

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, October 25, 2001

8:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those present are highlighted)

Commissioner Hilda M. Barg	County of Prince William
Commissioner Charles J. Billand	County of Loudoun
Commissioner Albert J. Boudreau	Town of Vienna
Commissioner Christopher K. Brown	Town of Dumfries
Commissioner Sharon Bulova	County of Fairfax
Commissioner James C. Chesley	County of Fairfax
Commissioner William C. Cleveland	City of Alexandria
Commissioner Gerald E. Connolly	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Anna F. Dixon	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Albert C. Eisenberg	County of Arlington
Commissioner Barbara A. Favola	County of Arlington
Commissioner Jay Fisette	County of Arlington
Commissioner Brenda Z. Greene	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Penelope A. Gross	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Katherine K. Hanley, NVRC Chairman	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Mark R. Herring	County of Loudoun
Commissioner John F. Herrity	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Edgar B. Holley	County of Prince William
Commissioner Catherine Hudgins	County of Fairfax
Commissioner John D. Jenkins	County of Prince William
Commissioner Lyman Krekel	City of Falls Church
Commissioner Jesse Ludvigsen	City of Manassas Park
Beverly MacDonald, alternate for Commissioner Marsh	Town of Purcellville
Commissioner Elaine N. McConnell	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Stuart Mendelsohn	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Charles Monroe	County of Arlington
Commissioner Sally B. Ormsby	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Harry J. Parrish, II	City of Manassas
Commissioner Redella S. Pepper	City of Alexandria
Commissioner J. Chapman Petersen	City of Fairfax
Commissioner Alice Keane Putman	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Robert Rapanut	City of Alexandria
Commissioner Lilla D. Richards	County of Fairfax
Commissioner Steven A. Rogers	City of Falls Church
Commissioner Thomas Davis Rust	Town of Herndon
Commissioner Kristen C. Umstattd, NVRC Treasurer	Town of Leesburg
Commissioner Edgar S. Wilbourn, III	County of Prince William
Commissioner William R. Wren	City of Manassas Park
Commissioner Scott K. York, NVRC Vice Chairman	County of Loudoun
Vacancy (1)	City of Fairfax
Vacancy (1)	City of Manassas
Vacancy (1)	County of Prince William

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb	Executive Director
Linda Tenney	Deputy Director
Linda Summerall	Executive Secretary
Kenneth Billingsley	Director, Demographics
David L. Bulova	Director, Environmental Services
Douglas Pickford	Director, Economic Analysis and Heritage Resources
Sue Rowland	Director, Human Services
Michelle Simmons	Deputy Division Director, Human Services
James Van Zee	Director, Regional Planning Services

GUESTS PRESENT

Susan Dewey
Merni Fitzgerald
William Shelton

*Executive Director, Virginia Housing Development Authority
Director, Public Affairs, Fairfax County
Director, Virginia Dept. of Housing and Community Development*

- CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Hanley called the meeting to order at 8:02 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 Greene moved approval of the minutes of the September 20, 2001, Commission meeting. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved. Commissioners Hudgins and Barg abstained.
- PRESENTATION** *Analysis of Housing Needs in the Commonwealth*
- Chairman Hanley introduced William Shelton, Director of Virginia's Department of Housing and Community Development, and Susan Dewey, Executive Director of the Virginia Housing Development Authority.
- Susan Dewey* Ms. Dewey opened her presentation by stating that the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) work very closely together, and she and Mr. Shelton both sit on each other's boards.
- Both organizations have been engaged in a comprehensive statewide housing needs assessment process. To identify regional housing issues and priorities, nine public forums were held throughout Virginia in March and April 2001. Northern Virginia had the largest turnout, with a second forum added to accommodate public comment. Ms. Dewey noted that the qualitative data gathered at the forums and the quantitative data collected confirmed much of what the agencies already knew; raised new, unanticipated issues; and demonstrated the regional and market-driven flavor of Virginia's housing challenges.
- William Shelton* Mr. Shelton noted that in Northern Virginia, housing production did not keep pace with demand in the 1990s. Further, landlords are dropping out of Section 8 housing, and housing prices are increasing faster than wages for low-income households. He indicated the data showed the demand for housing for persons with special needs is increasing. Comments at the regional forums suggested that housing development does not enjoy priority status as a public policy issue.
- On the positive side, rising incomes in Northern Virginia have helped to mitigate the effect of rising housing costs more so than has been the case in other urbanized parts of the Commonwealth. Also, the rate of first time home ownership by minorities is higher in Northern Virginia than in other regions of the state.
- questions and answers* Chairman Hanley questioned the inclusion of Falls Church in the calculations within the report that speak to the characteristics of the "urban core" of Northern Virginia, adding that in Northern Virginia, Arlington and Alexandria are considered the core. Mr. Shelton said this would be reviewed.
- Chairman Hanley also brought up Fairfax County's study of seven minority groups, two of whom were recent refugees, that found that for minority populations who had lived here 15 years or longer and had children in school, the homeownership rate was 72%. This is higher than the national homeownership rate. Commissioner Hudgins pointed out that

within that study, some of the surveyed minority groups remain underserved and continue to experience the challenges that minorities traditionally face.

Commissioner Eisenberg noted a mismatch of federal Section 202 (housing for the elderly) and the state low income housing tax credit. A federal law was passed last year permitting Section 202 and tax credits to be used together. Ms. Dewey agreed these programs need to work together. Commissioner Eisenberg also asked that VHDA reconsider its stance against granting loans to non-traditional households.

In reply to Commissioner Connolly's inquiry, Mr. Shelton said the majority of data in the housing analysis is taken from the 2000 Census.

Commissioner Favola asked if there is now recognition that households should pay more than 30% of household income for housing. Mr. Shelton said the federal government still recognizes 30%.

Further study information can be found at www.vhda.com and www.dhcd.state.va.us.

CONSENT AGENDA Commissioner Umstattd moved the consent agenda, consisting of the items outlined below. The motion was seconded.

- A. Financial Reports for September 2001
- B. Resolution No. P02-11: FY 2001 Audited Statements

Commissioner Herrity questioned the frequency that NVRC changes auditors. Mr. Gibb responded that an RFP is issued every three years to engage an auditing firm.

The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. In addition to the activities report in the meeting package, Mr. Gibb invited Commissioners to attend the planning workshop NVRC is conducting for the Town of Vienna, November 1-3.
- B. Mr. Gibb reported that the Chief Administrative Officers met last week and agreed that the Northern Virginia Emergency Preparedness brochure, produced in 1999 in anticipation of Y2K, needs to be updated for the current situation. Fairfax County's public affairs office has agreed to take the lead role. Mr. Gibb explained that Resolution No. P02-14 authorizes NVRC to participate in this project as well as to collect contributions from participating member governments and to pay *The Washington Post* for printing and delivery. Mr. Gibb turned the floor over to Merni Fitzgerald, Director of Public Affairs for Fairfax County.

Ms. Fitzgerald reported the County has a flyer addressing current emergency situations that is distributed at meetings. The emergency preparedness brochure will be updated to include relevant information, such as bio-hazards. Staff will work with designated staff from each of the jurisdictions as well as Fauquier County, which requested inclusion in the brochure.

The updated brochure will be a standard size on 60 lb. text. It will be distributed in *The Washington Post* and mailed to households that don't subscribe to *The Post*.

Commissioner Bulova commented on how beneficial the Y2K exercise has been for the current state of affairs.

Commissioner Umstattd moved adoption of Resolution No. P02-14. The motion was seconded.

Commissioner Gross asked what the cost to the jurisdictions will be. Mr. Gibb said an exact cost is not yet known, but it is estimated to be approximately 10¢/brochure. The cost will be divided among the jurisdictions by population.

Replying to Commissioner Greene, Ms. Fitzgerald said the brochure will be available for the jurisdictions to put on their web sites. It will also be translated into five languages (print versions). She confirmed for Commissioner Hudgins that *The Post* will note either on the wrapper or in the paper that this brochure is an insert.

The motion was unanimously carried.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Hanley announced that the Town of Purcellville has officially joined the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. Councilwoman Beverly MacDonald is representing the town in the absence of its official representative, Mayor John Marsh. A round of applause was extended in recognition of Purcellville.

FY 2002 DRAFT LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

A draft 2002 Legislative Platform was distributed. Commissioner Connolly, Chairman of the Legislative Committee, asked members to review the platform and get their comments to him or Sue Rowland at NVRC by October 31. The positions are numbered according to priority, and Commissioners were invited to suggest changes to the priorities.

The Legislative Committee will meet November 5 to review the revised platform and to make further revisions. A final version will be available for the Commission's November 29 meeting.

Chairman Hanley explained for the benefit of new members, that several items in the platform are regional positions coming directly from the jurisdictions' own positions. She pointed out that the transportation position is waiting for the position of the TCC and the regional position.

Commissioner Bulova suggested the Commission discuss the sales tax position. Commissioner Jenkins noted that Prince William County's position has not changed from last year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Human and

Community Services

Commissioner Favola reported that the Committee discussed Resolution No. P02-13, which staff distributed, at its meeting immediately prior to the Commission meeting. She added that the Commission has regularly transmitted comments to the Virginia Housing Development Authority on its allocation plan for low income housing tax credits. Commissioner Favola moved adoption of Resolution No. P02-13. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Regional Resources

Commissioner Holley distributed copies of a recently published article on the state of the Chesapeake Bay.

OTHER BUSINESS
*Western
Transportation
Corridor*

It was noted that a revised version of Resolution No. P02-12, Western Transportation Corridor Environmental Impact Study, had been distributed. Chairman Hanley cited a signed Memorandum of Understanding with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOCG) and the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) prohibiting NVRC from involvement in transportation planning and review. The actions expressed in the resolution should be reviewed by the Transportation Coordinating Council (TCC). NVRC is the only planning district commission in Virginia that does not have transportation oversight. Chairman Hanley added that she believes that Resolution No. P02-12 violates the MOU.

Commissioner Wilbourn stated that the environmental impact study addresses health, safety and security in Northern Virginia after the attack on the Pentagon, and moved adoption of Resolution No. P02-12. The motion was seconded.

Commissioner Eisenberg spoke against adoption of this resolution, adding that the tragic events of September 11 should not be used as an excuse to build new roads; the issue before the region is how to evacuate the District. Commissioner Favola concurred. Commissioner Richards stated that having twice served as Chairman of the Transportation Planning Board, she does not believe it would be appropriate for NVRC to adopt Resolution No. P02-12. Chairman Hanley pointed out that the area under the Western Transportation Corridor Environmental Impact Study is not the corridor previously discussed; it has been expanded to include the Fairfax County Parkway and Route 28.

Commissioner Richards moved to table. The motion was seconded. The motion to table carried, with six members opposed.

New Appointment Commissioner Jenkins informed the members that the Prince William Board has appointed Don White to replace Jack Clark as Prince William's citizen representative on the Northern Virginia Regional Commission.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Chairman Hanley adjourned the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Katherine K. Hanley
Chairman