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Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations

Record

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FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

The Site Specific Plan Amendment Planning Commission Workshop removed the following nominations from the staff work plan:

West Ford Manor (corner of Rt 1 and Sherwood Hall Lane). The Moon Inn nominator withdrew their nomination. All other nominations in our area were recommended for approval to go into the staff work plan. Furthermore, the staff recommended that 8850 be attached to the 8800 property which is an open work plan nomination from years ago.

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MVCCA General Council Meeting Minutes

MVCCA General Council Meeting Minutes February 22, 2023

Attending: Belle Haven Terrace; Belle Haven CA; Belle View Condominium; Hollin Hills; Collingwood Springs; Collingwood on the Potomac; Holland Ct; Hollin Hall; Huntington CA; Huntington Club; Marlin Forest; Mason Hill; Montebello; Mount Vernon CA; Mount Vee Manor; Mount Vernon Manor CA; Mount Zephyr; New Alexandria; New Gum Springs; Pavilions at Huntington; Potomac Valley River Bend; Riverside Estates; Riverside Gardens; Spring Bank; Stratford Landing; Sulgrave Manor; Waynewood; Wellington Civic; Wessynton; Williamsburg Manor North.
Supervisor Dan Storck; Nick Rinehart, Supervisor Storck's office; Erika Christ; Alison Hufstetler.

Called to order at 7:05 by Co-Chair Ward.
Treasurer's report accepted as published.

Committee Reports:
Education: as published;
E&R: as published;
P&Z: as published;
Transportation & Public Safety: as published;
Stormwater: as published;
Fairfax Federation: had a meeting on the County budget;
SFDC: as published;
Membership: Vernon Heights has applied for membership.

Jason Zaragoza is the new Transportation Chair. Leo Malinowski is Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Bylaws Amendments: passed as published, unanimously.

SSPA Nominations:
PC workshop will be on March 2 for Mount Vernon.

MVCCA positions:
1. Cityside: agree, with reservations. One opposed.
2. Days Inn: agree, unanimously.

- 3. West Ford: Supervisor Storck doesn't support moving into the work plan. MVCCA believes this nomination needs to be put on the back burner until the historic overlay study is completed.
- 4. IMP: agree, unanimously.

Supervisor's Report: Recap of the Town Hall, including Bus Tour and Taste of Mount Vernon. The BOS is at the beginning of the budget process, and there will be a presentation for Mount Vernon on March 15. The Ides of Bark will be at Grist Mill Park on March 26. There was a meeting with County Stormwater staff and New Alexandria/Belle View/Riverview/River Towers, and County staff will come back with a different approach. USACE will soon present its report on a proposed flood wall, and there is little hope for Park Service cooperation.

Adjourned at 8:48 pm.

- - - Committee Reports - - -

Budget & Finance

The Budget and Finance Committee did not meet in March. 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 – Wednesday March 1, 2023, 7:30 pm

Our meeting was held on Zoom.

6 members present

Our topic this month was what it is like inside a classroom today.

Our guest was Genie McCreery teacher at Bryant Alternative HS 1st year government teacher

Genie introduced herself and told us about her journey back to teaching.

Some items she pointed out:

Get involved and you will learn a lot about what is going on in the schools

Great staff who really cares about the kids

We have several special education students and many immigrants who are learning English. Some students have missed parts of their education, for various reasons (health, travel, immigration)

Bryant does not have a soccer team or other sports activities. Most of the students are bused to the school from far distances. This makes it hard on attendance, as does the students having to work a job during the day and miss school.

Bryant is a smaller school with less enrollment which can help the students who have social anxiety. The students want to start a STOMP club, Genesis and Leadership club.

They also have a partnership with the WISH center where the students can learn skills such as welding, electricians carpentry, 3-D printing. Amazon visits as does the Police Academy and the Fire Fighters to talk to the students about potential job careers.

There is an activity day once a month – the students play Cricket and Soccer.

Genie also took a field trip to Richmond with her Government students She worked with Scott Surovell and the Toddy Puller institute to show them how the session works. They met several elected officials.

For Valentine's day, she bought carnations with hearts and gave them to the kids for kindness week.

There is also a lot of food distribution and clothing drives for the students. Genie always has oranges or apples and granola bars on hand to feed her students which she buys herself.

There is also a day care on site and some of the students have children of their own.

You can be up to 23 before you age out of Bryant.

Apathy and attitude is a battle for these students and makes it hard on the teachers.

It is hard because some of the students have no basis in history, such as WWI or WWII so the scaffolding must be reinforced

Grading policy- Bryant is set up with 4 x 4 (Four classes all day long every day). (Classes only last a semester for a whole year of learning) They are switching to block scheduling to match the other schools. The 4x4 allowed for graduation in December. The 4x4 would allow the students to have access to more classes if they continued with 4x4 classes. The classes are currently 120 minutes long.

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Some of these students are frustrated and many of the students are addicted to their phones. It is hard to keep their attention.

The students are self enrolled so most of them want to be there and graduate.

Questions from our group:

What do you not have now at Bryant that would help you do your job better and serve the students better? Bodies – it would be great if the senior center were attached to the school. It would help provide some structure for the students. Before or after school activities or during advisory. It would be great to have someone come in and talk about Economics and Personal Finance. Give the students some practical scenarios. Volunteers and Mentors would be great. The teachers are overworked and it would be great to have someone support these students.

It would also be great if someone would bring back the soccer team or Cricket at Bryant. More leadership programs where the students would plan spirit days. No real sense of school spirit.

How is the Administrative Support for the teachers? They are really supportive and they love the students. We need to bring back free breakfast and lunches. The students need snacks as well.

The bathrooms need upgrading. 1 bathroom for all the teachers. It would give the students some sense of respect.

Drugs are a problem in all of our schools.

We also have E-hall pass it is an app that the students request bathroom breaks. 3 breaks per day.

There are around 250 students at Bryant. Enrollment ebbs and flows.

We could really use volunteers.

Can you talk about COVID learning loss? We are not quite where we need to be. There is an effort to discover what the learning loss is and why and lots of testing to figure out where the kids are and try to help them recover any learning loss.

Some of the students may have suffered because they aged out of High school during COVID.

What can you tell us about the grading changes. At Bryant, we have a policy where even if you don't take a test, you get 50% at least. This makes it possible to get through a class even if you don't learn all the material. This is to help students not get a zero as you can never get your grade back up.

Do we have any internship possibilities for these students? YES! We have a career development program that the students have to attend so they learn about how to fill out applications and other things. These programs happen almost every week. There is a woman's group of women who come in and try and recruit women to be lawyers. Also police, fire fighters, etc.

At our next meeting we would like to discuss how the schools are addressing learning loss.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Environment & Recreation

Meeting minutes not available.

Planning & Zoning

March 6, 2023

Attendees:

Collingwood Springs CA
Belle View Condominium
Potomac Valley River Bend
Wellington CA
CA of Hollin Hills
Stratford Landing CA
Jefferson Community
Hollin Hall Village CA
MV Planning Commissioner
Sulgrave Manor CA
Mount Vernon District Planning Commissioner
Interested Citizen
MVCCA CoChair

The meeting started off with a presentation regarding Infill and By-Right Development. By-right developments are any use allowed specifically in the Zoning Ordinance. Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance hosts an online platform called EnCode where you can type in an address, and it will tell you the zoning restrictions. If developers meet current zoning standards, then the county does not have the legal right to stop or restrict the property's development.

Urban and suburban planning defines infill as the use of land for smart growth. Fairfax County requires plans be submitted for the review for all projects. A checklist was shown to the attendees.

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Mount Vernon district developed an Infill Task Force in 2022 whose goal was to better understand and evaluate options for by-right development. This task force included developers, builders, county staff as well as members from the community.

The Task Force specifically made suggestions about

- lot size and setback requirements;
- stormwater impacts and management; and
- tree cover and preservation.

A letter was written to the Northern Virginia Building Industry Associations (NVBIA) with these suggestions. Many were not supported. The Task Force next meets on March 30, 2023. The link to this meeting will be sent out to the committee.

Items Discussed at the meeting:

Tree Preservation: The community is losing its tree canopy so we need stricter regulations and not give “free passes” to developers. Fines should be given to developers that do not help to maintain trees. Developers don’t want yards and trees because it becomes difficult for them to cheaply install utility lines. However, they could snake utility lines around trees, but the cost is high. The committee suggested developers could work with arborists and with the tree commission to avoid the removal of trees. A suggestion was placed where you could put your house and yard under the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust. As a homeowner, you could do this for future use. There is a cost involved.

Townhouse type houses: A committee member mentioned that these are the worst houses in that they are doubling up in the Wellington area. Houses are crammed. Several of the houses in this area of the Mount Vernon District are zoning for higher homes than are currently on the lot. Developers can build several houses when previously there might be one.

Sherwood Hall/Gum Spring Intersection: A resident was asked about the Sherwood Hall and Gum Spring community. The resident stated that they support single family homes and feel like the historic feel of the neighborhood should be kept. The resident stated that he wants Gum Springs to reflect the African American history and wants an historic overlay with 2 to 3 single family houses only. The property owner is setting a high price for this land and as a result, development will be expensive also.

Data Centers: They are coming to Fairfax County. The Environmental and Recreation Committee will be having a presentation regarding water usage, noise, power needs in April. It was suggested to have a joint meeting in April.

Senior Housing: There is not enough housing for seniors in the Mount Vernon District. A committee member suggested that

patio or ranch style housing would be ideal. Developers would need incentives for this type of housing since it is so costly.

Public Safety

We are looking for a chair for this committee. If you or someone in your community are interested, please send an email to co.chair1@mvcca.org and co.chair2@mvcca.org and let us know of your interest.

Transportation/ Public Safety

The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens’ Association (MVCCA) Transportation Committee met on March 6, 2023 in a virtual gathering hosted on Zoom. Participating in the meeting were Noah Simon, State Representative Don Beyer’s Chief of Staff; Mark Maloy, Visual Information Specialist and Acting Chief of Staff, George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP), National Park Service (NPS), Jason Zaragoza, MVCCA Transportation Committee Chair & Attendance-Taker for tonight’s meeting; John Bioty, MVCCA Transportation Committee Note-Taker for tonight’s meeting; Bill Kane, MVCCA Treasurer; and Lynn Pascoe, MVCCA Co-Chair.

Transportation Committee representatives from the following MVCCA Associations were in attendance: Belle View Condominium Unit Owners’ Association; Holland Court Property Owners’ Association; Huntington Community Association (Chair); Mason Hill Citizens’ Association; Montebello Condominium Unit Owners’ Association; Mount Vernon Civic Association; Riverside Gardens Citizens’ Association; Stratford Landing Citizens’ Association; Sulgrave Manor Civic Association; Waynewood Citizens’ Association and Westgrove Citizens’ Association.

Total attendance for the joint meeting, including several other interested individuals, was 14.

Jason Zaragoza, MVCCA’s Transportation Committee Chairman, opened the meeting by thanking all those who were in attendance. He stated his previous experience with the MVCCA included Chairman for the Public Safety (PS) Committee. As PS Chairman, he had been involved in several “joint” meetings with Transportation and that his interest was more aligned with transportation. He mentioned that he is an advocate for mass transit and welcomes the opportunity to Chair the Transportation Committee and carry on the good work of former Chairman Peter Sitnik.

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Chairman Zaragoza noted that announcements had been sent out with the “read-ahead”.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/AGENDA (listed for record purposes only):

1. Introduction of New Transportation Chair.
2. Update by National Park Service on the proposed plan to improve the south section of GW Memorial Parkway and Mount Vernon Trail.
3. Opportunity to comment on Metro’s reinstating the 11Y express bus:
4. Update on March 2, 2023 Public Meeting on Fairfax County Parkway to recap Virginia Department of Public Transportation (VDOT) recommended changes.
5. Introduction of new Transportation issues from Committee members.

PRESENTATIONS:

NPS update on the GWMP/Belle Haven Intersection Safety Improvements and GWMP South Section/Mount Vernon Trail Improvement Plan/Environmental Assessment:

Chairman Zaragoza introduced Mark Maloy, NPS Acting Chief of Staff, George Washington Memorial Parkway to update the Committee on Belle Haven/Belle View intersections as well as improvements to the Southern Section of the GWMP. Acting Chief of Staff Maloy indicated that he would address his updates into three GWMP related areas: (1) Belle Haven and Belle View Intersection Safety Improvements; (2) South Section Parkway and Mount Vernon Trail Improvement Plan / Environmental Assessment, and (3) Road repairs at Waynewood Blvd.

Belle Haven and Belle View Intersection Safety

Improvements: Acting Chief of Staff Maloy stated that there were community outreach meetings in the fall of last year, including the September event at Belle View Elementary School and the virtual event in November, to provide a progress update regarding Belle Haven and Belle View intersections. During the virtual event, NPS outlined five steps to move forward in the implementation of safety measures. The current status of each step is indicated below:

1. Develop Preliminary Design Concept Visuals for the Belle Haven Rd Intersection. Completed - and presented at the November 2022 virtual neighborhood educational event.
2. Model Traffic Concepts to Verify Feasibility. Completed - the Technical Report Memo for the modeling results is being finalized.
3. Select a Design Concept. Ongoing - design concept will be selected after Technical Report Memo for modeling results is finalized.

4. Complete Compliance & Finalize Design. Ongoing - project is currently undergoing review to meet the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106).

5. Incorporate work into NPS’ Pending Project and Contracting Effort Ongoing - NPS has identified an existing contract for safety improvements at Belle Haven this year. After all steps are finalized, a contract modification can be issued to complete the work.

GWMP South Section and Mount Vernon Trail

Improvement Plan / Environmental Assessment: NPS indicated that the public comment period closed in January of this year. 700 correspondences were received with 4,600 individual comments. NPS will be reviewing and analyzing these over the next few months to shape the development of preferred alternatives. Once an environmental assessment (EA) is completed, NPS will reach out again for public input.

GWMP Emergency Road repairs at Waynewood Blvd: To address the road hump that occurred in November resulting in a significant heave, Acting Chief of Staff Maloy stated that NPS has been working closely with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to issue an emergency contract to conduct repairs. The contract has now been awarded. Repair is intended to be aggressive with removal of road surface and the pouring of new concrete. The repair is scheduled to start next week (Mar 14-18) weather permitting. The Parkway will remain open for travel but will be reduced to two (2) travel lanes (one north/one south).

Discussion: Chairman Zaragoza led the discussion by asking if long-term improvements addressed were aimed for the whole GWMP / Mount Vernon Trail. Acting Chief of Staff Maloy said no; they only addressed the Southern Section of the Parkway (i.e. Old Town to the Mount Vernon estate.) Another Committee member asked for a timeline as to when the 4600 comments received by NPS would be binned into categories and ready for public consumption. NPS said a timeline could not be provided presently but NPS would research the question and get back to the Committee. Several Committee members commented on the hump that had formed on the southbound lane of the GWMP in the area of Waynewood. One committee member mentioned that a “NextDoor” website input mentioned that NPS had already completed temporary repairs by shaving the hump several weeks ago. He concluded that the hump didn’t appear as significant as it once was. Noah Simon, State Representative Don Beyer’s Chief of Staff reiterated that Congressman Beyer has pushed for GWMP safety improvements for several years now and is very interested in the results. He had hoped that improvements would begin soon.

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Chairman Zaragoza asked Acting Chief of Staff Maloy if he would share his presentation with the Committee; NPS agreed to do so. With no further questions, Chairman Zaragoza thanked NPS for its presentation and stated that the Committee looks forward to continuing updates on GWMP related transportation issues.

Post Meeting Communication: On March 8, 2023, NPS provided the following responses:

Question: Is there a timeline for when the short-term changes at Belle Haven will be implemented? **Answer:** NPS is not projecting a timetable as there are various internal and external factors but updates will be given as NPS makes progress.

Question: Of the 4,600 comments received for the NPS Proposed Plan and Environmental Assessment to improve the Southern Portion of the Parkway and Mount Vernon Trail, do we know the content of those comments and will we be reaching out about them? **Answer:** The next NPS public outreach will be the draft Environmental Assessment. NPS will make public comments in the future but will not host public outreach specifically about (or around) the comments themselves.

Question: Who did the emergency repairs at Waynewood Blvd? **Answer:** NPS maintenance crew removed the asphalt. A contractor will replace the slabs that are the root of the issue.

Metro's Possible Reinstatement of the 11Y "express" bus:

Chairman Zaragoza indicated that Metro is seeking community input on its FY 2024 budget. One of the items under consideration would reinstate the 11Y "express" route from Mt. Vernon and Potomac Park, replacing the 11C and DC3 shuttle. The bus would operate every 24 to 30 minutes, northbound in the a.m. peak and southbound in the p.m. peak. Express fare would be charged. Comments may be submitted online through March 15 or during one of four public hearings being held in-person March 6 - 8 or a virtual session on March 10 at noon. For further information see: <https://www.wmata.com/about/news/FY24-Budget-Public-Comment.cfm>

Discussion: Kathleen Graham, from the Sulgrave Civic Association, stated that the pandemic reduced ridership on the 11Y route to the point where it was no longer economically feasible for Metro to operate it. Nonetheless, efforts continued in an attempt to persuade Metro to restore Alexandria service to the 11Y (Fairfax County Express) as one of the only area direct bus routes to serve Alexandria and the Pentagon. As an option, although less convenient, Bus Route 11C was implemented. The 11C serves the same Fairfax County stops

as the former 11Y but turns left on Pendleton Street in Alexandria to terminate at the Braddock Road Metro.

The Transportation Committee supported the reinstatement of the 11Y Bus Route as a faster, more convenient, "express" route for area residents to downtown DC locations.

March 2, 2023 Public Meeting on Fairfax County Parkway to recap Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) recommended changes.

Chairman Zaragoza stated that he had attended the March 2nd meeting given by Thomas W. Burke, Senior Transportation Planner IV, (FCDOT). The virtual public meeting was intended to address **Comprehensive Plan Amendments (PAs) 2021-CW-T2 (Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways. These Amendments were** authorized by the Board of Supervisors following endorsement of the Long-Term Planning Study recommendations for those roadways.

Another Committee member volunteered his summary of FCDOT's March 2 event. He relayed that the Fairfax County Parkway Plan began back in 2013 with public outreaches in 2018, 2019 and 2020. The meeting on March 2nd was intended as a final delivery of FCDOT and VDOT's assessments based upon prior public outreach meetings. Overall, FCDOT incorporated High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes as part of the original plan however the public did not favor HOV or tolls on the Fairfax County Parkway. These have now been eliminated. Bicycle lanes (on both sides of the Parkway) however were highly desired and are now part of the plan.

The Parkway will see an expanse to 6 lanes in most segments.

Noted segment plan modifications include:

- Route 7 to Franklin Farm Road (maintain 6 lanes, remove HOV)
- Franklin Farm Rd to Route 123 (maintain 6 lanes, remove HOV but add HOV feeder to I-66)
- Route 123 to Franconia Springfield Parkway (keep 4 lanes but continue to study the need for 6; remove HOV)
- Franconia Springfield to Richmond Highway (increase to 6 travel lanes, maintain no HOV capability)
- Franconia Springfield to Beulah (increase to 8 lanes, remove HOV but add HOV feeder to I-95)

A link to the Analysis can be found at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/study/fairfax-county-parkway>

New Items:

Chairman Zaragoza asked Committee members if they had any new items to present. Although discussions followed on previous topics, no new items were introduced.

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Meeting Adjourned:

Without new business, a motion to adjourn was presented and quickly seconded. Chairman Zaragoza thanked Committee members for sharing their thoughts, interest and concerns to MVCCA related items. The MVCCA Transportation meeting concluded at 7:35 PM.

Future (2023) Scheduled Transportation Committee

Meetings:

- Apr 3rd,
- May 1st,
- Jun 5th,
- Jul 10th,
- Aug 28th (this will be our Sep Mtg),
- Sep (see above note),
- Oct 2nd,
- Nov 6th and,
- Dec 4th.

Until further notice, all meetings will be held remotely.

Special Committee on Stormwater Management

Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2023

Attendees included MSCS team members representing Mount Vee Manor, Tauxemont, Wellington, Stratford Landing, and Hollin Hall Village. The MVCCA Co-chair also attended.

The meetings purpose was to review MSCS work and accomplishments toward its stated goals and decide on a way forward.

Under **Goal 1**, the committee sought to document specific, current stormwater (SW) problems; request fixes from responsible organizations; and monitor the organization's progress toward mitigating the problem. Toward this goal, MSCS:

- Surveyed Mount Vernon district residents to identify SW issues in Mount Vernon District(MVD), and received over 100 responses
- Toured a subset of the identified problem site with independent experts, who provided assessments of sites visited
- Requested State, County, Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District representatives join MSCS in a physical tour of the problem sites

- Analyzed MVD data from the County's SW Complaint system
- Identified shortfalls in funding streams to remedy SW issues and sent letters to responsible agencies requesting funding be provided
- Received briefing from NVS&WCD on programs and SW issue mitigation methods available to homeowners

Our Goal 1 objectives have not been met. While MSCS did identify funding shortfalls that may be preventing agency action at problem sites, very few of the problem sites identified in our survey have been fixed.

On one occasion, committee members visited 3 problem sites with VDOT staff on Cedar Dale Lane, Fairfax Road, and Cherry Valley Lane. The problem on Cedar Dale Lane was partially fixed by restoring the VDOT drainage ditch along a portion of the roadway. Interestingly enough, the work was done immediately prior to our meeting. At the Fairfax Road site, VDOT staff stated they would address the issue, but this problem has not been addressed as of this date and requires follow-up. At the Cherry Valley Lane site, VDOT staff stated the problem was a neighbor-to-neighbor problem and therefore outside of their responsibilities. But they did note a work order for a storm drain near the problem site was active and may help alleviate with the problem.

County staff has consistently rejected our problem site visit request citing unavailability of staff; non-existent funding for this type of activity; and its current efforts to update existing policy to address flooding issues. They instead recommended use of the DPWES complaint system to register problems, with assurances county inspectors would visit those sites to determine who was responsible for mitigation. They have also stated that the County will not become involved in neighbor-to-neighbor SW issues. The County also contends that the small number of complaints versus the size of the county did not merit increased focus on mitigation. On a more positive note, DPWES staff briefed the Board of Supervisor's Environmental Committee, chaired by Supervisor Storck, on an initiative to award grants to solve problem issues. No action has resulted to date.

Under **Goal 2**, MSCS sought to monitor current construction projects with an aim to prevent those projects from increasing neighbor and neighborhood SW problems. To date, MSCS has engaged County staff on 3 infill development projects - Cedar Dale Lane, Chadwick Avenue, and Westmoreland Road. The Committee was successful in having SW mitigation devices installed at 2 sites, but not on Westmoreland Road. County staff indicated that the 3 homes built there remained under the total square footage of single home that was demolished, and County regulations did not require the installation of mitigation devices.

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In November 2021, MSCS also reviewed and commented on the County's revision to its policy "Localized Flooding Mitigation Policy for Residential Date Infill Development-Detention Requirements". While MSCS considered the revision a move in the right direction, our response to the County indicated it did not go far enough to solve SW issues and MSCS proposed a broader policy change. The revised policy was issued in August 2022, largely unchanged from its initial draft.

While MSCS believes that infill development continues to contribute to SW issues residents are experiencing, these issues are now being considered by Supervisor Storck's *Infill Development Task Force (IDTF)*. The MSCS is represented on that group, and will continue to push for practical measures to prevent infill-caused SW problems.

Under **Goal 3**, MSCS sought to identify and recommend changes to laws, regulations, guidance, best management practices, funding, enforcement, etc., that fall short in preventing SW problems. The committee has reviewed county ordinances/regulations for Zoning, Stormwater Management, Erosion & Sedimentation Control, Tree Conservation, as well as the County's Public Facilities Manual; developed lists of appropriate changes; and submitted these to Supervisor Storck's office. An IDTF meeting is scheduled for March 30 to discuss proposed changes.

MSCS also participated in discussions with County to insure correct application of changed FEMA flood plain regulations, especially in the BelleView/New Alexandria neighborhoods. This discussion resulted in a significant reduction in flood insurance premiums for residents.

At an early meeting of MSCS, an additional goal was added. Under **Goal 4**, MSCS committed to develop educational materials for homeowners on SW problem mitigation. To date, this effort has focused on outreach efforts, and MSCS participated in Supervisor Storck's 2022 Mount Vernon Town Hall; his April 2022 Mount Vernon Earth Day Event; and prepared a one page summary of steps to take when experiencing SW problems for his 2023 Mount Vernon Town Hall.

After review of the goals/accomplishments, discussion turned to questions the committee developed that remain unanswered. These questions are in addition to the questions posed to the County staff in our October 27 meeting (see minutes of that meeting).

- Do blanket exemptions exist i.e. has a list of situations, drainage waivers that are pre-approved been published by the Director or that is they are so common, the Director waives them for all building, or buildings in a particular area?

- Are there waivers so common and so frequent that, by convention, are most always waived?
- Is there an understanding by builders that if a particular type of waiver is requested it will most probably be waived?
- Are there zoning requirements that are so outdated, but still on the books that are always waived?

In addition, questions were raised related to developer's/real estate agent's responsibilities to notify homeowner's that property has SW mitigation devices, as well as the property owners responsibility to maintain the device. The questions are:

- Where is the requirement defined for the County to inspect SW device every 5 years and the homeowner's requirement to maintain the device(s)?
- What is the required of the developer and the real estate agent regarding notification that the property has a stormwater mitigation device? Are they required to spell this out in the real estate listing and documents? In the settlement documents? In the surveyor's plat ?

Regarding our **next steps**, committee members agreed to focus on SW education for homeowners during the next sessions. The MSCS reps from Stratford Landing and Wellington will provide suggestions on the way to address this at our next meeting.

Next Meeting The next committee meeting date is TBD.

Fairfax Federation

The Fairfax Federation is considering what comments they should make regarding the county advertised budget.

SFDC

Check out the updated website at SFDC.org for our events calendar. Be sure to register for the Economic Outlook Summit, joint with the Mount Vernon-Springfield Chamber of Commerce, to be held in April at Belle Haven Country Club.

Coming in October, the BBQ Competition, will feature the best competitors, as well as live music. More details to follow in the coming months!

----- Resolution and General Council Ratification -----

Education

Proposed MVCCA Resolution in Support of the Fairfax County Advertised FY2024 Budget and the Included School Transfer (EDUCATION) EDU-2023-01

1. **WHEREAS** on February 21, 2023, the Fairfax County FY2024 Advertised Budget (FY24 County Budget) was released including recommendations for funding County functions and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) as well as revenue projections and suggested real property tax rates; and
2. **WHEREAS** on February 23, 2023, the Fairfax County School Board approved its FY2024 Advertised Budget (FY24 School Budget) totaling about \$3.5B, a net increase of \$249.6M (7.6%) over FY2023 which requires for full funding an increase of \$159.6M (7%) in funding from Fairfax County (School Transfer); and
3. **WHEREAS** salaries of school staff comprise 85% of the overall FY24 School Budget so that the bulk of the School Transfer increase relates to salary enhancements totaling 6.2% for most staff (3%MSA plus average step of 2.2% plus retention bonus of 1%) seen as critical to attracting and retaining excellent staff while preventing further decline in market position; and
4. **WHEREAS** the FY24 School Budget also includes funds for expanded Pre-K which has long been a critical need to assure school readiness, funds to adopt science based reading programs which are heavily phonics based, funds to begin athletic programs in middle schools, and funds to improve security through ongoing background checks and other means; and
5. **WHEREAS** the FY24 County Budget proposes fully funding the School Transfer except for the retention bonus, which if deleted, would reduce most teacher salary increases to 5.2%, well below inflation and surrounding competitors' salary scales; and
6. **WHEREAS** the FY24 School Budget also relies on assumptions about Commonwealth school funding which will not be determined until later; and
7. **WHEREAS** the FY2024 County Budget assumes no change in real property tax rate, which would result in an increase of about \$550 per year or \$46 per month for the average taxpayer, and in a \$91M discretionary fund which the Board of Supervisors could use to reduce the tax rate and/or enhance funding for critical County services, including FCPS which the Board of Supervisors and

taxpayers have long considered the highest priority and critical to the future of the County,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations recommends that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors should adopt the FY24 County Budget as its Adopted FY2024 Budget with the following recommendations:

- (1) If the Board of Supervisors should decide to reduce the property tax rate to provide citizen tax relief, the amount of that revenue reduction should not exceed the \$91M discretionary fund; and
- (2) If the Commonwealth funding for schools falls below expectations, the Board of Supervisors should consider using a portion of the discretionary fund to make up the shortfall.

END PROPOSED RESOLUTION: EDU-2023-01



The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, Inc.

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

<http://www.mvcca.org>

Ms. Karen G. Sabasteanski
Office of Air Data Analysis and Planning
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 1105
Richmond, VA 23218
Sent by email to karen.sabasteanski@deq.virginia.gov

RE: Comment on order and local variance for data centers

March 5, 2023

Dear Ms. Sabasteanski,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (MVCCA). The MVCCA is a 501c4 organization, which was established in 1969. We represent the citizen communities within Mount Vernon District of Fairfax County and are a member of the Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations.

Our members have major concerns with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) regarding your draft order and variance.

1. Neither the notice nor order provide information necessary for VDEQ to make an informed decision regarding the issuance of the order.
2. VDEQ has not provided information on alternatives to address expected overhead transmission line transmission constraints.
3. The operation of diesel generators at data centers and other generators at other locations will contribute to local noise and elevated nitrogen dioxide levels, which could pose health risks. These emissions will also contribute to the formation of ozone, which poses risks to health and the environment. The Washington Metropolitan Area is designated as a nonattainment area for ozone.
4. Fairfax County businesses, residents, hospitals, and others should not be impacted by the failure of Dominion Energy and data centers to adequately research and ensure that sufficient electricity would be available at all times.

We understand the VDEQ would allow data centers to operate diesel generators “when transmission constraints and strain on the electric grid nevertheless would be acute.”

We appreciate the fact that VDEQ would constrain diesel generator use to specific times for short durations under the order. However, given our concerns for the huge power demands and the health impacts due to emissions, we ask VDEQ to require solar panels on the data centers and their parking lots. In order to reduce the impacts from backup power, the use of alternative fuels, such as hydrogen¹, should be explored. Moreover, energy storage should be employed to the extent reasonable. If alternative fuels and energy storage are not possible/sufficient, then use of natural gas as the fuel for backup power generation would be both cleaner and quieter than diesel power². We understand that Washington Gas is planning to combine hydrogen with natural gas, which would further reduce the carbon footprint of natural gas.

This difficult situation is exacerbated by the recently announced Amazon plans to invest \$35 billion in data centers in Virginia. Given the shortfall in electricity and facility expansions we recommend that permits should not be granted until electrical needs can be met by Dominion Energy and diesel backup power generation is replaced with alternative fuel(s) and energy storage.

We thank you for your consideration and welcome any questions. Dr. Larry Zaragoza is our point person on this matter. He can be reached at larry.zaragoza@yahoo.com

Respectfully,

Katherine Ward

Katherine Ward

Cochair

MVCCA

cc: Dan Storck
Scott Surovell
Paul Krizek
Adam Ebbin
Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations

¹ Delbert, Caroline. 2020. Microsoft Kept Servers Running on Nothing but Hydrogen for 2 Days. The company is ditching Diesel within a decade. Enter the fuel cell generators. *Popular Mechanics*.

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/a33499249/microsoft-hydrogen-generator-test/>

² Ansett, Ed. 2021. Will natural gas replace diesel as a data center power source? *Data Center Dynamics*:

<https://www.datacenterdynamics.com/en/opinions/will-natural-gas-replace-diesel-as-a-data-center-power-source/>

<https://www.datacenterdynamics.com/en/opinions/will-natural-gas-replace-diesel-as-a-data-center-power-source/>

----- 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 28, 2023

	February	Total July 1 to February 28	2022-2023 Annual Budget	Budget Variance To spend or Favorable (Unfavorable)
Cash Receipts (including deposits in-transit):				
Dues - Current Members	\$ -	\$ 4,190	\$ 4,370	
Money Market Interest	0	0	2	
Total Cash Receipts	0	4,190	4,372	\$ (182)
Cash Disbursements (including outstanding checks):				
Administrative	157	541	385	(156)
Insurance Premium	-	-	687	687
Outreach/Town Hall Meets	-	-	250	250
"Record" Production	110	720	1,400	680
Web Site	53	846	2,425	1,579
Total Cash Disbursements	320	2,107	5,147	3,040
Net Budget - Receipts in Excess(less than) Disbursements:	(320)	2,084	(775)	\$ 2,859

Other Sources/Changes in Cash:

Cash at Beginning of Period	10,416	8,012	8,012	
Total Cash at End of Period	\$ 10,096	\$ 10,096	\$ 7,237	

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

Burke & Herbert - Checking	\$ 3,934			
Burke & Herbert - Money Market	6,161			
Total Cash	\$ 10,096			

Respectfully Submitted,
William J Kane, Treasurer
March 4, 2023

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, March 22, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Virtual

AGENDA

- Call to order
- Minutes Approved
- Committee Reports
- Treasurer Report
- Co-chairs Report
- Resolutions
- Supervisor's Time
- Members Time
- Adjourn

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

MVCCA Council—March 22, 7:00 p.m., Virtual
MVCCA Board—April 11, 7:00 p.m. Virtual

Comm	Date	Time	Place	Chair
BUDG	TBD	7:00	Virtual	open
EDU	4/5	7:30	Virtual	Hosek
E&R	4/5	7:00	Virtual	Morgan
PL/Z	4/3	7:00	Virtual	Mathur
PS	TBD	7:00	Virtual	open
TRAN	4/3	7:00	Virtual	Zaragoza
MSCS	TBD	7:00	Virtual	Milanowski

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