

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

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

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Walter L. Alcorn	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Victor S. Angry	County of Prince William
Hon. Andrea O. Bailey	County of Prince William
Hon. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Hon. Kenny A. Boddye	County of Prince William
Hon. Kelly Burk	<i>Town of Leesburg</i>
Hon. John T. Chapman	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Hon. Linda J. Colbert	<i>Town of Vienna</i>
Hon. Matt de Ferranti	County of Arlington
Hon. Libby Garvey	County of Arlington
Hon. Penelope A. Gross	County of Fairfax
Hon. Pat Herrity	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Caleb A. Kershner	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
Hon. Rodney L. Lusk	County of Fairfax
Hon. Lisa Merkel	Town of Herndon
Hon. David Meyer	City of Fairfax
Hon. Cydney A. Neville, NVRC Vice Chairman	Town of Dumfries
Hon. Dalia A. Palchik	County of Fairfax
Hon. Jeanette Rishell	City of Manassas Park
Hon. Kathy L. Smith, NVRC Treasurer	County of Fairfax
Hon. David Tarter, NVRC Chairman	City of Falls Church
Hon. Kristen C. Umstattd	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
Hon. James R. Walkinshaw	County of Fairfax
Hon. Mark Wolfe	City of Manassas

STAFF PRESENT

Robert Lazaro	<i>Executive Director</i>
Linda M. Tenney	<i>Deputy Director</i>
Gina Kesselmann-Smith	<i>Management Analyst</i>
Normand Goulet	<i>Director, Environmental Services</i>
Jill Kaneff	<i>Demographer</i>
Dale Medearis	<i>Senior Environmental Planner</i>
Cristin Shiffer	<i>Military Transportation Demand Coordinator</i>
Michelle Simmons	<i>Human Services Director</i>
Peggy Tadej	<i>Director, Community and Military Partnerships</i>
Allie Wagner	<i>Environmental Planner</i>

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

The Economic Impact of Immigrants in Northern Virginia

Jill Kaneff, our Regional Demographer, provided a presentation of the findings of our report that were released at the end of March, but was unable to be presented due to the cancellation of our April meeting and other matters related to COVID19.

Ms. Kaneff also gave the Commissioners an update on her current work related to Covid-19 like high case rate and test site mapping.

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

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

- Mapping and Protecting Our Watershed
 - Allie Wagner of our staff completed a map of all the watersheds in the region and the Commonwealth as part of an educational tool to help folks not only understand the extent of the watershed in Virginia, but what actions they can take to protect it through our Clean Water Partners effort.
- Meeting with our Members of Congress
 - Mayors, Chairs and CAOs held a conference meeting with Congressman Don Beyer to talk about flexibility in funding for the CARES Act, the prospects of passage of the HEROES Act in the Senate and the extension of the unemployment insurance supplement.
- First Regional Intergovernmental Multi-Service Agreement in the Nation!
 - NVRC Executive Director Bob Lazaro and NVRC's Director of Military Affairs Peggy Tadej attended a ceremonial signing in Richmond ratifying the first regional multi-service intergovernmental services agreement in the United States. Parties include NVRC, US Army and the Marine Corps.
- Incorporating Native Plants in Comprehensive Plans
 - Fairfax County recently adopted a comprehensive plan amendment that requires public facilities to use "natural landscaping" i.e. native plants.
 - The language includes several references to the Plant NOVA Natives program which is coordinated by the Commission.
- 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.
- To date the campaign has netted 20 contracts for 164.7kW of solar with contract value in excess of \$421K.
- Community/Military Partnership
 - We held our second virtual Community/Military Partnership meeting which focused on mental health services for our military and their families. Next meeting will be held on September 10.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Tarter reported on the regional cooperation regarding Covid-19 and asked for input from Commissioners if they liked to have NVRC to focus on something in particular.

Commissioners uttered concerns regarding messaging and that it is important to make sure that it reaches the Hispanic community.

Commissioner Neville asked for an action plan based on the data that the NVRC demographer provides. She also asked if NVRC could take a stronger stance on eliminating evictions during times like public health crises.

Commissioner Neville also pointed out that it is important for NVRC to have a dialogue regarding the safety in schools with people who are directly involved in school procedures, like the Education Association or Virginia Educators United.

Commissioner Garvey also added that PPE and masks remain a concern and it is important to ensure the supplies are not running out.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Commission meeting minutes of June 25, 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Neville and carried unanimously.

OTHER ITEMS

Commissioner Gross reported that the most recent Community and Military Partnership Meeting, held virtually on July 9th at 10 am, included a discussion on mental health issues for military and their families.

Commissioner Gross invited the Commissioners to attend the next Community and Military Partnership Meeting scheduled for September 10, 2020 at 10 am. It will be held virtually.

Commissioner Gross also informed the Commission that on July 16, 2020 the first Region Intergovernmental Service Agreement (RIGSA) was 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