

Minutes of the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission

March 19, 2019

7:30 PM
Government Center, Conference 8
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Chairman Fee, presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Belkowitz, Callender, Fee,
Gulakowski, Hargraves, Hine, Kirk, Lynch,
Kratovil, Roark, Rosier

Absent:

Commissioners: Javed, Omeish

Staff:

Michael S. Liberman, Director
Cable and Consumer Services
Rebecca L. Makely, Director
Consumer Services Division
Susan C. Jones, Branch Chief
Consumer Affairs

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by Chairman Fee.

Minutes

The minutes for the February 19, 2019 meeting were approved without objection.

Report of the Chairman

Chairman Fee took a tour of Fairfax Cable Access Corporation facility with Chuck Peña and met the Board of Directors. He mentioned their capability of allowing absent members to remotely participate in the meeting.

Chairman Fee informed the Commission that Dave Reidenbach, retired Branch Chief for Regulation and Licensing Branch passed away in February.

Report of the Director

Director Liberman stated at the March 5, 2019, Board of Supervisors meeting, the FY 2020 Effective Tax Rate was discussed and would be advertised at the current rate.

Director Liberman spoke about the Strategic Plan survey, the identification of eight to 10 priority areas, and the next steps in the planning process.

Commissioner Gulakowski updated the Commission on the Strategic Planning BAC Focus Group he attended on March 7, 2019. The topic issues of concern were quality schools, solving transportation problems, and affordable housing and taxes.

Commission Matters

Commissioner Belkowitz had no matter to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Callender saw on Twitter a taxicab company advertising their services that he did not recognize the name. He will provide the information to Director Rebecca Makely.

Commissioner Callender mentioned the upcoming Scam Jam event on Saturday, April 27, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center.

Commissioner Hine had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Lynch had no matters to bring the Commission.

Commissioner Kratovil mentioned attending the Identity Theft presentation during National Consumer Protection Week. He stated Consumer Specialist Vee Johnson did an outstanding job with the presentation and the materials provided to participants.

Commissioner Hargraves mentioned a purchase of USB memory card which had less space than advertised. He will follow up with the manufacturer.

Commissioner Kirk had no matters to bring to the Commission.

Commissioner Gulakowski shared with the Commissioner a spam/scam email he received.

Commissioner Rosier stated Fairfax County regulates taxicabs and how important it is to have wheelchair accessibility. Commissioner Rosier provided an update on the Verizon pole relocation on her property. Commissioner Rosier also inquired about a utility's obligation to remove cut down trees.

Old Business

There was no old business before the Commission.

New Business

- 1. Home Repairs.** Melissa Smarr, Branch Chief and Code Specialist III, Land Development Services and Jillian West, Engineer Tech III, Land Development Services spoke about the upcoming Scam Jam event and the special guest speakers, Silver Shield Taskforce, permit requirements and applications, homeowner responsibilities, building codes, and Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulations.

A discussion ensued on permit requirements and cost, licensed contractors, HOA compliance, and providing information to consumers.

- 2. Remote Participation.**

Commissioner Hargraves inquired about remote participation that was discussed at the February CPC meeting. Director Makely briefly spoke about VFOIA, the CPC bylaws, and the County's discussion to update the template for all Boards, Authorities, and Commissions.

3. Taxicab Update.

Director Liberman stated the 2019 Taxicab Demand Analysis and Biennial Determination will be discussed with the Commission to include the impact of Uber and Lyft.

Commissioner Gulakowski made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Callender seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.