

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, December 13, 2007

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Hilda M. Barg	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Hon. Sharon Bulova	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Gerald E. Connolly, NVRC Chairman	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. W. S. Covington, III	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Hon. Joan Cross	<i>City of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Steve DeBenedittis	<i>Town of Herndon</i>
Hon. Joan DuBois	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Barbara A. Favola	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Hon. Penelope A. Gross	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Catherine Hudgins	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.	<i>Town of Purcellville</i>
Hon. Harold Lippman	<i>City of Falls Church</i>
Hon. Elaine N. McConnell	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Martin E. Nohe, NVRC Treasurer	<i>County of Prince William</i>
Hon. Harry J. Parrish, II, NVRC Vice Chairman	<i>City of Manassas</i>
Hon. Redella S. Pepper	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Hon. M. Jane Seeman	<i>Town of Vienna</i>
Hon. Paul C. Smedberg	<i>City of Alexandria</i>
Hon. Linda Smyth	<i>County of Fairfax</i>
Hon. Stephen Snow	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
Hon. J. Walter Tejada	<i>County of Arlington</i>
Hon. William J. Treuting, Jr.	<i>City of Manassas Park</i>
Hon. Bruce E. Tulloch	<i>County of Loudoun</i>
Hon. Kristen C. Umstattd	<i>Town of Leesburg</i>
Hon. Fred E. Yohey, Jr.	<i>Town of Dumfries</i>

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb	<i>Executive Director</i>
Linda M. Tenney	<i>Deputy Director</i>
Linda Summerall	<i>Executive Secretary</i>
Barbara Gordon	<i>Communications Director</i>
Doug Pickford	<i>Director, Environmental and Planning Services</i>
David Schwengel	<i>Director, Regional Emergency Planning Services</i>
Michelle Simmons	<i>Director, Human Services</i>
Debbie Spiliotopoulos	<i>Senior Environmental Planner</i>

CALL TO ORDER Commissioner Nohe, acting chairman in the absence of Chairman Connolly and Vice Chairman Parrish, called the meeting to order at 7:35 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Commissioner Tulloch moved approval of the minutes of the September 27, 2007, meeting. The motion was seconded. The minutes were approved with Commissioner Treuting abstaining.

PRESENTATION *The Innovation Agenda — Opportunities for Regional Collaboration in Northern Virginia*

Commissioner Nohe introduced Aneesh P. Chopra, Virginia's Secretary of Technology. In this capacity, he leads the Commonwealth's strategy to effectively leverage technology in government reform, promotes Virginia's innovation agenda, and fosters technology-related economic development with a special emphasis on entrepreneurship. Prior to joining Governor Kaine's cabinet, Mr. Chopra served as Managing Director with the Advisory Board Company, which provides best practices research and analysis to the health care industry, focusing on business strategy, operations and general management issues. Much of his work focused on using technology to drive down health care costs. Mr. Chopra holds a Masters in Public Policy from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and a B.A. from The Johns Hopkins University.

Aneesh Chopra

In 2006, Virginia was rated number one for technology job creation. For the quarter ending March 2007, one out of every three jobs in Virginia was formed in the technology sector, and in Northern Virginia that figure is 61%. In Virginia, 33% of all wages comes from the technology sector; in Northern Virginia that figure climbs to 46%. Statewide, there is a 2.2% annual growth rate in the technology sector and approximately 1% rate of growth in the overall economy; 2.6% rate of growth in the technology sector in Northern Virginia versus 1.1% rate of growth in the overall economy.

However, Virginia is lagging in innovation, with the highly educated workforce in the urban areas trailing the nation in patent productivity; nationally, the state ranks almost dead last in entrepreneurship. To help counter this, SB 259 was passed in 2006 that allows public universities to establish intellectual property policies. The administration supports research and development and has allocated \$1.65 billion in bonds to promote corporate research, with a \$40.5 million competitive grants research program. Mr. Chopra cited examples of universities partnering with private industry on research and development.

Mr. Chopra talked about the importance of working cooperatively — regionally — to bring entrepreneurial ventures and life sciences to Northern Virginia. He asked the Commissioners to forward a list of their jurisdictions' top ten economic development prospects and he will personally call each company.

questions & answers Replying to Commissioner Seeman's inquiry as to CIT's role, Mr. Chopra said CIT is a public policy tool that takes resources and invests them; CIT tries to find entrepreneurial companies in Virginia that need financial assistance.

Commissioner Nohe suggested that Mr. Gibb work with a few Commissioners to get the buy-in from the member jurisdictions' governing bodies on regional economic development. Commissioner Tulloch expressed support, noting that NVRC is the perfect body to do this. Commissioner Favola moved that a subcommittee be established to study and evaluate ways the jurisdictions can work better regionally on economic development. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA Commissioner Tulloch moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Financial Reports for September and October 2007. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

Mr. Gibb pointed out that the Commission's meeting schedule for calendar year 2008 is included in the meeting package; it is also posted on the website.

A PowerPoint report highlighted:

- the Commission's 60th Anniversary luncheon held December 7;

- the first International Regional Council Meeting to be held in April in Alexandria, co-hosted by NVRC and MWCOG;
- Chairman Connolly was the keynote speaker last month at a meeting of the Network of Metropolitan Regions of Europe (METREX) in Hamburg, Germany;
- Cool Schools initiative — Mr. Gibb asked the members for their help in interesting the school systems in this program. Members noted that the local governments need to adopt the Cool Counties/Cool Cities initiative in order to encourage the school boards to adopt Cool Schools. (Commissioner Hudgins departed during this discussion.) It was also suggested that Mr. Gibb ask the Chief Administrative Officers to bring their school superintendents to a CAO meeting to discuss the benefits of these initiatives. Commissioner Treuting asked that the Commission's resolution on Cool Schools be sent to the jurisdictions; and
- CrisisLink, a local charity, is scheduled to begin answering 211 calls on February 11, 2008. Members noted that 211 is not adequately funded by the state, and Commissioner Favola expressed concern that CrisisLink will turn to local governments to make up the shortfall.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Commissioner Nohe reported five members — Commissioners Barg, DuBois, McConnell, Snow and Tulloch — are departing the Commission. He presented Commissioner Tulloch with a certificate of appreciation. Commissioner Tulloch thanked the members, adding it has been an honor to serve on the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. He reminded the members of the value in working together and "speaking with one voice."

FY 2007 AUDITED STATEMENTS

Commissioner Nohe noted that the fiscal year ended with a small deficit.

Commissioner Tulloch moved approval of Resolution No. P08-12. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

2008 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Commissioner Nohe noted that the Legislative Committee did not meet this fall, and turned the floor over to NVRC's legislative consultant, Sue Rowland.

Ms. Rowland explained that the distributed draft platform was an updated version of the draft that had been emailed to the members, filling in the blanks contained in the earlier draft. Ms. Rowland reviewed each initiative and position statement.

Under the initiative "Voting Day Hours of Operation," Commissioner Favola moved to add "...support liberalization of absentee voting." The motion was seconded. Commissioner Tejada stated the importance of education employers and citizens that employers are required to give employees up to two hours off from work for voting.

Commissioner Tulloch objected to the "Disclosure Requirements" initiative.

Commissioner Treuting expressed concern over the language in the regional position statement on "BRAC," pointing out that negative language about transportation could work against Prince William County, Manassas and Manassas Park, all of which are candidates to receive relocated jobs. Ms. Rowland was instructed to re-word this part. Commissioner Favola stated she would like to see legislation introduced providing more state funding to the communities impacted by BRAC, and she will ask Arlington County's legislative liaison to draft language.

Commissioner Tulloch advised the members about devolution, stating a bill adopted this year contains language that if roads and sidewalks do not align with their newly constructed counterparts the roads will become the local jurisdiction's responsibility. The bill goes into

effect in July. He asked that NVRC draft a position to clean up the bill, or at the very least, receive a presentation on the bill from the Loudoun and Fairfax legislative liaisons. Ms. Rowland volunteered to look into it as well.

Commissioner Treuting raised objection to the "Firearms in Public Facilities" regional position statement.

Commissioner Favola moved approval of the 2008 Legislative Platform with:

- removal of the "Firearms in Public Facilities" regional position statement;
- technical amendments as discussed;
- a better explanation of BRAC; and
- additional language on liberalization of absentee voting.

The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Favola moved that the "Firearms in Public Facilities" regional position statement be adopted. The motion was seconded and carried, with Commissioners Cross, Treuting, and DeBenedittis opposed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications

Mr. Gibb reported that the Commission's new website will be launched in February.

60th Anniversary

Commissioner Pepper reported that a good time was had by all who attended the luncheon, adding that Congressman Moran was an excellent keynote speaker.

She asked the members if they want have an annual lunch and/or awards. Commissioner Favola expressed support for the lunch but not annual awards. Commissioner Tulloch, also Co-chairman of the 60th Anniversary Committee, suggested instead that the Communications Committee be tasked to consider this. He commended Commissioners Pepper and Smedberg for their roles in the luncheon.

Commissioner Nohe thanked the committee and staff for their work, and Commissioner Seeman commented that she especially enjoyed the seating arrangement that included a mix of members from other elected bodies, the sponsors and staff.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Nohe reminded the members they had expressed interest in having the Commission serve as the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority's (NVTA) Advisory Planning Committee. NVTA has passed a resolution making NVRC that committee.

Commissioner Nohe turned the floor over to Tom Biesiadny, chairman of NVTA's Technical Committee. Mr. Biesiadny noted that on December 3, NVTA approved a six-year plan of projects and distributed that information.

It was agreed that a presentation on the NVTA Advisory Committee will be made at the Commission's January 24 meeting.

Commissioner DeBenedittis informed the members that Herndon's legislative platform contains a position that towns be given a seat on NVTA.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Nohe adjourned the meeting at 10:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Martin Nohe, Treasurer
Acting Chairman