

NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION

Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, March 25, 2004

COMMISSIONERS

(The names of those present are highlighted)

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| Commissioner Hilda M. Barg | <i>County of Prince William</i> |
| Commissioner Johnine P. Barnes | County of Fairfax |
| Commissioner Albert J. Boudreau | <i>Town of Vienna</i> |
| Commissioner Melvin Bray | Town of Dumfries |
| Commissioner Sharon Bulova | County of Fairfax |
| Commissioner James C. Chesley | County of Fairfax |
| Commissioner Gerald E. Connolly, NVRC Treasurer | County of Fairfax |
| Commissioner W. S. Covington, III | <i>County of Prince William</i> |
| Commissioner Joan Cross | City of Fairfax |
| Commissioner Anna F. Dixon | <i>County of Fairfax</i> |
| Commissioner Joan DuBois | <i>County of Fairfax</i> |
| Commissioner William T. Druhan, Jr. | <i>Town of Purcellville</i> |
| Commissioner Albert C. Eisenberg | <i>County of Arlington</i> |
| Commissioner Barbara A. Favola, NVRC Vice Chairman | <i>County of Arlington</i> |
| Commissioner Jay Fiset | <i>County of Arlington</i> |
| Commissioner Robin Gardner | <i>City of Falls Church</i> |
| Commissioner Robert C. Goessman | <i>City of Manassas</i> |
| Commissioner Brian M. Gordon | County of Prince William |
| Commissioner Brenda Z. Greene | <i>County of Fairfax</i> |
| Commissioner Penelope A. Gross | County of Fairfax |
| Commissioner Catherine Hudgins | <i>County of Fairfax</i> |
| Commissioner David Kirkpatrick, Jr. | <i>City of Fairfax</i> |
| Commissioner Lyman Krekel | City of Falls Church |
| Commissioner D. Patrick Lewis | <i>County of Fairfax</i> |
| Commissioner Jesse Ludvigsen | City of Manassas Park |
| Commissioner Elaine N. McConnell | <i>County of Fairfax</i> |
| Commissioner Natalie Mosher | <i>City of Alexandria</i> |
| Commissioner Brian Murphy | County of Prince William |
| Commissioner Martin E. Nohe | County of Prince William |
| Commissioner Michael O'Reilly | Town of Herndon |
| Commissioner Sally B. Ormsby | <i>County of Fairfax</i> |
| Commissioner Harry J. Parrish, II | <i>City of Manassas</i> |
| Commissioner Redella S. Pepper | City of Alexandria |
| Commissioner James Peterbok | County of Loudoun |
| Commissioner Lilla D. Richards | <i>County of Fairfax</i> |
| Commissioner Paul C. Smedberg | <i>City of Alexandria</i> |
| Commissioner Linda Smyth | <i>County of Fairfax</i> |
| Commissioner Stephen J. Snow | <i>County of Loudoun</i> |
| Commissioner J. Walter Tejada | <i>County of Arlington</i> |
| Commissioner Bruce E. Tulloch | <i>County of Loudoun</i> |
| Commissioner Kristen C. Umstattd, NVRC Chairman | <i>Town of Leesburg</i> |
| Commissioner William R. Wren | City of Manassas Park |

STAFF PRESENT

G. Mark Gibb
Linda M. Tenney
Linda Summerall
Katherine Mull
James Van Zee

Executive Director
Deputy Director
Executive Secretary
Senior Environmental Planner
Director, Regional Planning Services

GUESTS PRESENT

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| Sgt. Jeff Coulter | <i>Herndon Police Department</i> |
| Sgt. Ron Haugsdahl | <i>Fairfax County Police Department</i> |
| Ronald McCaffrey | <i>Loudoun Co. citizen representative to Occoquan Technical Advisory Cmte.</i> |
| Sue Rowland | <i>SR Consulting</i> |
| Col. Toussaint E. Summers, Jr. | <i>Chief, Herndon Police Department</i> |

CALL TO ORDER In the absence of officers, Commissioner Bulova, a former Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:07 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 Gross moved approval of the minutes of the January 22, 2004, meeting of the Commission. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

Commissioner Connolly, NVRC's Treasurer, arrived at 8:08 p.m. and assumed the chairmanship.

PRESENTATION *10th Congressional District Gang Task Force*

Commissioner Connolly welcomed Col. Summers on behalf of the Commissioners. Col. Summers introduced Sgt. Ron Haugsdahl and Sgt. Jeff Coulter.

Col. Toussaint E. Summers, Jr.

Col. Summers explained that Congressman Frank Wolf (10th District) obtained funding for this multi-jurisdictional task force that includes local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to address gang activity in Northern Virginia through enforcement, education, and intervention and prevention. An additional \$250,000 is being made available this fiscal year for a gang prevention awareness program in the schools.

The federal funding covers seven full-time task force members from the police departments of Fairfax County, Herndon, Manassas Park, Manassas, Loudoun County, and Leesburg; while the Virginia State Police has a full-time task force position, it is not funded through the grant. The part-time participants from the remaining Northern Virginia jurisdictions are not grant-funded. Also participating are the FBI, BATF, and Bureau of Immigration's Customs Enforcement Division.

Sgt. Jeff Coulter In 1988, with the assistance of Congressman James Moran, the grant was awarded to Arlington and Fairfax counties to jointly develop the Northern Virginia Gang Suppression Intervention Program. A computerized gang data base was developed.

In 2003, members of the task force met with Congressman Wolf to discuss funding. The current task force was founded in 2003 and is housed in Herndon. The computerized gang data base has been updated and expanded.

Sgt. Ron Haugsdahl As of August 2003, the task force estimated there are 5,000 – 6,000 people associated with gangs in Northern Virginia, and over 400 gangs have been identified in Northern Virginia. Sgt. Haugsdahl added that only a couple of dozen national gangs are active in this area. The task force cooperates with municipalities outside Northern Virginia and even outside of the state.

The task force is working on better tracking of gang-related cases. In the seven months since the task force was created, 700 interviews have been conducted, 140 cases have been processed, over 255 arrests have been made, and 60 referrals to Immigration have been made. Additionally, the task force has seized twelve firearms and 40 edged and blunt weapons. The task force has conducted 49 gang-awareness training sessions.

questions and answers

Responding to Commissioner Krekel's inquiry, Col. Summers said expanded funding from Congress has allowed Arlington, Alexandria and the City of Fairfax to participate full-time. The City of Falls Church has been asked to join but has not yet committed. The officers stressed that the task force is working with all the law enforcement divisions in Northern Virginia.

Commissioner Chesley asked if the courts are cooperative. Col. Summers noted that the police try to charge under one of the "gang" statutes whenever possible. Col. Summers confirmed for Commissioner Peterbok that RICO statutes can be used.

Commissioner Nohe asked if sovereign immunity problems arise across borders. Col. Summers replied that the task force is usually invited by the municipality and the federal agents always have jurisdiction.

Commissioner Bulova inquired where citizens can find information on gang symbols. The officers said this information is deliberately withheld from Internet postings so as not to give credibility and visibility to gangs. Requests for information will be answered directly, however.

In reply to Commissioner Cross' inquiry about the funding for school programs, Col. Summers explained he is meeting next week with representatives from each school district and each police department to develop a plan.

The Commissioners thanked the officers and gave them a round of applause.

CONSENT AGENDA Commissioner Pepper moved the consent agenda, consisting of the items outlined below. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

- A. Financial Reports for January and February 2004
- B. Resolution No. P04-15: Authorization to Submit a Technical Assistance Proposal to the Department of Environmental Quality's 2004-2005 Coastal Resources Management Program
- C. Resolution No. P04-16: Authorization to Conduct a Charrette for the Town of Haymarket
- D. Resolution No. P04-18: Authorization to Accept Virginia Military Strategic Planning Grant Funding

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

Mr. Gibb noted that in addition to the items in his report, NVRC's *2004 Quick Guide to Human Services* was released last month and Commissioners were welcome to take the booklet at their seat. He also pointed out the *Northern Virginia Trails Guide*, the work of NVRC staff member Doug Pickford. Five thousand copies will be marketed.

NVRC is assisting the Town of Haymarket with a charrette May 6-8. Commissioners are welcome to attend.

CHAIRMAN'S

REPORT Commissioner Connolly welcomed three new Commissioners from Prince William: County Board member Martin Nohe and citizen representatives Brian Gordon and Brian Murphy. Also welcomed was Jim Peterbok, a new citizen representative from Loudoun County.

**RESOLUTION
NO. P04-18** AUTHORIZATION TO RENEW NVRC'S INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE VERBAND REGION STUTTGART

Commissioner Bulova reviewed NVRC's five-year relationship with the Verband Region Stuttgart, noting the highlights from the NVRC delegation's visit to Germany a few years ago, as well as lessons learned when the Stuttgart delegation visited Northern Virginia last fall.

Commissioner Bulova moved adoption of Resolution No. P04-17, extending the Commission's sister region partnership with the Verband Region Stuttgart for an additional five years. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

**RICHMOND
REPORT** Ms. Rowland distributed a draft report on the 2004 General Assembly session. The final report will include information on the special session.

Commissioner Connolly reported that most local governments are now focusing on the consequences of the state not having a budget. Localities are reviewing what state funding is at risk for FY 2005.

Commissioner Connolly reported that many bills that would have curtailed powers of local governments were defeated. On the other hand, the majority of bills supported by Northern Virginia were defeated, including increasing the gas tax, equal taxing authority, and giving all local governments authority to raise the cigarette tax.

Commissioner Connolly commented that a referendum is a non-starter. He added that it will be very difficult for the House and Senate to try to find common ground, citing the fact that the House repeal of some business tax exemptions is based on 1990 data; the latest data are much more modest, yielding approximately \$200+ million. If state funds to the localities are reduced, localities will not be able to afford to lower their property tax rates. Commissioners expressed concern that tax restructuring may not happen, and without tax restructuring, localities will not be able to lower their property tax rates. The members discussed the probable loss of the state's triple-A bond rating and the effect on local jurisdictions' bond ratings. Members also discussed a continuing resolution, although it is unclear whether the state has the authority to do this.

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS**
ad hoc Membership Commissioner Bulova reported that the Membership Committee held its second meeting that afternoon. The committee is looking at the size and composition of the Commission, with a focus on maintaining the ratio and funding structure.

ADJOURNMENT There being no further business, Commissioner Connolly adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director

Approved by:

Gerald E. Connolly
Treasurer