

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, June 25, 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. Boddye
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
Normand Goulet
Dale Medearis
Michelle Simmons
Debbie Spiliotopoulos
Peggy Tadej

Executive Director
Deputy Director
Management Analyst
Director, Environmental Services
Senior Environmental Planner
Human Services Director
Senior Environmental Planner
Director, Community and Military Partnerships

OTHERS PRESENT

Linda Colbert
Atif Qarni

Mayor-Elect of the Town of Vienna
Virginia Secretary of Education

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tarter called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

PRESENTATION

SCHOOL REOPENING

Mr. Atif Qarni, the Virginia Secretary of Education, briefed the Commission on the Commonwealth's plan to reopen schools this Fall.

A lot of concern was expressed regarding a variety of issues associated with this matter. E.g.: How can teachers and students properly protect themselves? What happens if the health screening shows a fever? How will the kids be sent home? School bus? What happens if the teacher is sick? What if there are not enough teachers who want to return to this potentially life threatening environment? Will the new school year be a hybrid between online and in person? If online, will all teachers and children have the equipment and internet connection to participate properly? What will happen with funding?

Secretary Qarni acknowledged that this public health crisis has a multitude of problems that need to be addressed and explained that every step is evaluated and adjusted to make this reopening process as smoothly as possible. Working together and communicating are the main steps to be able to move out of this crisis towards a sense of normality.

ACTION ITEMS

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P20-28 – Resolution authorizing the adoption of the FY 2021 Budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Angry and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P20-29 – Resolution electing the officers of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission for Fiscal Year 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Angry and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P20-30 – Authorization to execute agreement for renewal of Line of Credit. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Angry and carried unanimously.

Background:

The line of credit has not been used for the past three fiscal years, but provides the Commission a safety net.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P20-31 – Authorization to submit a grant to the federal government for phase II of the Autonomous Vehicle project at Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Angry and carried unanimously.

Background:

This is a continuation of a project that NVRC helped coordinate in 2019.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR
FY 2021

At the May 2020 Commission meeting the Nominating Committee recommended the following slate of officers for Fiscal Year 2021. Officers serve a one-year term.

Honorable David Tarter (City of Falls Church) – Chairman
Honorable Cydny A. Neville (Town of Dumfries) – Vice Chairman
Honorable Kathy L. Smith (Fairfax County) – Treasurer

Upon a motion made and duly seconded, the slate of officer stated above was confirmed to serve in FY 2021.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Lazaro presented his report to the Commission, which included the financial report for May 2020 and the following:

- Stream Corridor Restoration Projects
 - Allie Wagner of our Environmental team put together a compelling StoryMap of the benefits of stream restoration highlighting many projects implemented by our local government partners as we collectively work to comply with stormwater and Chesapeake Bay regulations.
- Analyzing the Impact of the Coronavirus
 - Our Regional Demographer put together a map providing data analysis of coronavirus cases by zip code and social vulnerability.
 - The map will be updated every Thursday by 10AM.
- Communicating
 - NVRC Chairman David Tarter, Fairfax County BOS Chairman Jeff McKay and Prince William County Economic Development Director Christina Winn joined together to appear in a virtual Town Hall regarding the COVID19 pandemic and its impact on local governments and business.
 - The Town Hall was hosted by Inside NoVA.
- Solarize NoVA
 - Our 2020 Solarize NoVA campaign has now launched.
 - The campaign will run through August 31. Four webinars have been scheduled which take the place of in-person meetings
- We're Open
 - Our offices reopened as of June 22. We are operating with limited in person staff and no outside visitors to the office.
 - Employees must do the following before entering the office:
 - 1. Have their temperature taken
 - 2. Wear a mask in all common areas
 - 3. Sanitize their hands

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Tarter thanked Commissioner DiRocco for serving as well as she did on the Commission and wished her all the best for her future, as she is retiring from public office.

Chairman Tarter also thanked the NVRC staff for all their hard work and the Commission for his reelection as Chair.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Commission meeting minutes of May 28, 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Neville and carried unanimously.

OTHER ITEMS

Commissioner Gross reported that the upcoming Community and Military Partnership Meeting will be held virtually on July 9th at 10 am and invited the

Commissioners to attend. The agenda will include a discussion on mental health issues for military and their families.

Commissioner Gross also informed the Commission that on July 16, 2020 the first Region Intergovernmental Service Agreement (RIGSA) will be signed at the Virginia Military Advisory Council between the Governor of Virginia, the Army and the Marine Corps, and NVRC to provide Road Services to the three bases in the Region.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Tarter adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.
Executive Director

Approved by:

P. David Tarter
Chairman