

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, June 27, 2019

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Victor S. Angry
Hon. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker
Hon. Sharon Bulova
Hon. Kelly Burk
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: alternate Hon. Bill McKenna
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

County of Prince William
City of Alexandria
County of Fairfax
Town of Leesburg
City of Alexandria
County of Fairfax
County of Arlington
Town of Vienna
City of Manassas
County of Arlington
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
Normand Goulet

Executive Director
Deputy Director
Director, Environmental Services

OTHERS PRESENT

Sue Rowland
Eileen Ellsworth

SRConsulting, Inc.
Community Foundation of Northern Virginia

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman DiRocco called the meeting to order at 7:35 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

Philanthropy in the Region

Commissioners received a briefing from Eileen Ellsworth, President of the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia, regarding charitable giving in the region, and the impact of the new tax law. A copy of material presented by Ms. Ellsworth is attached. Using an interactive application, Ms. Ellsworth also showed how a variety of geographic areas, both within and outside Virginia, compare in terms of overall philanthropy when adjusted gross incomes (AGI) is a variable, and in terms of giving by specific AGI cohorts. She indicated that the new tax law is a likely factor that will affect philanthropic giving, but it may be years before changes in donor behavior can be explained.

ACTION ITEMS

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the **Resolution No. P19-28** – Approval of the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cook and carried unanimously.

Background:

The Commission is being requested to approve the budget for Fiscal Year 2020. The budget does not propose a per capita dues increase. The budget provides for the hiring of the Regional Demographer for the Commission and contemplates the mid-year hiring of an additional water resources person in the Environmental Services division.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the **Resolution No. P19-29** – Authorization for the Executive Director to sign an agreement with the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

Background:

NVRC was invited to submit an application to the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission to provide traffic demand services in coordination with the major military facilities located along the spine of the I95 corridor. NVRC has existing relationships and agreements with these facilities through our Community, Military and Federal Facilities Partnership Committee.

Commissioner Garvey moved approval of the **Resolution No. P19-30** – Resolution in support of the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bulova and carried unanimously.

Background:

Legislation has been sponsored in the US Congress that would direct \$1.3 billion annually of existing un-obligated oil and gas royalties for five years. National parks in Virginia contribute an estimated \$1.4 billion and over 15,000 jobs in the state economy.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of **Resolution No. P19-31** – Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bulova and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gross also announced that the Executive Committee would be reconstituted as a result of the election. Members will be the newly elected officers, plus Commissioner DiRocco (ex-officio as immediate past Chair), and three appointees including Commissioners Gross, Rlshell and deFerranti.

Background:

At the May 23, 2019 meeting of the Commission nominated the following members of the Commission have been recommended to serve as officers of the Commission for Fiscal Year 2020.

The Honorable P. David Tarter – Chairman
The Honorable Cydney Neville – Vice-Chairman
The Honorable Kathy Smith – Treasurer

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

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

- 300+ Contracts
 - Solarize NoVA reached a significant milestone with 327 contracts for more than 2.5 MW of new solar.
 - The contract value now exceeds \$7.5 million with local contractors.
- Neabsco Creek Boardwalk Ribbon Cutting
 - NVRC staff was honored to attend the ribbon cutting for the Neabsco Creek Boardwalk project in Prince William County. NVRC helped coordinate the funding for this important regional trail/park initiative.
 - NVRC has worked for many years on the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail.
- Safe Walking Summit
 - NVRC's Safe Walking Summit was a success with a full house of representatives from our local government partners, state agencies, NGO organizations, Inova and staff from representatives of members of the General Assembly.
- Commonwealth Cyber Initiative
 - NVRC is serving on the Steering Committee for the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative (CCI). The Northern Virginia node for the CCI was approved earlier in June.
 - Among items of interest, the group received an update from Steve Partridge, VP for Workforce and Economic Development, for the Northern Virginia Community College related to the Tech Talent Pipeline initiative. Steve reported the public effort will launch on September 5.
- Supporting our Military Partners
 - NVRC's Peggy Tadej participated in a panel at the American Defense Communities meeting in Northern Virginia regarding NVRC's role in supporting the deployment of the OLLI autonomous vehicle at Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall.

- Joining Peggy on the panel was Will Rowe of Booz Allen and Colonel Kimberly Peeples, the Base Commander.
- Rain Garden Workshop
 - A successful workshop was held recently in Dumfries. Always popular, these workshops can be provided for any of NVRC's member government communities.
- LED Streetlight Planning
 - NVRC staff has initiated work under a US Department of Energy grant, in cooperation with the Maryland Energy Administration. This work will support continuation of the advances NVRC already has made in assisting localities convert to LED streetlights and achieve significant savings of local government dollars.
- DEQ Listening Session

NVRC hosted a two-day listening session conducted by Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.
- Upcoming Schedule
 - July
 - Economic Development Roundtable with ED directors from all the major localities
 - September
 - Tour of the new Schar Cancer Center at Inova
 - Resiliency Plan Presentation
 - October
 - MWAA CEO Jack Potter re: Economic Impact of Airports
 - Presentation of Audit for review and approval
 - Presentation of Preliminary FY21 Budget for review and approval
 - December
 - Dominion Energy – Carbon Pricing/Renewables

Mr. Lazaro also announced the arrival of Kensi Rose Smith, new daughter of NVRC's Gina Kesselmann-Smith. Kensi was born on June 23.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Outgoing Chairman DiRocco expressed thanks to the Commission, the Executive Committee and staff for meeting the challenges of the past 2 ½ years.

In the absence of incoming Chairman Tarter, Commissioner Gross expressed thanks for Chairman DiRocco's leadership, and conveyed a parting gift on the Commission's behalf.

GO VIRGINIA REPORT

Ms. Rowland provided a written and oral report on the recent activities of

the GO Northern VA Council, along with its financial report for May. Chairman DiRocco, who has served as an NVRC representative on the GO Northern VA Council, reminded members that the Commission serves as the Council's "Support Organization," which carries fiduciary responsibilities.

MINUTES

Approval of the Commission meeting minutes of May 23, 2019 was moved and seconded and carried with no corrections or changes.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman DiRocco adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.
Executive Director

Approved by:

Laurie A. DiRocco
Chairman