

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, February 28, 2019

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Elizabeth Bennet-Parker

Hon. Sharon Bulova

Hon. Kelly Burk

Hon. Peter Candland

Hon. John T. Chapman

Hon. John C. Cook, NVRC Treasurer

Hon. Matt de Ferranti

Hon. Laurie A. Dirocco, NVRC Chairman

Hon. Ken Elston

Hon. Libby Garvey

Hon. Penelope A. Gross

Hon. Pat Herrity

Hon. Geary Higgins

Hon. Catherine Hudgins

Hon. Jeffrey C. McKay

Hon. Lisa Merkel

Hon. David Meyer

Hon. Cydney A. Neville

Hon. Martin E. Nohe

Hon. Frank J. Principi

Hon. Phyllis J. Randall

Hon. Jeanette Rishell

Hon. Kathy L. Smith

Hon. David Tarter, NVRC Vice-Chairman

City of Alexandria

County of Fairfax

Town of Leesburg

County of Prince William

City of Alexandria

County of Fairfax

County of Arlington

Town of Vienna

City of Manassas

County of Arlington

County of Fairfax

County of Fairfax

County of Loudoun

County of Fairfax

County of Fairfax

Town of Herndon

City of Fairfax

Town of Dumfries

County of Prince William

County of Prince William

County of Loudoun

City of Manassas Park

County of Fairfax

City of Falls Church

STAFF PRESENT

Robert Lazaro

Linda M. Tenney

Gina Kesselmann-Smith

Normand Goulet

Michelle Simmons

Peggy Tadej

Executive Director

Deputy Director

Management Analyst

Director, Environmental Services

Director, Human Services

Director, Community and Military Partnerships

OTHERS PRESENT

Tim Aiken

Gaston Araoz

Julie Coons

Michael Forehand

Ellen Volo

Arlington County

Office of Senator Kaine

Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce

Fairfax County Government Relations

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman DiRocco called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called and all members present or absent were noted for the record.

DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATIONS

Working with Business

Julie Coons, President and CEO of the Northern Virginia Chamber, provided an overview of the Chamber's membership and regional focus, discussed the Chamber's priorities for the coming year, and spoke to the role of regional local governments in partnering with the business community to support a robust business climate.

Commissioner Cook pointed out and asked for the Chamber's follow up regarding the corporate social responsibility of businesses and its importance. He elaborated that Northern Virginia has been suffering from a lack of philanthropic contributions and there should be a dialogue to establish a private sector involvement in community needs.

Commissioner Chapman asked to clarify what is being done to assist businesses of color. Ms. Coons said that the Chamber is working on a plan to involve them more. Commissioner Meyer added that a pilot of some sort to help small and disadvantaged businesses and businesses of color would be a good idea. Commissioner Gross emphasized the importance of outreach to diverse businesses and local communities in general.

ACTION ITEMS

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P19-16 – Resolution authorizing Executive Director to enter into agreement for LED Street Light Planning. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Merkel and carried unanimously.

Background:

In January 2018 the Commission approved a resolution to partner with the Maryland Energy Office (MEO) and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments on LED street light planning. MEO won the grant from the US Department of Energy. The resolution authorizes the Executive Director to sign the contract with the MEO.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P19-17 – Resolution authorizing the submission of a resiliency continuing planning grant to the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garvey and carried unanimously.

Background:

The Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program has requested that NVRC submit a grant proposal for FY 2019 funding (October 2019 - September 2020). NVRC's Coastal and Chesapeake Bay Program, for the past two years, has been convening a stakeholder workgroup comprised of staff from the region's state, local, federal, and regional agencies as well as academic

and non-governmental organizations to begin planning for resiliency in the region's critical infrastructure.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P19-18 – Resolution authorizing the submission of a technical assistance grant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Elston and carried unanimously.

Background:

The Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC), through its Coastal and Chesapeake Bay Program, has supported regional coordination of coastal zone management issues and has provided technical assistance to coastal zone jurisdictions in Northern Virginia through its technical assistance grant from the Coastal Zone Management Program for the past 28 years. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program has requested the Northern Virginia Regional Commission submit a non-competitive technical assistance proposal for FY 2019 funding (October 2019 - September 2020).

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P19-19 – Resolution authorizing to submit a litter reduction grant proposal to the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program for the Little Hunting Creek Watershed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chapman and carried unanimously.

Background:

Northern Virginia Regional Commission staff in partnership with Fairfax County's Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, Clean Fairfax Council, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Clean Virginia Waterways, Audubon Naturalist Society, and Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District have met several times in the last few months to formulate a plan to address the litter problems in the watershed. The Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program has reprogramming funding available to address marine debris. As such staff is requesting the Northern Virginia Regional Commission authorize the Executive Director to apply for a grant of \$13,000 from the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program in support of furthering a litter management strategy for the Little Hunting Creek Watershed.

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

Mr. Lazaro presented his report to the Commission, which included the financial report for January 2019 and the following:

- Stormwater Workshop
 - NVRC held a free stormwater workshop with our partners from Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church and the NoVA Soil and Water Conservation District. Nearly 60 residents in attendance. A workshop on rain gardens will take place March 2.

- Kicking Off the 50th Anniversary of Planning Districts
 - NVRC attended the Annual Winter meeting of the Virginia Association of Planning District Commissions which held a kick off event to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of PDCs in the Commonwealth.
- Coordinating with Hampton Roads PDC
 - NVRC signed joint letter with Hampton Roads PDC in support of creation of Virginia Office for Offshore Wind. Letter consistent with resolution adopted by NVRC in September 2018 in support of offshore wind project.
- Data Dashboard
 - We have created an interactive data dashboard of pedestrian and bicyclist accidents in the region as part of the effort to educate the public on safety.
- 4 Mile Run Interpretive Signage – Arlington County
 - Arlington recently completed installation of signage for the 4 Mile Run restoration project. NVRC worked with Arlington and Alexandria for more than a decade in getting this project completed.
- Cyber Roadmap
 - Will Rowe of BoozAllen, Bob Lazaro and Peggy Tadej of NVRC were invited to brief members of the business community regarding our Cyber Training and Education Roadmap Initiative. The presentation was well received and the audience supportive of the efforts.
- Upcoming Meetings
 - **March**
 - On March 7 we are co-hosting the **Shape of the Region Conference** with the Community Foundation of Northern Virginia, Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce and the Northern Virginia Technology Council. The conference will focus on the business case for economic mobility.
 - Mr. Steven Partridge of the Northern Virginia Community College – Update on the Tech Talent Pipeline Project a Go Virginia initiative
 - **April**
 - 50th Anniversary Recognition

- **May**
 - Watershed Implementation Plan III Update

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman DiRocco announced that the annual performance review of NVRC's Executive Director, Mr. Lazaro, is scheduled to take place at the next Executive Committee Meeting on March 28, 2019. The meeting will start at 6 pm and an email will be sent to Commission members prior to this meeting asking for their input and comments regarding Mr. Lazaro's performance.

MINUTES

Commissioner Merkel moved approval of the Commission meeting minutes of January 24, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garvey and carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Gross invited Commissioners to attend the next Community and Military Partnership meeting on March 21, 2019 from 10 am to Noon at the NVRC office location.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman DiRocco adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.
Executive Director

Approved by:

Laurie A. DiRocco
Chairman