



Mount Vernon
Council
of Citizens'
Associations

Record

Together we make a difference

Volume XLX, No. 5, May 2017

FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

- **WE WON:** MVCCA told our legislators and the Governor to stop the City of Alexandria from dumping raw sewerage into the Potomac. They listened! The Governor signed legislation on this matter.
- Dues and membership updates are due July 1, 2017 (2017-2018 year)
- New on-line membership application form will be available early June.
- Richmond Highway Comprehensive Plan (EMBARK) will be completed soon---County Staff will seek MVCCA General Council input in December.
- QUESTION: Would you like to participate in an annual MVCCA sponsored picnic?

ELECTIONS

Nominees for Co-Chair: Katherine Ward and Mark Viani.

Nominee for Treasurer: Stephen Markman.

The third Co-Chair position and the Secretary position remain unfilled at the time of publication. Any member interested should contact nominating committee members Ellen Young at rep.sfdc@mvcca.org or Pete Sitnick at rep.fairfaxfederation.@mvcca.org.

MVCCA BOARD

Co-Chairs	Mark Viani co.chair2@mvcca.org
	Katherine Ward co.chair1@mvcca.org
	<i>open</i>
Secretary	Abby Wells secretary@mvcca.org
Treasurer	Stephen Markman treasurer@mvcca.org
Editor	<i>open</i>
BUDG	Matt Bell chair.bf@mvcca.org
EDUC	Judy Harbeck chair.edu@mvcca.org
E&R	Cathy Ledec chair.er@mvcca.org
PL/Z	Andrew Vinisky chair.pz@mvcca.org
PS	Dean Sherick chair.ps@mvcca.org
TRANS	Frank Cihak (<i>acting</i>) chair.tran@mvcca.org
SFDC	Ellen Young rep.sfdc@mvcca.org
FCFCA	Pete Sitnik rep.fairfaxfederation@mvcca.org
Webmaster	Karen Keefer webmaster@mvcca.org

MVCCA GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 26, 2017
at Mt Vernon Government Center Community Room

PRESIDING: Co-Chair Mark Viani

ATTENDING: Secretary Abby Wells, Committee Chairs: Pete Sitnik (Federation), Andrew Vinisky (P&Z), Dean Sherick (PS), Ellen Young (SFDC), Frank Cihak (TRAN), Cathy Ledec (ER Chair)

Voting Representatives from: 1 - Belle View Condominiums, 2 - Hollin Hall Village, 3 - Huntington Community Association, 4 - Montibello, 5 - Mount Vernon Manor Civic Association, 6 - Mt Zephyr, 7 - Newington Forest, 8 - Pavilions at Huntington Metro, 9 - Riverwood HOA, 10 - Southwood, 11 - Stratford Landing Citizens Association, 12 - Stratford on the Potomac, 13 - Wellington Civic Association, 14 - Williamsburg Manor North, 15 - Woodlawn Manor

Elected and Appointed Officials and Staff: Dan Storck, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Mt. Vernon District; Cathy Ledec, Fairfax County Tree Commission, Mt Vernon District; Tae Choi, Community Development and Land Use Aid to Supervisor Storck

Council Minutes

The meeting was called to Order at 8:00 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER Fairfax County Tree Commissioner Cathy Ledec gave a brief presentation on the role and purpose of the Tree Commission in Fairfax County. Informative handouts were offered, as well as a presentation that highlighted the commission's 20 year strategic plan as well as notable major projects including North Hill, Fairfax RELEAF, Huntington Levee, Fairfax County Park Authority's work with the community on invasive plants. A straw poll was taken with regards to interest in a 2017 Tree Forum, with favorable results.

THE AGENDA was approved as published in the April 2017 Record.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES from the March General Council Meeting held on 3/22/17 were approved as published in the April Record.

TREASURER'S REPORT for of the period ending March 31, 2017 was approved as published in the April Record.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

B&F – Committee did not meet in April. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3.

EDU – A joint meeting with Public Safety was held on April 6, 2017. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 3, again joint with Public Safety at Whitman Middle School.

E&R – As published in the April Record. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 3 and Charles Smith from FFX County Watershed will speak.

P&Z – As published in the April Record. The next meeting will be held Monday, May 1.

PS – As published in April Record. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 3 at Whitman Middle School where FCPD Detective Brian Storm will speak at the meeting. Saturday, May 13 there will be a community shred event hosted by Crime Solvers.

TRANS – As published in April Record. The next meeting will be held Monday, May 1 and will include discussion on the restructuring of the Transportation Committee.

FEDERATION – As published in April Record. In addition, in recognition of Child Abuse Awareness Month, Federation member organization SafeSpot offered an excellent presentation at the April 20 Federation meeting. Safe Spot is a non-profit that provides direct services to child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse in Fairfax County. The center is designed to reduce the trauma experienced by child abuse victims as they navigate the legal, investigative and social service systems following an allegation of abuse. SafeSpot is a public-private partnership with Fairfax County

Law Enforcement, Child Protective Services, The Commonwealth Attorney's Office, Inova Fairfax Hospital, and the Community Services Board. For more information on the Fairfax Federation visit www.fairfaxfederation.org.

SFDC – As published in April Record. On Thursday, May 4 a presentation will be given on Cyber Security for Small Businesses, to be held at the Holiday Inn Express on Richmond Highway. For more information on SFDC and its events, visit www.sfdc.org.

CO-CHAIRS REPORT:

Co-Chair Mark Viani gave a presentation.

The April 18 public VDOT meeting at Mt Vernon High School revealed several surprise elements including sound barrier walls, so-called "super streets" and several major disconnects with Embark pre-planning. See more about VDOT's Richmond Highway improvements here: http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/richmond_highway.asp

Volunteers for committee positions are still needed. The Mt. Vernon District of Fairfax County is set to see more development and growth in the next 10-15 years than it has in the last 40. The MVCCA will play a vital role with the progress of the projects and will be the voice of citizens. Please enlist interested citizens to volunteer. Nominations should be sent to Ellen Young, Nominating Committee Chair.

RESOLUTIONS:

MVCCA P&Z RESOLUTION 2017-03:

MVCCA RESOLUTION REGARDING HUNTWOOD LLC APPLICATIONS SEA 84-V-034 AND SEA 84-V-035-02 ON THE PROPERTY AT 5845 RICHMOND HIGHWAY TO REMOVE THE MEDICAL OFFICE DEVELOPMENT CONDITION.

1. WHEREAS, the Applicant, Huntwood, L.L.C, has submitted two special exception amendment applications (SEA 84-V-034 and SEA 84-V-035-02) on the property at 5845 Richmond Highway. The property, which is currently developed with an 8-story office building located at the intersection of Richmond Highway and Fort Hunt Road, is subject to two special exceptions that were approved on January 28, 1985, subject to development conditions. The development conditions include language which provides that "no medical offices or similar medical facilities shall be located within the building." At the time of approval, the Zoning Ordinance made a distinction between medical office use and general office use, however, this distinction no longer exists and medical office currently falls within the definition of general office use.

2. WHEREAS, the sole purpose of the SEA applications is to remove the development conditions that prohibit medical office use within the building. No site modifications are proposed, all other conditions will remain in full force and effect, and the removal of

Council Minutes

the development conditions will have no impact on the surrounding area. The proposed removal of the conditions will increase the marketability of the existing office space, thereby enhancing the Applicant's ability to attract medical office tenants to the Richmond Highway corridor.

3. WHEREAS, the applicant has been assigned a Planning Commission hearing date of May 25, 2017, and a Board of Supervisors hearing date of June 6, 2017.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the MVCCA supports Huntwood LLC two special exception amendment applications SEA 84-V-034 and SEA 84-V-035-02) on the property at 5845 Richmond Highway to remove the medical office development condition.

The Resolution was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS: No New Business

SUPERVISOR TIME: Supervisor Storck presented information and updates on the following topics:

- **2018 Budget Markups:** The County Executive's office did not follow the BOS's recommendations guidance
- **Supervisor Storck** thanked Diane Donley for taking Frank Cohn's vacated position on the Embark Board. The next Embark briefing will be held May 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Whitman Middle School.
- **River Towers:** Structural work has begun on the property. More than one building is affected. County has stayed on top of the situation and has not been a part of the delay in repairing the damage. Click here for: [River Towers Updates](#)
- **Blight / Quality Inn:** Close to demolition after plumbing is capped off. The application was approved by ARB.
- **South County High School Job Fair:** to be held Saturday, April 29 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Expecting approximately 50 businesses and 750 high school students.
- **Northern Virginia Association of Realtors** will meet at Mt. Vernon Government Center for a virtual tour of Mt Vernon District and will get an introduction to the Richmond Highway Corridor Improvements.
- **The South Flow Alliance** is the official name of the local group that has formed to lobby the FAA and Airport Authority regarding excessive airplane noise over the Mt Vernon District. The first official meeting of the group will be Wednesday, May 10 at Whitman Middle School from 7-9 p.m.

- **Fairfax County 275th Anniversary Celebration** will get underway in May.
- **May 25—"Taste of Mount Vernon"** at the Mount Vernon Government Center with 150 local restaurants invited.

MEMBER ASSOCIATION TIME:

PUBLIC TIME: No Comments
The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted 05/08/17 by Abby Wells, MVCCA Secretary

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Meeting minutes not available.

EDUCATION

The MVCCA Education Committee met at 7:30 p.m., May 3, 2017, in the library of Whitman Middle School. Associations represented (Education Committee) were: Wessynton, Wellington, Springbank, Huntington, Potomac Valley/Riverbend, Collingwood Springs, Collingwood on the Potomac, Riverside Estates and Hollin Hills. Co-Chair Katherine Ward also attended.

The first part of the meeting was in joint session with the Public Safety Committee as a follow-up to the April 2017 joint meeting on gang issues in the community. Members of the Fairfax County Police Department's Gang Task Force gave a presentation and participated in a wide-ranging discussion. For specific details please see the Public Safety Committee minutes elsewhere in this RECORD.

The Education Committee was interested to hear the Virginia legislative and Fairfax County enforcement activities which help to make Fairfax a less attractive location for gang activity, although it is once again on the rise, particularly due to MS-13 which remains the largest and most violent of Northern Virginia gangs. It was noted that, as with many other issues, the proximity of Fairfax, DC, Montgomery and Prince Georges' counties makes coordinated effort necessary.

As was discussed in April, most MS-13 gang members and affiliates are recent immigrant teenagers whose involvement often begins as a search for a sense of belonging and then escalates as adult leaders of the gang who operate from jail cells in El Salvador

Committee Reports

demand participation in various illicit activities including drugs, robbery, sex trafficking and intimidation. Committing crimes and acts of violence are the means to “advance” within the gang structure and often family members remaining in El Salvador are threatened to enforce loyalty. As was also previously discussed, most gang crime is directed at other members and recent immigrants, including extorting immigrant-owned businesses. Except for opportunistic street muggings, the larger community is rarely a target.

Of particular interest to the Education Committee, the presenters noted that while many gang members or affiliates are school age and enrolled in school, gang-related incidents on school property are very rare because the teens know they will be expelled and want to remain in school. Although it was suggested that security in school and on school buses is lax, the lack of in school problems seems to suggest the opposite: students know they will be caught and expelled. At least one measure suggested, required student ID badges with bus numbers, has in fact already been implemented.

Although overt activity in schools is rare and the vast majority of students are not affected, the gang issue is still significant and schools have been generally proactive in implementing after school programs, special support programs for immigrant students who may come with no formal education and a history of witnessing street violence, and outreach to parents and immigrant community. Staff education to recognize signs of potential problems and identify students at risk or already gang members is also important, as is co-ordination with school resource officers and the Gang Task Force within the limits imposed by law as to disclosing student information and allowing questioning by officers at school.

Unfortunately, school security personnel were not able to attend and provide clarification on security protocols and procedure. The Chair was asked to follow-up with a possible presentation by FCPS outlining security plans in place to address the entire range of safety issues.

For the remainder of the meeting, the Education Committee considered possible testimony to the School Board on FY2018 budget adjustments and reviewed a draft resolution which had been previously circulated.

The bottom line is that the School Board must still close a gap of about \$26M even after increasing class size and making various other adjustments. Because of the years of underfunding and resultant steep cuts, there remain few if any “good” cuts as the Budget has already been stripped to the bone but the demands of increasing enrollment and raising salaries to competitive levels remain.

The Committee did not try to make an exhaustive evaluation but focused on some items which are uniquely damaging to our diverse schools: imposing student fees for AP and IB tests and sports

participation and raising student parking lot fees. Although students eligible for Free and Reduced Meals (FRM) are excluded and some limits are placed on exposure, there are many families in our schools who do not qualify for FRM but have little disposable income. As a result, these middle class students may have to forego some advanced classes (especially the IB Full Diploma or Certificate) and sports programs may be affected by loss of participation. Raising parking fees may also be counterproductive as it may just drive more students to park on local streets, at least in our area.

During the discussion, a member, who also sat on the FCPS Budget Task Force, offered an additional cost cutting measure, not currently on the “list” of proposals, involving lowering the cost of management of retirement systems funds, without burdening students, families, or staff. The Committee approved adding that proposal and unanimously approved the Resolution with that addition.

Because of timing issues, the Resolution, which appears elsewhere in this RECORD, was presented to the MVCCA Board to go forward as a Board Resolution and was unanimously approved at the Board meeting on May 9.

For additional information on the current budget process, see <https://www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/budget/budget-documents> <http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=AJ8TXB78DA7C> <https://www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/pdf/FRAppFormWLetterInstructions.pdf>

Next meeting June 7, 2017, 8 p.m., Whitman MS library

ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION

The MVCCA’s E&R Committee (E&R) met on May 3, 2017 at 7:15 p.m. E&R Committee members represented included Collingwood-on-the-Potomac, Engleside, Hollin Hall Village, Hollin Hills, Pavilions at Huntington Metro, Riverwood, Spring Bank, Stratford Landing, Wellington Civic Association, Wessynton and Woodlawn Manor. Also present was E&R Chair (also serving as Mount Vernon District Tree Commissioner).

Announcements from committee members included a reminder about the public comment period that closes May 18, 2017 related to the VDOT public meeting on April 18, 2017. Information on this can be found here: http://www.vdot.virginia.gov/projects/northernvirginia/richmond_highway.asp. The next EMBARK Community Meeting will be held May 15, 2017 from 6.30 p.m.-9 p.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School. See here for more details: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/embarkrichmondhwy/meetings.htm>

Committee Reports

Upcoming event announcements included a Trash Day of Action event planned for May 8, 2017. More information on this can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/novatawaf/>.

We welcomed Charles Smith, Branch Chief, Watershed Implementation Projects and liaison for the Mt. Vernon District. He began his presentation with general discussion of priorities for projects. Identifying the landowner impacted by projects is a key component. Both private and county owned land require an easement to access for project implementation and followup monitoring. The Quander Road stormwater outfall at Mount Vernon District Park project is now completed. Soil types at this location included ancient river terraces and seeps that had stopped flowing due to significant erosion resulting in a 25 foot high gully. Post project the seep is flowing again, this important natural feature was adversely impacted by the failure of the outfall. Work done minimized impacts and restored natural habitat installing step pools to slow down and filter stormwater flows. The next project mentioned is a pond retrofit at West Potomac High School. Nearing completion this included installation of a sediment forebay wrapping water around the pond bottom and using wetland plants to filter stormwater.

Projects added for FY 2018 include those in planning and/or design phase such as (1) Fairchild property in the Spring Bank community that includes a seepage wetland; (2) Paul Spring Branch – tributary to Paul Springs Branch Segment I in Hollin Hills. The upstream drainage area includes 600 acres including from Beacon Hill Rd with gravel terraces with clay layers typical in our area. The project may use of different methods of regenerative stormwater conveyance; (3) Lorton Athletic Fields at the Lower Potomac Ballpark. Here wetland pools and native vegetation will be planted; (4) Gunston Corner has a breached outfall and broken damn draining into the neighboring homes. This project will include a pond retrofit and restoration of the damn and connection to the stream; (5) Saratoga Elementary School includes a pond retrofit; (6) South County Middle School includes a pond retrofit; (7) Hunting Creek Tributary at Belle Haven Park. Details of these projects can be viewed under Supporting Documents for the May 3, 2017 meeting at <http://www.mvcca.org/committees/environment-recreation-committee/>.

Next Charles discussed with us tree planting efforts related to the Huntington Levee project. Ten acres of trees will be planted off site to mitigate for tree removal to construct the Levee. Key elements of sites considered for this is qualification for Chesapeake Bay TMDL under the County's MS4 permit. Properties need to be Fairfax County properties including Fairfax County Park Authority properties. Locations identified for reforestation include Olney Park, Churchill Road Park, Silas Burke Park, Lewinsville Park and Rock Hill Park. It seems odd that none of these are in the impacted watershed nor in the Mount Vernon District. E&R Chair will followup with County staff to identify opportunities in our area that should be considered.

Next we welcomed Larry Zaragoza, Mt. Vernon District appointee and Vice Chair to Fairfax County's Environment Quality Advisory Committee (EQAC). He discussed the **Annual Report on the Environment** that summarizes environmental conditions, trends, programs, legislation, and issues in Fairfax County and presents to the Board of Supervisors EQAC's recommendations on a variety of environmental issues. This document can be found here: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/eqac/report/> As the report is prepared entirely by members of EQAC, the Annual Report reflects the views of EQAC. EQAC also hosts a public hearing to obtain input on issues of environmental concern. The last public hearing was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2017, and it is anticipated that the next public hearing will be held in January, 2018. Presentation materials from prior year public hearings can be found here: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/eqac/publichearings/> Larry tells us that EQAC also prepares and sends to the BOS as many as six position letters each year on issues raised that may have an impact on our environment.

A motion, seconded and agreed to by acclimation to adjourn.

Our next meeting will be June 7, 2017 at 7:15 p.m. at the Mt. Vernon Government Center 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, VA Community Room 3.

PLANNING & ZONING

The Committee's next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 5, 2017 in the Mount Vernon Government Center, 2511 Parkers Lane.

The following application is expected: A rezoning application to transform the existing 1,222 unit gated Riverside apartments into a pedestrian-oriented, outward facing community by adding 767 new rental apartment units, a new grid of streets, eliminating vast expanses of surface parking, and providing 4.8 acres of public park space, most of which is a linear park celebrating and providing access to Cameron Run.

JOINT PUBLIC SAFETY EDUCATION

A joint meeting of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Association's Education and Public Safety Committee was held on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 in the library of the Walt Whitman Middle School. The meeting began at 7:35 PM with the following associations represented:

Public Safety: Collingwood on the Potomac, Hollin Hills, Mount Vernon, Potomac Valley River Bend, Riverside Estates, Southwood with guest, and Stratford On The Potomac IV.

Committee Reports

Also attending was Katherine Ward, MVCCA Co-chair.

Guest speakers for the meeting were staff from the Fairfax County Police Department's Gang Investigations Unit, Sergeant Merritt Cassel, Detective Brian Storm and Detective Ramon Robertson. The Gang Investigations Unit is part of the Criminal Investigation Division and currently staffed with two supervisors and nine detectives including three who are multi-lingual. The goal of the unit is to "solve tomorrow's crime today" through intelligence gathering as often "today's victim is tomorrow's suspect". The unit actively engages in providing education and awareness training to law enforcement, school staff and the public on the impact that gang activity has on all of us. The unit works with a variety of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies as a regular part of their investigative activity.

A "gang" is defined as three or more persons with a primary objective is the commission of criminal activity, with an identifiable name or sign or symbol, and whose members have engaged in the commission of criminal acts where at least one is an act of violence. Virginia has adopted gang enhancement which provides additional criminal provisions specifically to curtail gang activity. Gang related cases have increased significantly over the past couple of years in the Mount Vernon District with 491 in 2015, 627 in 2016 and, current trends for 2017 indicate an even higher number. The Reston and McLean Districts have also had significant increases. One reason given for this increase is that the education and awareness training being provided better identifies the basis for some criminal activity.

Over time, there have been around a hundred different "gangs" identified in Fairfax County but this is cyclic so the actual number varies widely at any particular time. For the Mount Vernon District, four gangs were identified as being active: MS-13 (Mara Salvatrucha), 41 Zone (Fordson Road and Route One), 7 Woods (Sequoia) and 18th Street. The number of individuals who may be associated with Fairfax County gangs may range from 2000 – 3000 but that number can fluctuate due to the movement of gang members between the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. The age of most gang participants is from 12 to 17 years. And, while there may be some limited involvement, females are normally kept on the fringes of gang business. Gang participation may be inviting as it may provide a sense of "family" to the individual.

MS-13 is currently on the forefront of gang activity in Fairfax County. The origins of the gang are in El Salvador and the group has a strict structure from local youngsters to the adult leadership which currently directs operations from jails in El Salvador. The main purpose of MS-13 is to make money and this is mostly achieved through extortion of individuals and businesses. Individuals residing here may have family in their country of origin and if the local people fail to comply with the extortion efforts, threats to harm are made to those family members in the home country.

The recent influx of unaccompanied illegal alien children to the National Capital Region may be another reason for the increase in MS-13 and 18th Street activity, as the children may have been sent to this country to recruit for the gangs. With no actual documentation when entering this country, these minors may identify themselves as being 14 years of age when in fact they could actually 19 or 20 but as a juvenile, deportation is much less likely to occur even when engaging in criminal activity. With extremely high murder and other crime rates in their country of origin, these children are accustomed to utilizing acts of violence as a means to achieve the goals of the gang.

For the majority of incidents, criminal activity is mainly "gang on gang" but there have been occasions where opportunities present themselves where gang members may target a person outside their usual "community." Attendees were encouraged to maintain their situational awareness and report suspicious activity or persons as one means of not becoming a victim for crime in general.

Suggested actions to address gang activity included the following:

- After-school projects and activities to engage the youth
- Continued gang prevention programs
- Better coordination and cooperation between countries
- Sharing of information on these individuals between organizations and agencies
- Further education and awareness of the gang problem to law enforcement, educators and the population
- Fairfax County Police hold a Road Dog Camp each summer to assist at risk youth.

The Gang Investigation Unit representatives invited the attendees to come to the Mount Vernon Citizens Advisory Committee meeting that will be held Tuesday, May 9th at 7:30 PM in the Mount Vernon Government Center as gang activity will be the topic.

The attendees sincerely thanked the Gang Investigation Unit representatives for sharing their time and information with the committees.

The meeting concluded at 9:00 PM.

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Thursday, June 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Mount Vernon Government Center.

TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation Committee met at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 1, 2017. Representatives of the following citizens associations were in attendance: Hollin Hall Village, Mount Zephyr, Southwood, Stratford Landing, Wellington Heights, Wessynton, Westgrove, and Williamsburg Manor. Also attending were: Katherine Ward,

Committee Reports

MVCCA Co-Chair; Earl Flanagan, Planning Commissioner for the Mount Vernon District; and Michael Shor, Transportation Commissioner for the Mount Vernon District.

The agenda was approved after adding: "Tour Bus excessive idling at the Mount Vernon Estate" and "South Flow Alliance". March 6 meeting minutes and the April 3 Report to the MVCCA General Council were approved.

Michael Shor gave an extensive report on the purpose of the Transportation Commission, his role and his expectations.

Earl Flanagan reviewed the VDOT proposed widening of Richmond Highway from VA RT 235 South to VA RT 235 North from four to six thru lanes. This is a large and complex project that the Transportation Committee will follow closely.

Acting Chair Frank Cihak reviewed the proposed Transportation Committee structure that was discussed at the April 2 meeting. The structure was approved by 8 yeas, 0 no. The committee will consist of a Chair (voting), Vice-Chair, Secretary, Resolution Drafter, Program Coordinator, and Special Projects Leader(s). The new positions will be filled by volunteers. Positions not filled by volunteers will be assigned by the Chair.

The annual review of the Transportation Committee 5 and 10 year Goals and Objectives will be taken up at future meetings.

The recent serious accident on the George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) at Morningside lane was discussed. Details were unclear. The head of the GWMP Police will be invited to the next meeting to review the accident.

The Tour bus idling at the Mount Vernon Estate is an on-going air pollution problem. Committee members are advised to contact the Estate to complain about this problem.

The committee took note of the "Funding Transportation Projects" public Hearing on May 3 and the South Flow Alliance meeting on aircraft noise on May 10 at Whitman Middle School at 7:00 p.m.

The next Embark Richmond Highway Community Meeting (#4) will take place at the Walt Whitman Middle School at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 15. The next Embark Richmond Highway Advisory Group Meeting (17) will take place in Room 221C of the South County Center, 8350 Richmond Highway at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 22.

The next meeting of the Transportation Committee will be in Community Room 3 in the Mount Vernon Government Center on Parkers Lane at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, June 5, 2017. The guest speaker will be Lt. Dillon from the National Park Service Police who will speak about Parkway issues (accidents, speeding, etc).

SFDC

The Board heard the initial presentation on Riverside Apartments, recently purchased by Washington REIT. They plan to renovate the current 3 high rise buildings, and add three 5 level and two 7 level new buildings. The parking plan will take the nearly 100% impervious area and add nearly 2 acres of green space. They have also planned for street grids, a public park at Cameron Run, and storm water controls. The SFDC Board recommended that they refine the plan with more specifics, and that they present to MVCCA Transportation, Land Use/P&Z, and E&R Committees as soon as possible.

FAIRFAX FEDERATION

The Federation's Member Meeting was held Thursday, 20 April, at 7:30 p.m. and was called to order at the Mason Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003. April was Child Abuse Prevention month and the agenda concentrated on a presentation from "SafeSpot" a Children's Advocacy Center in Fairfax County.

The Federation Board meeting was April 27, at 7:30 p.m. at the Dunn Loring Center, Room 108 (Entrance 2), 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, VA, 22027. Agenda included general reports and a concentrated in-depth discussions internal Federation Budget for the upcoming year. The Board decided after much deliberation to compose a letter supporting citizen involvement in the county and specifically in Planning & Zoning issues. The current Officers all indicated they were planning to run for reelection as a slate.

The next Federation Member Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 18, at the Mason Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003. The Agenda will include: Report from Richmond, Election of Officers, and Approval of Federation Budget. Also on the agenda "Solarize Fairfax County" & June 8 picnic announcement.

The next Federation Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 25, at the Dunn Loring Center, Room 108 (Entrance 2), 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, VA 22027. Agenda: TBA

Details of all things related to the Fairfax Federation can be found on the Federations Website (www.fairfaxfederation.org).

Committee Resolutions

EDUCATION

For General Council Ratification:

MVCCA EDU-2017-02 RESOLUTION ON FY2018 SCHOOL BOARD APPROVED BUDGET

1. **WHEREAS** on May 25, 2017, the Fairfax County School Board (SB) will adopt an FY2018 Approved School Budget to conform to funds available from Fairfax County, Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States; and
2. **WHEREAS** from an initial revenue shortfall of \$60.9M, the funding gap has been reduced to \$46.7M through use of funds from 3rd Quarter Review, an additional \$1.7M from the County and \$4.1M from the Commonwealth; and
3. **WHEREAS** the Superintendent has recommended some changes including adding a class size increase of .5 , delaying implementation of non-teacher scales and others which collectively would, if adopted by the SB, reduce the deficit to \$26.7M; and
4. **WHEREAS** the Superintendent has prepared, for SB use, a list of possible additional reductions and/or revenue enhancements from recommendations of the Budget Task Force, citizen comments and staff input totaling \$37.3 and including suggestions for imposing test and athletic fees and an increase in parking lot fees; and
5. **WHEREAS** the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (MVCCA) recognizes that given the past several years of underfunded school budgets and resultant steep cuts there are few options available to the SB, but imposing fee burdens on families whose children want to play sports or take Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses for college credit and preparation are counterproductive to the mission of FCPS and fall disproportionately on less wealthy families and schools with diverse populations, to wit:
 - (1) Athletic fees of \$150 per sport (maximum \$300): \$3.8M projected revenue
 - (2) Test fees for AP (after the first 2) and IB (after the first 3): \$1.1M projected revenue
 - (3) Parking fees increased from \$200 to \$300: \$0.5M projected revenue; and
6. **WHEREAS** the athletic and testing fees will not be charged to students receiving free or reduced meals (FRM) but many students from working middle class families will find the fees onerous and limiting to opportunities to fully prepare for college and particularly to pursue an IB diploma (which requires multiple tests); and
7. **WHEREAS** the ability to park in school lots may seem a “perk”, but many students need cars for work or family reasons and raising fees will in many cases only mean that students will

choose to park on neighborhood streets without the supervision and security provided by school grounds; and

8. **WHEREAS** schools in the Mount Vernon District are among the diverse in the County, have families with a wide range of income including many who have little disposable income but earn more than the very low income limits of FRM, and will be adversely affected if students are foreclosed from pursuing high level courses or participating in sports by imposition of potentially hundreds of dollars of fees; and

9. **WHEREAS** other budget options, which do not target students and families as revenue sources, have not been fully explored, such as, for example, the School Board could save approximately \$6 million per year (more than potential student fee revenue) by transferring responsibility for ERFC fund management to the County's FCERS managers; and

10. **WHEREAS** such a transfer of fund management could be beneficial beyond the specific savings in that the ERFC fund performance has lagged its peers, has higher fees than the County's FCERS plan, and has not met return expectations over the past ten years:

- As reported in the Dec 15, 2016 ERFC Board of Trustees Minutes, ERFC's rank vs. peers as of the end of FY 2016 was in the bottom 20% for 1 year and 5 years and in the bottom third for 10 years.
- ERFC Fund management fees are nearly double those paid by FCERS while ERFC performance lagged FCERS for 1, 5 and 10 year returns as of 6/30/16.
- ERFC's active management approach has added value in a few strategies but has not added value in many other strategies, and has resulted in overall increased risk and lower returns relative to peers; and

A. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MVCCA urges the Fairfax County School Board to refrain from balancing the FY2018 Budget on the backs of middle class families and to continue offering AP and IB tests, and athletic opportunities free of charge so that all students may reach their highest potential and FCPS may continue its pursuit of excellence in education for all students; and

B. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MVCCA considers that raising student parking lot fees may be counterproductive in that it may create security and parking issues in surrounding neighborhoods by driving students from the supervised school lots; and

C. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MVCCA proposes the School Board direct the ERFC Board of Trustees to implement appropriate changes to investment managers and/or negotiated fees, to reduce overall portfolio investment management fees to a level at, or below, current FCERS portfolio fees (calculated as a percent of assets), and to ensure that fees are below the median

Committee Resolutions

fees of peer funds, with the goal of realizing at least \$6 million/year in cost savings; and

D. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MVCCA proposes the School Board and the Board of Supervisors jointly investigate the administrative and overhead cost savings from consolidating management of ERFC and FCERS Plan assets under FCERS management.

END: RESOLUTION 2017-02 (EDU)

Approved by the MVCCA Board on May 9, 2017

DID YOU KNOW?

In April 2017 the Huntley Meadows Park Wetland Restoration Project was awarded Governor McAuliffe's 2017 Environmental Excellence Award Gold Medal. This award recognizes the significant contributions of environmental and conservation leaders in an outstanding environmental project. "This honor recognizes that your commitment to environmental sustainability has made a lasting impact on the Commonwealth," wrote U.S. Senator Mark Warner of Virginia in a letter to the Park Authority.

This project restored the Huntley Meadows Park's central wetland, which is the largest non-tidal wetland in Fairfax County. See details here: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/press/html/ir048-17.htm>

A key feature of the Wetland Restoration Project is the use of sound science, including the selection of indicator species as a measure of successful wetland restoration. As the wetland habitat improves over time, these indicator species are expected to return. This is already happening to a significant degree, only 3 years since project completion.

Come visit this award-winning Fairfax County Park Authority property and see the results first hand!

Treasurer's Report

Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations, Inc. Treasurer's Report, Current Month and Fiscal Year to Date Compared to Annual Budget Periods Ending April 30, 2017

(Amounts are rounded to nearest dollar)

	April	Total July 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017	Annual Budget	Budget Variance To spend or Favorable (Unfavorable)
<u>Cash Receipts (including deposits in-transit):</u>				
Dues - Current Members	\$ 156	\$ 2,934	\$ 3,300	
Dues - Collected in 2015-16 Fiscal Year ³	-	318	-	
Money Market Interest	1	8	10	
Total Cash Receipts	157	3,260	3,310	(50)
<u>Cash Disbursements (including outstanding checks):</u>				
Administrative	-	116	300	184
Insurance premium	-	835	835	-
Outreach/Town Hall Meets	-	162	500	338
"Record" Production	80	990	1,390	400
Web Site	-	396	900	504
Total Cash Disbursements	80	2,499	3,925	1,426
<u>Net Budget-Receipts in Excess(less than) Disbursements</u>	77	761	(615)	\$ 1,376
<u>Other sources/changes in cash</u>				
Total Cash at Beginning of Period	11,928	11,561	11,561	Note 2
Dues - Collected in 2015-16 for 2016-17 Fiscal Year	-	(318)	(318)	Note 3
Total Cash at End of Period	\$ 12,005	\$ 12,005	\$ 10,628	

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

Burke & Herbert - Checking	\$ 1,971
Burke & Herbert - Money Market	10,033
Total Cash	\$ 12,005

Respectfully
Submitted,
Stephen Markman
Treasurer
May 9, 2017

Notes:

- 1 This financial statement uses the cash basis of accounting except as noted on the face of the statement.
- 2 The "Annual Budget" and "Total Year-to-Date" columns reflect actual Beginning of Period cash as of July 1, 2016.
- 3 Note dues collected in 2015-16 fiscal year for 2016-17 fiscal year are included in "Cash Receipts" above; therefore, must be deducted from "Cash at Beginning of Period".

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

**Wednesday, May 24, 8:00 p.m.
Mount Vernon Government Center
Parkers Lane, Alexandria**

AGENDA

Call to Order

Guest speaker: Earl Flanagan on VDOT Rt. 1
widening recommendations

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Secretary's Minutes

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Committee Reports

Co-Chair's Report on Board Actions

Published Items and Resolutions

Election of Board Members

New Business

Member Association Time

Mount Vernon Supervisor Time

Other Elected Officials and Public Time

Adjournment

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

**MVCCA Council—May 24, 8:00 p.m., MVGC Comm. Room
MVCCA Board—June 13, 7:30 p.m., MVGC Comm. Rm 3**

Comm	Date	Time	Place	Chair
BUDG	6/7	7:00	MVGC Comm Rm	Bell
EDU	6/7	8:00	WWMS/Lib	Harbeck
E&R	6/7	7:15	MVGC Comm Rm	Ledec
PL/Z	6/5	7:00	MVGC Comm Rm	Vinisky
PS	6/1	7:30	MVGC Comm Rm	Sherick
TRAN	6/5	7:30	MVGC Comm Rm	Cihak

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