



A LOOK BACK: 1938-2008

70TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE
Fairfax County Planning Commission

**2008 FAIRFAX COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION**

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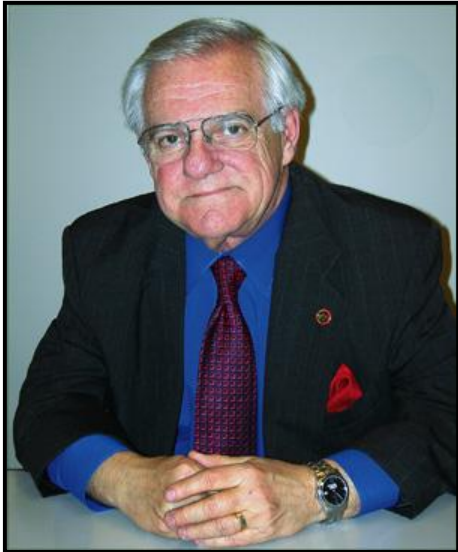


2008 PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF

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Sara Robin Hardy, Assistant Director
Christopher B. Remer, Chief, Administrative/Notification Branch
Linda B. Rodeffer, Clerk to the Commission

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Remembrances from Chairman Pete Murphy



*Photo by Brian Trompeter, with Sun
Gazette*

Peter F. Murphy, Jr., Springfield District member, has served on the Planning Commission since 1983. He has been the longest-serving Chairman in the history of the Commission at 19 consecutive years. In this special anniversary issue, Murphy offers his reflections on his service:

As we celebrate and commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Fairfax County Planning Commission – founded on July 6, 1938 -- and its dedicated service to the citizens of Fairfax County, we also recognize and honor our Planning Commissioners – of yesterday and today -- who have given unstintingly of their time and talents to make our county a better place to live, work, worship, recreate, educate our children and retire.

During the past seven decades, 121 county citizens – including those on the current commission – have served as Planning Commissioners, overseeing the land-use process and ensuring that our citizens enjoy a safe and secure quality of life as our county evolved from an agricultural crossroads – focusing on milk and poultry products – to a dynamic suburban/urban 395-square mile jurisdiction with an all-important goal of preserving and enhancing our environment.

Since its first meeting on July 18, 1938, in the Old Court House in Fairfax City with its five charter members, to the Board Room in the Massey Building, to the Board Auditorium in the new Government Center, Planning Commissioners have convened thousands of public hearings and countless citizen, committee and task force meetings.

And, from that first meeting to the last convened, each commissioner has had the undaunting task of finding a balance between the rights of the landowner and the desires of the citizens.

As Fairfax County grew – due primarily to its proximity to Washington, D.C. – we began to transform from a dependent bedroom community for the nation’s capital to a thriving, independent, diversified jurisdiction with a strong and vibrant residential and business-oriented base.

The Planning Commission, as the custodian of the Comprehensive Plan – the county’s primary land-use guide for development and growth -- has been and continues to be in the forefront developing policies and plans to logically and realistically address the growth issues and the infrastructure needed to keep pace with the county’s increasing population and changing demographics.

Planning commissioners, with professional guidance from the dedicated county staff, – and with maximum citizen participation, input and recommendations -- developed for the approval of the Board of Supervisors, the PLUS (Planned Land Use System) Plan in the early 1970s, Planning Horizons in the early 1990s and frequent, if not yearly, reviews of the Comprehensive Plan to the present day.

This timely and relevant process ensures the Comprehensive Plan – the “Citizens Plan” – addresses, in a significant and meaningful way, the applicability of its guidance to the overall quality-of-life goals that afford our citizens a true “sense of community.”

Remembrances from Chairman Pete Murphy

Even today, as Planning Commissioners prepare for the Area Plan Review process for North County, a special citizen task force – the Fort Belvoir Base Realignment and Closure APR Task Force -- from the Lee, Mount Vernon and Springfield Districts and at-large members -- is examining land-use nominations in specific areas around the Army post that will experience a very significant increase in military, civilian and contractor personnel by 2011 due to the BRAC legislation.

It is a team effort.

Since its founding, the Planning Commission owes a debt of gratitude to the members of the Fairfax County staff for their expertise, counsel and tenacity as we commissioners determine our courses of action in land-use and related matters.

We also thank the Board of Supervisors and the County Executive, his deputies and staff, and our Board of Supervisors' staffs for their support.

The Planning Commission also appreciates Channel 16, our superb TV crew, with us at each public hearing from before the gavel goes down to well after we adjourn – and to all those who produce, direct, film and edit the Planning Commission Roundtable.

The past and present Planning Commission staff cannot receive enough praise for all they have done and do today for the commission, the various Fairfax County staffs, the Board of Supervisors and, most importantly, the citizens of our county.

We could not do it without you.

Thank you: Barbara Lippa, executive director; Robin Hardy, assistant director; Christopher Remer, chief, Administrative/Notification Branch; Linda Rodeffer, clerk to the commission; Kara DeArrastia, deputy clerk to the commission; Jeanette Phillips, associate clerk to the commission; Toni Denson, planning technician; and Norma Duncan, associate clerk and receptionist.

It has been an honor for me to serve on the Planning Commission for 26 eventful and challenging years, and to have the distinct privilege of chairing a magnificent group of truly dedicated men and women public servants for 19 years.

We may not always agree, but we are united in our goal of making, to the best of our ability, sound, realistic and well-thought out land-use recommendations and decisions.

Personally, none of this could be possible for me without the love, understanding and patience of my wife, Charlene, and our daughter, Cherilyn.

Thank you for all your support.

Happy 70th to all – and many, many more.

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INTRODUCTION

The Planning Commission appreciates all who have taken the time to join us as we mark the 70th Anniversary celebration of the creation of this body. To help commemorate this special event, this booklet has been updated from one prepared for the Commission's 50th Anniversary and highlights events that have occurred in both the Commission's and the County's history since 1938.

The booklet does not claim to be all-inclusive; in fact, we offer apologies in advance for anything that may have been omitted or incorrect due to the scarcity of information available.

The Planning Commission and its staff hope you enjoy the nostalgic look at the Commission's history over the past 70 years starting with a brief comparison of facts.

	THEN	NOW
Land area	416 square miles ¹	395 square miles
County population	40,929 (1940)	1,041,507 (2007)
Percent urban ²	6% (1940)	98.6 % (2000)
Dwelling units	9,602 (1940)	391,138 (2007)
Number of farms	1,724 (1940)	151 (2002)
Farm acreage ³	123,909 acres (1940)	9,946 acres (2002)
Retail establishments	297 (in 1940)	2,941 (2005)
Number of public schools	26 (1938)	197 (2008)
Number of students	5,865 (1938)	164,843 (2008)
Number of public libraries	0 (1938) ⁴	23 (2008)
Planning Commission Members	5 (1938)	12 (2008)
Number of PC meetings	32 (1942) ⁵	88 (50 regular & 33 committee in 2007)

¹ The City of Fairfax and the City of Falls Church were not incorporated until 1961 and 1948, respectively, and therefore were included in the Fairfax County land area in 1938. This figure from the 1940 Census also includes land that was later subject to minor boundary adjustments with other neighboring jurisdictions.

² Based on the U.S. Census Bureau definition of "urban" population density

³ Based on the U.S. Department of Agriculture Census definition of "farm"

⁴ The Fairfax County Public Library System was established in 1939

⁵ 1942 is the first full year of available Planning Commission meeting minutes

Sources:

2002 Fairfax County Economic Census
 Fairfax County Public Library, Administrative Services
 Department of Planning & Zoning, Planning Division
 U.S. Census Bureau (2000 Census, 2005 County Business Patterns)

Fairfax County Dept. of Systems Management for Human Services
 Fairfax County Public School System, Facilities Planning Division
 University of Virginia Historical Census Library (1940 Census)
 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Services

Section I: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

CREATION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday, July 6, 1938 marked the creation of the Fairfax County Planning Commission. On that day, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 427, Acts of Assembly of Virginia, 1936, the Board of Supervisors appointed the following five citizens to staggered initial terms to oversee future development in the County: James Baldwin of Vienna for one year; Malcolm Matheson of Wellington, two years; E.R. White of Springfield for three years; Elizabeth Chicot of Fairfax, four years; and, Edward W. Talbott of Merrifield for five years.

Fairfax County was one of the first governing bodies in Virginia to appoint a planning commission to oversee land use. State law did not require all Virginia counties to establish planning commissions until 1976; certainly Fairfax's actions almost forty years earlier set an example for the State.

THE EARLY YEARS

The Planning Commission established in 1938 was much different from its counterpart today. Supervisory districts were not all represented as today; rather, it was not even considered a crucial factor since the six Board of Supervisors members represented geographic areas. Instead consideration was given to representation of other interests, such as major types of land uses, e.g. farm uses, commercial/industrial uses. The Commission's mission was to promote the orderly development of land uses in the County as it remains today.

The Planning Commission held its initial meeting on Monday, July 18, 1938, electing E.R.White as its first Chairman. The Chamber of Commerce offered its assistance to the Commission toward its preliminary work plan (drafting a County Zoning Ordinance), and made suggestions to initiate an efficient and simple work program.

This first Commission certainly operated on a "shoe-string budget". Neither planning nor administrative staff were allocated for Commission use by the Governing Body, nor were any funds authorized for expenses. In light of this situation, the Chamber of Commerce graciously donated \$50.00 toward expenses so the Commission could function as anticipated. The Chamber also lent its secretary, Mrs. Florence Jodzies, to serve as Commission secretary for this early period. Eight months after its creation, on March 15, 1939, the Board of Supervisors authorized the first County funds for Commission operations: \$500.00 for stationery, printed forms and other office supplies. In addition, an anonymous donor gave an additional \$500.00 to the Commission to supplement its operations at that time.

The first Commission office space and staff were approved by the Board of Supervisors in 1941. At that time, an office in the attic of the County Office was made available for Commission use, along with two staff members, a planning technician and a part-time stenographer. That stenographer was shared with the Board of Zoning Appeals. Operating funds were appropriated for a 20 x 20 room, drafting table, oil stove, and two electric fans at an estimated cost of \$175.00. The office space came with heat, lights, and water, but no janitorial services.

As previously noted, the primary function of the first Commission was the development of a County Zoning Ordinance. By August 1939, the Commission had submitted a proposed Zoning Ordinance and large map to be used in connection with the submission. Subsequent to appropriate public hearings, the Board of Supervisors adopted that first County Zoning Ordinance in 1941.)

INITIAL POLICIES

After completing its initial Zoning Ordinance assignment, the Commission began to spend time reviewing land use matters in the County and making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. In 1943, following a discussion between the Chairman of the Planning Commission and the Governing Body on the functions of the Commission, it was recommended that both bodies initiate a schedule to hold joint meetings at least every three months to address mutual issues.

Operations of the Planning Commission were much different than today. Some early policies that could not be utilized today include:

- All meetings of the Commission were closed sessions;
- Interested citizens or groups were invited to attend the Commission meetings by appointment only;
- Records of individual votes of members were not kept; instead, all actions were considered "Commission of the Whole";
- Minutes of the Commission meetings were made available to the public at the earliest convenience of the Planning Engineer.

As citizen involvement in the planning process began to influence policies in the early fifties, meetings were open much more frequently. Of course, sheer numbers began to prevent limiting citizen involvement to invitations only; staff was not available to issue invitations on a case-by-case basis. Once Fairfax County began to move into a more suburban setting, interest in the planning process, albeit a struggle of competing interests, established a new forum for action at the Commission level. Policies and operating procedures had to become more open.

POST WORLD WAR II

Prior to World War II, agricultural interests had dominated the economy of Fairfax County. In 1935, it was reported that dairy and poultry farming produced gross profits of over one million dollars for farmers in the County.

However, with the advent of World War II, local interests were put aside for a united front on the "war effort". After the war ended in 1945, the local push was begun for residential development as the Washington area started growing tremendously in size. By 1945, the population had doubled over the previous four years, and County land was increasingly being appraised not on farm value, but rather on residential value. Just as the Nation's Capital expanded in size, so too did Fairfax County. It increasingly became a place to live that was close to Washington, D.C., and had plenty of undeveloped space at reasonable prices - in other words, "a bedroom suburb". This population increase set the stage for increasing competition between the needs of the newcomers and those of existing farming interests. Countywide organizations were put together during the late forties/early fifties to promote various interests in the area, and make their desires known to local politicians. The League of Women Voters, the Federation of Citizen Associations, the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association, and the Parent-Teacher Association were among those groups established during that time period. Each became a leader in their respective fields of interest, and remains so today.

Local government, through its rural-dominated Board of Supervisors, expressed concern over the rapid expansion taking place within its bounds. To address the effects of the suburban construction boom after World War II, the County Board responded by enacting its first Subdivision Ordinance to respond to the increasing pressure for low-density, single-family development. The Board and Planning Commission became the focal point for many of the competing-interest battles, particularly through the land-use process, and increasingly those battles were fought over public facilities. Particular emphasis was placed on sewer

acquisition, since without it land would remain largely undeveloped, or sparsely developed. Thus, the battle lines were set between those competing groups. The County government was also reorganized at this time to address the changing needs of a swiftly-growing area. In 1951, Carlton Massey was appointed by the Board of Supervisors as its first County Executive.

Zoning issues dominated local politics during the '50's. Newcomers to the County needed residential and commercial facilities. As land developers attempted to accommodate those needs, long-time residents were seeking to insure that whatever growth took place would occur in locations where public facilities could most easily and economically be provided. The Planning Commission became the main battleground for these competing interests.

In 1951, in an attempt to address land use issues, the Board of Supervisors called for the development of a Master Plan for the County. In response to that call, the Planning Commission employed a Master Plan staff under the direction of F. Dodd McHugh, a consultant from New York City. This staff was directed to draft a six-part plan within two years to address the following: (1) sewers, (2) residential densities, (3) highways, (4) commercial areas, (5) public facilities, and (6) industrial areas.

In 1954, the draft plan was completed. However, the plans were considered too controversial at that time, and were not accepted by the Planning Commission or the Board of Supervisors. The Commission directed the five-member planning staff to redraft each section of the plan, noting all of the objections that had been raised.

While the plan was being redrafted, the Board of Supervisors appointed a large number of members to the Planning Commission sympathetic to the rural landowners. In the interim, the Commission and the Board approved large numbers of commercial rezonings.

Considered a "watershed in County politics", the 1955 election marked a shift from rural to suburban interests. Zoning cases were reviewed with an eye toward long-term consequences, and its impacts on lifestyles. The newly-elected Board attempted to place the brakes on the increasing urbanization of the County.

The new Board wanted to have the Commission replaced with new members that they appointed. However, since Commission members could not be removed from office, except for "malfeasance", the Board decided to remove the planning staff from the Commission's jurisdiction, and placed it directly under the Board of Supervisors through its County Executive. The Board also declared a six-month moratorium on zoning applications to enable the redesign of the McHugh Plan.

In 1956, the Board adopted the original residential development portion of the McHugh Plan, modified by changing the rural area limitations from five-acre to two-acre lots. This modification became known as the "Freehill Amendment", after the new Chairman of the Board, Joseph Freehill of the Falls Church District. Various other portions of the plan were adopted in stages, and by 1959, a compromise version of the McHugh Plan was intact.

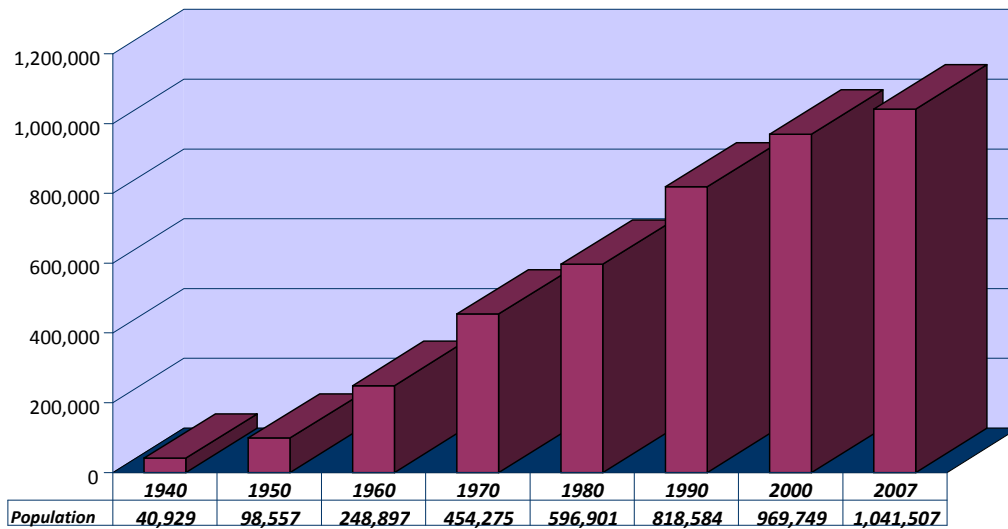
While all of the various portions of the revised plan were in process, a group of property owners, led by G. Wallace Carper, filed suit against the County challenging the Freehill Amendment. The suit continued through the Circuit and State Supreme Courts. On March 16, 1959, the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals ruled against the County. The Court stated that the two-acre zoning had the effect of denying access to housing in the County to all but the most affluent, and therefore was considered "exclusionary zoning".

The Court's action required that the County readopt a zoning map and prepare a new ordinance, which was completed in 1959. The County "up-zoned" the two-acre minimum lot to one-acre classifications, ringing in the next decade of unprecedented construction.

THE ERA OF THE SIXTIES

Throughout the Sixties, Fairfax County continued to add to its population by leaps and bounds. Close to another 200,000 residents had moved to the County by the end of the sixties. As the chart below illustrates, growth in the County has continued its upward spiral since 1950, and while slowing recently, has yet to stop.

Fairfax County Population



Many portions of Fairfax County were "urbanized" during this era. Those areas that were developed within the County went from approximately one-third in 1960 to close to one-half in 1970. Much of the development was concentrated in areas of the County that already had public services, since policies for the development of the western portions of the County had not yet been agreed upon.

As in the previous decade, sewer availability played a major role in location of development. The 1959 Plan had not foreseen the unprecedented growth at its rapid pace, and land prices further escalated in the eastern portion of the County as a result of the limited sewer provisions.

Through small area restudies, County planners tried to address the unrelenting demands for development. They also completed a series of watershed plans which linked drainage and sewer facilities to land use, and various other studies on such subjects as multi-family housing and preservation of open-space. A "Western County Development Policy" was proposed during this decade to attempt to prevent the sprawl development in the eastern portion of the County from happening in the western sections. The proposal set forth "satellite clusters" of development to provide employment and shopping within walking distance, and to reduce primary dependence on the automobile. Around the "clusters" would be low-density conservation zones and open space to limit sprawl.

The Zoning Ordinance was also amended during this decade to allow more flexibility in land-use categories. Such new categories as planned development housing, planned development commercial and

residential planned community were created to address different needs. However, with the exception of Reston, market demands drove the land development, and the County government seemed more than willing to accommodate those demands.

In addition to the approval for the new town of Reston, the Commission and Board approved rezoning of the Annandale Bristow Tract - the largest apartment-zoned acreage in County history (300 acres). Part of the ancient Ravensworth Estate, the plans called for a minimum of 4,250 apartments to be built.

Tysons Corner was another of the major developments approved during this decade. A number of rezoning applications were processed and approved by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors during this decade, and the development industry played a large role in influencing the outcomes. At times, it appeared to some as too much so. Said influences reached their zenith with a much publicized scandal in 1966, where two Board members, as well as other County officials, were indicted for conspiracy to accept bribes in return for favorable actions on land-use decisions.

Although the Planning Commission was not directly involved in this scandal, all aspects of the County land-use process felt its aftermath. The County worked with the State legislature to have legislation passed to have conflict of interest violations made misdemeanors. Citizen discontent over the actions of its local government was also brewing, and boiled over in the early Seventies.

1970s – A TIME FOR CHANGE

Traffic congestion, environmental concerns, and "quality of life" issues dominated the 1971 County elections. "Growth management" became the watchword of the newly-elected Board, who had ousted the majority of the previous Board members. The new Board attempted slowing down growth through restriction of sewer service, which was not always successfully upheld in Court. The Board also declared a zoning moratorium in 1972 to enable the Planning Staff time to replan the County. However, the Circuit Court overturned the County, and declared its moratorium action invalid. Thus, the replanning effort had to be undertaken in addition to the regular rezoning load.

A Five-Year Countywide Development Plan was requested by the Board of Supervisors as a first step in long-range county planning. However, the resulting staff document, released in 1972, noted that the County's fiscal profile would be improved with more, rather than less, growth over the rest of the decade. Although extensive public hearings were held on the document, such conclusions were not acceptable, and the Board abandoned the plan in 1973.

The Board did approve a program to draft the Planned Land Use System (PLUS) in January 1974, and directed an intensive eighteen-month effort to accomplish production of said document. An extensive community involvement effort to obtain input in each of the Area Plans, resulted in draft area plans being presented to the Planning Commission in January 1975.

The Commission reviewed all the plans over a seven-month period, with hearings about three times per week, lasting into the early hours of the morning as a matter of course. At this time, the Commission was not only reviewing these plans, but also the regular land use workload. By July 1975, the Commission had completed its work and forwarded the documents to the Board of Supervisors for approval. With the extensive citizen involvement that had taken place not only prior to the public hearings, but also during the Commission review, the Board had the simple task of basically endorsing the recommended documents, with minor modifications, and in September 1975 the Comprehensive Plan was adopted. After Plan adoption, it became necessary to adopt procedures to amend the Comprehensive Plan. In 1977 and 1978, the Planning

Commission held semi-annual Plan reviews and in 1979, it held the first full year review of the Plan, which allowed any citizen the opportunity to propose a Plan change to any parcel of land within the County. This process has been revised multiple times over the years to obtain citizen input on Plan changes.

1980s - COMMERCIAL GROWTH BOOM

While the federal government was still expanding somewhat during the 1980s, the majority of the County's growth could be directly attributable to private economic interests. The 1980s saw a major push by the County to expand its commercial base and successfully recruit many major private firms and organizations, including Fortune 500 companies. Technology firms entered the County at such a rapid pace during this time that Fairfax was often referred to as "Silicon Valley East". Residential growth also expanded, particularly in the western areas of Centreville and Chantilly. During this same decade, the County undertook a major downzoning in part of its western portion to protect the Occoquan watershed from further encroachment, which was ultimately fought through the courts, with both sides claiming partial victories. The late 80s also witnessed another political tug-of-war in the County between continued economic growth and no-growth. This battle was short-lived, however, since once an economic recession struck the County in the early 90s, growth automatically slowed.

With the major changes to County land use that had occurred since the mid-Seventies, County leaders saw the need for a major overhaul of the Comprehensive Plan and embarked upon an 18-month review. The Board requested that the Planning Commission oversee this effort and "Planning Horizons" was launched. Under the auspices of its newly-created Major Plan Review Committee, the Planning Commission and Planning Staff involved the community in a series of workshops to determine first how the policies in its Comprehensive Plan should best be updated. These focused on areas such as transportation, environment, parks, public facilities, and land use, and resulted in a new section of the Comprehensive Plan, now referenced as the Policy Plan. Following completion of the Policy Plan effort, review focused on the community desires for the various Area Plans, which carried over into the early 90s and was finally completed in 1992.

1990s - THE COUNTY MATURES

Once the recession eased, economic growth began again in the County, but more slowly. In addition, owners of many parcels that had been initially rezoned for commercial use in the 80s took the "temperature of the times" and requested changes to residential uses instead since the commercial and residential markets were changing and there was a temporary "glut" in the available commercial market.

This period also saw a major expansion in the number of telecommunication facilities requests filed with the County. New companies were constantly being launched to meet the exploding needs for cellular phones and other communication devices. County policy was needed to address placement of these facilities, and a special committee, headed by the Chairman of the Planning Commission, was formed by the Board to work with major service providers, staff, and the community to devise such policies. After a lengthy committee effort, language for a telecommunications policy addition to the Comprehensive Plan and amendments to the Zoning Ordinance were recommended and adopted by the Commission and Board of Supervisors. In addition, new administrative policies were adopted to streamline the review of these applications by the County. Available land became much scarcer later in the decade and what infill parcels remain available have presented great challenges to all involved in the land-use process. So while the number of applications reviewed may have been reduced from earlier years, the hours spent on each application by the Commission, staff, and the community have increased due to the complex nature of issues involved and often are deferred multiple times before reaching the public hearing stage of the process.

The chart below indicates the Commission caseload by district from 1988-2007.

<i>Actions taken by the Planning Commission by District 1988-2007</i>										
	<i>CW</i>	<i>BR</i>	<i>DR</i>	<i>HM</i>	<i>LE</i>	<i>MA</i>	<i>MV</i>	<i>PR</i>	<i>SP</i>	<i>SU</i>
<i>1988</i>	19	11	24	53	62	22	34	89	75	-
<i>1989</i>	30	14	27	73	37	22	33	78	70	-
<i>1990</i>	53	16	27	58	32	8	17	66	66	-
<i>1991</i>	40	4	36	33	39	12	23	41	53	-
<i>1992</i>	26	3	21	33	45	17	22	24	19	53
<i>1993</i>	30	3	27	23	22	26	22	29	17	50
<i>1994</i>	33	23	35	49	52	31	41	63	11	81
<i>1995</i>	32	17	30	52	60	31	18	83	9	79
<i>1996</i>	141	17	27	40	38	29	24	46	12	52
<i>1997</i>	25	36	32	66	75	45	73	90	22	90
<i>1998</i>	29	22	50	58	46	35	33	73	24	89
<i>1999</i>	16	13	27	97	66	27	88	73	15	86
<i>2000</i>	19	24	24	54	66	35	49	75	24	62
<i>2001</i>	15	12	26	42	32	35	59	78	36	71
<i>2002</i>	23	11	61	47	54	34	75	74	51	59
<i>2003</i>	23	11	28	38	30	29	37	40	30	43
<i>2004</i>	21	6	19	28	37	28	40	54	26	24
<i>2005</i>	15	11	19	20	31	23	50	41	42	43
<i>2006</i>	25	28	16	27	42	57	49	29	44	52
<i>2007</i>	32	6	19	36	23	19	16	42	43	51
<i>Total</i>	647	288	575	927	889	565	803	1188	689	985

TODAY - GROWTH THROUGH REVITALIZATION

With the scarcity of remaining available land, attention has turned to the older sections of Fairfax County and much of this attention is now being paid to revitalization. Areas such as Annandale, Baileys Crossroads/Seven Corners, McLean, Richmond Highway, Springfield, Reston's Lake Anne, and Merrifield have been designated for special attention. The Office of Community Revitalization and Reinvestment was established in 2007 to ensure the viability of these areas by helping to facilitate interest in economic growth.

Affordable housing has also become a more important issue due to the sky-rocketing housing prices over the last several years. The High-Rise Affordability Task Force was formed by the Board of Supervisors to study this issue and offer recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Two members of the Planning Commission, Walter Alcorn and Rodney Lusk, also served on this task force and brought the recommendations via the joint Redevelopment and Housing Committee, to the attention of the Commission. Proffers have been utilized to obtain more affordable dwelling units through the zoning process as just one of the implementation strategies recommended. Issues such as transit-oriented development (TOD) and green building have also been explored by Commission Committees and resulted in new policies being adopted by the Board of Supervisors. One area that will likely seek the implementation of those TOD policies is in Tysons, which has been under review for the past three years by a Board-appointed task force. Seeking to provide a vision for that area's transformation over the next 20 years and plan for the arrival of Metrorail, the Tyson's task force expects to release a report on its recommendations in the near future.

Today, Fairfax is home to approximately 29,000 businesses, including Fortune 500 firms, 300 trade associations, many corporate and regional headquarters facilities, a large information technology sector, and a growing professional services community. Such change has morphed Fairfax County from a rural, agriculturally-oriented county to an urban, business-oriented area of more than one million residents, larger than several of our states.

The issues addressed by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors today are still reminiscent of issues raised as far back as the 50s - transportation, environmental concerns, and concerns over the "quality of life" within the County. Yet, while such concerns must be constantly balanced, the growth and changes witnessed over these years have resulted in some of the highest-rated public schools and libraries in the United States, beautiful parks, an international airport, and expanded cultural and recreational facilities. The Planning Commission, Board of Supervisors, citizens, and staff will continue to be involved to help keep it that way.

Section II: About the Planning Commission**COMPENSATION**

A major difference between the early membership and the current Commission was that the first appointed members served without any remuneration. Although the majority of members were regularly employed during normal working hours, they volunteered their time to work at the night meetings, laboring many evenings until midnight. These Commission pioneers set the stage for later members, who continued to offer many volunteer hours of service to the County, albeit with the addition of token payments to offset some of the costs incurred.

In 1941, the Board of Supervisors agreed to allocate mileage costs to Commission members at the rate of five cents per mile, not to exceed 52 meetings during a 12-month period. It wasn't until 1952 that the Commission received any other type of compensation. At that time, attendance at meetings netted members a token payment of \$10.00 per meeting. Records indicate that in April 1954, the Commission requested that this amount per meeting be increased from \$10.00 to \$25.00. However, the request was denied by the Board of Supervisors, who indicated that any such increase would drain the budget! It wasn't until 1964 that an increase was approved; at that time, the amount per meeting rose to \$15.00. Again in 1968, an increase was approved by the Board of Supervisors to \$35.00 per meeting.

Annual compensation, rather than a per-meeting compensation began in 1969. At that time, the Board of Supervisors approved a compensation rate of \$3,000.00 per year. The next major increase took place in 1980, when that annual amount was raised to \$5,500.00 per year. In August 1987, the Board of Supervisors approved an increase of the compensation rate to \$8,000.00 per year. This remained in effect until July 1995 when the Board increased the Commission's compensation to \$10,000.00 per member each year. The last compensation increase became effective in July 2000 when the Board increased the stipend to \$15,000.00 per year where it remains to date.

MEETING LOCATIONS

Shortly after the Board appointed the Planning Commission, authorization was given in August 1938 for the Commission to use the Board Room in the Old Court House for its meetings. Initial meetings were held on Tuesdays, but soon changed to Fridays, once the Board of Supervisors' meetings started to meet on Tuesday evenings. The Commission continued to meet only once per week until 1955, when it was determined that the workload necessitated a minimum of two nights per week. An additional meeting on Thursdays was established at that time, and the two meetings per week schedule have continued to the present time, depending on workload. The meeting days have changed over time due to revolving Board of Supervisors' schedules; however, the Commission meeting days were established for Wednesdays and Thursdays in the mid-Seventies, and have not changed since. Also, once the Massey Building was constructed, the Commission moved its meetings to the Board of Supervisors' meeting chambers.

Since 1987, all meetings have been televised live on Cable Channel 16 (now on Cox and Verizon). In 1992, the current Government Center opened and the Planning Commission relocated its meetings and office to that site. Planning Commission meetings are also "streamed live" via the County's Web site at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/vod.htm>.

PLANNING COMMISSION SEATS

The *Code of Virginia* allows local jurisdictions extensive leeway in the number of members that may be appointed to each planning commission. According to the *Code*, local planning commissions may "consist of not less than five nor more than fifteen members appointed by the governing body."

The Fairfax County Planning Commission has varied in total membership over the years from a low of five members in 1938 to its highest level of thirteen members in 1960. The current membership stands at twelve - nine representing the supervisory districts, and three members at-large.

In its first decade of existence, the Commission size remained constant at five members. In 1949, the Commission complement was increased to a total of nine members. About 1955, membership was increased to eleven members. During this time period, membership on the Commission also included a member of the Board of Supervisors, as well as the County Executive. (Note: In 1946, the Commonwealth required that a representative from the Board of Supervisors also serve on the Planning Commission.)

In 1960, membership was increased to thirteen; but reduced again in 1964 to nine. The Board of Supervisors agreed that the reduction would be accomplished through attrition, and the membership should be either seven or nine, with no representation from the Dranesville or Providence Districts. In 1968, under the auspices of the newly-formed Urban County form of government, representation was done by supervisory district, with one member appointed at-large. This was the first time that each supervisory district had a representative on the Planning Commission.

With the advent of the Urban County form of government, still utilized today, the nine-member representatives from each supervisory district has remained the same; the changes have occurred over the number of at-large seats that would serve on the Commission. In 1975, membership increased to eleven members, with the addition of two more at-large seats. After the death of Chairman Edward Gurski in 1982, the Board of Supervisors elected to retire an at-large seat in his honor, thereby reducing Commission membership to ten members. In 1983, the Board of Supervisors chose to add another at-large seat to the Commission to increase the total membership to eleven once again. In 1991, following redistricting, a new Sully District seat was added to the Board of Supervisors and also to the Planning Commission, bringing the number of Commission seats to twelve, where it has remained to date.

LENGTH OF SERVICE

Over the past seventy years, 121 County citizens (including the current members) have served on the Planning Commission for varying terms of office, for a total of 781 years of County service. Although the appointed term of office has generally been four years, only eighteen members, or 19.5%, have completed this exact expected term. One-third of the total time served has been completed by only 15% of these citizens.

Review of terms of office served by members over the last 70 years reveals that longevity has played a key role among those who have and continue to serve on this body. Thirty-four percent of the total length of service on the Commission has been served by only fourteen members, with an average of eleven years each.

The current record for longest service on the Commission is 26 years and counting, held by **Suzanne F. Harsel**, first appointed in April 1982 to fill an unexpired term. Commissioner Harsel continues to serve the Braddock District (formerly Annandale), and also holds the record for longest-serving Planning Commission Secretary, serving in that position since 1989. Just eight months behind in total service is **Peter F. Murphy, Jr.**, Springfield District, who was first

appointed in January 1983. Mr. Murphy holds the record for most consecutive elections as Commission Chairman (19 years); and has served in that position since 1989.

In addition to Commissioners Harsel and Murphy, Commission history reveals that multiple terms of service have been given by the following appointees:

COMMISSIONER	LENGTH OF SERVICE	TERM(S)
<i>Keith "Pappy" Price</i>	<i>23 years</i>	<i>1944-1967</i>
<i>Ronald Koch</i>	<i>22 years</i>	<i>1982-1988 (At-Large) & 1992-2007 (Sully)</i>
<i>Carl L. Sell, Jr.</i>	<i>20 years</i>	<i>1976-1995</i>
<i>William M. Lockwood</i>	<i>16 years</i>	<i>1968-1980 & 1987-1990</i>
<i>John W. Brookfield</i>	<i>15 years</i>	<i>1942-1957</i>
<i>George M. Lilly</i>	<i>14 years</i>	<i>1967-1972 & 1981-1988</i>
<i>Janet Hall</i>	<i>14 years</i>	<i>1994 – Present</i>
<i>Oswald V. Carper</i>	<i>13 years</i>	<i>1949-1962</i>
<i>Walter Alcorn</i>	<i>12 years</i>	<i>1996 – Present</i>
<i>Marguerite Dalton</i>	<i>12 years</i>	<i>1962-1974</i>
<i>Tybelle L. Fasteau</i>	<i>12 years</i>	<i>1975-1987</i>
<i>John W. Rust</i>	<i>12 years</i>	<i>1946-1958</i>
<i>Anne Wilkins</i>	<i>12 years</i>	<i>1952-1964</i>
<i>Peter H. Brinitzer</i>	<i>12 years</i>	<i>1974-1985</i>
<i>George C. Landrith</i>	<i>12 years</i>	<i>1949-1960</i>
<i>Edward C. Gurski</i>	<i>11 years</i>	<i>1971-1981</i>

A complete list of the membership over the past 70 years is provided below, along with districts represented, where known.

FAIRFAX COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSIONERS: 1938-2008

NAME	DISTRICT	TERM(S)
Alcorn, Walter L.	At-Large	1996 - Present
Annunziata, Rosemarie	Providence	1981 - 1986
Baker, Joseph P.	Not applicable	1955 - 1959
Baldwin, James T. (deceased)	Not applicable	1938 - 1941
Baldwin, Lawrence	At-Large	1991-1994
Becker, Natlee (deceased)	Annandale & At-Large	1973 - 1975 & 1976-1977
Blanchard, William S. (deceased)	Not applicable	1939-1942
Bobzien, David P.	Centreville	1989-1992
Bradley, Harriet (Mrs. John)	Not applicable	1959 – 1965
Brinitzer, Peter H. (deceased)	Mount Vernon	1974-1985
Brookfield, John W. (deceased)	Springfield	1942-1957
Byers, John R.	Mount Vernon	1986-2006
Carlson, Roland P. (deceased)	Not applicable	1960 (5 mos.)

NAME	DISTRICT	TERM(S)
Carpenter, Lois (deceased)	Not applicable	1962 (2 mos.)
Carper, Oswald V. (deceased)	Not applicable	1949-1962
Chambliss, Hardee, Jr. (deceased)	Not applicable	1946-1947
Chilcott, Elizabeth H. (deceased)	Not applicable	1938-1939
Coan, Jr., Carl A.	Providence	1995-1999
Dalton, Marguerite	Mason	1962-1975
Darr, Robert W. (deceased)	Centreville	1953-1954
de la Fe, Frank A.	Hunter Mill	2001 - Present
Donahue, Jay P.	Dranesville	2008 - Present
Downer, Judith W.	Dranesville	1992-2000
DuBois, Joan M.	Dranesville	2001-2003
Eggleston, Robert (deceased)	Falls Church	1960-1964
Fasteau, Tybelle L. (deceased)	Mason & At-Large	1975-1982 & 1983-1987
Flanagan, Earl L.	Mount Vernon	2007 - Present
Giangreco, A. Andrew (deceased)	Not applicable	1960-1964
Gibson, B. N. (deceased)	BOS representative	1946-1947
Gray, Thomas S. (deceased)	Falls Church	1954-1959
Gurski, Edward C. (deceased)	Springfield & At-Large	1971-1974 & 1975-1981
Hall, Janet R.	Mason	1994 - Present
Hanes, Grayson	Dranesville	1947-1950
Hanlon, Patrick M.	Providence	1987-1995
Harsel, Suzanne F.	Braddock (Annandale)	1982 - Present
Hart, James R.	At-Large	2004 - Present
Hartwell, Robert V. L.	At-Large	1993-1996
Hartwell, Stephen	Mount Vernon	1961-1968
Hess, Russell O.	Mason & Springfield	1963-1966 & 1967-1970
Holloway, Austin E. (deceased)	Centreville	1954-1957
Hopkins, Nancy	Dranesville	2005-2008
Hubbard, Stephen J.	Dranesville	1989-1992
Huber, Maya	At-Large	1989-1992
Hughes, Craven C.	Mount Vernon	1964-1968
Hunter, John W.	At-Large	1995-1998
Johnson, Curtis E. (deceased)	Not applicable	1955-1963
Kams, Franklin D.	Not applicable	1959-1961
Keast, Paul H.	Annandale	1980-1982
Kelso, John B.	Lee	1996-2003
Kershenstein, John C.	Springfield	1975-1979
Koch, Ronald W.	At-Large & Sully	1982-1988 & 1992-2007
Lamond, A. Slater	Mt. Vernon	1952-1962
Landrith, George C. (deceased)	Not applicable	1949-1960

NAME	DISTRICT	TERM(S)
Lane, Anthony T. (deceased)	Lee	1968-1971
Lawrence, Kenneth A.	Providence	2004-Present
Lightfoot, Edward W. (deceased)	Dranesville	1977-1980
Lilly, George	Dranesville	1968-1973 & 1981-1988
Litzenberger, John L., Jr.	Sully	2008-Present
Lockwood, William M.	Providence & At-Large	1968-1980 & 1987-1990
Lovlace, George E.	At-Large	1980-1982
Lusk, Rodney L.	Lee	2004-Present
Magoffin, E. Thompson	Not applicable	1973-1977
Marx, Robert S. (deceased)	Mount Vernon	1968-1974
Massey, Carlton C. (deceased)	County Staff rep.	1952-1960
Massey, C. Hubard (deceased)	Falls Church	1949-1954
Matheson, Malcolm W., Jr. (deceased)	Mount Vernon	1938-1940 & 1945-1952
Maxwell, Robert L.	At-Large	1975-1979
McCollum, W. W. (deceased)	Dranesville	1942-1946
McCormick, Ruth Ellen	Not applicable	1955-1959
Merrell, Halley A.	Centreville	1974-1982
Moon, Ilyong	At-Large	2000-2003
Morin, Fred C.	Springfield	1961-1964
Murphy, Peter F., Jr.	Springfield	1983 - Present
O'Brien, Richard J.	Springfield	1979-1982
Ovrevik, Glenn S.	Lee	1963-1966
Palatiello, John M.	Hunter Mill	1993-1997
Pellettieri (Welch), Miriam W.	Annandale	1976-1979
Polychrones, John M. (deceased)	Centreville	1970-1973
Price, Keith (deceased)	Mason	1944-1967
Quackenbush, James H.	Lee	1959-1963
Roehrs, John A. (deceased)	Lee	1972-1979
Rothrock, Thomas J.	At-Large	1968-1971
Rust, John W. (deceased)	Not applicable	1946-1958
Sahr, Morris	Providence	1964-1968
Sargeant, Timothy J.	At-Large	2007 - Present
Sell, Carl L., Jr.	Lee	1977-1995
Shands, Nancy L.	At-Large	1974-1975
Sheds, E. C. (deceased)	BOS Representative	1948-1951
Simpson, George (deceased)	Springfield	1964-1968
Smith, H. Douglas	Centreville	1966-1968
Smith, J. Bryant	Not applicable	1951-1960
Smith, T. Eugene	Not applicable	1962-1964
Smith, Verlin	Not applicable	1949-1958

NAME	DISTRICT	TERM(S)
Smyth, Linda Q.	Providence	1999-2003
Sparks, Jr., Robert R.	Mason	1983-1989
Stockton, Thomas J. (deceased)	Not applicable	1941-1944
Strickland, Henry E., Sr.	Mason	1989-1994
Stull, C. Meade, Sr. (deceased)	Centreville	1963-1969
Talbott, Edward	Not applicable	1938 -1942
Taliaferro, Henry B., Jr.	Dranesville	1973 (6 mos.)
Taylor, Clayton	Not applicable	1950-1955
Tepper, Douglas (deceased)	Centreville	1959-1963
Thillmann, John H.	Centreville	1983-1989
Thomas, Alvin L.	At-Large	1984-1995
Thompson, Gilbert (Colonel)	Not applicable	1955-1957
Tibbott, Edward W. (deceased)	Merrifield	1938-1942
Vallance, Theodore R.	Dranesville	1966-1967
Wall, Charles C. (deceased)	Not applicable	1940-1945
Waple, Raymond	Not applicable	1955-1959
Warlick, George W.	Annandale	1968-1972
White, E. Russell	Not applicable	1938-1941
Wilkins, Anne	BOS representative	1952-1964
Wilkins, Donald L.	Falls Church	1944-1949
Wilkins, John (deceased)	At-Large	1972-1974
Williams, Thomas R.	Not applicable	1962-1966
Wilson, Laurie Frost	At-Large	1999-2006
Wood, Foster	Not applicable	1944-1945
Wright, J. Grant	Not applicable	1960-1964
Wright, Lu M.	At-Large	1977-1982
Wright, Robert E.	At-Large	1982-1983
Yeatman, Clarence M. (deceased)	Falls Church	1959-1960
Zanfagna, Philip E.	Dranesville	1973-1976

The next section designates by year which members have served as officers on the Commission.

Planning Commission Officers 1938 – 2008

Office	Name	District	Years Served
Chairman	Peter F. Murphy, Jr.	Springfield	1989 - present
	George M. Lilly	Dranesville	1971; 1984 - 1988
	Peter Brinitzer	Mount Vernon	1983
	Richard J. O'Brien	Springfield	1981 - 1982
	Edward C. Gurski	Springfield, At-Large	1975 - 1981
	William M. Lockwood	Providence	1974

	Robert S. Marx	Mount Vernon	1972 - 1973
	Russell Hess	Mason, Springfield	1970
	Anthony T. Lane	Lee	1968 - 1969
	George Simpson	Springfield	1968
	Morris G. Sahr	Providence	1967
	C. Meade Stull Sr.	Centreville	1965 (Acting Chair)
	Stephen Hartwell	Mount Vernon	1964 - 1966
	T. Eugene Smith		1964
	Harriet Bradley		1962 - 1963
	Curtis E. Johnson		1961
	Keith Price	Mason	1946 - 1960
	W. W. McCollum	Dranesville	1944 - 1945
	Charles C. Wall	Mount Vernon	1941 - 1944
	Edward W. Tibbott	Merrifield	1941 (Acting Chair)
	James T. Baldwin	Vienna	1941
	E. Russell White	Springfield	1938 - 1941
Vice Chairman	Walter L. Alcorn	At-Large	2007 - present
	John R. Byers	Mount Vernon	1996 - 2006
	Patrick M. Hanlon	Providence	1990 - 1995
	Alvin L. Thomas	At-Large	1989
	Peter F. Murphy, Jr.	Springfield	1987 - 1988
	Suzanne F. Harsel	Braddock (Annandale)	1984- 1986
	George M. Lilly	Dranesville	7/68 – 12/68; 1983
	Peter Brinitzer	Mount Vernon	1977-1978; 1982
	Richard J. O'Brien	Springfield	1981
	Edward Lightfoot	Dranesville	1980
	Miriam Pellettieri	Braddock (Annandale)	1979
	Philip E. Zanfagna Jr.	Dranesville	1976
	Edward C. Gurski	Springfield, At-Large	1975
	John Wilkins	At-Large	1974
	William M. Lockwood	Providence	1973
	George W. Warlick	Braddock (Annandale)	1972
	Robert S. Marx	Mount Vernon	1971
	George M. Lilly	Dranesville	1970
	Russell Hess	Mason, Springfield	1969
	Anthony T. Lane	Lee	1/1968
	George Simpson	Springfield	1967
	Marguerite Dalton	Mason (Springfield 1 st term)	1965 - 1966
	C. Meade Stull Sr.	Centreville	1964 - 1965
	Robert Eggleston	Falls Church/Providence	1963 - 1964
	Curtis E. Johnson		1962
	Harriet Bradley		1961
	Curtis E. Johnson		1960
	George C. Landrith		1957 - 1959
	John W. Brookfield	Springfield	1946 - 1957
	Keith Price	Mason	1945
	W. W. McCollum	Dranesville	1944
	John W. Brookfield	Springfield	1944
	Thomas J. Stockton	Burke	1942 - 1943
	Edward W. Tibbott	Merrifield	1941
Secretary	Suzanne F. Harsel	Braddock	1983; 1989 - present
	Alvin L. Thomas	At-Large	1987 - 1988

	Peter F. Murphy, Jr.	Springfield	1984 - 1987
	Lu M. Wright	At-Large	1981 - 1982
	Halley A. Merrell	Centreville	1980
	Edward Lightfoot	Dranesville	1979
	Miriam Pellettieri	Braddock (Annandale)	1977 - 1978
	Halley A. Merrell	Centreville	1976
	Philip E. Zanfagna Jr.	Dranesville	1975
	John N. Polychrones	Centreville	1973
	William M. Lockwood	Providence	1972
	George W. Warlick	Braddock (Annandale)	1971
	Edward Lightfoot	Dranesville	1970
	Robert S. Marx	Mount Vernon	1970
	George M. Lilly	Dranesville	1969
	Russell Hess	Mason, Springfield	1968
	Anthony T. Lane	Lee	1967
	C. Craven Hughes	Mount Vernon	1965 - 1966
	Thomas R. Williams	Lee	1964
	Douglas Tepper	Centreville	1961 - 1962
	Thomas J. Stockton	Burke	1944
	Donald L. Wilkins	Falls Church	1941 - 1942
	James T. Baldwin	Vienna	1938 - 1940
Parliamentarian	Frank A. de la Fe	Hunter Mill	2007 - present
	Walter L. Alcorn	At-Large	2003 - 2006
	Janet R. Hall	Mason	2001 - 2002
	Judith W. Downer	Dranesville	2000
	Alvin L. Thomas	At-Large	1993 - 1999
	Maya A. Huber	At-Large	1990 - 1992
	Patrick M. Hanlon	Providence	1988 - 1989
	Ronald W. Koch	At-Large	1987 - 1988
	Rosemarie Annunziata	Providence	1983 - 1986
	George M. Lilly	Dranesville	1982
	Peter Brinitzer	Mount Vernon	1981
	Richard J. O'Brien	Springfield	1980
	Halley A. Merrell	Centreville	1979
	John C. Kershenstein	Springfield	1977 - 1978
	Peter Brinitzer	Mount Vernon	1976
	Nancy Lamb Shands	At-Large	1975
	Philip E. Zanfagna Jr.	Dranesville	1974
	John Wilkins	At-Large	1973
	John N. Polychrones	Centreville	1972
	William M. Lockwood	Providence	1971
	George W. Warlick	Braddock (Annandale)	1970
	Robert S. Marx	Mount Vernon	1968 - 1969
	George M. Lilly	Dranesville	1/1968 – 7/1968
	Theodore R. Vallance	Dranesville	1967
	George Simpson	Springfield	1965 - 1966
	Russell Hess	Mason, Springfield	1964

Section III: Remember When**HIGHLIGHTS 1938-2008**

Listed below by decade are some of the significant events that occurred in the metropolitan area over the last 70 years.

1930s

- Fairfax County Planning Commission (PC) established and first members appointed by the Board of Supervisors to promote orderly development (1938)
- Average size farm in Fairfax County was 70.7 acres

1940s

- Organization of Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association
- Separate Police Department set-up
- Passenger service discontinued on W&OD rail line(1941) (subsequently resumed for a short period, then discontinued permanently in 1951)
- First Countywide Zoning Ordinance (ZO) enacted
- Creation of first sanitary districts in County (1943)
- Pentagon completed
- First 2 ½ mile section of Shirley Memorial Highway opened from Pentagon to Route 7 (1944)
- World War II ends; veterans return and desire for single-family homes begins to bubble in Fairfax County (1945)
- League of Women Voters organized (1946)
- Edward R. Carr developed his own Master Plan for the Springfield area. (By 1952, sewer & water lines were in and plans were approved for first house; by 1956 approximately 2,000 homes were completed in area)
- George C. Yeonas builds first house in Fairfax County
- VEPCO becomes an independent, publicly owned utility with 450,000 customers in Virginia (1947)
- Smith Bowman family purchased remainder of Old Wiehle tract near Herndon for a beef and dairy farm. Became largest farm in County totaling 7,200 acres
- League of Women Voters completed County's first official precinct map

1950s

- GMU established as extension division of U.VA. (1950)
- Extension of Shirley Highway southward to Rt. 1 in Woodbridge (1951)
- First County Executive, Carlton Massey, hired in Fairfax County
- First meeting under new County Executive Form of Government (1952)
- Approximately 300 subdivisions in County needed help with erosion problems
- Federation of Citizens Associations assisted with detailed two-year survey of soil types
- Yeonas builds Vienna Woods (1953); by 1973, he had completed 8,000 homes in 49 communities around Metro area
- 34-acre Frederick Foote tract rezoned from suburban residence to general business; developed into Seven Corners Shopping Center

- Board requested Circuit Court to establish seven Magisterial Districts and eliminated need for appointed tie-breaker (under the even number district division)
- C&P introduces dial service in Fairfax County; Giant Food opens first store in Fairfax County (1954)
- McHugh Plan (Master Plan) for residential development adopted as "Freehill Amendment" (1956)
- The Fairfax Symphony founded
- Addition to the Old Courthouse was completed
- Federation published civic government directory and first C.W. street map prepared by Carpenter & Cobbs (1957)
- Water Authority established
- Anne Wilkins becomes the first woman elected Fairfax County Board Chairman (1958)
- Major construction projects were begun as follows: Capital Beltway, Dulles Airport, CIA Building, VA portion of I-495, and first unit of Fairfax Hospital
- ZO adopted (1959)
- County overruled by State Supreme Court in CARPER decision
- Completion of six-part revision to McHugh Plan; remained in place until 1975 adoption of Plan resulting from PLUS
- GMU designated as Community College

1960s

- Board approved largest apartment-zoned acreage in history of County - 300 acres of the Annandale Bristow tract (part of ancient Ravensworth estate) - minimum of 4250 apartments planned (1960)
- Robert Simon outlined plans for "new town" of Reston (1961)
- CIA moves into new Langley headquarters
- Research Analysis Corp. announced plans for Westgate Industrial Park near Tysons Corner for "think tank" (1962)
- "Chantilly" air transport facility built (Dulles Airport)
- Fairfax Choral Society was founded
- Massive County street renaming and house renumbering on C.W. grid system - affected 80% of County homes through approximately 75,000 changes (1965)
- W.VA. Technical College opens in converted rented warehouse at Bailey's Crossroads
- Referendum approved for Urban County Form of Government (1966, effective 1/68)
- GMU becomes four-year University
- Wolf Trap Park donated by Mrs. Jouett Shouse as first national park for the performing arts
- Two Board of Supervisors members indicted on charges of conspiracy to accept bribes in return for favorable votes on zoning cases
- State-enabling legislation requested to make conflict of interest violations misdemeanors resulting from rezoning bribery convictions scandal (1966/67)
- Northern Virginia Community College's Annandale Campus completed (1967)
- First time all Supervisory Districts represented on the PC (1968)
- Massey Building under construction
- Tysons Corner Shopping Center opens for business
- Annexation court rules in County's favor to deny City of Alexandria suit to annex 8.3 square miles; case coordinated by J. Hamilton Lambert (1969)
- Metro breaks ground for subway

1970s

- Building plans announced for American Automobile Association, American Newspaper Publishers Association, and National Education Association
- County Executive Carlton Massey retires after almost 19 years of service (1971); George Kelley appointed to succeed Massey (resigned Dec. 1972)
- Wolf Trap opens in Vienna, Virginia
- GMU becomes independent institution (1972)
- Five-Year Plan initiated by Board of Supervisors, along with a twelve-month moratorium on all land use applications
- U.S. Geological Survey relocates to Reston (1973)
- In the only such combination in County history up to that time, women held the following County positions:
 - Board of Supervisors (Jean Packard)
 - School Board (Mary Anne Lecos)
 - Park Authority (Nancy Brown)
 - History Commission (Mary Fahringer)
 - OMB (Ilene Blake)
- James P. McDonald appointed Director of newly-established OMB
- Robert Wilson appointed County Executive (resigned in 1976)
- PLUS (Planned Land Use System) resolution adopted by the Board of Supervisors
- ZO adopted in principle, as adopted by ZO Study Committee (1974)
- First Capital Improvement Program (CIP) adopted
- PLUS Program tasks undertaken by County from January 1974 through September 1975, with numerous citizens task forces assisting
- County adopts Comprehensive Plan upon completion of PLUS Program (1975)
- Leonard Wharton appointed County Executive (1976)
- Concorde begins flying into Dulles
- County remapping (ZO in effect also) (1977)
- Mobil Oil site of approximately 130 acres rezoned at s.e. quadrant of Gallows Rd./Route 50 intersection (Providence District)
- Approximately 107 acres rezoned for future site of Tysons II Shopping Center (Dranesville District)
- Adult Detention Center completed (1978)
- Board adopts amendments to the ZO to create the Highway Corridor Overlay District
- PC approves Little Rocky Run sewage pumping station and associated sewer service area on approximately 1219 acres in Springfield District
- Approval given for the rezoning of approximately 828 acres the future Franklin Farms project off West Ox Road in Centreville District (1979)

1980s

- Fair Oaks Shopping Center opened (1980)
- PC approves Dranesville Tavern Park Acquisition
- Application to permit expansion of Wolf Trap cultural center approved
- Commission Chairman Edward Gurski stricken by lung cancer (1981); he had served on the Commission for ten years
- West Ox Road Landfill completed (1982)
- Judicial Center dedicated

- Fairfax Fair initiated as annual event to revive community spirit
- Washington Redskins become Super bowl Champs of the 1982 strike-riddled season in 27-17 victory over the Miami Dolphins (1983)
- Media General Cable lays first lines in County
- Huntington Metro initiates rail service in Fairfax County
- Dulles Toll Road completed (1984)
- Application for Fair Lakes development approved - approximately 620 acres for commercial and residential uses
- Future Sully Station development in Centreville approved for approximately 316 acres for commercial and residential uses
- Northern Virginia Builder's Association raises over one million dollars to benefit three charities through the raffle of the Builders' House constructed in 72 hours in Reston, Virginia (1985)
- Patriot Center opens at George Mason University
- West Falls Church, Dunn Loring, and Vienna Metro stops open for business (1986)
- PC holds first seminar at the Xerox Training Center
- Vivian Watts appointed first woman Secretary of Transportation in Virginia
- Redskins repeat as Super Bowl champs in 42-10 victory over Denver Broncos (1987)
- Annandale Supervisor Audrey Moore elected Chairman of the Board of Supervisors
- PC celebrates its 50th Anniversary (1988)
- "The First 50 Years" broadcast by WNVC, Channel 56, provided an historical perspective on County land use and included PC member interviews
- PC established Major Plan Review (MPR) Committee to oversee 18-month Fairfax Planning Horizons Work Program to amend the Comprehensive Plan
- PC approved VA Railway Express Commuter Rail Station in Burke
- Rezoning of 263 acres for McNair Farms approved for PDH-16 residential development on property located south of Fox Mill Road and east of Centreville Road
- PC's MPR Committee sponsored a series of community meetings to discuss Policy Plan issues such as: Land Use, Transportation, Public Facilities, Housing and Human Services, and Environment, Parks, Open Space and Heritage Resources (1989)
- After four public hearings and two markup sessions, PC recommended approval of revisions to the Zoning Ordinance Commercial and Industrial Districts to abolish by-right office in four commercial districts; allow SE use only in six industrial districts and restrict allowable density in eight districts
- PC recommended creation of an Affordable Dwelling Unit program to help build the County's stock of moderately-priced housing.
- PC establishes joint Redevelopment & Housing Committee with RHA

1990s

- Phase I, Planning Horizons – PC held five public hearings, four work session, and three markup sessions and heard testimony from 149 speakers before forwarding recommendations to the Board of Supervisors (1990)
- PC approved multiple FDPAs for residential complexes at Fair Lakes development
- PC approved multiple public facility applications including: expansion of Kings Park Library, acquisition of 65 acres to expand Oak Marr Park, construction of three-level commuter park and ride facilities on east and west sides of Monroe Street, expansion of Thomas Edison High School, and construction of North Pointe Fire Station

- Mason Supervisor Tom Davis elected Board of Supervisors Chairman (1991)
- Sully District created as a result of Board of Supervisors redistricting process and PC expanded to 12 members
- Phase II, Planning Horizons – PC heard from 307 citizens during these public hearings
- Comprehensive Plan amended to establish Residential Development Criteria
- Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance adopted
- Lorton Commuter Rail station use approved in Mount Vernon District
- Various retail uses approved at Fair Lakes development
- PC established permanent CIP and Environment Committees
- Ron Koch appointed as first Sully District Planning Commissioner (1992)
- PC creates Mini-Marts Committee
- Rezoned 169 acres for Crippen's Corner residential development and continuation of Reston Farm Market and Pet Farm Park
- Approved 580-unit multi-family development at Worldgate, in lieu of three office buildings
- Rezoned 128 acre development at West*Gate for offices
- Rezoned 916 acre Balmoral property from R-C to R-1 for residential development in Springfield & Sully Districts
- Approved WMATA application for Franconia-Springfield Metrorail Center
- Approved policies and definitions for telecommunications facilities
- Approved expansion of Robinson High School in Braddock District (1993)
- Reduced by 52 units the approved Worldgate residential development, along with a change to 3-4 level garden apartments
- Approved Dulles Toll Road extension and interchange at Route 28
- Permitted expansion of Centreville Volunteer Fire Department
- Established Resource Protection Areas and Resource Management areas to implement Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance
- Board Chairman Davis elected to Congress to represent VA 11th District (1994)
- PC reconvened Mini-Marts Committee to work with staff and industry
- PC established joint Committee on Parks with Park Authority
- Rezoned 38 acres from I-5 to PDH-12 for “President’s Park” subdivision for 193 single-family and 328 multi-family units
- Rezoned 17 acres from I-4 to PDH-12 for 144 townhomes in McNair Farms West
- Rezoned 103 acres from I-3 and I-5 to C-8 for development of Chantilly Autopark
- PC held hearings and made recommendations on 125 APR items
- Providence Supervisor Katherine "Kate" Hanley elected to fill BOS Chairman vacancy (1995)
- PC established Dulles Airport Noise Contours Committee to resolve conflicting recommendations of Airports Advisory Committee and County staff.
- Dulles Airport Noise Committee completed recommendations, adopted by PC & BOS (1996)
- PC Mini-Marts Committee recommended new definition, limitations on by-right sales & square footage necessary for retail sales & storage which were adopted by PC & BOS
- 2232 PC Committee established to review public facilities applications, particularly telecommunications facilities
- SP/SE Committee established by PC to consider ZO uses in the C-3 through C-8 Districts with recommendations subsequently adopted by PC and BOS (1998)
- PC 2232 Committee recommended procedural changes to expedite review of public facilities applications and standardize submission requirements; adopted by PC and BOS (1999)

- PC Executive Director Jim Wyckoff retired after 28 years of service; Barbara Lipka appointed as his replacement; Sara Robin Hardy promoted to Assistant Director

2000s

- PC established Infill & Residential Committee to work with staff and development community on how to modify residential development criteria (2000)
- Debut of PC Web site (2001)
- Rezoning of approximately 261-acre Lorton Prison site approved to allow for Laurel Hill development mix of single-family attached and detached units in Mount Vernon District
- Rezoning of approximately 265 acres approved for Centreville Farms with 297 single-family detached, 792 single-family attached, and 400 multi-family units in Sully District
- Plan Amendment approved for Merrifield Study to provide specific guidance for 1,360 acres in two core areas - Town Center and Transit Station areas in Providence District
- Initiation of three-part land-use series on Cable Channel 16 to explain County's land-use system in simple terms (2002)
- North County APR completed
- Revised Residential Development Criteria for 2003 implementation
- Providence Supervisor Gerry Connolly elected Chairman of the Board of Supervisors (2002)
- Planning Commissioners Joan DuBois (Dansville) and Linda Smyth (Providence) elected to the Board of Supervisors
- South County APR completed
- PC Roundtable monthly program on County Cable Channel 16 began
- PC staff submitted 1st Strategic Plan for 2004-2008
- Rezoning of 56 acres approved for adaptive reuse of Occoquan Workhouse portion of former Lorton prison for Arts Center in Mount Vernon District (2004)
- Rezoning approved for Jefferson Overlook mixed-use development for 634 multi-family residential units on 17 acres in Mason District
- West Ox Road public safety and transportation operations center approved to consolidate State and County services, including bus operations, communications center, and forensic facilities in Springfield District
- North County APR actions completed on 22 items (2005)
- PC staff initiated *PC Communicator* newsletter
- South County APR recommendations completed on 91 items (2006)
- PC Transit-Oriented Committee reached consensus on a definition and set of principles on transit-oriented development (TOD) for inclusion in the Policy Plan after meeting twice with citizens, land-use attorneys and developers, numerous interest groups, and County staff; PC and BOS approved:
 - Policy Plan language for TOD definition & guidelines
 - expanded boundaries of Centreville Historic District
 - new definition for "big-box" retail stores in ZO
 - workforce housing text in ZO and guidelines strengthened Policy Plan guidance for air quality issues & support for green building practices
 - Merrifield mixed-use development (residential, office, retail, hotel, and theatre uses) on 31 acres at Gallows Rd./Route 50 intersection
 - Commonwealth Centre rezoning to allow office, hotel, and retail uses on 100 acres at Rt. 28 and Westfields Boulevard

- BRAC APR process underway, with 38 nominations being considered which seek diversity of uses and higher densities in the Lee and Mount Vernon Districts (2008)
- PC Environment Committee examining ways to protect riparian buffers and also pursuing development of possible green building incentives
- PC celebrates 70th Anniversary

QUOTES AND EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS, MINUTES & NEWS MEDIA

Listed below by decade are excerpts from records and documents maintained in the Planning Commission archives.

1930s

“A proper system of planning and zoning will correct and prevent the abuses enumerated as well as others by anticipating the growth and development of the County and making adequate provision for its transportation, recreational and public utility needs....It is, therefore, recommended that the Board of Supervisors be urged to establish a permanent County Planning and Zoning Commission as authorized by law....” *(June 5, 1937 letter to the President of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce from its Planning and Zoning Committee)*

“In connection with the make-up of the County Planning Commission for Fairfax County, I gathered from what was said at the meeting last Thursday night that one of the problems which the Board of Supervisors would have to meet would be the question of distributing five planning commission members among six magisterial districts, thus indicating that the geographical representation was considered to be important from the standpoint of the Supervisors. Now, as a matter of fact, as all recommendations of the commission have to be passed upon by the Board of Supervisors, the geographical representation is taken care of because of the fact that you have one Supervisor from each magisterial district, and this type of representation does not seem to need any further consideration.” *(June 20, 1938 letter from Major Charles J. Calrow, Director, Virginia State Planning Board, to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors)*

“The Board of Supervisors, at its meeting on Wednesday [July 6, 1938], appointed the five-member County Planning Commission, which is to have charge of the future development of the County.” *(The Fairfax Herald, July 8, 1938)*

“The Chairman of the Board thanked the members of the Planning Commission on behalf of the Board, for their untiring efforts in preparing the proposed Zoning Ordinance and the large map to be used in connection therewith, and praised them for the fine work which they had done.” *(Board Minutes, Aug. 2, 1939)*

1940s

“Chicken houses shall not be located less than 100 feet from any street, lot or property line, as per the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance. Since lot areas of rural residences were cut down to 1/2 acre, it would be impossible to have chicken houses on these minimum-sized lots.” *(PC Minutes, 1941)*

“The Commission agreed to write a letter to the Board of Supervisors requesting an appropriation for a drawing board and horses for use by the Commission.” [The Board of Supervisors decided that the Commission could buy their own drawing board and horses out of their own funds, rather than the general levy.] *(PC Minutes, 1941)*

"A discussion of the Zoning Ordinance followed. Mr. Moore gave a report on the goals we wish to reach in revising the ordinance; simplicity of structure; rearrangement according to function; and rearrangement so that amendments can be made without the necessity of fine-combing through the whole ordinance to see if any other provision will be nullified." (*PC Minutes, Jan. 8, 1943*)

"The amendment to the county planning act introduced and passed at the last session of the legislature increasing the permissible membership of county planning commissions was discussed and it was decided to recommend the appointment of two more members to increase our membership to 7." (*PC Minutes, April 1, 1946.*)

"Mr. Stockton explained to the Commission the difficulty of enforcing the portion of the Subdivision Ordinance with respect to the proper installation of physical improvements. In view of this difficulty, Mr. Stockton recommended to the Commission that the developer be required to either install the required physical improvements before his final plat would be approved or that he be required to furnish a corporate bond in the full amount guaranteeing to the Board of Supervisors that the physical improvements would be installed." (*PC Minutes, Jan. 3, 1949*)

1950s

"A resolution was introduced from the Board of Supervisors asking that the Commission study the complications arising from the number of deferrals, particularly as it involves the public. " [PC response: deferred action for thirty days.] (*PC Minutes, 1951*)

"Mr. Price suggested that the Commission recommend to the Board of Supervisors that they go back to the processing of rezonings each month instead of every three months as he thought the change had not accomplished the desired result – that of slowing down requests for rezonings." (*PC Minutes, July 13, 1953*)

Mr. Schuman, Director of Planning: "It would appear that this (Tysons Corner) would never be a well-developed "shopping area", but rather it would be better suited to light industry." (*PC Minutes, 1957*)

"Mr. Schumann told the members that the Board of Supervisors had requested that at their first meeting in October they be presented with a map which would show the Planning Commission's recommendation for applying the Pomeroy business classifications to land in the County which is now zoned for business." (*PC Minutes, Sept. 4, 1958*)

Commissioner Keith "Pappy" Price: "Planning is a difficult process. A man has a right to his land, but he must consider his neighbors and the good of the community." (*Sun, 1959*)

1960s

Bernard Fagelson: "I hope you know that I am not one of those attorneys who make an affectation of getting the last inch from the PC." (*1960*)

Mr. Eggleston suggested shortening the presentation times at the Commission for applicant presentation, from 45 to 20 minutes; retain 30 minutes for the opposition; and rebuttal time from 15 to 10 minutes. (*Minutes, 1961*)

Rosser H. Payne, Jr., Principal Planner, Planning Office: "It is better to cluster development around Herndon and Sunset Hills at reasonably high densities than it would be to zone the entire watershed for small lots and

thus create problems of transportation, road construction, public utilities, etc...." (*Mar. 30, 1961 letter to the Planning Commission*)

Keith Price: "After 23 years on the Planning Commission, I've had it. If everybody in Fairfax County is a Planner or thinks he's a Planner, then they don't need me." (*Resignation Letter, Jan. 4, 1967*)

Theodore Lerner, developer: "When I first saw Tysons Corner, it was rural farmland where cows grazed." (Mr. Lerner purchased the land for the Tysons Corner Shopping Mall in the early Sixties.)

County Executive Carlton Massey: "The public takes so much interest in what is going on that it becomes difficult to get things done." (*1968*)

1970s

Dranesville Supervisor Harriet Bradley: "I found the Planning Commission more lucid than many groups we meet over a meal." (*Virginia Sentinel, April 18, 1971*)

"Mr. Merrell brought before the Commission a scheduling item about which he had received a memo from Mr. Wessel of the County Executive's Office which requested that the Planning Commission schedule a public hearing on the location of the north governmental complex under Section 456." (*PC Minutes, July 2, 1974*)

"I move that the Planning Commission recommend to the Board of Supervisors that a provision be made for citizen participation throughout the entire capital improvement programming process." (*PC Minutes, July 16, 1974*)

"Mrs. Becker suggested, as part of the orientation process for the new Commissioners, that they be encouraged to sit down with Mr. Wyckoff and have him share... information... to have a greater appreciation and a greater understanding of the role the other staff people play in the process." (*PC Minutes, Nov. 17, 1976*)

Miss Barbara Lipka was introduced as the new planning aide in the Office of the Planning Commission. (*Minutes, July 26, 1978*)

"Mr. Gurski advised that he had received a request from the Director of the Office of Comprehensive Planning asking that the Commission participate in a sub-committee which will address the problems of rezoning proffered conditions. He further noted that this committee would develop recommendations to be considered by the Board of Supervisors." (*PC Minutes, Dec. 13, 1979*)

Commissioner Tybelle Fasteau: "Sometimes trees are more important than bricks." (*Unknown PC meeting date*)

1980s

"Mr. Lockwood... advised that Mr. Nagle was concerned about a deferral action taken by the Commission on December 13, 1979. Mr. Lockwood asked his colleagues to let it be known that these type actions upset the schedule of the Commission and that they do not intend to go along with every deferral that is requested." (*Minutes, Jan. 31, 1980*)

“Commissioner Brinitzer asked why there were special exception applications whereby someone could come to the County and, despite the fact that there was a Floodplain Ordinance, still be permitted to request to construct within the floodplain.” (*Minutes, Jan. 12, 1984*)

“Commissioner Harsel commented that she had difficulty envisioning a four-lane bridge over a six-lane highway....” (*Minutes, July 17, 1986*)

“Nick Panuzio [speaker] voiced the opinion that the major problem with the Comprehensive Plan was the consistent effort on the part of developers to affect its change.” (*Minutes, July 17, 1986*)

“Fairfax County was not always a burgeoning metropolis. It was once a sleepy rural county, marked by dirt roads, cow pastures and small settlements near highways that went into Washington. Few imagined that the county would turn into the suburban metropolis of the 1980s.” (*Developing Images, Channel 56 Newsletter, The First Fifty Years, Oct. 1988*)

Commissioner Carl Sell: “This fish ain't ready to fry.” (*Numerous Planning Commission meetings*)

“Vice-Chairman Murphy commented that the phone lines must have been working because of the number of people [55] on the speakers list.” [The meeting adjourned at 2:50 a.m.] (*Minutes Jan. 9, 1989*)

1990s

“Commissioner Hanlon agreed with Mr. Bestimt’s observation that Fairfax County did not have a God-given right to be prosperous. He felt it was important to remember that prosperity was an objective; that the County should not impoverish itself to get cars off the road.” (*Minutes, January 26, 1990*)

“Commissioner Sell commented that he would not support an application with unclear language that could limit what would be sold in the mini mart. He added that if the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors approved it without the language it would come back to haunt them.” (*Minutes, May 2, 1990*)

“For now, it’s the latest antics of the Fairfax County Planning Commission. On one side was Suzanne Harsel, the white-haired planning commissioner from the Annandale District whose high-pitched voice often interrupts most proceedings with questions. On the other side was Patrick Hanlon, the bespectacled, beige-haired commissioner from the Providence District who often offers elaborate, long-winded explanations for even the most simple issues.” (*The Journal, Mar. 18, 1991*)

Commissioner Pete Murphy: “Welcome to the Starship Enterprise” (as he convened the first Planning Commission meeting in the new Government Center). (*The Fairfax Journal, June 25, 1992*)

Commissioner Hank Strickland: “It’s always worrisome to neighbors whenever they are forced to either accept or entertain the possibility of a nonresidential use in a residential neighborhood”. (*Oct. 21, 1992 PC meeting*)

Commissioner Pete Murphy: “AAA leaving Fairfax County because there’s too much traffic is like a doctor leaving town because there are too many sick people.” (*The Fairfax Journal, Apr. 28, 1992*)

Commissioner Pete Murphy: “Last week I was in North Carolina when I stopped at a 7-Eleven that had a gas station, an ATM machine and a Brew-Thru. I thought I had died and gone to heaven.” (*The Fairfax Journal, Feb. 23, 1993*)

2000s

Commissioner Pete Murphy: "Would everyone in the audience please turn off your cell phones or set them to stun." (*Frequent Planning Commission meetings*)

"Commissioner Hart recommended that a high fence be built at the first baseline parallel to Dulles View Drive in order to prevent balls from being hit onto the road and causing a potential traffic hazard." (*PC Minutes, Oct. 21, 2004*)

"Commissioner Alcorn announced that the Board of Supervisors had appointed a Land Use Information Accessibility Advisory Group to review land use information available to the public on the Web and by other means and to make recommendations about how the process could be improved. He noted that he would serve as Chairman of the group." (*PC Minutes, April 19, 2006*)

"Commissioner Sargeant inquired about the need to revisit the Revitalization Plans for the Richmond Highway Corridor in order to integrate exceptions to the rules since more and more exceptions were appearing in proposals." (*PC Minutes, May 30, 2007*)

"Commissioner Lawrence said he did not share the view that people did not get their cars washed on Saturday and requested that the decision be deferred so further information could be obtained on this issue." (*PC Minutes, Jan. 10, 2008*)

MEMORIES

(Presented in alphabetical order by last name, with Commissioner memories first followed by those of staff)

Rosemarie Annunziata: My most memorable moments on the Planning Commission include: (1) Providence District, itself... the District I represented. Located at center County, it presented unique opportunities for interesting and, even innovative, development that addressed the County's economic, social, environmental and aesthetic needs. The complexities posed by large tracts of land, infill pieces, two metro stations, and contiguous districts with development patterns of their own, made for many challenging cases. (2) My colleagues on the Commission. Diverse in interests and vision, highly talented and energetic, they were, to a person, committed to bringing high level development to the County that addressed the reasonable interests of all parties involved and recognized the importance of open space and parkland, affordable housing, schools, and public transportation. They were friends then and remain so now. (3) The staff—both the Commission and the Planning staff. Unparalleled in their abilities and professionalism, the County staff provided excellent technical and managerial guidance to the Commission as well as to the Board of Supervisors. They remained graceful under pressure, accommodating in the face of multiple demands, comprehensive in their presentations, dogged in their research and analyses. They made a hard job look easy! (4) The site visits in the middle of the day and the meetings that lasted well past midnight. Need anything else be said? (5) The citizens who committed time and energy to the planning and rezoning process; the land owners and developers who brought new ideas to the fore, the architects and engineers who translated them, the attorneys who assured a high level of dialogue among the competing interests. (6) The Board of Supervisors who considered what we had to say, and ultimately decided the hard questions of the day!

Larry Baldwin: My service with the Fairfax County Planning Commission occurred in the early 1990s, a time of intensive development. The Board of Supervisors did not approve high density development in most of the Occoquan watershed, however, despite pressure to do otherwise. Sully Magisterial District, where I live had just been created, and major developments there were approved during this time.

Environmental matters became major issues. Ordinances to improve protection of the Chesapeake Bay and to protect the Potomac watershed were developed by the Planning Commission and passed by the Board. Members of the Planning Commission, with whom I served, have contributed effectively to the growth and good development of Fairfax County. I was honored to serve on the Planning Commission during this time.

David Bobzien: Many a night, County applications were deferred, and (staff) was sent home licking wounds and realizing that a little more work still needed to be done. Over the years, things improved, and the County came to realize that not only did it have to produce as much as any other applicant, in reality, it also had to do more and set an example. It was simply the right thing to do.

John Byers: Over 40 years ago I was involved in drafting the original Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan. The section for Mount Vernon, all of 33 pages and dated March 1967, was based on an earlier draft prepared by the Mount Vernon Council in November 1966, and I still have them. This effort was particularly important because it was the first time the people came together to decide how they wanted their County to grow. As I have often reminded speakers at public hearings, the Comprehensive Plan is the people's plan; it's their expression of the direction the people want to see their neighborhood change in developing our County. And those directions are written by the residents in each community; they are not imposed by the County staff or the Planning Commission or the Board of Supervisors. The Planning Commission is only the caretaker of the Plan. It's important that every resident understands this and understands the need to keep the Plan current with changing aspirations. What was appropriate ten, fifteen years ago may no longer be what the community now desires, but it's the people who must change the Plan. (And it's obvious that other commissioners, e.g., Murphy, Alcorn, Hall and Hart, agree because they occasionally quote me!) Like most other commissions, boards, and task forces, the Planning Commission, during my 20 plus years on it, has habitually been comprised of remarkably intelligent, dedicated and conscientious members. I was particularly fortunate to have such people as my mentors: Rosemarie Annunziata who taught me the importance of writing down the details, Carl Sell who would not bring a case to the Commission until all the kinks had been worked out, Tybelle Fasteau who told me, "Sometimes trees are more important than bricks," Jim Hart who impressed me with his analytical reasoning and piercing questions, Janet Hall who taught us all the need for empathy and compassion, and Pete Murphy whose ubiquitous humor and great timing frequently served to defuse a tense situation. Outstanding people, every one of them! And hard working. I learned a lot from them all, right up to the day I retired. The job of Planning Commissioner is not a light one - going to and participating in public hearings, meeting with citizens' groups, conferences with developers and staff, visiting sites, and meeting with the Supervisor approaches 25-30 hours each week. Yet these folks do it willingly and scrupulously. The citizens of Fairfax County are unusually well-served by this Commission and its outstanding staff, and we owe them and their supporting families a great deal of credit.

For some time there has been a vicious rumor going the rounds of gossip within the Planning Commission staff, an otherwise unusually capable and dedicated group ably led by Barbara Lippa, that John Byers inhales a god-awful concoction of coffee and who-knows-what-else, and that his test for the purity of this vile stuff is whether a spoon will stand erect in the cup unsupported. This rumor is patently false. Everybody knows that one eats coffee with a fork, not a spoon! This scuttlebutt is simply a bald attempt to denigrate my singular reputation for creating a valuable and exotic brew. The Commission staff is kind enough to make some insipid potion each night of public hearings to help enable those who can stomach the weak stuff to stay awake past midnight. Ms. Lippa was sympathetic with my request for a more substantial grog and purchased a container of instant coffee. By experimenting, I found that if one were to put four or five heaping spoonfuls of instant coffee in a cup

and then fill it with the freshly brewed dosage provided by our staff, the resulting draft approached a properly made cup of Army-type coffee, guaranteed to straighten your back, curl your hair, and fix your face in a permanent grimace. And that's before you swallow it! There is, however, one true episode concerning my coffee. At a public hearing on a particularly contentious Mount Vernon case, the applicant's attorney, who in modesty must remain nameless (actually it was Keith Martin), said that Commissioner Byers was tired of the quibbling going on between staff and the applicant and that he threatened to put the attorney and the staff coordinator (Peter Braham) in a locked room and force them to drink his atrocious brand of coffee until they came to an agreement! Whereupon they immediately agreed! And the attorney said all this on public television! There were 27 e-mails the next day requesting my recipe!

Before I was appointed Planning Commissioner in 1986, I was a vice president of the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC) and responsible for trying to improve the northern third of Richmond Highway. The SFDC struggled along, made some much needed plantings, but had a hard time making any significant changes to the corridor. However, after I became a Commissioner, Carl Sell, the Lee District Commissioner, and I got together during a Comprehensive Plan review and drew up a major, innovative change. We both wanted to break up the 6 ½-mile commercial strip that ran from Alexandria to Fort Belvoir, but we didn't want to put anybody out of business. So we conceived a plan of five commercial nodes that would be interspersed by urban residential areas. Businesses that wanted to expand would be encouraged to move into new sites within the nodes, vacating land that could then be developed with residences, and existing vacant lots would be put on a fast track for new residential communities. We broached the idea at several Plan review meetings and at both the Lee and Mount Vernon Council meetings, and met with strong approval. The Plan was revised accordingly and new applications for special exceptions were measured against the new concept. Of course, there was some reluctance at first on the part of developers, but with strong community and staff support, the concept began to take shape. Now, more than a decade later, the improvement of Richmond Highway is remarkable, especially to those who have lived in the area for a long time. There is still much to be done, but Richmond Highway is no longer pictured in urban design textbooks as a glaring example of urban blight. There are trees and flowers, upgraded shopping malls, new townhouse developments, fewer overhead wires, more office space - a burgeoning transformation, still in the making but well on its way.

Pat Hanlon: I remember the mark-up on the Comprehensive Plan revisions of the early 1990s. I was the protagonist for the Transportation section of the Plan, and it was a long night. Among other things, I repeatedly clashed with Sue Harsel over proposed roads in the Annandale District. Some of our exchanges must have been heated, since they were so described in *The Journal* the following day as a battle between the "beige-haired commissioner from the Providence District" and, well, Mrs. Harsel. That weekend Sue and I met for lunch at Brion's, which was much frequented by Commissioners then, to cool off and chat about next steps. One of the citizens of my district, who happened to be in the restaurant, was so delighted to see us reconciled that she had the waiter bring us each an ice cream sundae to celebrate. The whole incident symbolized how the Commission operated. The Commissioners worked together for the public interest as best we could, even though we often fussed at each other; when we got mad we got over it; and the citizens relied on our teamwork to make sure that their voices would be heard in the planning process. I also remember this well because it was a really good ice cream sundae.

Jim Hart: Through painstaking and repeated observation, certain thermodynamic principles of land use and human psychology can become apparent. Almost any land use issue can generate opposition. Almost any land use application can become controversial. Almost nothing controversial will be decided

in the presence of the opponents. Land use cases frequently take longer than you want them to; the level of intensity of desire to shorten the public hearing is often directly proportional to its actual length. Speaker objectivity increases with physical distance from the application site; those closest to the property may be in some cases the least objective about it. Extravagant use of green ink in the applicant's illustrations can be a red flag that very little actual green may be preserved. The decision makers' level of comprehension of any given speaker's remarks is inversely proportional to the length of the public hearing, and drops to near zero after midnight. Also, we should remember John Byers' words of wisdom, that "if it isn't written down, they don't have to do it."

Rob Hartwell: My most memorable meeting was my last PC meeting that went until 3:30 a.m. As an At-Large PC, I took on the local Commissioner and lost 5-3. But today, at the entrance to Mason Neck, the townhomes you were not supposed to see from Route One stick out like a sore thumb at the entrance to Virginia's most historic and environmentally sensitive peninsula. The developer swore we would never see them from the road.

John Kershenstein: It was 1978. The PC met in the Massey Building in the BOS board room. Ed Gurski was Chairman and Ed ran a tight ship. I was in my final year as Commissioner from Springfield. For whatever reasons, the Southern Railroad had decided that, since it no longer stopped at Fairfax Station for passenger service, the old station itself was going to be torn down from its life-long residence along the main line of the Southern. That didn't sit well with Lena Wyckoff (who was Jimmy Wyckoff's mom, Jimmy being the PC's executive director and who had been in place almost as long as the station had been in Fairfax). Lena was pretty much the unofficial mayor of Fairfax Station and decided that something had to be done to preserve the station. She apparently convinced Jack Herrity (BOS Chairman) of the wisdom of her logic because a movement was mounted to preserve the old station. Southern Railroad was convinced not to destroy the station if it could be relocated to another location. Lena founded the Friends of Fairfax Station and the Friends somehow managed to convince Mark Fried (a Fairfax land use attorney) who happened to own a five-acre parcel at the entrance to Smoke Rise on Fairfax Station Road that he should donate the parcel to the cause. Now Mark was no fool. He was well known to the BOS & PC and was an all round good guy. However, a five-acre parcel in that location represented a pretty substantial gift. Mark agreed to donate the property but didn't want to take a big loss. Enter the Park Authority. If Mark donated the property to the Authority it could be considered a tax deductible gift. However, the Authority would need to get the parcel designated as a public use or facility and that was the Planning Commission's job. Therefore a "456" hearing as it was then called was scheduled. Whenever a case fell in a magisterial district, it was the job of the district's Commissioner to recommend a course of action for the PC to follow. I had had a fair amount of practice in this department since Springfield had had the heaviest caseload during the past several years with rezonings that had resulted from the adoption of the County's first Comprehensive Plan that came out of the PLUS program. I had had several successes and some failures at convincing the PC of the wisdom of my recommendations. Now this case seemed to me to be a no-brainer but I didn't want to take any chances. Since I was a child and my uncle took me into the Altoona Roundhouse, I was always a train buff and was quite familiar with the Fairfax Station and would often go there just to watch a train or two go by. I had also assembled a fair collection of steam engine recordings, one of which I transferred to a small tape recorder that I smuggled into the hearing. At the conclusion of the public hearing, Gurski as he always did announced that he was 'turning to the Commissioner from the district' for his recommendation. Each Commissioner had before him two microphones, one that was fairly obvious and a lapel mic that could be clipped to his person or held. Whatever was said was piped throughout the Massey building. I began my summation by saying that it was not my normal practice to 'railroad' cases through the Commission but in this case I was making an exception. At this point I switched to my lapel mike which was next to the speaker of my tape recorder and Southern Railroad Steam Engine 4501

roared through the Board room and the rest of the building. The "456" was approved and the Fairfax Station now resides a few blocks away from its original location at the intersection of Fairfax Station Road and Smoke Rise Lane. It was later joined by a caboose which Lee District Commissioner Carl Sell was able to sequester by which means I was afraid to ask.

Ron Koch: After the first few speakers, everything that needs to be said has been, except everyone else hasn't had a chance to say it also. The definition of over development is: Every house built after mine.

George Lilly: All of the time I spent at the PC was memorable and I formed relationships that last all of my life.

Bill Lockwood: At a 1968 meeting the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors agenda included the selection of a replacement to fill an unexpired term vacancy on the Fairfax County Planning Commission. The Democratic Board's majority nominee was not approved; neither was the nominee proposed by Tom Wright, a Republican, the Providence District Board member. Bill Lockwood, whose selection for the job was recommended by the Fairfax County Citizens Association, was approved as a compromise Planning Commissioner. The next day's Northern Virginia Sun reported on this selection and quoted Tom Wright as remarking, "Why should I vote for Bill Lockwood? I never even met the man!" The following week the Board and Commission held a joint meeting. Fred Babson, Board Chairman, requested that Lockwood not meet with Wright prior to the joint meeting since he wanted the dubious, ironic pleasure of introducing Wright and Lockwood at the meeting. A year later, Lockwood was nominated by Wright, the Republican, for a full four-year term. Four years later, he was nominated by Jim Scott, a Democrat, for a four-year term. Lockwood was subsequently nominated for a four-year term as an At-Large Planning Commissioner by Jack Herrity, a Republican, then Board Chairman. Lockwood is an Independent.

Hank Strickland: My most memorable, although sad, response to the Planning Commission's request for "my most memorable moment as a PC member" was the death of two of our daughters, within 11 weeks, early in 1991. I was summoned from a Commission Hearing on January 9 and told that Kathleen, the youngest of our six children, who was then a senior at George Mason University, had collapsed while running at the George Mason Field House. I went immediately to the Emergency Room of Fairfax Hospital, where Kathleen, was pronounced dead. She died of an undetected heart defect, just one week after our family had celebrated her 21st birthday. Eleven weeks later, on the morning of March 25, Teresa, our next youngest, was killed in her parked car on the shoulder of Rt. 95 on her way to work. A careless motorist swerved off the highway and slammed into Teresa's car. Teresa was 28 years old then, a Virginia Tech graduate, with a master's degree in electrical engineering from The John Hopkins University. She graduated from Hopkins with highest honors. The loss of our two youngest daughters, both in their twenties, with great futures ahead of them was by far the greatest test of our faith and our lives for me and my wife Muriel. Only our prayers and the devotion of our four remaining children saw us through this terrible ordeal.

John Thillmann: A few of my favorite stories are: (1) Pete Murphy and I shared a district line along Rt. 50 when I was the Centreville Planning Commissioner (it is now the Hunter Mill District) and he was/is the Springfield Commissioner when a proposal came to the Planning Commission for the Police and Sheriff training academy, firing range and short term jail. It was proposed for the area just below Dulles Airport in my district but all of the people opposed were in Pete's Springfield District (they all lived south of Route 50). The night of the hearing 100 or so protesters came to the hearing in buses and car pools and all were dressed in jail striped shirts. The vote was in the affirmative but without a jail! (2) When The Reston Town Center was proposed in I believe 1986/7 Martha Pennino (Centreville Supervisor and

Vice Chairman of the Board) put me in charge of a Task Force to work with the County Staff and the Developer (Mobil Reston) to review the plans and hammer out something acceptable to all. We met almost every other week for 18 months and when the hearing came up for determining where to put millions of square feet of office, retail, hotel and a Hospital including thousands of residential units all of which would generate huge amounts of traffic trips only 12 speakers came and they all spoke in favor!

(3) One of the sub plots in the Reston Town Center story is that I was adamant that in the Town Center there be a community gathering space like a formal town green and space dedicated to history or the arts by the Hotel and near the fountain. The developer fought it as an expensive proposition in otherwise very valuable ground that in addition would be difficult to maintain. They felt that no one would use it. Well, I was able to convince them to go along and the space became the Reston pavilion and it is used extensively in summer for concerts and out door events and winter as a great community skating rink. The Developer has on numerous occasions told me that it was the best thing that they were ever forced to do. The art space is now the Greater Reston Art Center (GRACE)--and a group (Initiative for Public Art-Reston) is now developing a Reston Public Art Master Plan of which I am a Board Member. Small world. The Northern Virginia Art show is annually sponsored by GRACE, held in the Town Center (partly on the Pavilion) and it has become the largest juried art show/festival on the East Coast of the United States!

(4) One of what I consider a real accomplishment is that when EDS which owned a large tract of land along Route 28 and McClaren Road wanted to allow hotel uses and additional FAR on their site we were in favor of the use but we convinced them that they needed to construct 1/2 section of a four lane road one mile long McClaren Road between Centreville Road and West Ox Road. This was done 30 years ago and has for all of these years handled two-way traffic and neither the State nor Fairfax County ever built the other half of the road--but at least the connection was made.

Robin Hardy: To have been a member of the Planning Commission staff for over thirty years – you not only have to love land use, you have to genuinely appreciate your colleagues. It has been my honor to have known and worked with County staff and Planning Commissioners, past and present, with particular thanks to... former County Executive J Lambert and current County Executive Tony Griffin for always being so approachable... to former Commissioner Tybelle Fasteau for insisting on beauty in development...to former Commissioner Patrick Hanlon for broadening my vocabulary... to David Marshall of the Planning Division for always making me laugh... to former PC Executive Director Jim Wyckoff for the lunch-time tours of the County and for not freaking out when I went into labor in his office... to former Commission Chairman Ed Gurski for insisting on holding a PC meeting in the midst of an electrical outage... to former Commissioner Peter Brinitzer for being effective, efficient and caring beneath his tough-guy exterior... to former Commissioner Pappy Price for the best darn resignation letter ever written (discovered in the Commission archives) and to former Commissioner Paul Keast for the second best resignation letter... to Bob Hood of the County Print Shop for being able to figure out 20+ years ago how to implement my idea for the PC packets and for printing me a copy of the Fairfax County Courthouse Civil War photo... to the members of the 1980s County Employees bowling league for many Sundays of fun... to land use attorneys Marc Bettius, Russ Rosenberger, and Til Hazel for being willing to star in the 1979 satire (*A Day in the Life of the Planning Commission*) written by PC staff... to current Commissioner Suzanne Harsel for never forgetting the staff and for her frequent malapropisms (of which I am convinced many are deliberate)... to former Commissioner Halley Merrell for “spinning in his chair with delight over the promised preservation of habitat for pileated woodpeckers” (his words, not mine)... to current Commission Chairman Pete Murphy for his levity and dedication...to current Commissioner Ken Lawrence for his thoughtful and erudite summations... to former Commissioner Carl Sell for always speaking his mind... to former Commission staff member Gloria Watkins for “getting” me and my need for color-coding and organization and for her skill at writing minutes... to former and current PC staff members Suzie Frazier, Marilyn Foley, Nancy Crane, Nancy Pachan, Karen Arnold, Tina

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Karen J. Harwood, Esq. - Once upon a time there was a Fairfax County Planning Commission that did not include Peter Murphy or Suzanne Harsel. There was no cable company; no Channel 16; Planning Commission meetings were not televised. Affidavits were typically no longer than two or three pages. Land use attorneys from the Fairfax County Attorney's Office took turns attending each Commission meeting, sitting with staff from the agency formerly known as the Office of Comprehensive Planning. In 1978, those attorneys were Ed Finnegan, Bob Flinn, Kathe Anderson, and Karen Harwood. Speaking only for myself from personal experience during those days, if the official Planning Commission meeting ended at a reasonable time (i.e., before midnight) what at times approached a quorum would reconvene at what was then known as "Charlie's" (now known as "Brion's Grille") for a night cap. For then-Commissioner John Kershenstein, the "night cap" consisted of a bowl of chocolate ice cream. Then-Commission Chairman Ed Gurski, Executive Director Jim Wyckoff, others and I had the traditional fare. I have many fond memories of my work with the Planning Commission, work that literally has spanned decades. To the Fairfax County Planning Commission - Happy 70th Anniversary!!!!

Barbara Lippa: Never did I imagine when I joined the Commission Office as a planning aide in 1978 that I would remain for 30 years and rise to become Executive Director! With little initial interest in planning, I quickly came to see how "citizen-planners" could work with adjoining neighbors and through those efforts result in mutual benefits, often to the entire Fairfax community. Over the years I have been witness to transformations in the County that have been nothing less than phenomenal-- including its changing residential face through such developments as Kingstowne, Franklin Farm, and Little Rocky Run, and, of course, ever- changing and expanding Reston; the Metro developments at Dunn Loring and Vienna, the closing of Lorton Prison and metamorphosis into Laurel Hill; the well-utilized mixed-use developments at Fair Lakes and Fairfax Corner and of course, the Government Center complex itself, to name but a few stand-outs. None of the change would have been possible without the intense dedication of each individual who has served on the Planning Commission over these years and, of course, County staff. It has been, and continues to be, my sincere pleasure to work with such highly-committed individuals, especially each member of the Commission staff, who always does their utmost to fulfill the needs of Commissioners and ultimately, the Board of Supervisors! Happy Anniversary to all!

Mary Pascoe: Many funny and/or interesting things happened while I was Clerk, but I can't remember them off hand. One thing I do remember vividly was that the shooter at the CIA several years back was a courier who brought documents to our office from various law offices and companies. I recognized him from his photograph in the newspaper.

Linda Rodeffer: My most memorable cases were the contentious hearings with the auditorium filled to capacity and numerous speakers both for and against that lasted until the early morning hours. Here are a few that stand out:

APR Nomination 97-IV-19LP in the Mount Vernon District. The nomination sought to change the Plan from no public sewer to public sewer under certain conditions; to public sewer without reservation. The auditorium was filled on Saturday, September 13, 1997 with people for and against, some of whom wore signs in the shape of toilet seats and gave graphic details about failing septic systems. There were 41 speakers. The hearing was so contentious that Chairman Murphy noted at one point that "there were two sides to the issue and requested that proper decorum be maintained." Commissioner Coan expressed dismay at what he felt was a lack of confidence in elected officials to exercise good judgment in the future that seemed to be implied by many speakers. He stated that there was a system in place to safeguard communities and citizens should trust that system and allow it to function.

Zoning Ordinance Amendment (Dry Cleaners). A public hearing was held to increase the allowed floor area for dry cleaning and laundry establishments on May 31, 2001. Every seat in the auditorium was taken and security personnel had to remove people sitting in the aisles because it was in violation of fire regulations. Carlos Cardenas, owner of Dryclean Depot, said he had obtained all of the necessary permits when he opened and had no idea why many months later he had been found to be in violation of the Zoning Ordinance. He suggested it was punitive in nature because he charged less than his competitors. The other side said large establishments, such as Dryclean Depot, would force smaller stores out of business. There were 27 speakers and the meeting ended at 2:13 pm. Commissioner Alcorn handled the amendment and as always treated each speaker with tact and respect.

July 24, 2003: McLean Bible Church wanted to establish a medical care facility to provide respite services for families who cared for special needs children in their homes. Once again the auditorium was filled to capacity with many of the special needs children and their parents which was heart-wrenching to see. Commissioner Byers commented that there was no question that respite care facilities were very much in need, but said the Planning Commission had to base its decision on land use issues only. Commissioner de la Fe, whom I admire for always speaking his mind, said that he found the ads placed in newspapers by those opposed to the facility offensive. There were 34 speakers and the meeting ending at 1:00 a.m.

Gloria Watkins: The only thing I can think of is that play we put on back in 1980 -- "A Day in the Life of the Planning Commission." It was hilarious.

Jim Wyckoff: A substantial book could be written of my recollections of memorable moments while working with the Planning Commission. While my tenure spanned almost 30 years, the following memories are but a few of the many. First, there was a scheduled trip every other Saturday morning to view the cases on which hearings were scheduled in the subsequent two weeks. A "viewing" was a chance to see the lay of the land and meet with interested applicants, citizens, and agents. The most memorable of these was on a brisk fall day when we were looking at a proposal near what is now Kingstowne. We all boarded our PC van and headed toward Franconia. As we approached the site under consideration, a "gentleman" in a pickup truck with a shotgun in the rear window rack greeted us

with “What are you fellas doin’ here?” As I tried to explain, the ever-anxious pickup operator suddenly stopped his incessant inquiry and said, “Oh, Carl is that you? I guess it’s okay since you are traveling with this group.” The Carl he was referring to was Carl Sell, the erstwhile and well-known Planning Commissioner from the Lee District. Had it not been for Commissioner Sell being with us that day, it is unknown what fate may have befallen us! Second, we were meeting in the Board Room of the Massey Building on a hot July night discussing a case with drainage problems. As the room and debate became hotter and hotter, we opened the doors to the adjacent rose garden. Just as the hearing was winding down, then Chairman Lilly asked if anyone else would like to speak. A “gentleman” ran in through the open doors and went straight to the microphone. He said, “Water runs downhill” as he spat on the microphone and ran back outside. Needless to say, he was the last speaker of the evening!

“The Laughs Are on the Planning Commission”

By Brad Holt
Washington Star Staff Writer; May 20, 1979

In a lighthearted action Friday, something resembling the Fairfax County Planning Commission voted unanimously to convert Burke Centre, an immense housing development, into a sanitary landfill.

The motion, made by the county staff, went like this: “One potato, two potato, three potato, four – all for the Burke dump, stand up and roar.”

But the commissioners were only caricatures of themselves, played by amateur actors. The commissioners, the county staffers they work with, and some county supervisors were satirized in a skit recorded by a TV camera.

Friday night, the 35-minute videotape was shown at a dinner and dance honoring former Springfield Commissioner John Kershenstein and three planning commission staff members who have recently resigned.

“A Day in the Life of the Fairfax County Planning Commission” was written and produced by Suzie Frazier, Robin Hardy and Barbara Lippa of the commission staff. Among the stars were prominent county zoning attorneys John T. “Til” Hazel, who portrayed himself, and Marc Bettius, who starred as Planning Commission chairman Edward C. Gurski.

Bettius, mixing ad libs with his script, duplicated Gurski’s stern yet polite manner in explaining how a public hearing is conducted:

“This is a public hearing. Before I call the first name on our speakers’ list, let me review our rules for those who are not familiar with them. If you are here as an individual, you are allotted 5 minutes’ speaking time. If you represent a citizens association, you are allotted 10

minutes’ time. If you’ve come here to speak, you’ve wasted a great deal of time already.

“From time to time you will be interrupted by inane questions from members of this commission, many of whom are not allowed to speak at home, and so they do here,” Bettius-as-Gurski continued.

“Generally, one commissioner will give a speech about what another com-

“From time to time you will be interrupted by inane questions from members of this commission, many of whom are not allowed to speak at home, and so they do here.”

missioner has said. Then another commissioner will give a speech saying precisely the same thing. At such time as we become annoyed at that, we’ll stop all this foolishness and get on with it.”

Hazel, speaking on behalf of the applicant, played his role low-key and straight, just like he has on countless real appearances before the commission and before the supervisors.

“We started out to maximize profit in Fairfax County and we can make more money per square foot in this project than in any other in my career,” he said. “There will be an immediate benefit in cutting down all the trees and clearing and grading the land. It will be a wonderful site for rats and other forms of rodent life.”

Part of the dump proposal involved a staff recommendation that an “invention” by Board of Supervisors Chairman John Herrity also be approved. Herrity has been in the news recently for his backing of gasoline as a partial answer to the gasoline shortage.

His invention, according to the satire, involves the collection of methane gas from the dump, converting it into liquid form and mixing it with alcohol as a gasoline substitute.

Hazel was asked what he thought of Herrity’s invention. “We would like to help with Mr. Herrity’s project,” he said. “The difficulty is that we cannot technologically conceive of anyone producing more gas than Mr. Herrity.”

At another point, an actor portraying Commissioner Peter H. Brinitzer asked Hazel if there were any plans “regarding the obfuscation and elimination of the resulting odor from his operation. Or, a secondary issue might be channeling the wind direction toward the Annandale District so as to have a full appreciation of this type of system.”

Hazel, in an apparent reference to Audrey Moore, the outspoken Annandale supervisor, said, “The wind coming out of the Annandale District is so strong we haven’t been able to find anything to counteract it.”

Kershenstein, the Springfield representative who was not reappointed after his term on the commission expired recently, was portrayed by Russ Rosenberger of the county planning staff.

“I stand before you now a broken and bitter man, but in support of this application (to construct the dump),” the satirized Kershenstein said. “They say revenge is sweet. Boy, does this taste good. Burke is finally getting theirs... this has really made my being thrown off the commission really, really worthwhile.”

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Map depicting Fairfax County in 1938 when the Planning Commission was established.

