

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, April 23, 2020 – via Zoom

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Walter L. Alcorn
Hon. Victor S. Angry
Hon. Andrea O. Bailey
Hon. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker
Hon. Kenny A. Boddy
Hon. Kelly Burk
Hon. John T. Chapman
Hon. Matt de Ferranti
Hon. Laurie A. Dirocco
Hon. Libby Garvey
Hon. Penelope A. Gross
Hon. Pat Herrity
Hon. Caleb A. Kershner
Hon. Rodney L. Lusk
Hon. Lisa Merkel
Hon. David Meyer
Hon. Cydny A. Neville, NVRC Vice Chairman
Hon. Dalia A. Palchik
Hon. Jeanette Rishell
Hon. Kathy L. Smith, NVRC Treasurer
Hon. David Tarter, NVRC Chairman
Hon. Kristen C. Umstatt
Hon. James R. Walkinshaw
Hon. Mark Wolfe

County of Fairfax
County of Prince William
County of Prince William
City of Alexandria
County of Prince William
Town of Leesburg
City of Alexandria
County of Arlington
Town of Vienna
County of Arlington
County of Fairfax
County of Fairfax
County of Loudoun
County of Fairfax
Town of Herndon
City of Fairfax
Town of Dumfries
County of Fairfax
City of Manassas Park
County of Fairfax
City of Falls Church
County of Loudoun
County of Fairfax
City of Manassas

STAFF PRESENT

Robert Lazaro
Linda M. Tenney
Gina Kesselmann-Smith
Allison Doerfler
Normand Goulet
Dale Medearis
Michelle Simmons
Peggy Tadej

Executive Director
Deputy Director
Management Analyst
Transportation Demand Management Outreach Coordinator
Director, Environmental Services
Senior Environmental Planner
Human Services Director
Director, Community and Military Partnerships

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tarter called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

ACTION ITEMS

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P20-22 – Emergency Resolution to modify public meeting practices and procedures to address continuity of operations associated with pandemic disaster. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Merkel and carried unanimously.

Background:

Resolution authorizes the Northern Virginia Regional Commission to meet remotely via electronic means to ensure continuity of operations.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P20-23 – Resolution to call on the US Congress and the Governor of Virginia to address the immediate crisis of rent and mortgage payments through a potential moratorium and to suspend the reporting of negative credit information by credit bureaus . The motion was seconded by Commissioner Merkel and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

Mr. Lazaro presented his report to the Commission, which included the following:

- Working with our Local and State Government Partners
 - Twice a week conference calls with Mayors and Chairs with CAOs since March 16
 - Two conference calls with Governor and key Secretariats; commitment from Governor to have key officials on Mayors/Chairs phone calls
 - Daily updates to Mayors, Chairs, Commissioners and CAOs related to regional activities
 - Conference call with MWCOG and Local Government Attorneys organization with smaller jurisdictions regarding electronic meetings
 - Statewide conference call with other Planning District Commissions with US Senator Tim Kaine re: CARES Act
 - Conference call with Mayors and Chairs with two Deputy Secretaries of Commerce for the Commonwealth.
 - Conference call this coming Monday with VA Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Finance on VA rules related to use of CARES Act funds.

- Coordinating with their Federal Representatives
 - NoVA Mayors and Chairs had a video conference call with US Senators Warner and Kaine. Local officials expressed their support for maximum flexibility in utilizing CARES Act funding and the need for clear information on what the Act is or is not funding in Virginia.

- Communicating with the Public
 - YouTube video featuring Mayors and Chairs urging residents to follow governor stay at home order and following distancing guidelines if they must be out and wear a mask.
 - Our original demographer has put together an informative dashboard on the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on unemployment claims and vulnerable industries in the region and across the Commonwealth.

- Sharing Regional Information
 - NVRC has created a dedicated website to sharing regional Coronavirus information:
 - <https://www.coronavirus-novaregion.org/>

- Next Steps
 - CARES Act Flexibility
 - Reopening the Region
 - Learning from Others

- CARES Act Flexibility
 - Continue to advocate on behalf of local governments the importance of flexibility in the CARES Act funding. Cannot be just tied to reimbursable expenses for things like Personal Protective Equipment.
 - US Treasury Department guidance recently released does not allow CARES Act funds to be used to supplant lost revenue.
 - The entire NoVA Congressional delegation has been supportive of efforts to get flexibility.
 - Working with State officials with respect to guidelines of use of funds already approved for local governments in VA - \$1.3 billion.

- Reopening the Region, NCR & Commonwealth
 - Coordinative effort in the National Capital Region, but in Northern Virginia as well with respect to reopening the Commonwealth and the NCR.
 - Specific ask has been made of the Governor's Office to include NoVA on any workgroup with respect to planning the reopening of the economy. CARES Act funding has been requested to assist the region in the planning.
 - Working to coordinate meeting of CAOs, Superintendents of School and Health Directors.

- Learning from Others
 - NVRC has arranged phone call with the Lord Mayor of Kiel, Germany and our colleagues in Stuttgart Region about how their localities are working to reopen their communities and local government facilities.
 - Agenda includes:

- What is the process by which you are looking to re-open your city?
 - What health metrics and benchmarks do you use to determine any safe measures for the public's return and businesses to re-open?
 - How are the plans for re-opening evaluated in your city and how are corrections or adjustments made administratively, scientifically and politically?
 - What are the future steps you think Kiel might take, especially this summer on parks, swimming pools, libraries, community centers, day camps, etc.
- Continuing to Provide Services
 - Virtual staff meetings via Zoom
 - Continuity of Operations Planning for our Ryan White providers.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Umstadt brought up the need for transit funding increase.

Commissioner Boddy suggested that NVRC could push for a testing increase in the region.

Commissioner Gross brought up that there is a lot of misinformation out there. So maybe NVRC can be sort of a library of facts for the region.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Tarter adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.
Executive Director

Approved by:

P. David Tarter
Chairman