

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, October 23, 2008

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Sharon Bulova

Hon. Gerald E. Connolly, *NVRC Chairman*

Hon. Joan Cross

Hon. Steve DeBenedittis

Hon. Barbara A. Favola

Hon. John Foust

Hon. Penelope A. Gross

Hon. Pat Herrity

Hon. Catherine Hudgins

Hon. Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.

Hon. Harold Lippman

Hon. Michael C. May

Hon. Martin E. Nohe, NVRC Treasurer

Hon. Harry J. "Hal" Parrish, II, NVRC Vice Chairman

Hon. Redella S. Pepper

Hon. Frank J. Principi

Hon. M. Jane Seeman

Hon. Paul C. Smedberg

Hon. Linda Smyth

Hon. J. Walter Tejada

Hon. William J. Treuting, Jr.

Hon. Kristen C. Umstattd

Hon. Clyde N. Washington, Jr.

Hon. Lori Waters

Hon. Scott K. York

County of Fairfax

County of Fairfax

City of Fairfax

Town of Herndon

County of Arlington

County of Fairfax

County of Fairfax

County of Fairfax

County of Fairfax

Town of Purcellville

City of Falls Church

County of Prince William

County of Prince William

City of Manassas

City of Alexandria

County of Prince William

Town of Vienna

City of Alexandria

County of Fairfax

County of Arlington

City of Manassas Park

Town of Leesburg

Town of Dumfries

County of Loudoun

County of Loudoun

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb

Linda M. Tenney

Linda Summerall

Ken Billingsley

Nicole Clopton

Barbara Gordon

Normand Goulet

Dale Medearis

Marshall Popkin

David Schwengel

Heather Shackley

Michelle Simmons

Debbie Spiliotopoulos

Aimee Vosper

Executive Director

Deputy Director

Executive Secretary

Director, Information & Demographic Services

Federal Grants Analyst

Communications Director

Occoquan Program Manager

Senior Regional Planner

Regional Planner

Director, Regional Emergency Preparedness Planning

Executive Assistant

Director, Human Services

Solid Waste Program Manager

Director, Planning & Environmental Services

GUESTS

Anne Pickford Cahill

Sue Rowland

Hon. Charlie Waddell

*Manager, Economic & Demographic Research,
Fairfax Co. Dept. of Systems Mgmt. for Human Services*

NVRC Legislation Liaison; SR Consulting, Inc.

Herndon Town Council

CALL TO ORDER Vice Chairman Parrish called the meeting to order at 7:37 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Commissioner Gross moved approval of the minutes of the September 25, 2008, meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Vice Chairman Parrish said the presentation would be deferred until the arrival of Chairman Connolly.

CONSENT AGENDA Commissioner York moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the financial reports for July and August 2008. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Gibb introduced NVRC's newest employee, Nicole Clopton. Ms. Clopton is a Federal Grants Analyst working on Ryan White grants in the Human Services Division. She comes to NVRC from the U.S. Department of Justice, Grants Management Office. Ms. Clopton has a Bachelors degree in communications from George Mason University and an MBA from Strayer University.

Mr. Gibb distributed a copy of his report and reviewed updates on Four Mile Run, Boundary Stones, international energy programs, and a new item, a Northern Virginia Neighborhood Conference: Fairfax and Prince William county staff have requested NVRC staff assistance in replicating for Northern Virginia the recent statewide neighborhood conference.

Mr. Gibb also introduced Resolution No. P09-07, "Tribute to NVRC's Colleague and International Partner Dr. Bernd Steinacher." Commissioner Bulova moved adoption, adding that Dr. Steinacher was an incredible man and he really made NVRC's sister region partnership with the Verband Region Stuttgart possible. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Mr. Gibb added this resolution will be framed and presented to the chairman of the Verband Region Stuttgart by the Commission's Delegation in December.

FY 2010 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Commissioner Nohe, Chairman of the Operations Committee, reported that the Committee met immediately before the Commission meeting and reviewed the budget. He stressed that it is a preliminary budget but the member jurisdictions need this information now in preparing their own FY 2010 budgets.

Commissioner Nohe further reported that committee members expressed some concern that the preliminary budget includes two percent for salary adjustments, since most of the member jurisdictions will not make any adjustments to salaries; in fact, many are facing reductions in staff. Mr. Gibb explained that the budget was prepared a few weeks ago, and NVRC always follows the lead of its member jurisdictions.

Mr. Gibb distributed copies of his budget message, pointing out that it includes looking at services or functions that can be performed regionally to effect a cost savings to the local governments. Commissioner Bulova added the Operations Committee discussed this. In fact, the Commission looked at this when she was NVRC chairman of n the early 1990s. Commissioner Bulova suggested the issue be brought to the Chief Administrative Officers. Commissioner York requested that the Mayors and Chairs be included in the discussion.

Commissioner Nohe moved adoption of Resolution No. P09-06, authorizing distribution of the Preliminary FY 2010 budget to the member jurisdictions. The motion was seconded. Mr. Gibb was directed to make it clear that the Commissioners have not endorsed any type of salary increase. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bulova moved that the Commission directs the Executive Director to assemble the Chief Administrative Officers as well as the mayors and chairs for a discussion to identify opportunities for providing regional services to reduce overhead — a more cost-effective way of providing services. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Operations

Commissioner Nohe directed the members' attention to Resolution No. P09-04, "Authorization to Extend Contract for Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement Activities for Suburban Virginia Ryan White CARE Act Programs." The CARE Act requires its administrative agents conduct quality assurance of the services provided. He moved adoption of the resolution, which was seconded and carried unanimously.

Commissioner Nohe reported that he and Mr. Gibb will meet the Leesburg Town Council regarding the pending amendment to the Commission's Charter.

DRAFT LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

A draft 2009 legislative platform was distributed. Ms. Rowland, NVRC's Legislative Liaison, explained that the first section contains issues that are exclusively NVRC's, while the second section comprises the region's positions. She pointed out that the biennium budget has a shortfall of nearly \$3 billion.

In reviewing the positions, Ms. Rowland advised the Commissioners that the legislative liaisons have not finished meeting. They have heard there is a possibility the General Assembly may cut funding for k-12 public education.

Comments and questions from Commissioners included adding positions on foreclosures and support for funding local law enforcement.

PRESENTATIONS

Ken Billingsley

EMERGING DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Mr. Billingsley discussed "demographic inversion," essentially a trend of migration from the outer suburbs to the inner, more urban suburbs and to cities themselves. Northern Virginia is just one of many regions in the country experiencing this trend.

During the first seven years of this decade, Northern Virginia's population increased by 267,718, or roughly 38,000 people per year. Noting that Northern Virginia's population growth is slowing as we move through the decade, he expects the decennial census count will be close to that recorded during the 1980s and 1990s, which would translate into three consecutive decades with roughly the same net population increase — 350,000 to 370,000 — or roughly equivalent to the number of current residents in Prince William County.

Seventy-five percent of the net population increase in Northern Virginia during the past seven years has been concentrated along the outer-rim, in Loudoun and Prince William counties and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park.

According to Mr. Billingsley, what makes this different from past historical cycles of metropolitan growth and decentralization is the rapid transition we are simultaneously experiencing, nationally and regionally, in the racial and ethnic makeup of the population. Nationally, Hispanics accounted for almost half the nation's population increase, while Non-

Hispanic Whites accounted for 20 percent. In fact, the Census Bureau has moved up its projection that the country will be “majority-minority” by 2042.

The composition of Northern Virginia’s new residents mirrors the trends of the country: We are on our way to becoming a “majority-minority” region and nation. The City of Manassas Park is now “majority-minority,” the only such jurisdiction in Northern Virginia. Arlington and Alexandria are now experiencing a small decrease in minority populations while Loudoun and Prince William are experiencing an increase. Our region’s school enrollment mirrors this trend, with 30 percent of the students in the City of Manassas be classified as having limited English proficiency; ten years ago it was four percent. Year-by-year statistics for students in the Arlington and Alexandria schools show Hispanic and Black enrollment decreasing with Non-Hispanic White enrollment increasing.

This population shift and the “demographic inversion” are inextricably linked, with predominantly minority families now finding the inner suburbs too expensive while Non-Hispanic Whites are returning to the cities and inner suburbs as they downsize their living spaces and look for urban amenities.

The Census Bureau will release the American Community Survey in December, which will provide a preliminary snapshot of the 2010 Census.

questions & answers Commissioner Bulova suggested distinguishing blacks from African immigrants. Commissioner Hudgins inquired about tracking immigrant populations according to world events, such as the Vietnam war, the civil war in Sudan, etc. Commissioner Gross asked who looks at the cultural changes to American society that come out of the demographic changes. Ms. Cahill replied this is the job of sociologists, thought it is hard to track; the changes seep in quietly.

Anne Pickford Cahill **LOOKING AHEAD: ECONOMIC TRENDS AFFECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

Vice Chairman Parrish welcomed Anne Pickford Cahill, a demographer with Fairfax County’s Department of Systems Management for Human Services.

Ms. Cahill reviewed six paradigm shifting factors. She pointed that the data was compiled before the collapse of the financial market earlier this month.

The “Senior Tsunami” is the increase in retired persons in the U.S. beginning in 2012. There will be fewer workers supporting the Social Security program as greater numbers of people begin using it. It is also expected that there will be fewer caregivers to assist the growing number of elderly needing assistance.

Ms. Cahill reviewed globalization trends, noting the steady increase of sales over the Internet, which are not taxed. She also reviewed the growth of knowledge-based jobs — those requiring education. These jobs have more flexible and alternative work arrangements, which may reduce traffic and demand for office space, but increase the demand for high-quality government services. These jobs also lead to an income disparity between highly skilled workers and low-skilled workers.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Vice Chairman Parrish adjourned the meeting at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Harry J. “Hal” Parrish, II
Vice Chairman