-	930	844	(86)
Outreach/Town Hall Meets	-	-	-	-
"Record" Production	100	590	800	210
Web Site	660	824	2,200	1,376
Total Cash Disbursements	760	2,585	4,294	1,709
Net Budget - Receipts in Excess(less than) Disbursements:	(715)	11	(1,141)	\$ 1,152

Other Sources/Changes in Cash:

Cash at Beginning of Period	9,442	8,717	8,717	Note 2
Total Cash at End of Period	\$ 8,727	\$ 8,727	\$ 7,576	

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

Burke & Herbert - Checking	\$ 2,663
Burke & Herbert - Money Market	6,064
Total Cash	\$ 8,727

Respectfully
Submitted,
Sean McCarthy,
Treasurer
March 10, 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
(February Paid Association(s) Update - William H Randall CA)

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
Virtual

AGENDA

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

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

MVCCA Council—March 24, 7:00 p.m., Virtual
MVCCA Board—April 13, 7:00 p.m., Virtual

Comm	Date	Time	Place	Chair
BUDG	4/6	7:00	Virtual	Zaragoza
EDU	4/7	7:30	Virtual	Harbeck
E&R	4/7	7:00	Virtual	Morgan
PL/Z	4/5	7:00	Virtual	Walzl
PS	4/5	7:00	Virtual	Kane
TRAN	4/5	7:00	Virtual	Sitnik

* All committee meetings are virtual until further notice

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