

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, June 26, 2003

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those present are highlighted)

Commissioner Hilda M. Barg
Commissioner Johnine P. Barnes
Commissioner Charles J. Billand
Commissioner Albert J. Boudreau
Commissioner Melvin Bray
Commissioner Sharon Bulova
Commissioner James C. Chesley
Commissioner William C. Cleveland
Commissioner Gerald E. Connolly
Commissioner Joan Cross
Commissioner Anna F. Dixon
Commissioner William T. Druhan, Jr.
Commissioner Albert C. Eisenberg
Commissioner Barbara A. Favola, NVRC Treasurer
Commissioner Jay Fisette
Commissioner Robin Gardner
Commissioner Robert C. Goessman
Commissioner Brenda Z. Greene
Commissioner Penelope A. Gross
Commissioner Katherine K. Hanley (arrived 8:48 p.m.)
Commissioner Mark R. Herring
Commissioner John F. Herrity
Commissioner Edgar B. Holley
Commissioner Catherine Hudgins
Commissioner John D. Jenkins
Commissioner David Kirkpatrick, Jr.
Commissioner Lyman Krekel
Commissioner Jesse Ludvigsen
Commissioner Elaine N. McConnell
Commissioner Stuart Mendelsohn
Commissioner Michael O'Reilly
Commissioner Sally B. Ormsby
Commissioner Harry J. Parrish, II
Commissioner Redella S. Pepper
Commissioner Robert Rapanut
Commissioner Lilla D. Richards
Commissioner J. Walter Tejada
Commissioner Kristen C. Umstattd, NVRC Vice Chairman
Commissioner Don White
Commissioner Edgar S. Wilbourn, III
Commissioner William R. Wren
Commissioner Scott K. York, NVRC Chairman

County of Prince William
County of Fairfax
County of Loudoun
Town of Vienna
Town of Dumfries
County of Fairfax
County of Fairfax
City of Alexandria
County of Fairfax
City 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 Fairfax
County of Fairfax
County of Fairfax
County of Loudoun
County of Fairfax
County of Prince William
County of Fairfax
County of Prince William
City of Fairfax
City of Falls Church
City of Manassas Park
County of Fairfax
County of Fairfax
Town of Herndon
County of Fairfax
City of Manassas
City of Alexandria
City of Alexandria
County of Fairfax
County of Arlington
Town of Leesburg
County of Prince William
County of Prince William
City of Manassas Park
County of Loudoun

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

Sue Rowland

SR Consulting

- CALL TO ORDER Vice Chairman Umstattd called the meeting to order at 8:00 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 May 22, 2003, meeting of the Commission. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.
- CONSENT AGENDA Commissioner Jenkins moved adoption of the consent agenda, consisting of the items outlined below. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.
- A. Financial Reports for May 2003
 - B. Resolution No. P03-27: Proposal to Assist with the Four Mile Run Restoration Project
 - C. Resolution No. P03-28: Proposal to Prevent Nonpoint Source Pollution from the Failure of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems
 - D. Resolution No. P03-29: Proposal to Adapt Modeling Software for the Development of Tributary Strategies
 - E. Resolution No. P03-30: Acceptance of the *Northern Virginia Data Book 2003*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Mr. Gibb noted that the director's monthly report was included in the meeting package.
- B. Mr. Pickford provided a briefing on the recently launched tourism marketing campaign in Northern Virginia. The campaign was born out of the events of September 11. Two million dollars in federal funds have been appropriated to the region, with half used for marketing. Northern Virginia is branding itself with a tourism logo and tagline, the "pursuit of happiness," to play on the area's historical attractions as well as its leisure attractions.

The campaign will be a three-pronged approach: golf, shopping and wineries. The golf focus is the first of the campaign, and the opening was featured on the Today show and reported in *The Washington Times* as well as by AP. Mr. Pickford demonstrated the interactive website and confirmed for Commissioner Fissette that this is linked to the D.C. tourism site.

Commissioner O'Reilly commented on the success of Alabama's Golf Trail in generating tourism in that state.
- C. Mr. Gibb reported on his trip in April to NVRC's sister organization, the Verband Region Stuttgart. He also spoke at the METREX conference there. METREX is a European organization of regional councils. The trip was paid for by a private foundation.

Additionally, the U.S. Embassy in Denmark invited Mr. Gibb to speak at a conference in Lithuania in May, and funded his trip. In reply to Commissioner Holley's inquiry, Mr. Gibb said Lithuania's greatest needs are housing and public transit. He added there is a good deal of foreign investment in the country.

- D. Ms. Simmons reported on the Northern Virginia Fair Housing Program, which was started five years ago by NVRC. The contract has just been renewed for testing (age, nationality, family status, and disability are all protected classes). Testers are sent to mortgage lenders, real estate agents, or rental offices. Arlington, Fairfax County, Falls Church and Prince William participate in the Fair Housing Program. Montgomery County, Maryland, has also purchased services under this contract. In reply to a question, Ms. Simmons said each participating jurisdiction decides where it wants to test, but they mainly look at large complexes.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. Gibb reported that Commissioner Hanley had forwarded the Nominating Committee report, which recommends the current officers:

Chairman	Scott K. York (County of Loudoun)
Vice Chairman	Kristen C. Umstatt (Town of Leesburg)
Treasurer	Barbara A. Favola (County of Arlington)

Commissioner Richards moved acceptance of the slate of officers. The motion was seconded. Vice Chairman Umstatt asked for nominations from the floor; there were none.

ADOPTION OF ANNUAL BUDGET FOR FY 2004

Commissioner Bulova reported that she had chaired the Operations Committee, which met prior to the Commission and considered and recommends the FY 2004 Budget. She reminded the members that a preliminary '04 budget had been presented and adopted last September.

Commissioner Bulova pointed out that the per capita member dues rate remains the same as the previous 13 years. However, NVRC receives less State funding than in 1988. Much of the Commission's funding now comes from grants. Commissioner Bulova praised the staff, who is doing more with less, adding that several positions have been left vacant when staff left. The Operations Committee plans to focus on funding in the coming year and report back to the Commission.

Commissioner Bulova moved adoption of Resolution No. P03-26. The motion was seconded. Commissioner Connolly inquired about the reserves, and Mr. Gibb confirmed that \$66,000+ was expected to be drawn for FY 2003 expenses and returned in FY 2004. The motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS *Braddock District Task Force*

Commissioner Bulova distributed and reported on the findings of the Braddock District Community Dialog on Transportation and Land Use. After the failed transportation sales tax referendum, she invited community activists and constituents who had contacted her office about the referendum to participate in a series of seven panel discussions. She noted that the majority of participants had voted against the sales tax increase, expressing frustration with the State, mistrust of VDOT, and concern about sprawl. At the conclusion of the panel discussions, the majority agreed on the need for more local spending on transportation and transit.

Proposed Letter to VHDA

Commissioner Hudgins called attention to the draft letter from the Commission to VHDA that staff distributed, along with a fact sheet for the July 24 public hearing. This item came too late for the Human and Community Services Commission to consider. Commissioner Hudgins moved that the Commission send this letter to VHDA in support of its policy change to no longer exclude unrelated co-borrowers. The motion was seconded.

Commissioner Fiset explained he was elected to the VHDA Board last year. Virginia has the only state housing finance agency in the country that requires a relation by blood, marriage or adoption between two people in order to qualify for a loan. The private sector does not have this requirement. Commissioner Fiset added that this restriction was removed for a few years in the early 1990's but was reinstated five or six years ago.

Minor changes to the letter were agreed upon. The motion as amended carried with one vote in opposition.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Vice Chairman Umstadd adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved by:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Kristen C. Umstadd
Vice Chairman