

Minutes of the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission

February 21, 2023

7:30 PM
Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035
Vice Chairperson Gulakowski, presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Belkowitz, Gulakowski,
Freedenthal, Hargraves, Kirk, Kharat, Kratovil,
Roark, Rosier, Springer, Svab

Absent:

Commissioner: O'Savio

Staff:

Rebecca L. Makely, Director
Cable and Consumer Services
Susan C. Jones, Consumer Specialist III
Consumer Affairs Branch

Guest Speakers:

Allison Homer, Planner IV
Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination
Maya Dhavale, Senior Community Specialist
Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Vice Chairperson Gulakowski.

Minutes

Commissioner Springer made the motion to accept the minutes. Commissioner Freedenthal seconded the motion. The minutes for the January 17, 2023, meetings were approved unanimously, 9-0-0.

Report of the Chairperson

Vice Chairperson Gulakowski recognized former Chairperson Fee's dedication and service to the Consumer Protection Commission and Trespass Towing Advisory Board.

Vice Chairperson Gulakowski attended a second virtual meeting of the Howard County Consumer Affairs Advisory Board.

Vice Chairperson Gulakowski requested Commissioners respond to staff emails on attendance so a quorum can be determined.

Report of the Director

Director Makely stated the County Executive presented the [FY 2024 Advertised Budget](#) today. The BOS will host budget town meetings throughout the County. Budget hearings will be held in April along with a joint meeting with Fairfax County Public School Board. The budget will be approved May 9, 2023.

Director Makely provided the Commission with a copy and overview of the Virginia General Assembly 2023 Legislative Session bills that were reviewed by Department of Cable and Consumer Services.

Commissioner Matters

Commissioner Rosier had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Svab had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Springer had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Kratovil inquired about Chapter 28.1. Director Makely indicated an upcoming meeting with Tom Arnold, Deputy County Executive for Safety and Security to discuss the proposed amendments made by the CPC.

Commissioner Kirk noted his thanks and appreciation for former Chairperson Fee's service.

Commissioner Belkowitz had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Freedenthal mentioned he was part of the Senior Medicare Patrol and would like to present to the CPC information on Medicare at a future meeting. He also mentioned the pending opening of the new Fairfax County Animal Shelter and the upcoming new Franconia Governmental Center Groundbreaking.

Commissioner Kharat had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Roark had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

1. Resilient Fairfax and CECAP Presentation. Allison Homer and Maya Dhavale provided a presentation on the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) in Fairfax County. They spoke about the development of the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC), functions of OEEC, interagency coordination, energy use and efficiency tracking, community programs and innovation, future climate plans, weather vs. climate, emissions reduction, CECAP current status, buildings and energy efficiency, energy supply, climate projections, vulnerabilities, strategy pillars, and implementation roadmaps.

A discussion ensued on the building code, power outages, utility lines, and solar panels.

2. Elections of Officers. Nominating Committee, Vice Chairperson Gulakowski provided the Slate of Candidates: Chairperson - Jason Kratovil
Vice Chairperson - Denis Gulakowski
Secretary - Jacqueline Rosier

Commissioner Hargraves made the motion to accept the report of the Nominating Committee. Commissioner Freedenthal seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

3. 2023 Items of Interest. Topics mentioned: Medicare Fraud by Commissioner Freedenthal, FCPD Community/traffic patrol (Blake Lane) by Commissioner Springer, TNC/Taxicab industry update by Commissioner Belkowitz, and Electrification/EV charging by Commissioner Hargraves.

4. CPC Meeting Time. Commissioner Svab requested a discussion to change the CPC meeting time from 7:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Hargraves made the motion to consider meeting at 5:00 p.m. Commissioner Belkowitz seconded the motion. A discussion ensued on commissioner and public availability. The motion failed, 0-11-0.

Commissioner Kirk made the motion to adjourn without objection. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM.