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Mount Vernon  
Council  
of Citizens'  
Associations

# Record

Volume LV, No. 2, February 2022

## FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

1. Here's what's happening in revitalization in Fairfax County: <https://www.fcrevite.org/2021-revitalization-activity-update>
2. The MVCCA Board represented MVCCA at Supervisor Storck's Feb 12th Town Hall Meeting. Our Special Committee on Stormwater was also represented by the Committee's Chair.
3. Now that River Farm has been saved. Here's what's going on: <https://ahsgardening.org/about-us/news-press/https-ahsgardening-org-febmessage/>

## MVCCA General Council Meeting Minutes

### MVCCA General Council Meeting Minutes January 23, 2022

Attending: Belle Haven Terrace CA; Belle View Condo; Collingwood; Gum Springs: Holland Ct; Hollin Hall; Hollin Hills; Hybla Valley Farms; Huntington; Montebello; Mount Vee Manor; Mount Zephyr; Potomac Valley-River Bend; Spring Bank; Stratford Landing; Wellington Civic Association; Wessynton; Williamsburg Manor North: Co-Chairs Ward and Pascoe; Treasurer Kane.

Guests: Supervisor Storck; Nick Rinehart, Madeleine Carcamo-Reyes, and Peyton Smith, Supervisor Storck's office; South County Federation; Miranda Spivak.

Called to order at 7:05 by Co-Chair Pascoe.

Co-Chairs asked for Nominating Comm volunteers.

The December GC minutes were unanimously approved.

#### Committee Reports:

E&R: as published.

Transportation: as published.

Education: as published.

P&Z: as published.

Public education Safety: as published.

Special Stormwater: reviewed stormwater regulations; working with VDOT on upgrades & problem areas.

SFDC: the annual Economic Summit is coming in April. More details to come in February.

Fairfax Federation: no report.

Treasurers Report: accepted, as published.

Co-Chairs report: an Infill Task Force will be addressing stormwater issues. Please send in neighborhood comments on

## MVCCA BOARD

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Stormwater	Leo Milanowski	specialcommittee@mvcca.org

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renaming Magisterial Districts to [redistricting@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:redistricting@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### Resolutions:

Renaming Resolution approved unanimously, as amended from published version.

Alexandria Crossing Resolution ratified unanimously, as approved by the MVCCA Board.

Living Shoreline Resolution approved unanimously as amended from published version.

### Supervisor’s Time:

The BOS supported the schools’ mask requirements. The 35th Annual Town Hall Meeting will be held in person on February 12, with Facebook and Channel 16 livestreams. The new Mount Vernon receptionist, Maddie Carcamo Reyes was introduced. Reminder that the plastic bag fee is now in force. The first meeting of the Infill Task Force will be on January 30.

Supervisor Storck is working on building a coalition to bring undergrounding utilities to Richmond Hwy. County staff is hiring an architect for the Penn Daw fire station/homeless shelter.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

The budget presentation can be found here: <https://www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/pdf/FY-2023-Proposed-Budget-Presentation.pdf>

### Highlights:

The current FCPS Budget is \$3.3 Billion

The amount requested for the county transfer is decreased this year due to the ESSER funds available.

Required adjustments include enrollment adjustment ~11,000 less students enrolled

Baseline adjustments because of ESSER funds – the items worthy of funding after funding - \$17.8 M

VA Board of Ed proposed a number of staffing changes and the general assembly may fund some of the proposals so this budget is still in draft form until those decisions are made.

Upcoming Budget Calendar dates to note:

Budget calendar work session Feb 8, 2022

Budget will be adopted May 26, 2022

Every penny on the tax rate generates about 25M and schools get about half of that – even if tax rate comes down 2% they could still fully fund us

Question: How are we doing on funding our teachers? Our compensation packages are catching up with other local jurisdictions – we are currently about in the middle of the pack

### 2022 Goals

Encourage attendance to meetings

Find ways to get more involved with our local Mount Vernon Schools

Develop a new mission statement to encapsulate our new vision

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm

Next meeting: March 2, 2022 @ 7:30 pm

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

## Budget & Finance

The Budget and Finance Committee did not meet in January. The next meeting is TBD. We are looking for a chair for this committee - if you are interested, please contact a co-chair.

## Education

### MVCCA Education Meeting – February 2, 2022

Members present: Collingwood Springs, Mount Vernon Civic Association, Mount Zephyr, Newington Forrest, Spring Bank, Sulgrave Manor

Also present: Leigh Burden – FCPS Asst Superintendent Finance FCPS

Ms. Burden presented the FCPS budget which can be found here: <https://www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/pdf/FY-2023-Proposed-Budget.pdf>

## Environment & Recreation

The February E&R Committee meeting was held Wed. Feb. 2nd at 7pm via Zoom.

### Attendees:

Belle Haven Terrace, Ellen Young

Co-Chair 1, Katherine Ward

Chair, Christopher Morgan

Huntington Community Association, Alan Ruof

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Spring Bank Community Association, Kevin Knappmiller  
Mason Hill Citizen's Association, DeLisa Woolfolk  
Hollin Hall Village Citizens Association, Dorothy Keough  
Wessynton Homes Association, Larry Zaragoza  
New Alexandria Citizens Association, Thomas Jordan  
Wellington, Anita Kerr  
Member of Public, H. Jay Spiegel

Admin:

- Committee Members are not receiving emails sent from the "@mvcca.org" account, or receiving them hours later.
- This issue has persisted for a few months at least.
- Screenshots confirmed the emails are going out, but not being received.
- Chair will send an unofficial calendar invite from a member citizen association account.

Working Business:

- Sale of 6514 Cygnet Drive. No update.
- Verizon Property 2806 Popkins Ln. No update.
- 5863 Richmond Hwy. This is an active item. There is a joint committee meeting taking place next week to discuss. We anticipate a joint resolution with PZ.
- Living Shoreline (SB776). This is an active item. Recently, the committee and MVCCA Board approved a resolution in favor of HB739, which includes amendments to the law which the committee supports.

Resolution on Public Meeting Notification:

- A member from an active member association of MVCCA proposed a Resolution regarding the public notification of meetings from County.
- The draft resolution was reviewed and discussed.
- The amended version was passed 8-0-1 in favor and was submitted to the MVCCA Board.

Next meeting is Wed. March 2nd at 7pm via the same Zoom link.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm

## Planning & Zoning

The Planning & Zoning committee met jointly with Transportation and P&Z in February. Please refer to the "Joint Transportation/Public Safety/Planning & Zoning" minutes in this Record.

## Public Safety

The Public Safety committee met jointly with Transportation and P&Z in February. Please refer to the "Joint Transportation/Public Safety/Planning & Zoning" minutes in this Record.

The next Public Safety meeting is March 1 at 7pm.

## JOINT Transportation Public Safety, Planning & Zoning

February 07, 2022

The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Association (MVCCA) Transportation Committee met jointly with MVCCA Public Safety (PS) as well as MVCCA Planning and Zoning (P&Z) at 7:00 p.m. on February 07, 2022 in a virtual gathering hosted on Zoom. Participating in the meeting were Kelly M. Atkinson, AICP, Fairfax County, Environment and Development Review Branch, Department of Planning & Development (DPD); Corinne Bebek, AICP, LEED AP BD+C, DPD; Joe Gorney, AICP, DPD, Aaron LaRocca, Chief of Staff, George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP), National Park Service (NPS); Robert D. Brant, Associate, Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley & Walsh, P.C.; Maria Lashinger Transportation Consultant with Grove Slade; Jennifer L. Garcia, Senior Land Use Planner, DLA Piper LLP (US); Antonio J. Calabrese, Attorney, Land Use and Zoning, DLA Piper LLP (US); Bob Pikora, FCDOT; Captain Jonathan Hofflinger, Commander, West District, United States Park Police (USPP); Walter C. Clarke, Mount Vernon District Planning Commissioner, Tim Sargeant, Fairfax County, Planning Commission, At-Large, Secretary; Peyton Smith, Mount Vernon District, Staff, Transportation & Trails, Liaison; Pete Sitnik, MVCCA Transportation Committee Chair & Attendance-Taker for tonight's meeting; John Bioty, MVCCA Transportation Committee Note-Taker for tonight's meeting; Gretchen Walzl, MVCCA Planning & Zoning Chair & note taker; Jason Zaragoza, MVCCA Public Safety Committee Chair & note taker; Leo Milanowski, MVCCA Special Committee on Stormwater Management Chair; Bill Kane, MVCCA Treasurer; Katherine Ward and Lynn Pascoe, MVCCA Co-Chairs.

Transportation Committee representatives from the following MVCCA Associations were in attendance: Belle Haven Terrace Citizens' Association; Belle View Condominium Unit Owners' Association; Collingwood on the Potomac; Holland Court Property Owners' Association; Holland Hall Village Citizens Association; Huntington Club, A Condominium Unit Owners'

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Association, Inc.; Hybla Valley Farms Civic Association; Mason Hill Citizens' Association; Montebello Condominiums Unit Owners' Association; Mount Vernon Manor Citizen's Association; Mount Zephyr Community Association; New Alexandria Citizens Association; Potomac Valley River Bend Civic Association; Riverside Gardens Civic Association; Riverwood Homeowners Association; Stratford Landing Citizens' Association; Sulgrave Manor Civic Association; Tauxemont Community Association, Inc.; Waynewood Citizens Association; Wellington Civic Association; Westgrove Citizens Association; and Williamsburg Manor North Civic Association.

Planning & Zoning Committee representatives from the following MVCCA Associations were in attendance: Belleview Condominiums, Belle Haven CA, Belle Haven Terrace CA, Collingwood on the Potomac CA, Collingwood Springs CA, Engelside CA, Holland Court Property Owners Association, CA of Hollin Hills, Hollin Hall Village CA, Huntington Club, A Condominium Unit Owners' Association, Inc., Huntington CA, Hybla Valley Farms CA, Mason Hill CA, Mt. Vee Manor CA, Mt. Vernon CA, Montebello Condominiums, Mt. Zephyr CA, New Alexandria CA, Potomac Valley River Bend CA, Riverwood HOA, Spring Bank CA, Stratford Landing CA, Tauxemont CA, Wellington CA, Westgrove CA, Williamsburg Manor North CA, Woodlawn Manor CA.

P&Z Guests included: Walter Clarke, MV Planning Commissioner, Tim Sargeant, MV Planning Commissioner at Large; Bob Brandt, Land Use Attorney, Walsh Colucci; Jennifer Garcia, Land Use Planner and Antonio Calabrese, Attorney, Land Use and Zoning, DLA Piper LLP; Tom Rickert, Jefferson Manor; Richard Neel, Mt. Vernon CA; Ann Rowan, Cedar Dale Lane.

Public Safety Committee representatives from the following MVCCA Associations were in attendance: Belle View Condominium UOA; Collingwood-on-the-Potomac; Hollin Hall Village Citizens Association; Huntington Community Association; Mason Hill Citizen's Association; Mount Vernon Civic Association; Potomac Valley River Bend Civic Association.

Total attendance at the Joint meeting, including guests and several other interested individuals, was **96**.

Peter Sitnik, MVCCA Transportation Committee Chairman, called the meeting to order and introduced MVCCA P&Z Chair, Gretchen Walzl, and MVCCA PS Chair, Jason Zaragozas for their opening remarks. Both Chairs welcomed respective members. Peter then stated that since Committee members were sent a copy of the meeting announcements, he would not repeat them at this meeting. They are included below for record purposes only.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** "At the February 7th joint meeting, we are scheduled to hear five (5) presentations":

- (1) **Airport Noise Policy, Fairfax County "Proposed" Comprehensive Plan Amendment:** (Plan Amendment 2020-CW-3CP). This proposed plan amendment relates to Airport Decibel Noise Levels (DNL) contours in the 60-65 range for Fairfax County residential areas.
- (2) **MVCCA Special Committee on Stormwater Management:** Update on efforts by the Committee to address Stormwater flooding resulting from inadequate infrastructure, infill development, and lack of enforcement.
- (3) **National Park Service (NPS) update on the striping (Road Diet) Project:** The Road Diet was completed on the Southern Section of the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) in the southbound direction. NPS will inform the Committee on the educational "infographic" released on February 2<sup>nd</sup> for the new traffic patterns at Belle Haven and Belle View intersections.
- (4) **Huntwood Plaza Special Exception Amendment:** The amendment refers to the Huntwood Plaza Office building at 5863 Richmond Highway in Alexandria (intersection of Fort Hunt Road and Richmond Highway). The owner is asking for MVCCA support for their special exception. In response to feedback from the community and concerns about the drive-through concept, the owner instead has revised the proposal to include a 6,000 square foot building to be occupied by a restaurant or other retail uses.
- (5) **Ethos Veterinary Health:** Owner desires to rezone the property at 5904 Richmond Highway Alexandria, VA 22303, from C-8 (Highway Commercial) to C-3 (Office District) to house a veterinary clinic.

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

### **Airport Noise Policy, Fairfax County "Proposed" Comprehensive Plan Amendment:**

Chairman Sitnik introduced Kelly Atkinson, Branch Chief, Environment and Development Review Branch of the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Development (DPD). Kelly introduced her team consisting of Corinne Bebek and Joe Gorney, both of whom are with the Environment and Development Review Branch of DPD.

Corinne Bebek led the presentation on the proposed Airport Noise Policy Comprehensive Plan Amendment (Plan Amendment 2020-CW-3CP). This amendment, if adopted, would allow for the consideration of residential uses in areas located between the 60 and 65 DNL airport noise contours. Corinne stated that the Environment and Development Review Branch was focused on commitments to noise mitigation measures, notification requirements, and appropriate construction techniques. A DPD Issues Paper was published in November 2021 and is intended to provide background

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information regarding aircraft noise and to identify noise mitigation measures that could be considered. The proposed amendment would revise policy guidance and identify criteria for new residential in the 60-65 DNL airport noise contours. Corinne mentioned that there are four (4) Fairfax County Planning Areas, which provide land use guidance for specific designated areas. This amendment focuses on Area III, which includes those areas closest to the Dulles Airport. National Airport (DCA), she mentioned, is not included because it is outside the County and none of the noise contours associated with DCA extend into Fairfax County.

Corinne further stated that the County first adopted contours and associated Plan policies for the 60-65 DNL noise impact area in 1997. 60 DNL was established as a threshold above which new residential development would not be recommended. At the Board of Supervisor's Land Use Policy Committee on July 21, 2020, a County consultant and staff recommended that the Board consider a policy change to allow for consideration of new residential uses between the 60 to 65 DNL airport noise contours countywide. That Plan Amendment was authorized on July 28, 2020 by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS). It directed staff to consider updates to Land Use and Environment Elements of the Policy Plan & Area Plan to allow consideration of new residential uses between the 60-65 DNL airport noise contours.

The November 2021 proposed DPD Plan Amendment Issues Paper provides background information and identifies potential considerations and noise mitigations to allow consideration of residential uses within the 60-65 DNL contours. It does, however, retain the BOS adopted 1993 contours. Corinne noted that most jurisdictions with international airports permit residential uses within the 60-65 DNL contours. A link to DPD's current Issue Paper can be found at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-development/plan-amendments/airport-noise-policy>

The current proposed amendment is scheduled for a Planning Commission (PC) Public Hearing on May 18, 2022 and a BOS Public Hearing on June 28, 2022.

The discussion period that followed was quite controversial. Committee members desired to know why DPD was using 29 year old 1993 data for noise contours. One Committee member asked why the BOS chose not to adopt the 2019 contours. Several other Committee members asked what type and number of aircraft were used in generating noise pollution data for this study effort. DPD responded that the FAA defines those parameters. Overall, Joint Committee members pushed back on the proposed amendment saying it did not make sense to increase noise level acceptance standards in Fairfax County while many other study groups wanted to lessen it. DPD indicated that economic development implications are involved

in the decision and closed the discussion by stating that the BOS was focused on balancing noise allowance and land use in Fairfax County.

Chairman Sitnik thanked DPD for their efforts this evening and asked Kelly Atkinson to share her presentation with the Committee. Kelly agreed and added that people can provide comments or ask questions by emailing her at: [DPDAirportNoisePA@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:DPDAirportNoisePA@fairfaxcounty.gov). In addition, for individuals who want to provide feedback directly to the Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors, they can do so, respectively, at: [plancom@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:plancom@fairfaxcounty.gov) or [ClerktotheBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:ClerktotheBOS@fairfaxcounty.gov). The presentation can be viewed using this link: [http://mvcca.org/docs/Trans-2022-02-07\\_AIRPORT-Noise-FFC-Presentation.pdf](http://mvcca.org/docs/Trans-2022-02-07_AIRPORT-Noise-FFC-Presentation.pdf)

### **MVCCA Special Committee on Stormwater Management:**

Chairman Zaragoza introduced Mr. Leo Milanowski, Chair of the MVCCA Special Committee on Stormwater Management.

Mr. Milanowski said the Committee was formed to address stormwater runoff issues in the Mount Vernon District, identify issues, and seek remedies from decision makers in state and local governments. The goal is to fix legacy problems, evaluate current projects that could cause problems and change their course to prevent future problems.

Mr. Milanowski indicated that the committee is about 60 percent complete with their work. Moving forward the committee plans to:

- Document specific, current stormwater problems and request fixes from responsible organizations and monitor organization's progress toward a fix;
- Monitor current projects to ensure damaging stormwater effects do not increase;
- Identify and actively pursue changes to laws, guidance, best management practices, funding, enforcement, etc., that fall short in preventing stormwater problems; and
- Develop a plan to educate homeowners on stormwater effects and problem mitigation.

The Stormwater Committee found that over the past five years there were nearly 300 stormwater complaints to the County from residents in the Mount Vernon District. In early October the Committee started drafting letters to the County Executive and directors, VDOT and Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVS & WCD).

The County collected \$81 million in stormwater taxes in 2020. Committee found that there is no money in the County budget allocated to specifically address property owner's stormwater concerns. The committee has drafted two resolutions to address this:

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- The first resolution asks the Board of Supervisors to allocate funding from the Fairfax County Stormwater Tax revenues to address and remedy stormwater problems experienced by homeowners and communities in the Mount Vernon District.
- The second resolution asks the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates to include sufficient and dedicated funding in the VDOT budget to upgrade its existing stormwater system infrastructure to current or forward looking standards for stormwater management.

Mr. Milanowski encourages anyone interested in participating on the Special Stormwater Committee to contact him at [specialcommittee@mvcca.org](mailto:specialcommittee@mvcca.org). Use this link to view his slideshow: [http://mvcca.org/docs/Trans-2022-02-07\\_MSCS-Stormwater-Mgmt-Brief.pdf](http://mvcca.org/docs/Trans-2022-02-07_MSCS-Stormwater-Mgmt-Brief.pdf)

### **Nation Park Service (NPS) update on the GWMP striping (Road Diet) Project:**

Chairman Sitnik introduced Aaron LaRocca, Chief of Staff, GWMP, National Park Service. Chief of Staff LaRocca thanked the Chairmen for the opportunity to engage the Committees.

Chief of Staff LaRocca initially addressed the Transportation Committee and stated that along with the Road Diet's completion he wanted to report three (3) additional items. The first item, that NPS' "infographic" had been published along with instruction for motorists on how to safely negotiate GWMP intersections at Belle View Boulevard and Belle Haven Road. Instructions and a downloadable copy of the "infographic" can be found at: <https://www.nps.gov/gwmp/learn/management/southern-george-washington-memorial-parkway-safety-study-next-steps.htm> Chief of Staff LaRocca thanked the Transportation Committee for its views on how traffic should be handled at these intersections and said the Committee would see many of its considerations implemented into the NPS "infographic".

The 2<sup>nd</sup> item Chief of Staff LaRocca mentioned was that "stops signs" and "left turn - yield to median traffic" had been approved and would be implemented for the Belle Haven Road Intersection. He said residents and motorists should see this happening in the next several days. One Committee member indicated that sign construction was happening today.

The third item Chief of Staff LaRocca addressed was a general agreement Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NPS and MVCCA for feed-back to inform the Park Service on GWMP safety issues and concerns.

In the discussion period that followed, many Committee members thanked Chief of Staff LaRocca for NPS' attention to GWMP Safety Issues and quickly implementing many "fixes" to identified problems. Other members complained about the current condition of the Parkway with downed trees, some even

blocking viewable on-coming traffic. Chief of Staff LaRocca stated that GWMP's Maintenance Team was way behind in cleaning up tree damage from the January 3 snow storm - both the Northern and Southern sections of the Parkway, however there was a plan in place to accomplish the task. One Committee member thanked NPS for its snow removal effort following the January snow storm. Other issues raised by Committee members included trucks on the Parkway, new signs and refurbishing the roadway surface. Chief of Staff LaRocca concluded discussions by stating that although there was no funded project for rehab to the Southern Section of the Parkway, NPS would compete for funding made available by the previous administration's Great American Outdoor Act.

### **Huntwood Plaza Special Exception Amendment:**

Bob Brandt, Land Use attorney with Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley & Walsh, (Walsh Colucci) came before the Committee again to present for the Huntwood Plaza property Issue. The proposed plan includes a 6,000 sq ft sit-down restaurant (as yet unspecified). Mr. Brandt would only say they were in discussion with several restaurants, but would not commit to a lease until such time as the special exception is granted. There continues to be significant transportation issues in an already clogged artery of Richmond Hwy and Ft Hunt Road as well as environmental issues since much of the property sits in a Resource Protection Area (RPA). The owners still need to reach out to the Belle Haven Country Club as the proposed project directly affects their entrance/exit. While the Committee members at large would be thrilled to have a sit down restaurant at that location, the Committee again stated they would not be amenable to a special exception until a clear-cut tenant is named. The Committee is concerned that if a definitive tenant is not named prior to the special exception being approved, the owner will simply lease the property for undesirable retail use, as has happened under similar circumstances along Richmond Hwy.

### **Ethos Veterinary Health:**

Mr. Antonio Calabrese, Attorney, Land Use and Zoning, DLA Piper LLP presented for Ethos Veterinary Health. The owner and operator of the facility are requesting to rezone the property located at 5904 Richmond Highway Alexandria, VA 22303, from the C-8 (Highway Commercial) to the C-3 (Office District) to allow for an addition of the existing structure to accommodate veterinary hospital uses (including radiation oncology and other specialty treatments and a 24-7 emergency care center), for a total of up to 7,000 square feet of additional development. A slight increase in the floor area ratio from 0.70 to 0.77 FAR would result. The applicant seeks to add pet treatment services and reinvest in the property with improved landscaping, RPA restoration and stormwater management enhancements.

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Committee participants were amenable to the project and some recognized Ethos Veterinary Health as a leader in the industry. It was suggested, however that they reach out to the local veterinary clinics and seek to work with them. When asked for hours of operation, it was confirmed to be a 24/7 facility and they, Ethos Veterinary Health, would like to evolve with the forthcoming comprehensive plans for the area. They do not have a set date with the BOS or PC; however, they will come back to the Committee at that time.

## **Meeting Adjourned:**

Chairman Sitnik thanked both PS and P&Z Chairs for attending tonight's meeting. He also thanked all presenters as well as all Committee members for sharing their thoughts, viewpoints, interest and concerns to MVCCA related items. The joint Transportation, Public Safety, and Planning & Zoning meeting concluded at 9:30 PM.

## **Future Transportation Committee Meetings:**

The next Transportation Committee Meeting will take place on March 7th, 2022. Until further notice, all meetings will be held remotely. Subsequent meetings are scheduled for Apr 4, May 2, Jun 6, Jul 11, Aug 29 (this is our Sep meeting), Oct 3, Nov 7 and Dec 5.

## **Fairfax Federation**

The Federation has 8 legislative packages working their way through the State Legislature: <http://mvcca.org/docs/2022-Federation-Legislative-Issues-List.pdf>

Updates can be found on the Federations website ([www.fairfaxfederation.org](http://www.fairfaxfederation.org)).

## **SFDC**

Save the Date for the 2022 Economic Outlook Summit, held jointly with the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce. It will be held on April 7 at 8 am, once again at the Belle Haven Country Club, and there will also be a virtual option. Details to come.

## **Special Committee on Stormwater Management**

**January 18, 2022**

MSCS team members representing New Alexandria, Belle View Condominiums, Westgrove, Mount Vee Manor, Wellington, Tauxemont, and Hollin Hall Village communities attended the meeting.

The meeting's agenda included and the following topics:

1. Review of committee activities since it's November 18 meeting
2. Existing Problem Site Review
3. Governing Documents Review
4. State & County Resources for SW Infrastructure Investment
5. Projects Related to MSCS mission: Westmoreland, Chadwick, Paul Spring

The committee did not meet in December 2021.

### Committee Activities between November 15 and January 18

1. In letter to VDOT, Fairfax County Department of Public Works & Environmental Services (DPWES) and the Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District (NVS&WCD), dated November 19, 2021, MVCCA requested physical visits to the stormwater problem sites identified by residents of MVCCA member organizations. The letter proposed a cooperative team approach with staff members from each office and the MSCS members. No response was received from any of the addressees and a follow-up email was sent on December 15 requesting status. Responses to the email were received from VDOT and Fairfax County with VDOT agreeing to participate and DPWES unwilling to participate; no response was received NVS&WCD. The County's reason for not participating were two-fold: dedication of its staff to a soon-to-launch County initiative to study flooding, and DPWES staff participation in Supervisor Storck's Infill Advisory Group (IAG), slated to begin in late January. Follow-up emails were sent to the County asking them to reconsider their decision and to Supervisor Storck's office asking for clarification on the IAG's mission. No responses to the follow-ups were received prior to our meeting date.
2. Several MSCS team members attended meetings about county-approved infill projects on Westmoreland Road. Residents living next-to and nearby requested meetings with Supervisor Storck's office and County officials to express their concerns about many items, one of which was stormwater management. The infill plans were

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approved without any on-site stormwater retention devices. As a result of this meeting, Supervisor Storck has formed a IAG to look at the problems surrounding infill development.

3. The MSCS co-chair attended a meeting with residents of Hollindale, Hollin Hall Village, as well as County Staff and Supervisor Storck concerning proposed renovation of the Paul Spring Branch of Little Hunting Creek. Hollindale residents were concerned the stream renovation might worsen flooding and erosion on their properties. They suspected upstream development had worsened the problem in the past several years. Supervisor Storck and County staff agreed to establish a community-based design team to find workable solutions.

### Existing Problem Site Review

MSCS members discussed how to change the DPWES's decision regarding the problem site reviews. Suggestions included engaging Supervisor Storck to encourage County participation; engage with County staff to find a time that would be more workable; asking VDOT to engage with County Staff to encourage County participation; and achieve broader public support through press coverage and use of social media. The Committee agreed to await the outcome of the County's response to our request for reconsideration of their decision and then, if needed, pursue the suggestions above.

### Governing Documents Review

The third leg of the MSCS Action Plan focuses on the future, and ways in which stormwater problems can be avoided. As a part of this, MSCS will examine current laws/ordinances/regulations/best practices, and recommend changes to improve stormwater management and reduce stormwater problems. The Committee will focus on following governing documents identified by County staff in their June 7, 2021 briefing to MSCS:

State: Virginia Stormwater Management Act - Article 2.3 (§ 62.1-44.15:24 et seq.) of Chapter 3.1 of Title 62.1 of the Virginia Code

County:

- Stormwater Management Ordinance (SWMO) - Chapter 124
- Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance - Chapter 118
- Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance - Chapter 104
- Zoning Ordinance - Article 2-600
- Public Facilities Manual

The Stormwater Management Ordinance was reviewed at the meeting. Ordinance articles most applicable to the Committee's work were listed. Most noteworthy among those articles is the provision allowing exemptions; the ordinance does not apply to

single family dwellings disturbing less than one acre (1) with less than total impervious surface of 18% of the lot or 2,500 square feet, or (2) the total lot area is one-half acre or less and no more than 500 square feet of new impervious area will be added. Given the smaller lot sizes associate with infill development and the associated stormwater problems, these provisions are candidates for change.

Committee members were asked to volunteer to review the remaining governing documents and suggest changes.

### State & County Resources for SW Infrastructure Investment

Lack of funding is a major impediment to solving stormwater problems in Mount Vernon District. The Committee agreed to develop two MVCCA resolutions requesting elected officials and responsible State and County offices to appropriate funding for this purpose. One resolution will request funding be appropriated at the State level to fund repair, replacement, and/or renovation of existing infrastructure under VDOT management/control. The second resolution will request re-allocation of Fairfax County Stormwater Tax revenues to use in correction of homeowners' recurring stormwater problems.

### Projects Related to MSCS mission: Westmoreland, Chadwick, Paul Spring

These recent and planned projects are secondarily related to the Committee's work. The Westmoreland infill project has no requirement for on-site stormwater retention. The Chadwick infill contractor appears to have incorrectly install stormwater conveyances in the VDOT right-of-way. The Paul Spring Branch renovation could worsen the flooding and erosion problems Hollindale residents are experiencing. The Committee will continue to monitor these projects as they proceed.

The next meeting date is February 15, 2021.



# ----- Committee Resolutions -----

## Environment & Recreation

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### PROPOSED - MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS ELECTRONIC COUNTY MEETING PUBLIC MEETING NOTIFICATIONS RESOLUTION (ER) 2022-02

1. *WHEREAS*, the Fairfax County Government (the County) conducts numerous public meetings during the course of any fiscal year, including meetings of its Board of Supervisors (BOS), Planning Commission (PC), and Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA), as well as of other County boards, authorities, and commissions; and
2. *WHEREAS*, Virginia Code § 2.2-3707, a section of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA) requires all meetings of public bodies to be open to the public; and
3. *WHEREAS*, Section 2.2-3707 requires the County to provide a public notice of the date, time, and location of its meetings, the public notice to include a listing of the proposed agenda; and
4. *WHEREAS*, the County fulfills the public notice requirement of Section 2.2-3707 by publishing notices of meetings and their agendas of at least the BOS, the PC, and the BZA in editions of the Washington Times newspaper; and
5. *WHEREAS*, publishing of notices of meetings in the Washington Times newspaper complies with Virginia Code § 8.01-324; and
6. *WHEREAS*, the average circulation of printed editions of the Washington Times is about 50,000 copies total, encompassing at least the entire metropolitan area of Washington, D.C., meaning that print circulation in Fairfax County is a small fraction of total circulation; and
7. *WHEREAS*, while publication of meeting notices in the Washington Times technically complies with the notice requirements of Virginia Code §§ 2.2-3707 and 8.01-324, given the small circulation of the Washington Times, such notice falls well short of notifying the general populace of Fairfax County of meetings and their agendas so that Fairfax County residents can participate in the decision making processes of the County boards, authorities, and commissions; and
8. *WHEREAS*, in FY 2020, the County expended approximately \$107,000 for print newspaper ads for public hearings during that fiscal year, which is about 0.0024% of the total County budget; and
9. *WHEREAS*, the public has moved toward relying upon the Internet and away from printed newspapers to obtain news; and
10. *WHEREAS*, the County operates a website accessible at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov) where information as to meetings of County boards, authorities, and commissions may be accessed including access to meeting agendas; and
11. *WHEREAS*, the County website is difficult to navigate and we believe the average citizen has difficulty finding out about various meetings of County boards, authorities, and commissions where issues of interest to citizens are being debated and decided; and
12. *WHEREAS*, print advertisements in the Washington Times do not provide links to locations in the County website to information about meetings; and
13. *WHEREAS*, facilitating easier access to information about meetings of boards, authorities, and commissions will make it easier for residents to participate in and engage in issues of interest; and
14. *WHEREAS*, a separate website administered by the BOS and dedicated solely to providing notices of meetings of County boards, authorities, and commissions, complete with meeting agendas and other meeting materials as required by the VFOIA would be helpful in facilitating greater public notice of those meetings and understanding of them; and
15. *WHEREAS*, were such a separate website to be created by County staff under the supervision of the BOS, small print advertisements could be placed in numerous local newspapers such as, for example, the Connection newspapers, notifying the public of the existence of the separate website and explaining that members of the public should navigate to the separate website to find information concerning upcoming meetings; and
16. *WHEREAS*, the small print advertisements described above would likely cost less in the aggregate over the course of a fiscal year than the large advertisements currently published in the Washington Times on a weekly basis, while providing better notice to a higher percentage of County residents concerning upcoming meetings and their agendas.
  - A. *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT* the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Association (MVCCA) urges the BOS to instruct County staff to create a new electronic mechanism to publish upcoming public meetings to County citizens.
  - B. *BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT* the MVCCA urges the County to develop both a static web presence where meetings shall be posted and advertised for County citizens to access.

## ----- Committee Resolutions -----

### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**

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#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION - MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (STORMWATER COMMITTEE) STORMWATER TAX REVENUE REALLOCATION RESOLUTION MSCS-2022-01**

Request the Board of Supervisors allocate sufficient funding from Fairfax County Stormwater Tax revenues to address and remedy stormwater problems experienced by homeowners and communities in Mount Vernon District.

*Whereas:* In March 2021, the MVCCA formed a Special Committee on Stormwater to investigate Mount Vernon District resident's complaints regarding stormwater problems affecting their homes and neighborhoods.

*Whereas:* In April 2021, the Committee published an action plan detailing its scope of work stating its intent to identify homeowners/communities with stormwater issues, examine cause(s) and resultant harm, and work to remedy existing problems.

*Whereas:* Through a MVCCA survey of its member organizations, residents of Mount Vernon District identified over 100 sites with stormwater issues in Mount Vernon District

*Whereas:* Through examination of Fairfax County's stormwater complaint database, the committee found nearly 300 formal complaints regarding stormwater during a five year period from 2015 through portions of 2021

*Whereas:* Causes of identified stormwater problems include inadequate infrastructure, increases in neighboring and near-by impervious surfaces, and inadequate enforcement of county rules.

*Whereas:* Many homeowners in the Mount Vernon District report they incurred considerable expense to fix stormwater problems resulting from inadequate infrastructure, increases to impervious surfaces in neighboring properties, or lack of enforcement of existing rules

*Whereas:* If left unaddressed, stormwater issues will continue to have a grave impact on residents of the Mount Vernon Community.

*Therefore Be It Resolved:* The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Association requests the Board of Supervisors examine line item allocation of Stormwater tax revenues, and reallocate sufficient funds to correct problems attributable to stormwater in the Mount Vernon District, including re-allocation of revenues (1) directly to individual homeowners to defray

- C. *BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT* the MVCCA urges the County to utilize a Calendar Subscription service so that Citizens may subscribe to various calendar feeds of interest and have the information automatically populate in their electronic calendars
- D. *BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT* the MVCCA further urges the BOS to place on the newly created website information about all upcoming meetings of all County boards, authorities, and commissions, complete with agendas and other meeting materials required to comply with the VFOIA, to inform the public about the subject matters to be discussed in those meetings including, but not limited to, staff reports and other information.
- E. *BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT* the MVCCA further urges the BOS to periodically place print advertisements in local community newspapers advertising the existence of the newly created website so that members of the public will be informed of its existence and can access the website to be better informed about upcoming meetings and facilitate increased participation in County decisions by County residents.

**END: PROPOSED RESOLUTION E&R-2022-02**

## ----- Committee Resolutions -----

costs of correcting problems through individual grants or other such conveyances, or (2) allow direct intervention to correct problems by Fairfax County offices responsible for stormwater and its effects.

**END: PROPOSED RESOLUTION MSCS-2022-01**

### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION - MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (STORMWATER COMMITTEE) VDOT FUNDING FOR STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE RESOLUTION MSCS-2022-02**

Request General Assembly recognize the compelling and immediate need to modernize stormwater infrastructure in Fairfax County's Mount Vernon District by legislating new funding in the Commonwealth of Virginia's Fiscal Year 2022 budget.

*Whereas:* The MVCCA established a Special Committee on Stormwater in March 2021 to investigate reported stormwater issues experienced by Mount Vernon District residents

*Whereas:* In April 2021, the committee identified and began to pursue high-level and intuitive actions necessary to address Mount Vernon resident's collective stormwater issues, their cause, and possible remedies

*Whereas:* Through outreach to MVCCA member organizations, residents reported over 100 sites with stormwater issues to the committee,

*Whereas:* Through outreach to Fairfax County, the committee obtained a report from Fairfax County's stormwater complaint system that contained nearly 300 stormwater complaints in the Mount Vernon District from 2015 to portions of 2021

*Whereas:* These two data sources revealed a significant number of problem sites, many due to stormwater infrastructure inadequacies

*Whereas:* The Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Transportation (VDOT) briefed the Committee in June 2021 on its drainage infrastructure and stated:

1. VDOT infrastructure is "aging" and "undersized"
2. Existing infrastructure in "older subdivisions" were built to "older standards" and are "inadequate systems", and
3. "No dedicated funding for Stormwater System Upgrades" exists in the VDOT budget.

*Whereas:* Many homeowners in the Mount Vernon District report they incurred considerable expense to fix stormwater problems resulting from inadequate infrastructure

*Whereas:* If left unaddressed, stormwater issues will continue to have a grave impact on the Mount Vernon Community.

*Therefore Be It Resolved:* The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Association requests the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates include sufficient and dedicated funding in the VDOT budget to upgrade its existing stormwater system infrastructure to current forward looking standards for stormwater management.

**END: PROPOSED RESOLUTION MSCS-2022-02**

# ----- 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 31, 2022

	January	Total July 1 to January 31	2021-2022 Annual Budget	Budget Variance To spend or Favorable (Unfavorable)
<b>Cash Receipts (including deposits in-transit):</b>				
Dues - Current Members	\$ -	\$ 4,265	\$ 3,016	
Money Market Interest	0	1	2	
Total Cash Receipts	0	4,266	3,018	\$ 1,248
<b>Cash Disbursements (including outstanding checks):</b>				
Administrative	23	340	250	(90)
Insurance Premium	-	-	930	930
Outreach/Town Hall Meets	-	-	250	250
"Record" Production	100	920	1,240	320
Web Site	320	1,325	1,400	75
Total Cash Disbursements	443	2,585	4,070	1,485
Net Budget - Receipts in Excess(less than) Disbursements:	(443)	1,681	(1,052)	\$ 2,733

**Other Sources/Changes in Cash:**

Cash at Beginning of Period	10,328	8,205	8,205
<b>Total Cash at End of Period</b>	\$ 9,886	\$ 9,886	\$ 7,153

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

Burke & Herbert - Checking	\$ 3,725
Burke & Herbert - Money Market	6,161
<b>Total Cash</b>	\$ 9,886

Respectfully  
Submitted,  
William J Kane,  
Treasurer  
February 4, 2022

**Notes:**

- 1 This financial statement uses the cash basis of accounting except as noted on the face of the statement.
- 2 Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar

## NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

**Wednesday, February 23, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual**

### AGENDA

- Call to Order
- 7:00 pm: Manufactured Homes Task Force-  
Elizabeth Lardner and Mark Viani will give us an  
update
- Minutes Approved
- Committee Reports
- Treasurer Report
- Co-chairs report
- Resolutions
- Elected Officials Time
- Members Time
- Adjourn

## COMMITTEE CALENDAR

**MVCCA Council—February 23, 7:00 p.m., Virtual**  
**MVCCA Board—March 8, 7:00 p.m., Virtual**

Comm	Date	Time	Place	Chair
BUDG	TBD	7:00	Virtual	open
EDU	3/2	7:30	Virtual	Hosek
E&R	3/2	7:00	Virtual	Morgan
PL/Z	3/7	7:00	Virtual	Walzl
PS	3/1	7:00	Virtual	Zaragoza
TRAN	3/7	7:00	Virtual	Sitnik
MSCS	2/15		Virtual	Milanowski

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