

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, September 24, 2020 – via Zoom

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Walter L. Alcorn	County of Fairfax
Hon. Victor S. Angry	County of Prince William
Hon. Andrea O. Bailey	County of Prince William
Hon. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker	City of Alexandria
Hon. Kenny A. Boddy	County of Prince William
Hon. Kelly Burk	Town of Leesburg
Hon. John T. Chapman	City of Alexandria
Hon. Linda J. Colbert	Town of Vienna
Hon. Matt de Ferranti	County of Arlington
Hon. Libby Garvey	County of Arlington
Hon. Penelope A. Gross	County of Fairfax
Hon. Pat Herrity	County of Fairfax
Hon. Caleb A. Kershner	County of Loudoun
Hon. Rodney L. Lusk	County of Fairfax
Hon. Lisa Merkel	Town of Herndon
Hon. David Meyer	City of Fairfax
Hon. Cydny 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. Umstatt	County of Loudoun
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>
Debbie Spiliotopoulos	<i>Senior Environmental Planner</i>
Peggy Tadej	<i>Director, Community and Military Partnerships</i>
Allie Wagner	<i>Environmental Planner</i>

OTHERS PRESENT

Lisanne Eads	<i>Town of Occoquan</i>
Elizabeth Hughes	<i>Senior Director at the Community Foundation for NoVA</i>

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.

PRESENTATION

The Economic Impact of Immigrants in Northern Virginia (UPDATE)

In July, Jill Kaneff, our Regional Demographer, provided a presentation with respect to the economic impact of immigrants in the region. As was discussed at the July meeting, that report has now been updated to reflect the impact of COVID19 on the immigrant community. As such, Ms. Kaneff provided an update to the earlier report. NVRC staff is also working on scheduling a regional webinar in October to present the findings of the report to a larger audience.

ACTION ITEMS

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P21-01 – Re-adoption of Emergency Meeting Procedures. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bailey and carried unanimously.

Background:

In April 2020, the Commission adopted Resolution 20-22 authorizing the Commission to meet electronically. That authorization expires at the end of September. As such, the Commission must readopt a resolution to continue to meet electronically in response to the COVID19 Pandemic.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P21-02 – Authorization to accept continued Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Grant from Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bailey and carried unanimously.

Background:

NVRC has conducted a regional and statewide bike and pedestrian safety campaign since 2005. The resolution permits NVRC to accept funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia for the continued operation of the safety campaign.

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

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

- Safe Walking Summit
 - NVRC and Walk America co-hosted a half day Safe Walking Summit as part of our Share VA Roads pedestrian and bike safety program. 86 people from multiple local, regional and statewide organizations participated in the Summit.
- Analyzing the Impact of the Coronavirus
 - Our Regional Demographer made a major addition to our Coronavirus tracking dashboard by including regional and health district specific daily cases. Provides a graphic look at trends by daily cases.

- Elected Leaders Summit
 - NVRC was pleased to co-host for the fifth consecutive year the Northern Virginia Elected Leaders Summit. This year's event was virtual and had participation from the five major jurisdictions in the region.
- NVRC's Mayors and Chairs continue their outreach to Members of Congress who represent the region. In August we were pleased to connect with Congresswoman Jennifer Wexton of the 10th District.
- Solarize NoVA
 - Our Spring/Summer 2020 campaign has now ended.
 - Preliminary results to date:
 - 63 contracts
 - \$1,309,929 in contract value
 - 518.37 kW of new solar
 - Overall, we have achieved more than 3.5 MW of solar with contract value in excess of \$10 million.
- It's Flu Season
 - Regional elected leaders, local health providers and our health districts have joined together to remind residents of the importance of getting a flu shot this season to avoid a Twindemic of the flu and COVID19.
 - The leaders met on Thursday, September 17 at the Fairfax County Government Center.
- Incorporating Natural Systems in Public Play Spaces
 - We were pleased to host more than 60 participants across the globe to participate in our resiliency webinar on incorporating natural systems in public play spaces. Great opportunity for our local governments to learn on how to take advantage of this experience.
- Community, Military & Federal Facility Partnership of NoVA
 - The Partnership met on September 10. Commissioner Gross who chairs the Committee will report to the Commission at our meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Tarter thanked the NVRC staff for all their hard work and pointed out how great it is that NVRC is back to a good financial situation.

COMMUNITY/MILITARY PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Gross reported that the Community & Military Partnership Committee received the following presentations at their last meeting on September 10, 2020.

- Mike Coleman, Office of the Secretary Veterans and Defense Affairs for the Commonwealth of Virginia provided some of the findings from the Virginia Factbook that will be released later this month.
- Sharon Browne, State Approving Agency for Veterans Education and Training Veterans Education, Transition and Employment for the Virginia Department of Veterans Services, provided an overview of the types of education provided to military and veterans.
- Each of the Base Commanders provided a response to issues dealing with COVID Recovery regarding Post-Secondary Education, Technical Training and Certification on base; there were no evictions to date; Child Care continues to be a huge concern of the base commanders, and each reported on procedures for Safe Return to Work. We welcomed Col SeGraves from Fort Belvoir.
- Steve Buchanan and Nicole Lach from Booz Allen Hamilton provided an overview on the Journey to a Safe Return to Work and a Reimagined Facility: Discussing the journey, best practices, and tools around health, safety, and wellbeing for facilities.

Commissioner Gross also reported that the upcoming Community and Military Partnership Meeting will be held virtually on November 5th at 10 am and invited the Commissioners to attend. The agenda will include diversity, inclusion and equal opportunity.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Commission meeting minutes of July 23, 2020. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Neville and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Tarter adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.
Executive Director

Approved by:

P. David Tarter
Chairman