

**Virtual Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, September 15, 2020 @ 7:00 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

- President Dale Rumberger called meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS & OFFICERS REPORTS

- **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - Dale Rumberger called for any corrections to the July minutes as posted on the website.
 - Minutes were approved, no changes.

- **Treasurer’s Report**

- Larry Clark provided the following account balances:

Sun Trust Checking: \$1,009.52

TIAA CREF Money Market: \$6,732.07

Total funding: \$7,741.59

- **South Fairfax Chamber Report – Casey Whitmarsh**

- Chamber Webinar Series
 - Navigating the PPP Loan – September 16, 2020
 - Guest Speaker: Rod Johnson, Lender Relations with US Small Business Administration
 - Medicare 101 – October 7, 2020 at 11 am
 - Guest Speaker: Mary Crispino, South County Chamber of Commerce Member
- Follow the Chamber on website & social media platforms for up-to-date information
 - Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn



- State Farm Grant has narrowed applicants down to a list of finalists. Awards are made based on highest number of votes. Voting period begins September 23- October 2 and the Workhouse Arts is in the running!
 - Vote here:
<https://www.neighborhoodassist.com/entry/2035194?tmaadmin=cx5wne6n59n58uuaa&v=1>

III. SUPERVISOR REPORT

- **Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity**

Not present or represented.

- **Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck** (presented by Chief of Staff Christine Morin)
 - Board Meeting held in-person today for the time. Recorded meetings are available for viewing online:
http://video.fairfaxcounty.gov/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=7
 - Supervisor Storck attended two recent events in South County
 - Lorton Community Center & Library Ribbon Cutting ceremony
 - Centennial Women’s Event at the Lucy Burns Museum to celebrate the passing of the 19th amendment and the 100th anniversary of a woman’s right to vote
 - Action Item at BoS Meeting Today: Alpine X
 - BoS voted today to hold a public hearing on October 6 at 3:30 pm for the extension of feasibility studies that allow the applicant to continue due diligence on the site for one year.
 - BoS approved the vacation of White Spruce Way today – part of the original proffers of the Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse
 - The abandonment allows Elm Street & Alexander to begin work on the inside of the walls of the retail space, providing right of way and circulation access. Also allows installation of traffic light once retail occupies the site



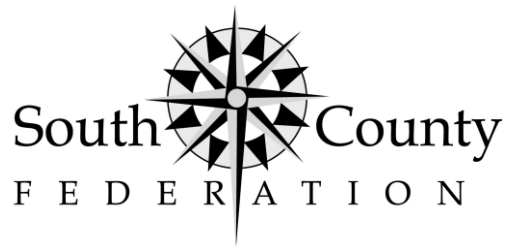
- Voting Precincts and Drop Off Boxes
 - Last week the State legislature approved drop-off boxes and have given that authority to the Counties
 - Storck's office has been giving input on locations, but there are very strict guidelines on placement (e.g. secure facilities and on-sight surveillance required)
 - One anticipated place will be the Mt. Vernon District Office
 - Additional information will be sent out as it is received
 - New voting precinct for the Lorton Library will be at the Lorton Station Elementary School
- SSPA Hearings will culminate tonight
 - One Land Use case in South County off Richmond Hwy related to restroom facilities for a company in the industrial section. Working with the Health Dept. to see if they can put in compostable toilets.
 - Process will wrap up in two weeks
- QUESTION: White Spruce Abandonment – doesn't that really mean that ownership of that parcel goes to Liberty and they are responsible for maintenance as part of the abandonment?
 - The road is considered a private road. Christine will double check who the owner is.
- QUESTION: On Alpine-X, with the order of magnitude of the project, isn't it time for the County to set up a website where they can start loading current documents and rulings associated with it?
 - There are two pages up on the County website with all the PPA information to date, and the other has public information & announcements
 - Christine will work with the County staff to see if it can be consolidated
 - Effort is being managed by the County Exec's Office – Scott Sizer is the assigned staff
- COMMENT: Agreement from the Chamber that a website is necessary for the Alpine X project.



- COMMENT: A message was sent to Supervisor Storck's Office for the October 3 Tour de Mt. Vernon event, Chamber would like to participate.
 - Supervisor Storck is holding the 5th Annual Tour de Mt. Vernon bike ride. Begins at the Work House.
 - This will be a rolling ride to maintain COVID protocols
 - Currently over 70 people signed up to ride
 - Two ride options: 20 miles and 40 miles
 - Abdul Shaban is coordinating the ride and will reach out to the Chamber to collaborate on Chamber volunteering.
- QUESTION: I realize that the October 6 information is brand new, but there is a fair amount of community input, with many against the idea of Alpine X. Do you have any idea of how many people will be allowed to attend, or will it be virtual?
 - You can sign up to speak in person, video testimony, or call-in live or video-in live. You can also come in person if you want to (300+ seating in the board room and they are adhering to physical distancing).
 - Scott Sizer is managing the project from the County Executive's Office
- QUESTION: The Executive Board made a recommendation that we look at the DMV as a site location for voting because it's very equidistant to everybody in the South County Federation boundary.
 - Christine sent the recommendation over to the Office of Elections. Have not yet heard back, but will forward response once received.
- COMMENT: Please consider transportation for those who typically vote at the library to the new elementary school location. Perhaps a School Board decision.
- QUESTION: The Suffragist Memorial in construction at Occoquan Regional Park – is there a completion date?
 - Unfortunately, no. They were expecting funding from the State and County, but due to COVID, they will not be receiving those funds.
 - That has impacted what they can construct and timing.



- QUESTION: The October 6 meeting for Alpine X is separate from any action they would have to make in order to change any zoning designation for the space for Alpine X.
 - It is not a zoning action in any way, shape or form.
- **School Board Chair – Karen Corbett – Sanders**
 - Board Meeting today
 - Focused today on equity and access to opportunities for our students
 - Update on return to school
 - Technology glitch on Friday where students may have experienced troubles for about an hour, but otherwise the first week of school was relatively seamless
 - On any given day, about 62,000 separate virtual classrooms being conducted
 - Mostly positive feedback. Area of biggest concern is with the youngest learners
 - Superintendent has committed to bringing back cohorts once the metrics are fully established
 - First Cohort will be resume for preschool autism and preschool class-based students, as well as students with interrupted education and students pursuing adult high school and ‘behind the wheel.’
 - Second Cohort will bring back special ed students and newcomer students to the U.S., as well as Pre-K and Kindergarten
 - Third Cohort will expand to first and second grade students
 - Funding Support Needed
 - Budget challenges due to reduction in average daily membership, but costs have increased due to virtual environment
 - Sales Tax calculation resulted in a \$93M shortfall for schools across the Commonwealth - \$20M in Fairfax County, holding harmless will help
 - Ransomware Attack



- Occurred on system last week and working closely with the FBI to resolve those issues
 - BoS has appropriated \$19.8M today from their Cares Act Funding to support our schools
 - Continue to experience a need in our community for families facing food and security plights
 - Feeding 29,000 students every day (breakfast & lunch)
- **Springfield District School Board – Laura Jane Cohen**
 - Continue to get feedback from families in the County – by and large the experience has been positive for the return to school
 - Continuing to try to find alternative opportunities of engagement – special education students, preschoolers with autism, younger learners, etc.
 - English language learners have also struggled with getting services
 - Free and Reduced students still face challenges with connectivity issues due to insecure housing
 - Since March, the County has served over 3 million meals
 - Bus Drivers have been kept busy, despite media coverage
 - Delivering grab-and-go meals to bus stops
 - Pursuing on-the-road hours for CDL license in advance of expiration
 - New driver training without students in the buses
 - Transporting students for county provided childcare
 - Food and nutrition service workers and bus drivers have been repurposed to keep them on staff
 - Clinic Aides, Nurses and support staff have also been creatively repurposed for contract tracing
- **COMMENT:** Anything that can be done to smooth out technology glitches would be helpful (Blackboard was out longer than an hour for most with some additional glitches experienced today and the GSuite also temporarily went down requiring Chrome browser refreshes)
 - There is a recognized difference with a platform going down, Verizon connection going down, and then in-home connections. In a perfect world if we could control the internet, we would feel more secure.



- Continuing to make sure that our platforms are functioning, so in complete agreement that IT and connectivity is of the utmost important
- Technology Help Line is accessible for students and parents/guardians who need assistance with technology. Approximately 2,500 calls per day prior to the start of school
- **Fairfax County Park Authority – Linwood Gorham**
 - Renewed interest in community gardens and garden plots in the South County area
 - Wes Speer has volunteered to tee that up and the Park Authority will be fully engaged. Any interested participants should contact Wes Speer directly.
 - Upcoming Bond Update will include:
 - Funding for trails county-wide, including connection between Laurel Hill and the VRE
 - Second sheet of ice for the Ice Rink
 - Replacement playground at Woodley Hills & Pohick Estates
 - Resurface and repairs for parking lots at George Washington Rec Center
 - Replacement of irrigation system at Laurel Hill
 - QUESTION: What is the irrigation system for Laurel Hill?
 - Pertains to the golf course. The Park Authority universally uses “Laurel Hill” to refer to the golf course
 - QUESTION: Update on the Central Green Park?
 - No update currently, but will follow-up
- **COVID Update – Fairfax County Staff [Health Department]**
 - Chris Revere, Deputy Director for Innovation and Planning
 - Sharon Art, Director from COVID-19 response
 - **This update will be postponed due to trouble accessing the meeting. Christine Morin will coordinate.**

IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

- **State Delegate Sickles**
 - Special Session is currently being held online



- COVID has caused an almost \$3B shortfall on what we planned to spend on March 12, when we voted on the budget
 - Happened to be the first day the Governor declared a State of Emergency
- Reconvened Session on April 22
 - Froze all new spending
 - Now reconsidering based on new revenue forecast
 - Virginia has done better than most states in this crisis
 - Have not yet spent Cares Act Funding
 - Can only be spent on items that directly came from the COVID crisis
 - Not extraordinarily flexible
 - Need to decide with the Governor how to spend another \$1.3B of federal money between now and December 30, unless Congress passes another bill.
 - Focusing on redirecting what we do have into one-time expenditures
 - Providing broadband deployment where it's not available to students who are 100% virtual learning
 - Supporting maintenance of broadband in school systems that cannot afford it
 - Housing and eviction work. \$50M provided for evictions - restructuring program to ensure its available if needed.
 - Taking a new revenue estimate in November or early December
 - Budget will be front and center in January/February 2021 session
 - Criminal Justice Reform Bills – at least 6 House Bills are in the one Omnibus Bill. Will work out details and fund approved portions of the Bill.
- Registrars in the County got information on September 4 regarding the drop-box locations for voting
 - Drop boxes are required at satellite voting locations (14 in Fairfax)



- Department of Elections has uploaded on website lots of information on how to vote this year
 - Absentee ballots must now be postmarked by election day and arrives to the Registrar by noon the following Friday
 - This will be a record year – 790,000 Virginia citizens have requested an absentee ballot, more individuals than the total voting population in previous years
- **State Senator Barker**
 - Special Session started August 18 and will likely run through early October
 - Making progress on the budget, police reform, criminal justice reform, and COVID-19 related bills
 - Budget
 - Virginia is in better shape than anyone could have guessed, despite significant reductions in revenue incurred in April, May and June
 - By July, we made up the revenue reductions
 - For the first two months of this fiscal year, we are running well ahead than what has been projected - \$350M more revenue than projections
 - Unemployment rate last year between 2-3%, this year 8%
 - Estimate 7-7.5% for state unemployment rate in the month of August
 - Good cooperation between state and federal bodies relating to the budget
 - Will be able to restore funds that were frozen in April – surplus of \$500M was developed by the end of June 2020, so there are resources that can restore without dipping into reserve funds
 - Pushing on developmental disability reform
 - Pushing significantly increasing mental health funding
 - Passed new benefit for the Medicaid program in March to provide dental coverage to adults



- Pushing to help ensure K-12 education funding is operating as budgeted, as well as higher education funding
- **State Delegate Kathy Tran**
 - Budget Requests
 - Restore \$250,000 for the Suffragist Memorial
 - Funding for additional staff Mason Neck State Park
 - Assisting families who have disabilities
 - With the pandemic, hospitals and other medical facilities have tightened up their visitation policies and have not allowed any visitors. For some individuals with disabilities, its been difficult if they are not in a position to make medical decisions themselves
 - Policy request for the budget for those individuals to bring in a supportive person to assist them
 - Funding for overtime for people who are home health aides
 - In-home care providers – exempt them from cumbersome verification of service currently required
 - When voting, there is an important ballot item around redistricting – will establish a constitutional amendment to address redistricting
 - House colleagues for the Southern Fairfax County Region (Delegate Sickles, Delegate Krizak, and Delegate Watts) are having a town hall on September 23 at 6 pm.
 - <https://bit.ly/va2020teletownhall>
 - COMMENT: There have been DMV issues due to being overloaded, and Kathy Tran’s office was called in to assist. Within the same day, the issue was resolved due to Tran’s assistance. A big thank you to her and her staff.
 - QUESTION: Heard the required vehicle safety inspection fee is going away. Is that correct?
 - No, it was proposed, but it was not enacted. It remains as-is.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

• Transportation, Peter Weyland/Dale Rumberger, Co-Chairs

- Waiting for more details on the budget
- Northern VA Transportation Association held their meeting last week
 - Still doing well in diesel fuel tax – one primary funding tool
 - First primary funding goal is WMATA
- Long Bridge
 - Back on the front burner and pressing ahead with the environmental study
 - Will allow freight and passenger trains to navigate over the Potomac
- Looking for ways to link VRE and Marc Trains
- Laurel Crest Drive – Safety Issue raised by Spring Hill Community Association
 - Missing signage and desire to install guide rail
 - VDOT has never accepted responsibility for that portion of the roadway
 - Currently, Fairfax County’s School District is responsible for that transition and VDOT acceptance, creating a stalemate
 - Request for Christine Morin to contact FCDOT so that this issue can be resolved
- VRE Lorton Station
 - Second Platform study is funded
 - 10 years out (2030)
- Alpine X
 - Impact of traffic will be monitored and will updated SCF as more details become available
- Commercial trucks parking in residential neighborhoods
 - Delegate Tran provided information to concerned neighbors
- FFX County Connector is running full-force again



- **Public Safety, Jonathan Kiell, Chair**
 - Fairfax Alerts
 - Sign up for emergency notifications
 - You can pick what you want to be notified about, and when you want to be notified
 - Link available as attachment
 - Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Guide (CERG)
 - Published last year, link available as attachment
 - How to prepare for, respond to, and survive during a number of different types of emergencies
 - Entirely online
 - Office of Emergency Management
 - Offers briefings for groups, arrangements can be made to do a virtual meeting
 - Link available as attachment
 - South County Police Station and Animal Shelter
 - Will be breaking ground prior to the end of the year
 - Lorton Community Center and Garden
 - Plan is to open a portion of the park prior to the end of the year
 - National Night Out
 - Tuesday, October 6

- **Land Use, Nick Firth, Chair**
 - Resolution – Southrun Road/Silverbrook Road Residential New Townhome Development (Christopher Companies)
 - Supported by Newington Commons HOA (adjacent neighbor)
 - Point of Order: Newington Forest HOA in the last “Whereas” needs to be Newington Commons HOA
 - Motion to support by Cathy Bonnefil
 - Second by Larry Clark
 - Motion to Vote: Unanimous Approval with no abstentions or opposition



- **South Lorton Valley – Old Capital One Branch Bank**
 - Expect proposal for a restaurant with a drive thru
- **Lorton Valley/Lorton Rd. – Potential New Development**
 - Application coming down the line, more details to come
- **Panera Bread Proposal**
 - No movement

- **Education, Seeking Chair**
 - No Update

- **Parks, Howard Bishop, Chair**
 - No Update

- **Environmental, Wes Speer**
 - CECAP
 - Survey included in minutes, looking for public input on carbon capping process and what citizens would support

- **Education, Seeking Chair**
 - No Update

V. OLD BUSINESS

- **Fairfax Peak/Alpine X**
 - The South County Federation has not yet taken a position on the proposal
 - Encourage all to tune in to the October 6 meeting at 3:30 pm where the most current information will be presented
- **Laurel Hill Parking Situation**
 - Delegate Tran provided State Laws that govern the issue, but also provided details on how County could override given the situation/uniqueness
 - President Rumberger will pursue County response and present update at the next meeting

VI. NEW BUSINESS



- **Fairfax County Dog Park Survey**
 - President Rumberger will check with Linwood Gorham on when a report showing survey responses will be released to the public

ENDING COMMENTS

General Comments:

- October meeting will include update on COVID, Central Green and Alpine X. Will also know finality of the budget.

Dale Rumberger adjourned the meeting at 8:53 pm.

NEXT MEETING: October 13, 2020 to be held virtually through Zoom Meetings

FUTURE MEETING DATES in 2020:

- October 13 and November 10
- December 8 at the Workhouse Arts Center

Recorded by Angelina Fuller