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Mount Vernon
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Record

Volume LVII, No. 03, March 2024

FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

1. The March General Council meeting will be full of important issues. Your input is needed for.... County Budget and our Resolution, status of development projects from the staffs point of view.
2. VOLUNTEER AT THE FARMERS MARKETS: The Fairfax County Park Authority is searching for volunteers to ensure their 10 Farmers Markets run smoothly this season. Responsibilities include setting out signs and cones, setting up and staffing the Market information tent, directing vendors to their assigned spots, enforcing Market rules and answering questions from customers. This is a great opportunity for people who like spending time outdoors, engaging with their community, and helping support local farms and small businesses! Weekday and weekend opportunities available at all locations: Annandale, Burke, Herndon, Kingstowne, Lorton, Mount Vernon, McLean, Oakton, and Reston. Contact elizabeth.moore@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-642-0128 for more information.

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Stormwater	Leo Milanowski		specialcommittee@mvcca.org

MVCCA General Council Meeting Minutes

MVCCA GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

02/28/2024 (Virtual Meeting/ZOOM)

PRESIDING: Co-Chair Lynn Pascoe

ATTENDING

- Co-Chair - Katherine Ward
- Secretary - Tamara Srader
- Treasurer - William Kane

Committees

- Education - Cathy Hosek
- Environment and Recreation - Larry Zaragoza
- Planning and Zoning - Bindu Mathur
- Transportation - Jason Zaragoza
- Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation - Ellen Young
- Storm Water Management Special Committee - Leo Milanowski

Communities Attending:

- Huntington
- Bell Haven Citizens Association
- Wellington Civic Assoc
- Belle View
- Holland Court Property
- Gum Springs Homeowners Organization
- HHV
- BHTCA
- Hollin Hills
- Montebello
- Mt Zephyr
- Mount Vee Manor
- Collingwood
- Mt Vernon Civic

Elected and Appointed Officials and Staff:

- Supervisor Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District;
- Nick Rinehart, Mount Vernon County Staff

Community Organizations:

- JoAnne Fiebe - FFX County DPD Urban Designer
- Glen Swantak: Merje
- Josephh Mackereth; Merje

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM

January minutes - Minutes approved unanimously.

JoAnne Fiebe - Fairfax County - Fairfax county sign on Route 1 looking to change along with the landscape plan as the old one is rotting and falling apart. Glen Swantak presented the concept for the new sign.

TREASURER REPORT: The Treasurers report, as published in the January Record, was unanimously accepted. Slow month with one very small expense.

Co-chair - Katherine - Brookside - real estate agent has a contract that has not gone to settlement; buyer wants to possible refurbish vs tear it down; plan with the county to rehabilitate the stream behind the motel; we had asked Ellen to go to person who owns a large number of motels on Richmond Hwy and someone else is interested purchasing the building; complaint with code enforcement has been sent forward; March 27th GC meeting - always hear from developers and land owners - haven't heard in some time from county staff and they will be coming to see us and talk about various projects; County budget - Dan is holding town hall meeting on 13 March via Zoom; since we don't have a budget committee Judy will be helping us

Stormwater - Nothing to report.

TRANS - Did not meet this month; last week attended public meetings regarding Arena about transportation plan; they will

keep moving forward with transportation plan and will take a couple of years. Winter 2025 proposed transportation plan; additional Metro service & fare gates; improvements to intersections and signal timing; meeting March 11th with presentation by friends of Mt Vernon trail

PZ - Lukens Lane project construction of 12 houses owned by Jones Brothers - update on project - current plan submitted on Dec 12th and requiring for keeping Tree canopy by FFX county. Easement can't be applied to the tree canopy guidance; proposal to planning commission probably in April however no date scheduled yet; other speaker was for WDU - was a task force that was set up to examine problems however did not discuss this during the meeting. Other details are printed in the Record.

ER - gave update on rules proposed; Living Shorelines legislation to require the MRC to develop rules and has been kicked to a subcommittee. Rule will not be passed by the General Assembly.

Fairfax Federation - met on 22nd and given presentation on the budget by FFX county; wants to do a budget resolution to address the lack of funding by State of VA to Fairfax county and how it would impact our tax burden; lobby the state to get Fairfax County the funding as it would make up quite a bit of the shortfall; discussed building of casino in Tysons and there is major opposition (Reston, McLean)

EDU - Did not meet last month as they had a conflict with school board meeting; will be meeting next week; talking about budget resolution; went to Fairfax Federation education meeting and has some food for thought. Encourage everyone to volunteer at their schools.

SFDC - Report in the Record - did a panel with Urban Land Institute last month - looking for placemaking opportunities in the corridor - looking for things we can do to improve the appearance of Richmond Hwy during the BRT process.

Supervisor Storck comments - packet sent out with Feb 2024 newsletter to all about current things going on in the Mt Vernon district; concerned about safety and he is looking at crime statistics; good attendance at the Town Hall meeting both in person and virtually; thanks to all of the MVCCA members for attending as it was noticed; county budget was introduced by the county executive; lots of pressure on staff salaries and yet are behind on where we are currently; challenges with supporting employees and providing wages that are competitive; recommended 4 cent increase in tax rate that would mean about a \$500 increase; average is 0-5% range increase per property; looking to increase fees to assist with the budget shortfalls (25-35% increase); Arena bill is dead in the Senate but thinks it could still be considered and possibly move forward - contact our State Representative if we have

comments; Fort Belvoir name will remain the same; March 24 Ides of Bark at Grist Mill Park; Transit strike - had no warning about this and not sure how long it will last

Ratified 13 Feb 2024 Letter to Senator Surovell as printed in the Record - unanimously approved.

Queenie Cox - highway marker was installed on private property, and it has been disrespected; Virginia Dept of Historic Resources; will be moving the marker; VDOT will uninstalled and then reinstalled; New relocated spot was determined that it does not belong to VDOT; seeking permission to have it relocated in a grassy strip that belongs to Woodlawn Faith United Methodist Church

Adjourn: 8:28 PM

Respectfully submitted by Tamara Srader

----- **Committee Reports** -----

Budget & Finance

We are looking for a chair for this committee. If you are interested, please contact a co-chair.

Education

MVCCA Education Meeting – March 6, 2024

7 Members present

Our guest speakers were School Board Members Ilryong Moon (at Large) and Mateo Dunne (Mount Vernon District).

Our committee worked on our Budget Resolution and asked questions of both members. We had some members present who have taught in the Fairfax County Public Schools, and it was refreshing to hear their comments on teacher morale and the proposed school budget. We discussed teacher salaries and also teacher morale.

We also discussed additional ways to find funding for the schools. The JLARC study underscored the vast underfunding of our schools. More information can be found here: <https://jlarc.virginia.gov/landing-2023-virginias-k-12-funding-formula.asp>

We have sent our resolution forward for adoption by the Council.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Environment & Recreation

The Zoom Meeting was convened the on March 6 at 7:01 pm by Chair Zaragoza (Wessynton). Katherine Ward, Co-Chair was also in attendance.

Attendance: Huntington Community Associated, Wellington Civic Association, Bell Haven Terrace Civic Association, Hollin Hall Village Citizens Association, Belle View Condominium Unit Owners Association, Spring Bank Community Association, Potomac Valley-River Bend Civic Association.

The Linwood Gorham, the Mount Vernon Park Commissioner, reviewed the status of Quander Fairchild park. We will seek a follow up more detailed briefing on the budget and schedule, which should probably be in about 2 months. Commissioner Gorham will let us know when this information is available.

The committee also discussed the budget. Commissioner Gorham said that the Park Authority was essentially made whole but noted that the Park Authority would like to be less reactive and do more to maintain the parts before problems arise. Other discussions included the stormwater tax where questions were raised about why is there a need for increasing the stormwater tax? Larry noted that the county has growing needs for the activities that the stormwater tax funds from stream restoration to flood mitigation and maintaining the aging stormwater infrastructure. On leaf collection, questions were raised about the needs to collect leaves and brush more of the year because of climate change (perhaps begin collection in February). The committee was supportive of terminating leaf collection and adjusting the fees so that the fees for leaf and waste collection to cover the cost of the program. On the animal services consolidation proposal, committee members found that the proposal does not make sense as the current program works well today and the proposed change may adversely impact the effectiveness of the wildlife support program. The committee supported the budget recommendations. However, some members want more information about the stormwater budget.

The committee also discussed a resolution to ask that county staff provide draft ordinance text in support of proposed changes to ordinances. Following some editorial adjustments, the committee agreed to the resolution.

Larry also noted that we received a response back from Nick Reinhart of Supervisor Storck’s office. Supervisor Storck acknowledged that there is no one on the wetlands board who lives on the water. Nick noted that a position is open. Larry noted that if someone has an interest in serving on the wetlands board, please let us know, especially anyone who lives on the water with a shoreline stabilization structure.

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

At 8:15 Anita Kerr motioned to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Knappmiller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Planning & Zoning

Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Monthly Meeting 3/4/2024

Committee Attendees:

P&Z Committee Chair
Belle View Condominium
Belle Haven Terrace Civic Association
Gum Springs Homeowner's Association
CA of Hollin Hills
Riverwood HOA
Mount Vee Manor HOA
Huntington CA
Pavilions at Huntington Metro Community Assn.
Montebello Condominiums
Mt. Vernon CA
New Gum Springs CA
Collingwood Springs
Wellington CA
Hollin Hall Village CA
Stratford Landing CA

Co Chairs, MVCCA
Transportation Chair

Other Attendees:

Lynne Strobel – Lawyer representing the developer for 2550 and 2560 Huntington Ave
Clayton Tock – Civil Engineer
Dan Avrit – Parker Rodreges Landscape Architect
Stephen Bannister- Representing the developer for 2550 and 2560 Huntington Ave
Ben McDowell – Wells & Associates

Proceedings:

The meeting was called to order by P&Z Committee Chair, Bindu Mathur and began with a presentation by Lynne Strobel with updates on the development project at 2550 and 2560 Huntington Ave. The 2560 development is delayed because of issues with the flood plain that need to be worked out between the County and the developer.

The redevelopment of 2550 is moving forward and will be before the Planning Commission on May 1st. The redevelopment is 8,975 sq. ft. It was originally zoned commercial and was rezoned as residential and commercial. The plan is for a 7-story structure with structured parking. The first floor will be commercial and the rest residential. The

developer changed the green space from artificial turf to grass at the request of the Committee. In addition, the developer plans to extend the trail along Cameron Run and make it a public easement. Questions were raised regarding the availability of parking for the commercial space. There will be parking available in the structured parking for short term commercial patrons. The developer would like a recommendation favorable to the plan from the Mount Vernon Council prior to the Planning Commission meeting.

After the presentation on the 2550 and 2560 Huntington Ave. projects, the Chair provided updated on several ongoing development projects.

IMP Building:

The committee Chair talked to Scott Adams who is the land use attorney for Transwestern, the contract purchaser. Mr. Adams stated that they are still thinking through the concept but it will be similar in density to garden-style apartments with a 35-foot height limit. There will be a maximum of 264 units. There is no final design proposed yet.

There may be a problem with a large storm sewer that runs parallel to Rt. 1. Because of the size, the developer is unable to move it. As a result, Transwestern is considering 4 smaller garden apartments with two on the Rt. 1 side. The developer is planning surface parking that they say will be out of the view of Rt. 1.

There is no plan for structured parking or garage, which is what the Committee has been promoting. The developer feels like surface parking is more affordable. These apartments are going to be priced at market rate and are intended to be affordable for military families. The report that their demographic target is Fort Belvoir. Mr. Adams was asked to talk to the folks at Woodlawn because Woodlawn plantation had concerns regarding their sight lines.

The IMP building developer or their representative is expected to present further details of this project at our meeting in April.

Lukens Lane

The Chair checked in with county staff on this and they noted that this application came in May 2022. The County was waiting for a waiver from VDOT. The Chair checked in with the developer and noted that they did in fact meet with VDOT and that VDOT was generally in agreement with the design.

Collingwood Chase

The subdivision plan for 1509 Collingwood Road has been approved, subject to the pre-approval condition agreements with the LDS Bonds and Agreements center.

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Once all that is finalized, we will have a clearer idea of next steps and pre-construction timeline. In the interim, the neighbors have expressed the following concerns:

- Property tax implications on current homes with new more expensive homes
- Drainage - many of the new homes are built up on a foundation mound, above the grade of neighbors. The elevated foundation results in drainage issues/soggy yards for surrounding homes.
- Pedestrian Safety - Collingwood Rd. needs a sidewalk for nursing home employees and students/children who cut through surrounding lots on walk to school. Additional homes on that road will only increase pedestrian and vehicle traffic.
- Damage to neighboring property - previous infill development has caused damage to fences, yards, and foundations. How will the developer and county prevent damage to neighboring property? What happens in the event that our property is damaged?
- Noise - are developers obligated to maintain reasonable work hours that minimize disturbance outside of working hours?
- Bring Zoning into the 21st century - I believe the church lot was zoned in the 1970s. Residential density looked very different at that time. When will the MVCCA advocate for a review and modification of outdated zoning standards?

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

March 11, 2024

The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Association (MVCCA) Transportation Committee met on March 11, 2024 in a virtual gathering hosted on Zoom. Participating in the meeting were:

Ms. Cameron Taylor and Mr. Judd Isbell from Friends of the Mount Vernon Trail and Lt. Tim Wallace from the United States Park Police (USPP) George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP). MVCCA attendees included Jason Zaragoza, Transportation Committee Chair & Attendance-Taker for tonight's meeting; John Bioty, Transportation Committee Note-Taker for tonight's meeting; Katherine Ward and Lynn Pascoe, MVCCA Co-Chairs, and Larry Zaragoza, Environment and Recreation Chair.

Transportation Committee representatives from the following MVCCA Associations were in attendance: Belle View Condominium Unit Owners' Association; Gum Springs Homeowners Association; Huntington Community Association; Montebello Condominium Unit Owners Association; Potomac Valley-River Bend Civic Association; Riverwood Homeowners Association; Stratford Landing Citizens Association; Waynewood Citizens Association; Wellington Civic Association; Wellington Heights Civic Association; Wessynton Citizens Association; and Westgrove Citizens Association.

Total attendance for the joint meeting was 16.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chairman Zaragoza published a "read-ahead" asking Committee members to propose topics of discussion, should there be any. The read-ahead mentioned that tonight's meeting would include:

- Presentation by Cameron Taylor, Friends of the Mount Vernon Trail to talk about the group's efforts to improve the trail and share info about some of their upcoming events
- Discussion on Fairfax County's advertised budget for FY 2025 noting that every year the MVCCA submits comments regarding the County's advertised budget. The Council is asking each of its Committees to submit comments ahead of the Mount Vernon District Budget Town Hall Meeting which will take place on March 13. Transportation portions of the County's Budget and a Transportation Program Overview were also included in the read-ahead.
 - Note (1): Comments submitted on behalf of the Transportation Committee must be decided at this month's meeting.
 - Note (2): Individual citizens or Associations are encouraged to submit their own comments to Supervisor Storck's office or during the town hall meeting.
- VOTE on Resolution passed by the Environment and Recreation Committee regarding the County's proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments.
- Notice that VDOT will conduct a study this summer on the potential impacts/feasibility of a road diet on Huntington Avenue. The road is scheduled for repaving in the summer of 2025 which is when any restriping would be implemented.
- Information that the Department of Land Development Services (LDS) has launched a notification service that allows residents to sign up to receive monthly updates about new parking adjustment applications. A sign up link was included.

AGENDA ITEMS:

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PRESENTATION: Friends of Mount Vernon Trail by Ms. Cameron Taylor

Ms. Taylor provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Friends of the Mount Vernon Trail (FoMVT) Program. It included a brief history of the Mount Vernon Trail (MVT) and her organization. She mentioned that the MVT spans 18 miles in length and provides a pleasing river view for both pedestrian and bicyclists alike, north and south of Old Town.

Her organization, FoMVT, was founded in September 2018 for the purpose of partnering with the National Park Service (NPS) to keep the MVT both safe and clean. Volunteers meet on weekends to remove vegetation, clear dead-fall branches and limbs, pick up trash, and smooth surface bumps, among other things. Recently, FoMVT Volunteers were responsible for removing 522 trail bumps which has improved safety for both pedestrians and bicyclists.

Ms. Taylor indicated that the reason for her presentation was to solicit volunteers for the organization. Volunteers are especially needed for the Southern Section of the MVT. She said that on March 16th, her organization would be working in the Riverside Park area of the MVT.

DISCUSSION: Chairman Zaragoza thanked Ms. Taylor for her organization's work and asked for a copy of her presentation. Ms. Taylor said she would provide the slides and encouraged everyone to look up the organization's website: <https://mountvernontrail.org> for additional information and upcoming events. She welcomes all new volunteers.

Discussion on Fairfax County's Advertised Budget for FY 2025:

Chairman Zaragoza mentioned the County's request to hear of any concerns or comments regarding the advertised budget for FY 2025. He noted that any items submitted on behalf of the Transportation Committee must be decided at this meeting so they could be included in the Mount Vernon District Budget Town Hall Meeting on March 13.

At first look, Chairman Zaragoza said that nothing affecting Transportation stood out to him but called on Ms. Katherine Ward, MVCCA Co-Chair for her impression. Ms. Ward indicated that nothing stood out to her as well. Another member from Gum Springs Homeowners Association noted some deletions in Transportation Staff in the budget. This was discussed briefly but no comments were documented by the Committee. Another member voiced his opinion that he wished he had "links" to the Fairfax County Budget so he could review it more thoroughly. Chairman Zaragoza mentioned that the read-ahead included links. Additionally, he said that he would send out a flyer and link for the virtual meeting which will occur at 7 pm on March 13, 2024.

Enforcement Update on the GWMP by Lieutenant Tim Wallace USPP:

Chairman Zaragoza asked the membership if anyone had any topics that they wanted to bring up before discussing the resolution on the County's proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments. A Committee member asked that since Lt. Tim Wallace from the USPP was attending tonight's meeting, could he give the Committee an update on GWMP safety through the 1st quarter of 2024?

Discussion: Lt. Wallace agreed but stated that he didn't have 1st quarter data yet. He said that he could speak to some hopeful initiatives that would reduce speeding on the GWMP. In that regard, he was aware that the National Park Service (NPS) Superintendent Charles Cuvelier was working with individuals to try to introduce speed cameras on the GWMP. Committee members assumed that Congressman Don Beyer was involved since he was a proponent. Lt. Wallace said that nothing was definite but it was a work in progress.

Lt. Wallace also stated that collision statistics on the entire Parkway, both north and south, were down thus far in 2024. February's figures showed 38 collisions; January had 48. Last year that number was around 63 per month. Lt. Wallace felt that GWMP modifications, to include the Road Diet, were having a positive effect. Lt. Wallace mentioned that the southern section of the Parkway accounted for only 10 to 12% of all GWMP collisions however, injuries were far greater due to the speeds involved. Several Committee members affirmed that speed cameras were needed on the southern section of the Parkway.

There was also discussion on the Belle Haven and Belle View Boulevard intersections and the bollards positioned at those locations directing entry onto the Parkway. One member asked about right-of-way signs that were to be posted at those intersections since motorists were still confused as to who has the right away. Lt. Wallace said he would ask at his upcoming meeting this week with the NPS. Other discussions involved street cleaners for the Parkway and shaving the rise in the vicinity of Fort Hunt Road.

Vote on a Resolution regarding the County's proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments.

Chairman Zaragoza introduced Mr. Larry Zaragoza, Chair of MVCCA's Environment & Recreation (E&R) Committee. The E&R Committee had fielded numerous complaints regarding the County's proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments. These amendments, according to R&E, lacked the desired wording to fully explain them. The E&R Committee had requested support from Planning and Zoning (P&Z) as well as Transportation to approve a joint resolution that asks the County to provide specific ordinance language for proposed ordinances for public

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review. Additionally, the Resolution asked that public comment periods provide a minimum of 60 days so that comments from organizations could be coordinated amongst its members.

Discussion: Transportation Committee members reviewed the Resolution and agreed with it. There was some discussion on the 60-day comment period being a bit long but in the end, the resolution wording was not changed. Transportation Chairman Zaragoza brought the Resolution to a floor vote. **The Resolution was passed unanimously with 14 votes for and 0 against.**

New Business: Chairman Zaragoza advised the Committee that although the state's budget this year does not yet include funding for a new arena in Potomac Yard, the city of Alexandria is still moving forward with studies to evaluate transportation improvements should the arena eventually get approved. He will continue to attend public meetings related to the matter and report back to the committee.

A Committee member asked about Capital Bike Share Stations since FCDOT held a virtual meeting on January 18, 2024 on expanding the network in the Mount Vernon District. FCDOT presented information on 12 proposed bike share stations around the Huntington Metro Station, Fort Hunt Park and the Mount Vernon Trail. This led to a lengthy, sometimes heated, discussion on electronic bikes (e-bikes) on the Mount Vernon Trail.

Committee members expressed concern with e-bikes size and speed, claiming that the MVT is not large enough for them. Accidents with pedestrians or other bicyclists will undoubtedly result in severe injuries. Another member raised the issue that normal bikes on the MVT are now reaching speeds of 30 MPH or greater and are a safety concern as well. It was noted that Waynewood subdivision opposed e-bikes on the MVT. NPS regulations, however, allow cyclists to ride e-bikes within the GWMP, including the Mt. Vernon Trail. According to the NPS policy, bike speeds of up to 15 MPH will be allowed.

After much discussion, Chairman Zaragoza asked if the Committee desire to reestablish the position that it was against allowing e-bikes on the MVT; the answer was yes. **When the issue to oppose e-bikes on the MVT was brought to a floor vote, 14 votes favored opposing e-bikes on the MVT and two (2) were against it.** Chairman Zaragoza asked that a letter be prepared indicating the Committee's opposition and that it be presented at next month's Transportation meeting.

The last subject for new business, involved traffic calming devices. Several members familiar with the [Residential Traffic Administration Program \(RTAP\)](#) discussed the County and State's involved steps with getting speed humps or speed tables built on residential roads to slow down traffic. One

member familiar with the program stated that speed humps and speed tables are Fairfax County's approved Traffic Calming Devices to reduce speed in residential communities. Their purpose is to increase safety for all residents and pets but especially smaller children. Regarding the differences between speed humps and speed tables, speed humps are constructed 3 inches high at the center and span 12 feet from start of the rise to completion. Speed tables are the same 3 inches in height but span 22 feet from the start of the rise to completion. Additional information can be found at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/residential-traffic-administration>.

Meeting Adjourned:

Without further new business, a motion to adjourn was raised and quickly seconded. The March 2023 MVCCA Transportation meeting concluded at 8:24 PM with Chairman Zaragoza thanking everyone for their participation.

Future (2024) Scheduled Transportation Committee Meetings (2nd Monday of the Month):

- Apr 08
- May 13
- Jun 10
- Jul 08
- Aug – No scheduled meeting
- Sep 09
- Oct 7
- Nov 11
- Dec 09

Note: Until further notice, all meetings will be held remotely.

Special Committee on Stormwater Management

Meeting minutes not available.

Fairfax Federation

Meeting minutes not available.

SFDC

Sign up now for the 2024 Economic Outlook, hosted jointly with the Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber of Commerce. Tickets can be purchased through this link: <https://cca.mountvernon.springfield.com/EvtListing.aspx?dbid2=vamvtl&keyword=19945&class=E>

Committee Resolutions

Education

MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS (MVCCA) EDUCATION 2024-01

RESOLUTION WITH RESPECT TO FY 2025 COUNTY ADVERTISED BUDGET

1. **WHEREAS** the Fairfax County Executive's FY2025 Advertised Budget Plan, released on February 20, 2024, (County Budget) is based on a 4 penny increase in the FY2025 residential property tax, the first rate increase in six years, which would cost the average tax payer about \$524, or about \$44 per month; and
2. **WHEREAS** although the County Executive suggested the 4 penny increase would not adequately fund County obligations the Board of Supervisors (BOS) adopted the 4 penny increase as the maximum rate for FY25 thus guaranteeing inadequate support for County obligations and curtailing the ability of citizens to make meaningful comments; and
3. **WHEREAS** the County Budget provided a funding increase (School Transfer) for Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) of \$165M compared to the \$254M requested by the Fairfax County School Board (School Budget) resulting in a discrepancy of about \$89M (School Shortfall); and
4. **WHEREAS** the Fairfax County Public School System (FCPS) is recognized by the BOS as a critical County asset and the single most important contributor to the health of the County, and that a highly qualified and motivated school staff is the most critical asset of FCPS; and
5. **WHEREAS** the BOS has recognized the need to provide competitive compensation for teachers in order to attract and retain a highly qualified staff and ensure FCPS could maintain its value as a critical County asset, but failure to provide competitive compensation will, as it has in the past, cause the loss of both new and experienced teachers to surrounding jurisdictions which continue to pull ahead in competitive advantage and will also affect morale as FCPS recovers from pandemic losses; and
6. **WHEREAS** the School Budget proposes to meet competitive pressures by providing 6% compensation increase for all employees (93% of which are school-based professional staff) totaling about \$171M, and while the Commonwealth has proposed additional support for schools, including teacher salary raises, the details are not known and may require a matching increase as in FY23;
7. **WHEREAS** the School Budget is also driven by unavoidable costs such as: increases in Virginia Retirement System (VRS) required payments and health insurance rate changes (\$24M); inflationary pressures on fuel and supplies(\$12M); increasing enrollment particularly of children in need of additional services such as special education, economically disadvantaged and English learners (\$47M), and the required match to the Commonwealth's previous salary adjustment (\$55M) and
8. **WHEREAS** the School Budget includes no new initiatives and only small increases for important activities including fine arts, athletic trainers, preschool, academic interventions, multiyear environment initiatives, and continued roll out of middle school sports, collectively about \$7M; and
9. **WHEREAS** the proposed School Transfer is barely sufficient to fund even the unavoidable expenses (\$138M) and would permit at best a 2% raise in staff compensation, which is insufficient to meet inflationary pressures, protect market position and reflect the value of FCPS' professional teaching staff; and
10. **WHEREAS** while FCPS is recognized state and country-wide for its excellence, FCPS per pupil spending remains only in the mid-range of local jurisdictions and non-school central office) expenditures are lowest in the area; and
11. **WHEREAS** due in part to the longstanding egregious failure of the Commonwealth to provide adequate funding for schools, admitted in the Commonwealth's most recent report of the Joint Legislative Review and Audit Committee (JLARC, homeowners are forced to bear the burden of financing school and County services to preserve our quality of life, our continued economic growth and, significantly, the continued value of our homes; and
 - A. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (MVCCA), urges the BOS to adopt the maximum advertised rate as the tax rate for FY25 and respectfully suggests, as it has in the past, that in future the maximum tax rate should be set as the rate which if adopted would fully fund the County Budget and School Budget so that citizens may have a meaningful opportunity to provide comments and advice to the BOS on the proper balance of tax burden and services; and
 - B. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, in order to protect our institutions and encourage future growth, MVCCA urges the BOS, as its first priority, to provide FCPS with funds sufficient to maintain its standards of excellence, to meet the needs of all children, and to maintain market rate salary

Committee Resolutions

position, thereby assuring future economic health and preserving home values; and

- C. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the BOS continue to actively search out alternative revenue sources, including a meals tax, and work with Commonwealth elected representatives, and other jurisdictions to establish a better funding stream for schools (pursuant to the JLARC report, and a fairer return on taxes paid to the Commonwealth by County citizens.

END RESOLUTION: EDU-2024-01

Environment & Recreation

MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS (MVCCA) E&R 2024-02

BUDGET RESOLUTION

1. **Whereas**, the County Executive publishes a recommended budget for the consideration of the county Board of Supervisors, which the Board of Supervisors seeks comment before adopting a budget;
2. **Whereas**, many climate and energy projects that are needed to meet the county's Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP), which was published in 2021, are only in pilot phase;
3. **Whereas**, the county's stormwater tax rate has not been increased in years despite increasing needs for maintenance of infrastructure, stream stabilization, and flood risk reduction;
4. **Whereas**, despite the difficult budget year, the county provided a needed increase in funding for parks;
5. **Whereas**, the county's leaf collection program^[1] funding rate is inadequate to fund the program;
6. **Whereas**, the county's leaf collection program generates 726 metric tons of carbon dioxide by burning the ultra-low sulfur diesel to fuel the equipment;
7. **Whereas**, the solid waste collection contractors, which support about 90 percent of the county, have leaf collection from their trash collection contractor or they compost leaves and brush;
8. **Whereas**, the county's rate for solid waste collection is inadequate to supports solid waste support;

9. **Whereas**, the proposed animal services consolidation will separate the wildlife management from the Animal Protection Police Officers (APPO), which together have been widely recognized as providing outstanding service for wildlife; and

10. **Whereas** details of this reorganization are unclear, in part because the latest change was announced following the publication of the County Executive's recommended budget;

- A. **Therefore be it resolved** that the MVCCA recommends that the pilot work on CECAP projects be expedited and funded as the delays in undertaking this work diminished the chances that we will be able to meet CECAP goals;

- B. **Be it further resolved** that the county's leaf collection program be eliminated as it is an unnecessary convenience with a high carbon footprint;

- C. **Be it further resolved** that the MVCCA does not support the proposed animal services consolidation as it jeopardizes wildlife services;

- D. **Be it further resolved** that the county's rates for solid waste and leaf collection (if continued) be set to fully cover the cost of these programs; and

- E. **Be it finally resolved**, that the stormwater tax clearly identify the needs and be increased by a quarter penny as needed to support the growing needs of the county.

[1] The county's leaf collection serves about 5 percent of the county's population.

END RESOLUTION: ER-2024-02

For General Council Ratification of Public Safety Chair

John Lincoski is an attorney with the federal government, with more than 24 years of service at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. He is a graduate of Penn State University and the Dickinson School of Law. For the last 14 years he has lived with wife, Laura, and son, Will, in the Wellington neighborhood where he is active in the local community, including as an assistant scoutmaster. Mr. Lincoski served as the Wellington Civic Association's education committee representative from 2017-2024.

----- 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 29, 2024

	February	Total July 1 to February 28	2023-2024 Annual Budget	Budget Variance To spend or Favorable (Unfavorable)
<u>Cash Receipts (including deposits in-transit):</u>				
Dues - Current Members	\$ -	\$ 3,965	\$ 4,250	
Money Market Interest	0	0	2	
Total Cash Receipts	0	3,965	4,252	\$ (287)
<u>Cash Disbursements (including outstanding checks):</u>				
Administrative	-	398	545	147
Insurance Premium	-	792	760	(32)
Outreach/Town Hall Meets	-	-	-	-
"Record" Production	70	640	1,400	760
Web Site	180	180	1,000	820
Total Cash Disbursements	250	2,010	3,705	1,695
Net Budget - Receipts in Excess(less than) Disbursements:	(250)	1,955	547	\$ 1,408

Other Sources/Changes in Cash:

Cash at Beginning of Period	10,830	8,625	8,625	
Total Cash at End of Period	\$ 10,580	\$ 10,580	\$ 9,172	

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

Burke & Herbert - Checking	\$ 4,418			
Burke & Herbert - Money Market	6,162			
Total Cash	\$ 10,580			

Respectfully Submitted,
William J Kane, Treasurer
March 1, 2024

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 27, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Virtual

AGENDA

Guest speakers: Staff from Land Development
Services and Planning and Development

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

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

MVCCA Council—March 27, 7:00 p.m., Virtual
MVCCA Board—April 9, 7:00 p.m. Virtual

Comm	Date	Time	Place	Chair
BUDG	TBD	7:00	Virtual	open
EDU	5/8	7:00	Virtual	Hosek
E&R	4/3	7:00	Virtual	L. Zaragoza
PL/Z	4/1	7:00	Virtual	Mathur
PS	TBD	7:00	Virtual	open
TRAN	4/8	7:00	Virtual	J. Zaragoza
MSCS	TBD	7:00	Virtual	Milanowski

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