

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, April 22, 2004

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those present are highlighted)

Commissioner Hilda M. Barg

Commissioner Johnine P. Barnes
Commissioner Albert J. Boudreau
Commissioner Melvin Bray

Commissioner Sharon Bulova

Commissioner James C. Chesley
Commissioner Gerald E. Connolly, NVRC Treasurer
Commissioner W. S. Covington, III

Commissioner Joan Cross

Commissioner Anna F. Dixon

Commissioner Joan DuBois
Commissioner William T. Druhan, Jr.

Commissioner Albert C. Eisenberg

Commissioner Barbara A. Favola, NVRC Vice Chairman

Commissioner Jay Fiset
Commissioner Robin Gardner

Commissioner Robert C. Goessman

Commissioner Brian M. Gordon

Commissioner Brenda Z. Greene

Commissioner Penelope A. Gross

Commissioner Catherine Hudgins
Commissioner David Kirkpatrick, Jr.
Commissioner Lyman Krekel
Commissioner D. Patrick Lewis

Commissioner Jesse Ludvigsen

Commissioner Elaine N. McConnell
Commissioner Natalie Mosher

Commissioner Brian Murphy

Commissioner Martin E. Nohe
Commissioner Michael O'Reilly

Commissioner Sally B. Ormsby

Commissioner Harry J. Parrish, II

Commissioner Redella S. Pepper

Commissioner James Peterbok

Commissioner Lilla D. Richards

Commissioner Paul C. Smedberg
Commissioner Linda Smyth

Commissioner Stephen J. Snow

Commissioner J. Walter Tejada

Commissioner Bruce E. Tulloch

Commissioner Kristen C. Umstattd, NVRC Chairman

Commissioner William R. Wren

County of Prince William

County of Fairfax

Town of Vienna

Town of Dumfries

County of Fairfax

County of Fairfax

County of Fairfax

County of Prince William

City of Fairfax

County of Fairfax

County of Fairfax

Town of Purcellville

County of Arlington

County of Arlington

County of Arlington

City of Falls Church

City of Manassas

County of Prince William

County of Fairfax

County of Fairfax

County of Fairfax

City of Fairfax

City of Falls Church

County of Fairfax

City of Manassas Park

County of Fairfax

City of Alexandria

County of Prince William

County of Prince William

Town of Herndon

County of Fairfax

City of Manassas

City of Alexandria

County of Loudoun

County of Fairfax

City of Alexandria

County of Fairfax

County of Loudoun

County of Arlington

County of Loudoun

Town of Leesburg

City of Manassas Park

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb
Linda M. Tenney
Linda Summerall
Kenneth Billingsley
Doug Pickford
Michelle Simmons
James Van Zee

Executive Director
Deputy Director
Executive Secretary
Director, Demographics
Director, Environmental and Heritage Resources
Director, Human Services
Director, Regional Planning Services

GUEST PRESENT

Karl Ensign

resident, City of Falls Church

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Umstattd called the meeting to order at 8:04 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 Wren moved approval of the minutes of the March 25, 2004, meeting of the Commission. The motion was seconded and carried, with the following Commissioners abstaining: Barg, Greene, Tulloch, Richards and Ormsby.

PRESENTATION

A Fresh Perspective From Richmond

Chairman Umstadd welcomed Al Eisenberg, a member of the House of Delegates and a Commissioner representing Arlington County.

Albert Eisenberg

Delegate Eisenberg noted that the Virginia General Assembly is the oldest continuous deliberative body in the Western hemisphere. Further, Delegate Eisenberg stated that this year is the first time since 1619 that the General Assembly has failed to pass a budget in the allotted time.

Approximately 3,000 bills are submitted yearly, with approximately 900 to 950 bills actually passed each session. He added that under the budget scenario, the House bill to eliminate corporate sales tax exemptions includes the airlines industry, causing concern among the Northern Virginia Delegation, as well as the ship building industry, which concerns the Tidewater Delegation. The House claims that elimination of corporate sales tax exemptions would raise approximately \$550 million, while the state's tax department maintains only \$160 million would be raised.

Delegate Eisenberg discussed the various budget compromises to date, adding that education is the top priority for members of both chambers, followed by public safety; the compromises eliminated funding for transportation improvements. He noted that the state budget has been cut by \$6 billion over the past two years — an average cut of twenty percent for each state agency, adding that only new revenue sources can fix the structural imbalance in the state budget.

Reviewing legislation, Delegate Eisenberg commented that several bills that are tougher on drunk driving passed; the "21-day" rule concerning additional evidence to prove a prisoner is not guilty was repealed, but now a prisoner has only one time to submit the evidence; a bill providing additional funds for parkland conservation and acquisition passed but there is no money. Delegate Eisenberg expressed concern that the state may have to forego federal transportation funds because it lacks the required match. He added that he had one bill passed, prohibiting the sale of veteran grave markers because they are being stolen off the graves and sold on the Internet.

questions and answers

Responding to Commissioner Richards' inquiry about juveniles charged as adults, Delegate Eisenberg replied that the General Assembly did not spend much time on this issue.

Commissioner Favola asked about the state capping the car tax reimbursement at a certain level, to which Delegate Eisenberg said that is one proposal.

Commissioner Gross asked Delegate Eisenberg if he thinks there might be a state budget by April 26. Delegate Eisenberg thought that was too soon, though he was confident a budget will be passed before June 30.

Commissioner Favola stressed the importance of tax restructuring, with Commissioner Ormsby concurring. Delegate Eisenberg said major tax restructuring will not occur.

The Commissioners thanked the Delegate Eisenberg and gave him a round of applause.

CONSENT AGENDA The consent agenda, consisting of the items outlined below, was moved, seconded and unanimously carried.

- A. Financial Reports for March 2004
- B. Resolution No. P04-19: Authorization to Establish Staff Position Supporting Northern Virginia *ad hoc* Workgroup on Homeland Security

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

- A. Mr. Gibb called the members' attention to the *2004 Northern Virginia Data Book* before them, adding that it is theirs to keep. The *Data Book* is produced every five years by NVRC's demographer, Ken Billingsley.

Mr. Billingsley spoke briefly about the *Data Book*, explaining that it contains both comparative data and longitudinal data allowing the reader to see patterns. Four hundred copies have been published; NVRC will charge its local member governments and Virginia state agencies its base cost of \$30, and all other purchasers \$45. Additionally, 100 copies will be distributed for free, including complimentary copies to NVRC's 42 Commissioners.

Mr. Billingsley also distributed a draft of the *National Rankings from the 2000 Census*. This provides a good picture of Northern Virginia jurisdictions in comparison to more than 3,100 other municipalities nationwide.

- B. Mr. Gibb reported that the James and Margaret Pickford Memorial Scholarships were inaugurated this academic year, with scholarships being awarded to both a graduate student and an undergraduate student.
- C. Doug Pickford, NVRC's Director of Environmental and Heritage Resources, reported that the Northern Virginia Visitors Consortium is preparing a "Cradle of Victory Trail" map in conjunction with the dedication of the World War II Veterans Memorial. Additionally, the Northern Virginia Visitors Consortium is arranging for live feeds of the opening ceremony at various locations in Northern Virginia where veterans can watch the proceedings. The Consortium has raised \$50,000 and is looking for additional sponsors.

CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT

- A. Chairman Umstattd welcomed Commissioner Bruce Tulloch, a new representative from the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors.
- B. Chairman Umstattd announced she has appointed Commissioner Pepper to chair the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will make its report at the Commission's May 27 meeting, at which time nominations may be made from the floor. A list of the members of the Nominating Committee was included in the meeting package.
- C. Sean Connaughton, Chairman of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, is interested in hosting a regional forum on gangs in Northern Virginia. Commissioner Favola suggested that NVRC's Human and Community Services Committee work with Chairman Connaughton on this. Members agreed they are interested in this issue.

RESOLUTION

NO. P04-18

ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANT(S) FOR REGIONAL PRE-DISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION PLANNING

Commissioner Gross moved adoption of Resolution No. P04-18. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Umstattd adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Kristen C. Umstattd
Chairman