

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, February 28, 2008

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

Hon. Sharon Bulova	County of Fairfax
Hon. Gerald E. Connolly, NVRC Chairman	County of Fairfax
Hon. Joan Cross	City of Fairfax
Hon. Steve DeBenedittis	Town of Herndon
Hon. Barbara A. Favola	County of Arlington
Hon. John Foust	County of Fairfax
Hon. Penelope A. Gross	County of Fairfax
Hon. Pat Herrity	County of Fairfax
Hon. Catherine Hudgins	County of Fairfax
Hon. Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.	Town of Purcellville
Hon. Harold Lippman	City of Falls Church
Hon. Michael C. May	County of Prince William
Hon. Martin E. Nohe, NVRC Treasurer	County of Prince William
Hon. Harry J. Parrish, II, NVRC Vice Chairman	City of Manassas
Hon. Redella S. Pepper	City of Alexandria
Hon. Frank J. Principi	County of Prince William
Hon. M. Jane Seeman	Town of Vienna
Hon. Paul C. Smedberg	City of Alexandria
Hon. Linda Smyth	County of Fairfax
Hon. J. Walter Tejada	County of Arlington
Hon. William J. Treuting, Jr.	City of Manassas Park
Hon. Kristen C. Umstattd	Town of Leesburg
Hon. Lori Waters	County of Loudoun
Hon. Fred E. Yohey, Jr.	Town of Dumfries
Hon. Scott K. York	County of Loudoun

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb	Executive Director
Linda M. Tenney	Deputy Director
Linda Summerall	Executive Secretary
Ken Billingsley	Director, Demographics
Normand Goulet	Interim Director, Environmental & Planning Services
David Schwengel	Director, Regional Emergency Planning Services

GUESTS

Mary Agee	President & CEO, Northern Virginia Family Service
Chuck Bean	Executive Director, Nonprofit Roundtable of Greater Washington
Robert G. Templin, Jr.	President, Northern Virginia Community College
Sue Rowland	Principal, SR Consulting; NVRC's Legislative Liaison

CALL TO ORDER Chairman Connolly called the meeting to order at 7:43 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 York moved approval of the minutes of the meetings of January 24, 2008, and February 7, 2008. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved unanimously.

PRESENTATION

NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Chairman Connolly welcomed Dr. Robert G. Templin, Jr., President of the Northern Virginia Community College.

Robert Templin

Dr. Templin distributed a PowerPoint document and reviewed some background information on Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC): The college consists of six campuses with over 65,000 students. It is the second largest community college in the U.S. and Virginia's largest institution of higher learning. NVCC is one of the most diverse colleges in the U.S., representing over 150 nationalities.

NVCC offers comprehensive programs in

- English as a Second Language
- Remedial Studies
- Vocational Training
- Technical Education
- University Transfer
- Workforce Development

The college provides front-line training to first responders. It is also the region's leading provider of trained healthcare workers.

Dr. Templin noted two strategic issues facing Northern Virginia: College access for first generation college-goers, immigrants, and minorities; and developing a tech-savvy, front-line workforce. To address college access, NVCC works with the public school systems to assess college/work readiness of students from the target populations in the 11th grade who have been identified by their teachers (rather than based on grades). Those students take college-level course work in their senior year; if qualified, receive up to \$3,500 in financial aid to attend NVCC; receive guaranteed admission to George Mason University (again, if qualified); and receive \$1,000-2,000 annual transfer scholarships to GMU (they are also guaranteed admission to other state schools if qualified). Regarding the healthcare workforce, NVCC has teamed with the area's hospitals and four-year colleges to make high school students aware of the numerous healthcare careers and the courses needed for those careers. In the past three years, NVCC has increased the supply of RNs by 400+ per year.

Dr. Templin also described "Training Futures," a collaborative program offered by Northern Virginia Family Service in conjunction with NVCC, for immigrant populations. Program graduates leave with 17 college credits to apply towards a degree at NVCC.

NVCC's strategic plan calls for the college to grow by 10,000 students, two new campuses, \$100 million in new operating funds, and one million square feet of new classroom and lab space by 2015. Dr. Templin added that the college is working with the localities' staffs on siting for expansion.

questions & answers

Chairman Connolly noted that a year ago, 8,000–10,000 high-paying jobs could have been filled in Northern Virginia but for the lack of skilled engineers and scientists with security clearances. Dr. Templin explained that he highlights the programs that train the future workers that society depends upon in its day-to-day work: police officers, teachers, health care workers, etc.; without these workers the region will not attract the engineers and scientists.

Commissioner Gross expressed appreciation for NVCC's work in addressing the shortage of healthcare workers.

BEYOND CHARITY

Chairman Connolly welcomed Chuck Bean, Executive Director of the Nonprofit Roundtable of Greater Washington, and Mary Agee, President & CEO of Northern Virginia Family Service. Ms. Agee also serves on the Board of Directors of the Nonprofit Roundtable.

*Mary Agee and
Chuck Bean*

Ms. Agee pointed out the distributed study "Beyond Charity: Recognizing Return on Investment. How the Nonprofit Community Impacts Greater Washington," commissioned by the Nonprofit Roundtable of Greater Washington. The study highlights the outcomes of partnerships among nonprofits, business and government.

Mr. Bean noted that Dr. Templin was a founding member of the Nonprofit Roundtable's Board of Directors.

Mr. Bean cited examples of nonprofits raising the quality of life for everyone: scouting, environmental groups, arts groups, etc. The study found that nonprofits save money by preventing and solving problems, as well as tapping the potential, i.e., Northern Virginia Family Service's "Training Futures" program, mentioned in Dr. Templin's presentation. Ms. Agee added that prior to taking this course, 15% of enrollees were homeowners, while after completion the rate increased to approximately 65%. Another example is Friends of Guesthouse, a nonprofit in Alexandria that works with women coming out of prison to transition them successfully into the community and employment; it costs the nonprofit about 65% of the cost of keeping women incarcerated, and the program experiences close to a 100% success rate.

Examples of nonprofits and government working together are NVRC's support of 2-1-1 and its introduction in Northern Virginia, administered by CrisisLink; the Greater Washington 2050 Coalition, chaired by Supervisor Bulova; and the Emergency Preparedness Council, chaired by Chairman Connolly, where nonprofits, government, business and civic leaders work together.

Ms. Agee concluded by saying that nonprofits want to be partners in solutions.

questions & answers Commissioner Gross asked what is being done to address documentation requirements. Ms. Agee replied that the Virginia Association of Nonprofit Organizations is providing training on regulatory compliance, fiscal oversight, accountability issues, and Sarbanes-Oxley. She added that the responsibilities of the nonprofits' boards of directors and executive directors are also being addressed.

Mr. Bean added that the Roundtable's members include grant-makers, and the Roundtable stresses to its grant-makers to include funding for capacity building.

Chairman Connolly pointed out that local governments increasingly want proof that nonprofits are financially viable before tax dollars are committed to them. He suggested the Roundtable consider having its members ascribe to standards of fiscal transparency and governance.

CONSENT AGENDA Commissioner York moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the items outlined below. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

- A. Financial Reports for December 2007 and January 2008
- B. Resolution No. P08-14: Authorization to Develop a Request for Proposals for Fair Housing Services

- C. Resolution No. P08-15: Authorization to Apply For, Accept, and Subcontract Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Grant Year 14 Through Grant Year 16 Funds in Suburban Virginia

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Gibb distributed his report. Highlights include:

- The first U.S.-European Conference of Regional Metropolitan Councils, co-hosted by NVRC, MWCOG, METREX, and several other organizations, will be held April 9-11. The conference, by invitation only, focuses on addressing climate change. Senator John Warner's office confirmed he will be a speaker. Additionally, an invitation to an April 9 lunch with the Stuttgart delegation has been sent to the Commissioners.
- The 2008 edition of the *Quick Guide* is available and NVRC staff is in the process of distributing copies to the local member governments. Mr. Gibb invited the Commissioners to take copies for their offices.
- 2-1-1 human services information telephone referral was introduced to Northern Virginia on February 11. It is available seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. until midnight. Commissioner Favola raised the issue of state funding for 2-1-1, expressing concern that the program is not fully funded. Mr. Gibb confirmed that the funding is about one-third of what NVRC staff believes is needed. CrisisLink is the only entity that applied to provide 2-1-1 call answering in Northern Virginia.

Staff distributed Resolution No. P08-16: Authorization to Sign a Memorandum of Understanding for Funding to Implement Regional Chesapeake Bay Model Data Review Program. Commission York moved adoption. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mr. Gibb informed the members that Doug Pickford, Director of Environmental & Planning Services, has resigned to be a consultant. Also, Bill Hicks, the Four Mile Run Program Manager, has resigned to be the Director of Engineering & Construction for Falls Church.

Mr. Gibb reported that the Jim Pickford Memorial Scholarship fund's endowment was up to nearly \$49,000 the end of June. The fund provides three scholarships each year at George Mason University. The Commission was instrumental in establishing this scholarship.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Connolly pointed out that the meeting package includes a copy of the Commission's January 28 letter to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation and the FTA Administrator urging reconsideration of the decision not to fund the first phase of the Dulles Rail Project, as well as FTA Administrator James Simpson's reply.

Staff distributed information on mortgage foreclosures for the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Statistical Area. Chairman Connolly pointed out that the rate of foreclosures in Prince William County has doubled in less than three months. In Fairfax County, the number of foreclosures over a two-year period is more than twenty-fold increase.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

An updated report on General Assembly actions relevant to the Commission's 2008 legislative platform was distributed.

Chairman Connolly reported that the proffer bill, SB 768, has been carried over to next year. However, the General Assembly is likely to advise local governments not to increase any of their cash proffers except to account for inflation. The homestead exemption is dead.

The House has passed a budget amendment that will recalculate rebenchmarking for Standards of Quality; this will cost local governments money. Historically, rebenchmarking on SOQs is based on actual costs for education. The amendment will cap the costs.

Chairman Connolly stated this would be a radical alteration of how education financing is done in Virginia, and it is another example of the General Assembly shifting cost burdens to localities.

Commissioner Nohe moved that the Commission call upon the Senate to categorically reject the budget amendment that will recalculate rebenchmarking for Standards of Quality because of the devastating nature to local governmental funding of education. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. It was further agreed to share this letter with the press and the localities' legislative liaisons.

COMMITTEE
REPORTS

Communications

Commissioner Smedberg reported that the Commission's new website will be launched on February 29. He also reported on NVRC news releases and NVRC in the press.

Operations

Commissioner Nohe reported that the Operations Committee will bring forward to the Commission a bylaws amendment to go back to the original intent that the chief elected officer of the governing body or his/her designee be appointed to the Commission.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Gibb introduced Normand Goulet, a long-time employee of NVRC, who is now Interim Director for the Environmental & Planning Services Division.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Connolly adjourned the meeting at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Gerald E. Connolly
Chairman