

Minutes of the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission

November 17, 2020

7:30 PM
Zoom Video Meeting
Chairman Fee presiding

Attendance:

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

Absent:

Commissioners: Hine, Javed, Kirk

Staff:

Michael S. Liberman, Director
Cable and Consumer Services
(Office Suite 433)
Rebecca L. Makely, Director
Consumer Services Division
(Conference Room 11)
Susan C. Jones, Branch Chief
Consumer Affairs Branch
(Springfield)

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

Quorum, Location, and Audibility of Members' Voices

Chairman Fee conducted a Roll Call to verify that a quorum of members were participating; and that each member's voice was clear, audible, and at appropriate volume for all of the other members; and the location from which member was participating. The roll call was as follows:

Chairman Fee, Fairfax Station
Commissioner Belkowitz, City of Fairfax
Commissioner Callender, Great Falls
Commissioner Gulakowski, Burke
Commissioner Hargraves, Lee District
Commissioner Kratovil, Mount Vernon
Commissioner Lynch, Oak Hill
Commissioner Roark, Lorton
Commissioner Rosier, Great Falls

Chairman Fee passed the virtual gavel to Vice Chairman Gulakowski. A motion was made by Chairman Fee that each member's voice was adequately heard by each member of the Consumer Protection Commission (Commission.) This motion was seconded by Commissioner Callender. This motion passed unanimously.

Need for an Electronic Meeting

A motion was made by Chairman Fee that the State of Emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic made it unsafe for the Commission to physically assemble and unsafe for the public to physically attend any such meeting, and that as such, FOIA's usual procedures, which require the physical assembly of the Commission and the physical presence of the public, could not be implemented safely or practically. Chairman Fee further moved that the Commission conduct the meeting electronically through a dedicated audio-conferencing line, and that the public access the meeting by calling 1-888-270-9936 and entering access code 584548. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kratovil. The motion passed unanimously.

Need to Dispense with FOIA's Usual Procedures to Assure Continuity in Government/Continue Operations

A motion was made by Chairman Fee that all of the matters addressed on the agenda addressed the Emergency itself, were necessary for continuity in Fairfax County government, and/or were statutorily required or necessary to continue operations and the discharge of the Commission's lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Hargraves. The motion was passed unanimously.

Minutes

A motion was made by Chairman Fee and seconded by Commissioner Gulakowski to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

Report of the Chairman

The Chairman had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Report of the Director

Director Liberman stated based on the Governor's orders, in-person gatherings are limited to 25 individuals, and that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting tonight was being held electronically.

Commission Matters

Commissioner Belkowitz had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Callender had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Gulakowski thanked staff for the picture in the Annual Report.

Commissioner Hargraves stated he was spoofed on his PayPal account in attempt to get his personal information.

Commissioner Kratovil had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Lynch had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Roark had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Rosier had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Chairman Fee mentioned the \$1.00 fee charged by the trash company and will consider reporting it to the Federal Trade Commission.

Old Business

There was no old business before the Commission.

New Business

1. Consumer Protection Commission FY 2020 Annual Report. Michael S. Liberman, Director, Department of Cable and Consumer Services, presented the FY 2020 Annual Report to be distributed to the BOS.

A discussion ensued on some changes to the verbiage in the report.

Commissioner Gulakowski made the motion to adopt the proposed FY 2020 Annual Report to be distributed to the BOS. Commissioner Callender seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Consumer Protection Commission Bylaws Draft Update. Rebecca L. Makely, Director, Consumer Services Division provided an overview of the draft template CPC Bylaws.

A discussion ensued on the election of officer's provision. Staff will review concerns by the CPC with John W. Burton, Assistant County Attorney.

Commissioner Gulakowski made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hargraves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.