

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, June 24, 2021 – via Zoom

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Walter L. Alcorn
Hon. Victor S. Angry
Hon. Andrea O. Bailey
Hon. Elizabeth Bennett-Parker
Hon. Kenny A. Boddye
Hon. Juli E. Briskman
Hon. Kelly Burk
Hon. John T. Chapman
Hon. Linda J. Colbert
Hon. Matt de Ferranti
Hon. Libby Garvey
Hon. Penelope A. Gross
Hon. Pat Herrity
Hon. Rodney L. Lusk
Hon. David Meyer
Hon. Cydney A. Neville, NVRC Vice Chairman
Hon. Sheila A. Olem
Hon. Dalia A. Palchik
Hon. Jeanette Rishell
Hon. Koran T. Saines
Hon. Kathy L. Smith, NVRC Treasurer
Hon. David Tarter, NVRC Chairman
Hon. James R. Walkinshaw
Hon. Mark Wolfe

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

STAFF PRESENT

Robert Lazaro
Linda M. Tenney
Gina Kesselmann-Smith
Normand Goulet
Michelle Simmons
Peggy Tadej

Executive Director
Deputy Director
Management Analyst
Environmental Services Director
Human Services Director
Director, Community and Military Partnerships

OTHERS PRESENT

Dr. Makola Abdullah
Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston
Gwen Dandridge

Virginia State University
Norfolk State University
Virginia State University

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tarter called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

PRESENTATION

Presentation from the Presidents of Virginia State University and Norfolk State University

Dr. Javaune Adams-Gaston, the President of Norfolk State University, and Dr. Makola Abdullah, President of Virginia State University, presented overviews of their universities and discuss ways how their schools and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission can work together. The two universities are the only two state-supported HBCUs in the Commonwealth.

ACTION ITEMS

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P21-33 – Election of NVRC Officers for Fiscal Year 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner de Ferranti and carried unanimously.

Background:

Resolution electing the following officers of the Commission for Fiscal Year 2022 (July 2021 – June 2022):

Honorable Cydney A. Neville (Town of Dumfries) – Chairman
Honorable David Meyer (City of Fairfax) – Vice Chairman
Honorable Kathy L. Smith (Fairfax County) – Treasurer

Commissioner Smith moved approval of the Resolution No. P21-34 – Adoption of Budget and Programs for Fiscal Year 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bailey and carried unanimously.

Background:

The Executive Director has recommended to the Commission its Fiscal Year 22 Annual Budget and Programs. The budgeted revenue is \$7,942,690 and budgeted expenditures are \$7,806,578 with the balance of \$136,112 for contingency/reserves.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Resolution No. P21-35 – Authorization to apply for funding from the Department of Defense, Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC), Defense Community Infrastructure Program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bailey and carried unanimously.

Background:

Authorization for the Executive Director to apply for a Defense Community Infrastructure Program grant for up to \$2,900,000 to support the linkages from Woodbridge to Joint Base Anacostia/Bolling and SE/SW DC to address the congestion, military value, military installation resilience, and military family quality of life by alleviating installation commuter workforce issues and benefit the surrounding region.

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

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

- Climate Dashboard Highlighted
 - NVRC's climate dashboard was highlighted in an article in the American Public Works Association magazine regarding flooding resilience.
- Safe Walking Summit III

- More than 75 people from around the region participated in our safe walking summit as part of our Share VA Roads program.
- Learning from Others
 - Dr. Dale Medearis of our staff participated in a webinar regarding TransAtlantic cooperation on climate change. Dale and Ambassador Richard Kauzlarich (ret) co-authored a paper outlining our work with colleagues in Germany and other countries in the EU.
- Hybrid Meetings Start in July
 - NVRC has contracted with Zoom Rooms to provide capability to conduct hybrid meetings – in person and remote.
 - NVRC bylaws (consistent with the Code of VA) require a quorum to be present in the meeting room – a minimum of 8 Commissioners. Commissioners may participate remotely no more than three times per year. Commissioners who want to participate remotely must inform the Chair of their intent and reason for participating remotely.
 - The first hybrid meeting will take place for our July meeting.
- Electric Buses
 - NVRC staff was given opportunity to view and take ride on new electric passenger bus from Proterra. Four of these buses will be utilized by DASH in the City of Alexandria.
- Upcoming Meetings
 - July – Report by Jill Kaneff on the impact of the pandemic on Minority Owned Businesses
 - August – No Meeting

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Tarter thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity he was given to serve as Chairman of the Commission. He also added that it was a great experience to see how closely the region has been working together.

COMMUNITY & MILITARY PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Gross invited Commissioners to attend the upcoming Community and Military Partnership Meeting scheduled to be held virtually on July 8 at 10 am.

Commissioner Gross also mentioned the Northern Virginia Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Roadmap, which has four focus areas:

- **Listening Sessions.** Planning and hosting Community Partnership Listening Sessions to understand what we don't

know and to ground our efforts in the experience of the military and their families who live in our communities.

- **Policy.** Engaging in efforts to review, develop, and/or change policies that address findings from listening sessions specific to racial inequity and DEI.
- **Information Sharing.** Sharing information and resources among all parties engaged in DEI efforts in the region to help build understanding and collaboration.
- **Projects and Events.** Maintaining an integrated list of projects and events within the Northern Virginia region that provide opportunities to advance DEI and create more equitable and welcoming environments for all service members and their families to call home.

Commissioner Gross then added that NVRC presented two resolutions to outgoing commanders – Col Peebles and Col Bentley.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the Commission meeting minutes of May 27, 2021. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Angry and carried unanimously.

OTHER ITEMS

Commissioner Bennett-Parker provided a quick update to the Commissioners regarding remote meeting participation. The FOIA council is currently looking at the potential need for additional flexibility for regional and advisory bodies like NVRC to be able to meet electronically outside of a declared emergency. As such, Commissioner Bennett-Parker asked if there is consensus to send a letter to Richmond in support of additional flexibility. Upon a short discussion, Commissioners agreed that a letter of support is a great idea to be potentially able to make meetings such as the NVRC monthly meeting as accessible as possible.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Tarter adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.
Executive Director

Approved by:

P. David Tarter
Chairman