

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, February 25, 2010

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Sharon Bulova	County of Fairfax
Hon. John C. Cook	County of Fairfax
Hon. Joan Cross	City of Fairfax
Hon. Charlie Waddell for Hon. Steve DeBenedittis	Town of Herndon
Hon. Barbara A. Favola	County of Arlington
Hon. John Foust	County of Fairfax
Hon. Penelope A. Gross	County of Fairfax
Hon. Pat Herrity	County of Fairfax
Hon. Catherine Hudgins	County of Fairfax
Hon. Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.	Town of Purcellville
Hon. Harold Lippman	City of Falls Church
Hon. Michael C. May	County of Prince William
Hon. Suhas Naddoni	City of Manassas Park
Hon. Martin E. Nohe, NVRC Vice Chairman	County of Prince William
Hon. Harry J. Parrish II, NVRC Chairman	City of Manassas
Hon. Redella S. Pepper, NVRC Treasurer	City of Alexandria
Hon. Frank J. Principi	County of Prince William
Hon. M. Jane Seeman	Town of Vienna
Hon. Paul C. Smedberg	City of Alexandria
Hon. Linda Smyth	County of Fairfax
Hon. J. Walter Tejada	County of Arlington
Hon. Kristen C. Umstattd	Town of Leesburg
Hon. Clyde N. Washington, Jr.	Town of Dumfries
Hon. Scott K. York	County of Loudoun

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, Information & Demographic Services</i>
Normand Goulet	<i>Sr. Environmental Planner</i>
David Schwengel	<i>Director, Regional Emergency Preparedness Planning</i>
Jeff Stern	<i>Regional Director, No. Va. Emergency Response System</i>
Aimee Vosper	<i>Director, Environmental & Planning Services</i>

OTHERS PRESENT

Steven Davidson	<i>Consultant to A.J. Dwoskin and Associates</i>
Al Dwoskin	<i>CEO, A.J. Dwoskin and Associates</i>
Hon. Dana Kaufman	<i>Special Assistant to the President for Community Outreach, NVCC</i>
Sue Rowland	<i>NVRC Legislative Liaison; SR Consulting, Inc.</i>

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Parrish called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. He called attention to the addition of two resolutions on the agenda.

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 York moved approval of the minutes of the January 28, 2010, meeting of the Commission. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

PRESENTATION

ECONOMIC FORECAST FOR NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Chairman Parrish welcomed back Al Dwoskin, CEO, A.J. Dwoskin & Associates, Inc., a local real estate development and management firm; Dana Kaufman, Special Assistant to the President for Community Outreach, Northern Virginia Community College, and former member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; and Steven Davidson, economist with A.J. Dwoskin & Associates, Inc., formerly with the bond association. The Commission heard from the presenters last April on the credit crisis.

Mr. Davis commented that economic growth will be slow for the next few years. The core observations are (1) consumers are strapped and will be strapped for the foreseeable future, (2) it is not known if the residential real estate recovery that began in late 2009 is sustainable, and (3) commercial property values are expected to drop, particularly in the outlying suburbs. The good news is that the Northern Virginia region is in much better shape than the rest of the country and should maintain this position.

The analysis looked at:

- Residential market
- Commercial market, including rising office vacancy rate and declining construction rate
- Banks' real estate lending capacity
- Property taxes
- Sales tax revenue change in 2008 and 2009
- Expected decrease in state aid to localities

The Commissioners and the presenters discussed the impact on local government revenues, and the possibility of collaborative purchasing between the schools and jurisdictions as well as possible consolidation of some functions as a way to economize.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Lazaro moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Financial Reports for December 2009. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

**RESOLUTION
NO. P10-14**

AUTHORIZATION TO RECEIVE AND SUBCONTRACT 2010-2011 PART A (including Minority AIDS Initiative) FUNDS FOR SERVICES UNDER THE RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS TREATMENT MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2009

Commissioner Nohe moved adoption of Resolution No. P10-14. The motion was seconded. Commissioner Bulova commented that if the region did not have NVRC it would not be eligible for these federal funds; this is an example of how a planning district commission serves the state. The motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION
NO. P10-15**

AUTHORIZATION TO RECEIVE AND SUBCONTRACT 2010-2011 PART B FUNDS FOR SERVICES UNDER THE RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS TREATMENT MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2009

Commissioner Lazaro moved adoption of Resolution No. P10-15. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT**

Mr. Gibb introduced Jeff Stern, newly hired as the Regional Director for Northern Virginia Emergency Response System. Mr. Stern comes to NVRC from the Dept. of Homeland Security. Prior to that, he served in local fire and rescue departments and was the first emergency manager and first chief fire officer to serve as a White House Fellow.

Mr. Gibb reported on:

- NVRC assistance with the Arlington Community Energy Plan
- Four Mile Run Pedestrian Bridge Competition
- VAPDC Winter Conference
- Meeting with Governor McDonnell: PDC programs and activities
- State Budget Conferees

Commissioner Nohe reported that when he was at the VAPDC Winter Conference, representatives from the association for apartment buildings and the Northern Virginia Technology Association (NVTC) approached him on collaborative legislative efforts with NVRC before the General Assembly. Mr. Gibb distributed copies of Commissioner Favola's recent memo to him regarding a partnership with NVTC. The Commissioners were supportive of collaboration with the business sector.

**CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT**

Chairman Parrish reported three dates under consideration for the strategic planning retreat, which will be held at the Candy Factory in old town Manassas. Staff will email this information to the members.

**LEGISLATIVE
REPORT**

Commissioner Gross, Legislative Committee Chairman, reported that the Senate Finance Committee zeroed the funding for the planning district commissions (PDCs). She noted that NVRC alone leverages \$250 million for the state through its grant-funded programs. Ms. Rowland added that the budget bills were debated on both floors today. The House did not change the budget, and Senator Colgan will work to get some money restored for the PDCs. Ms. Rowland urged the Commissioners to contact their state representatives.

The legislative report was distributed and Ms. Rowland reviewed the status of bills of major interest.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Lippman raised the issue that VDEM should be reimbursing localities for snow removal from this month's back-to-back storms. It was agreed that NVRC should send a follow-up letter to VDEM on behalf of the local governments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Parrish adjourned the meeting at 9:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Harry J. Parrish II
Chairman