

## NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

### Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, May 23, 2013

#### COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

<b>Hon. David Snyder</b> for Hon. Nader Baroukh	<i>City of Falls Church</i>
<b>Hon. Sharon Bulova</b> (arrived 7:47 p.m.)	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
Hon. Peter Candland	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Hon. Janet Clarke	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
Hon. John C. Cook	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Jay Fiset	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Hon. Gerald M. Foreman II	<i>Town of Dumfries</i>
<b>Hon. Libby Garvey</b>	<b>County of Arlington</b>
<b>Hon. Penelope A. Gross</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
Hon. Pat Herrity	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Catherine Hudgins	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
<b>Hon. Frank Jones</b>	<b>City of Manassas Park</b>
<b>Hon. Robert W. Lazaro, Jr., NVRC Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Town of Purcellville</b>
Hon. Fernando "Marty" Martinez	<i>Town of Leesburg</i>
<b>Hon. Jeffrey C. McKay</b> (arrived 7:40 p.m.)	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Lisa C. Merkel	<i>Town of Herndon</i>
<b>Hon. Martin E. Nohe, NVRC Chairman</b> (arrived 8:20 p.m.)	<b>County of Prince William</b>
<b>Hon. Harry J. Parrish II</b>	<b>City of Manassas</b>
<b>Hon. Redella S. Pepper, NVRC Treasurer</b>	<b>City of Alexandria</b>
<b>Hon. Frank J. Principi</b>	<b>County of Prince William</b>
<b>Hon. M. Jane Seeman</b>	<b>Town of Vienna</b>
Hon. R. Scott Silverthorne	<i>City of Fairfax</i>
<b>Hon. Paul C. Smedberg</b>	<b>City of Alexandria</b>
Hon. Linda Smyth	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
<b>Hon. Scott K. York</b>	<b>County of Loudoun</b>

#### STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb	<i>Executive Director</i>
Linda M. Tenney	<i>Deputy Director</i>
Linda Summerall	<i>Executive Secretary</i>
Ken Billingsley	<i>Director, Demographics &amp; Information Services</i>
Kristin Ferriter	<i>Real Time Ride Share Program Intern</i>
Normand Goulet	<i>Sr. Environmental Planner</i>
Dale Medearis	<i>Sr. Environmental Planner</i>
David Schwengel	<i>Director, Regional Business Planning</i>
Michelle Simmons	<i>Director, Human Services</i>
Aimee Vosper	<i>Director, Environmental &amp; Planning Services</i>
Stephen Walz	<i>Director, Regional Energy Planning</i>

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Bruce Bennett	<i>Hunter Mill Traffic Calming Committee</i>
Kate Boyle	<i>Fairfax Co. legislative staff</i>
Annie Hunt Burris	<i>George Mason University – Prince William</i>
Bob Buchanan	<i>Principal, Buchanan Partners</i>
Angel Cabrera, Ph.D.	<i>President, George Mason University</i>
David Dickson	<i>Sierra Club, Virginia Chapter</i>
Philomena Hetter	<i>Prince William County</i>
Sue Rowland	<i>NVRC Legislative Liaison; SR Consulting, Inc.</i>
Stewart Schwartz	<i>Coalition for Smarter Growth</i>
Robert Whitfield	<i>Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance</i>

CALL TO ORDER While waiting for Chairman Nohe to arrive, Vice Chairman Lazaro 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.

MINUTES Commissioner York moved approval of the minutes of the Commission meeting of March 28, 2013, and the minutes of the April 25 Executive Committee meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY'S VISION PLAN Chairman Nohe welcomed George Mason University President Angel Cabrera. Dr. Cabrera took office in July 2012, having previously served as President of the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Arizona.

*Angel Cabrera, PhD* Dr. Cabrera noted that competitive regions are built on hardware and software; hardware being infrastructure, transportation, and software is the business community, innovation. Regions that are competitive attract talent from around the world. The U.S. has the best universities in the world. He stated that probably one out of two start-ups in the Silicon Valley were started by an immigrant who came to the U.S. to attend college.

George Mason University (GMU) is a young university not bound by its past; it is more future-oriented. The university has helped Northern Virginia grow as a region and in turn has also been shaped by the region.

Dr. Cabrera has spent his first year at GMU in discussions with the community, putting together the university's Vision Plan, recently endorsed by the board. GMU is ranked #3 of the research universities (research, patents, Nobel laureates, etc.). Research universities are critical to the success of competitive regions. The greater D.C. area is the largest region in the country attracting entrepreneurs, and a world-class research university is part of what attracts talent from around the nation and the world. In developing its Vision Plan, four words were identified that define the university: innovative, diverse, entrepreneurial, and accessible – the Mason *idea*. Implementation of the Mason *idea* will take involved and committed students and alumni as well as partners from business, government and the community.

Dr. Cabrera reviewed the cost of attending state universities in Virginia, noting the cost to attend GMU is at the mid-point but its graduates earn the highest salaries. He added that twelve years ago the state paid two-thirds the cost of tuition, now it pays for only one-third.

*questions & answers* Responding to Commissioner Gross, Dr. Cabrera said the Board of Visitors system of governance is generally a good one. She also asked if the university is thinking of additional sources of revenue. Dr. Cabrera confirmed it is but noted GMU is an agency of the state.

Commissioner McKay asked about GMU's relationship with the new medical training facility in Springfield. Dr. Cabrera expects the university to expand in this area, adding that Dr. Fuller forecasts health care as a growth industry. The university already produces a lot of nurses. The question remains, should Northern Virginia have a medical school? Dr. Cabrera thinks so and it should be part of GMU but he is not sure now is the right time. Responding to Commissioner Garvey about the difference in length of medical training between the U.S. and Europe, Dr. Cabrera explained that part of that training in Europe occurs at the undergraduate level. If GMU establishes a medical school this issue should be addressed.

Commissioner Lazaro touched on NVRC's regional community energy planning program,

adding they would welcome GMU's involvement.

Mr. Gibb advised that Dr. Cabrera that a small NVRC delegation has seen Song-do City at Incheon International Airport in South Korea, and the international university there partners with GMU. Dr. Cabrera agreed it is a very impressive university and the Korean government made a good investment.

2030 GROUP:  
OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR WORKING  
WITH NO. VIRGINIA

Chairman Nohe welcomed Bob Buchanan, Principal with Buchanan Partners, a commercial real estate developer in the D.C. metro area. Mr. Buchanan also serves as the president of the 2030 Group, an association of Washington metropolitan area business leaders focused on regional long-term decision-making and solutions.

*Bob Buchanan*

Mr. Buchanan stated that academia is a strong partner with the public and private sectors. [Chairman Nohe arrived.] Research universities are a strong economic driver. He added that the metropolitan Washington region is so successful that we've outgrown our capacity for the type of growth we've come to enjoy, and the region has come to expect a very high standard of living. He pointed out the D.C. region imports more of its workforce than any other region in the nation. Over 330,000 people commute into our area and that number is expected to triple by 2030.

Eighteen months ago the 2030 Group commissioned a transportation survey for the region. The politicians would not respond to the survey unless it was anonymous: The politics of transportation priorities is so politically charged that they did not want their names attached to their answers. It was apparent from that survey that none of the elected officials were charged with looking at regional issues. The 2030 Group is taking some of their answers to transportation consultants to see if they would be game changers.

The 2030 Group is reaching out to other groups such as MWCOG, ULI, and the Greater Washington Board of Trade to find areas of collaboration. The 2030 Group wants to energize business leadership to be responsive and responsible and work with the public sector. The issue of workforce housing is one that needs to be explored.

*questions & answers*

Mr. Snyder asked about disaster risk management. Mr. Buchanan replied he approached Secretary LaHood who was receptive to working with the two states and D.C. on infrastructure. However, Maryland and Virginia are not ready to have that conversation. Mr. Snyder asked if the region can respond to and recover from a disaster. Mr. Buchanan thinks the transportation infrastructure would be overwhelmed. There is awareness at the top but this issue is not being dealt with.

Commissioner Gross asked if the 2030 Group has considered how local governments are supposed to take on unfunded mandates. Mr. Buchanan explained he stressed bolstering MWCOG when he met with the governors of Virginia and Maryland and the D.C. mayor. They did not seem interested and some of them were not familiar with MWCOG.

Commissioner McKay cited the need for the "guilt factor" for the states to contribute funding for regional roads and transit. Chairman Nohe added that partnerships start at NVRC, not in Richmond.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner York moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the items outlined below. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

- A. Financial Reports for March and April 2013
- B. Resolution No. P13-18: Authorization to Participate in a Regional Effort to Coordinate Health Insurance Navigator Services in Northern Virginia

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT

Printed copies of the report were distributed:

- No. Va. Community, Military & Federal Facilities Alliance
- Federal Actions Contingency Trust (FACT) Fund
- Real Time Ridesharing
- Commuter Ferry Market Analysis
- International Exchanges
- Demographics
- Four Mile Run
- Dulles Airport City Development
- NVRC Energy Strategy
- Virginia Chamber of Commerce – Blueprint Virginia
- VAPDC Strategic Planning

Commissioner Principi reported that the commuter ferry survey of 1200 participants revealed that the people interested in utilizing this ferry drive cars – they do not currently use mass transit. The final commuter ferry market analysis report will be presented to the Commission at its September 26 meeting.

Mr. Gibb distributed a draft discussion agenda for the proposed Dulles Airport leadership summit, tentatively scheduled for mid-fall to early winter.

Chairman Nohe reported that VAPDC is looking at ways to strengthen and build its relationship with the state. The organization hopes to secure a funding increase for its member PDCs in the Governor's 2014-15 budget.

Mr. Gibb introduced Kristin Ferriter who is interning this summer on the Real Time Ride Share program. Ms. Ferriter, a seven-year army veteran, is working on a Master's in Urban and Environmental Planning at UVa.

CHAIRMAN'S  
REPORT

Chairman Nohe reported on the May 23 NVTA meeting, where the focus was on process. An open house/public hearing on proposed projects will be held on June 20 at Fairfax City Hall with a second public hearing in July.

Commissioner York reported NVTA has asked Mr. Gibb to submit a proposal for rental of its meeting space, adding that the local elected officials may want to find space in one building that can accommodate NVTA, NVRC and NVTC and includes space to accommodate public hearings.

NOMINATING  
COMMITTEE  
REPORT

Commissioner Parrish reported the Nominating Committee offers the following slate of officers for election:

Chairman	Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.	(Town of Purcellville)
Vice Chairman	Penelope Gross	(Fairfax County)
Treasurer	Redella Pepper	(City of Alexandria)

Chairman Nohe directed that the slate of officers as presented appear on the Commission agenda for the June 27 meeting, at which time election of officers will take place.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Nohe adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb  
Executive Director

Approved by:

Martin E. Nohe  
Chairman