

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, April 22, 2021 – via Zoom

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Walter L. Alcorn	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Victor S. Angry	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Hon. Andrea O. Bailey	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Hon. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Hon. Kenny A. Boddye	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Hon. Juli E. Briskman	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
Hon. Kelly Burk	<i>Town of Leesburg</i>
Hon. John T. Chapman	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Hon. Linda J. Colbert	<i>Town of Vienna</i>
Hon. Matt de Ferranti	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Hon. Libby Garvey	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Hon. Penelope A. Gross	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Pat Herrity	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Rodney L. Lusk	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. David Meyer	<i>City of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Cydney A. Neville, NVRC Vice Chairman	<i>Town of Dumfries</i>
Hon. Sheila A. Olem	<i>Town of Herndon</i>
Hon. Dalia A. Palchik	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Jeanette Rishell	<i>City of Manassas Park</i>
Hon. Koran T. Saines	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
Hon. Kathy L. Smith, NVRC Treasurer	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. David Tarter, NVRC Chairman	<i>City of Falls Church</i>
Hon. James R. Walkinshaw	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Mark Wolfe	<i>City of Manassas</i>

STAFF PRESENT

Robert Lazaro	<i>Executive Director</i>
Linda M. Tenney	<i>Deputy Director</i>
Gina Kesselmann-Smith	<i>Management Analyst</i>
Normand Goulet	<i>Environmental Services Director</i>
Jill Kaneff	<i>Regional Demographer</i>
Rashmi Puranik	<i>Federal Grants Analyst</i>
Cristin Shiffer	<i>Transportation Demand Management Outreach Coordinator</i>
Michelle Simmons	<i>Human Services Director</i>
Debbie Spiliotopoulos	<i>Senior Environmental Planner</i>
Peggy Tadej	<i>Director, Community and Military Partnerships</i>

OTHERS PRESENT

Parag Agrawal	<i>Planning Office, Prince William County</i>
Russell Danoa-Schroeder	<i>Housing, Arlington County</i>
Eileen Ellsworth	<i>Community Foundation</i>
Brooke Hardin	<i>Community Development & Planning, City of Fairfax</i>
Elizabeth Hughes	<i>Insight Region</i>
Elijah Johnson	<i>Human Services, Loudoun County</i>
Eric Keeler	<i>Housing, City of Alexandria</i>
Bob Kuhns	<i>Mead & Hunt</i>
Bill Lake	<i>Housing & Community Development, Prince William County</i>
Teresa Lepe	<i>Real Estate Finance & Development, Fairfax County</i>
Antoinette Payne	<i>Virginia Housing</i>
Richard Tucker	<i>Housing, Arlington County</i>

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tarter called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called and all members present or absent were noted for the record.

PRESENTATION

Insight Region Housing Report

In January 2021 the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia issued a report entitled "Unequal Burden" which documents the severe housing cost burden faced by low-income Northern Virginia residents. The meeting featured a presentation of the study by Senior Director of Insight Region, Elizabeth Hughes. In addition, the Commission heard from Housing and Planning representatives from member local governments including Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax County, Falls Church, Manassas Park and Prince William County. This presentation was a follow up to the well-attended meeting in January 2020 regarding affordable housing issues.

ACTION ITEMS

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P21-19 – Resolution of Appreciation of Colonel Kimberly Peeples of Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Saines and carried unanimously.

Background:

Colonel Peeples has served as base commander of Joint Base Myer Henderson Hall for the past two years and will be transferring to a new post on May 6. Colonel Peeples has been a strong advocate and practitioner of partnerships with the community. The resolution thanks and honors Colonel Peeples for her service and wishes her many good wishes on her new assignment.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P21-20 – Resolution of Appreciation of Colonel William C. Bentley III of the United States Marine Corps Base Quantico. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Saines and carried unanimously.

Background:

Colonel Bentley has served as Base Commander since July 2018 and will be retiring in July of this year after thirty years of service to our nation. Colonel Bentley has worked cooperatively with the Commission and surrounding jurisdictions and has entered into several Intergovernmental Service Agreements with NVRC. The resolution thanks and honors Colonel Bentley for his service and wishes him many good wishes on his retirement.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P21-21 – Resolution adopting an amendment to the by-laws of the Commission related to remote meetings. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Saines and carried unanimously.

Background:

Senate Bill 1931 as signed into law by Governor Northam has made changes to the number of meetings that a member of the Commission

can participate in from a remote location. The resolution authorizes the amendment to the Commission's by-laws to reflect the new state law. The by-law amendment was properly brought before the Commission at its March meeting.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P21-22 – Resolution outlining actions to be taken with respect to working with Virginia State University and Norfolk State University. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Saines and carried unanimously.

Background:

Virginia State University and Norfolk State University are both publicly supported Historically Black Universities in the Commonwealth. Vice-Chair Neville and Commissioner Chapman at the Commission's March meeting raised the issue of inviting the schools to consider offering classes in Northern Virginia and explore other areas of partnership. The attached resolution and memorandum outlines the steps that NVRC staff are to take in furtherance of these goals.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P21-23 – Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to acquire audio visual equipment to allow for the conduct of hybrid in-person/remote meetings. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Saines and carried unanimously.

Background:

The audio-visual equipment installed in the Commission offices is nearly 7 years old. With the change in the Code of Virginia allowing for increased remote participation by members of the Commission and the public, the equipment must be upgraded to include the purchase of cameras and other electronic improvements to connect to the existing AV system. It is estimated that said equipment and installation will cost between \$11,000 and \$20,000. To meet its obligations under the Code, the equipment must be upgraded.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P21-24 – Authorization to sign MOU with METROPIA'S FHWA Task Order HOTM180073 Smart Phone Travel Incentives Study (The "STUDY") and NVRC's Carpool Pilot Program (The "Pilot"). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Saines and carried unanimously.

Background:

Resolution authorizes the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Metropia to advance carpool options for the employees of Fort Belvoir North.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P21-25 – Authorization to sign letter of interest with the George Washington university and the Northern Virginia Veterans Association to conduct a demonstration project to serve the real-time mobility needs of veterans. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Saines and carried unanimously.

Background:

Resolution authorizes the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the George Washington University and the Northern Virginia Veterans Association to investigate the viability of a demonstration project to serve the mobility needs of veterans.

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

Mr. Lazaro presented his report to the Commission, which included the financial report for March 2021 and the following:

- Salt Management
 - NVRC is working with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and local partners regarding the need to reduce the amount of salt being dispersed on roadways, parking lots, sidewalks, etc. that is getting into our streams and drinking water supplies.
 - The Salt management strategy toolkit is now available for interested parties to utilize. The information can be found on our web site.
- Solarize NoVA Spring Campaign
 - The Spring 2021 Solarize NoVA campaign kicked off on April 12 and will run through the end of June.
 - We are grateful to our local government partners and our elected leaders for sharing this important information.
- Heat Island Mapping Improved
 - Allie of our staff undertook a number of improvements to our heat island map at the requests of Commissioners. The improvements are:
 - There are now detailed instructions on how to use the interactive charts and tables throughout the dashboard.
 - The heat islands story map now includes time sliders to compare heat islands with forested land cover, developed land cover, and FEMA flood hazard areas over time.
 - The heat islands story map now has its own webpage under the climate/resiliency section on the NVRC website.
- COVID19 Spanish Language PSA
 - Our Spanish language COVID19 PSA reminding folks to wear a mask, wash their hands and employ physical distancing is being shown on the big screen in the Mosaic District.
 - Wonderful to have the support of the operators of the Mosaic to allow these important messages to air.

- NVRC's TransAtlantic Work
 - NVRC's more than 20-year work with the Stuttgart Region was highlighted in a webinar co-hosted by NVRC, the American Council on Germany, the Heinrich Boell Foundation and the Verband Region Stuttgart.
 - Congressman Don Beyer (D-VA) and Cem Özdemir, Bundestag Member (The Greens) discuss the subnational dimension of foreign policy. The conversation is moderated by Cathryn Clüver Ashbrook, Executive Director of the Future of Diplomacy Project and Executive Director of The Project on Europe and the Transatlantic Relationship at the Harvard Kennedy School and Co-Director of the ACG's Eric M. Warburg Chapter in Boston.
- Farewell and Many Thanks to Julie
 - NVRC staff had a small farewell event for Julie (2nd from right) who is leaving her position at NVRC. Julie was responsible for the oversight of our Housing Opportunities for People With Aids (HOPWA) program.
 - We wish Julie and her family many good wishes on their new ventures together.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Tarter invited Commissioners to let him or Mr. Lazaro know of any issues or concerns they would like to see addressed or discussed by the Commission.

COMMUNITY & MILITARY PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Gross invited Commissioners to attend the upcoming Community and Military Partnership Meeting scheduled to be held virtually on May 13 at 10 am.

The agenda includes the following:

- Military installation updates: climate change, resiliency, new projects, and IGSA updates
- Cybercrime Support Network
- VetsDriveVets
- DEI Update
- Community & military partnership listening session

Commissioner Gross also reminded Commissioners of the Workhouse arts center exhibition that takes place from May 12 – August 1, 2021.

Follow-up actions include:

- Finalize Roadmap to include recommendations from: DoD, the State, County, and City of Fairfax of the DEI Actions as well as the Military
 - Include themes we heard and address gaps

- Bring all the DEI Officers from the Counties back for Report out to the NVRC Board on Findings, events, and if the need for a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Alliance for the Region.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Commissioner Bailey moved approval of the Commission meeting minutes of March 25, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gross and carried. Commissioner Briskman and Commissioner Bennet-Parker abstained.

CLOSED SESSION

Executive Director Review (closed session)

Upon a motion made in accordance with Virginia Code No. 2.1, Section 344 and duly seconded, the Commissioners decided unanimously to enter into executive session for the purpose of the executive director review.

Commissioner Gross made a motion to reconvene in public session and certify that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed session by the Commission. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Olem and carried unanimously.

Commissioner De Ferranti moved approval of the Resolution No. P21-26 – Executive Director Review and Compensation based on the recommendations provided by the Executive Committee and consistent with the discussion in closed session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olem and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Tarter adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.
Executive Director

Approved by:

P. David Tarter
Chairman