

Minutes of the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission

March 15, 2011

7:30PM Conference 4/5
Government Center
12000 Government Center Pkwy.
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Chairman Fee, presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Bahhur, Bounacos, Boyd, Fee,
Hargraves, Kirk, Rosier, Stamp

Absent:

Commissioners: Belkowitz, Hine, Nguyen, Roark

Staff:

Michael S. Liberman, Director
Cable and Consumer Services
Heidi Baggett, Administrative Assistant
Consumer Affairs

The meeting was called to order at 7:35PM by Chairman Fee.

Minutes

The minutes of the February 15, 2011, meeting were approved.

Report of the Chairman

Chairman Fee noted the flags in front of the Government Center were at half-mast for Frank Buckles, age 111, last surviving veteran of World War I.

Chairman Fee reported the resignation of Commissioner Mrowka effective immediately due to family obligations.

Chairman Fee mentioned the passing of Dan Bannister from pancreatic cancer. Mr. Bannister was CEO of DynCorp. He will be remembered for his strong community involvement.

The Chairman updated commissioners on the Towing Bill.

Report of the Director

Director Liberman spoke to the County Attorney regarding whether the CPC could invite the cable operators as guest speakers when one cable company is in the renewal period review with the county. He received confirmation and the cable operators will be scheduled at a future meeting.

Director Liberman will have information regarding commissioner conferencing calling into CPC meetings.

Director Liberman told commissioners the first subcommittee meeting with budget comments was held today with the School Board in attendance. Public hearings will be held March 29-31, 2011. On April 26, 2011, the Board of Supervisors will formally adopt the budget.

Commission Matters

Commissioner Rosier questioned when a tenant fails to pay their utility bill, why the landlord is responsible for the payment when the account is in the tenant's name. This situation is only with Dominion Virginia Power.

Commissioner Bahhur had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Hargraves spoke about a crack in his home's foundation. He has a home warranty, but his claim was denied. The company stated the crack was not structural. He has water coming in to his basement from the crack. He will dispute the denial of coverage.

Commissioner Kirk had no matters to bring before the commission.

Chairman Fee was recently in Los Angeles visiting family and while there noticed his family received information from LifeLine in Spanish. He was surprised that the information was not in English and Spanish.

Commissioner Boyd had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Stamp had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Bounacos had no matters to bring before the commission.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Jeff Blackford, Director, Office of Code Compliance, and Susan Epstein, Division 3 Supervisor, presented an overview of the Department of Code Compliance. The presentation discussed mission initiatives, maintaining code compliance, explaining the need for code compliance, overview on types of enforcement, hoarding, building codes, the future within the Department of Code Compliance, and how to file a complaint.

Commissioners were told National Consumer Protection Week was a success with good attendance in the seminars and the Consumer Affairs information booth located at the Government Center. In addition, the Consumer Affairs Branch launched a new Consumer Education Web page.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55PM.