



Planning Communicator

A Publication of the Fairfax County Planning Commission

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Commissioner Spotlight

This issue of the Planning Communicator continues a series of interviews with Commissioners to present insight into how each became involved in the Fairfax County land use process. Our fourth interview is with Sully District Commissioner, Ronald W. Koch, who had previously served as an At-Large Commissioner for 6 years and currently as the Sully District Commissioner for the last 14 years.



Prior to his initial appointment to the Planning Commission, Ron Koch had been a citizen activist who publicly protested any proposed developments in Centreville when the area was still a farming community with ample open space. He moved to the Newgate Forest neighborhood in 1972 and has chaired its homeowners association since 1988. He actively performed outreach in his community and had his four children help distribute flyers announcing public hearings.

Koch recalls that property abutting his neighborhood had been proposed to be changed from R-1 to R-20 zoning, which would have created 4,000 units. He and

many of his neighbors expressed strong opposition to the proposal and the developer significantly reduced the number of units and included single-family detached homes to be more compatible with the adjacent neighborhood. By the time the proposal was ultimately approved, Koch had already been appointed as an At-Large Commissioner by then Board of Supervisors' Chairman Jack Herrity, and served from 1982 to 1988.

In 1992, Koch was reappointed to the Commission by Supervisor Michael Frey to represent the newly-created Sully District. He discovered quickly that a District Commissioner's role was significantly different from that of an At-Large Commissioner mainly due to necessary participation at numerous meetings with staff, the applicant and the citizens prior to the public hearing on a particular application. Koch says that in the absence of outstanding issues or circumstances, he generally agrees with his fellow District Commissioners on their

recommendations since he is confident that they exert the same effort as he on such applications.

Koch acknowledges that by the time an application reaches the public hearing stage, he has formed an opinion but is open to change as a result of citizen input. "So, the public hearing has a purpose because that's an opportunity for many issues to be raised and old issues are covered, but we tell people they have been addressed," he said. Koch considers the most memorable land-use cases that he has witnessed involve neighborhood consolidations because of their dramatic characteristics, citing Centreville Farms as an example.

Koch has been an active member of numerous Commission committees. He said his experience as chairman of both the Procedures Committee and the Policy Review Committee had given him a view of the inner workings of staff and a great appreciation for their efforts. "I have a

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Commissioner Ronald Koch

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great deal of trust and respect for staff because they are true professionals," Koch conveyed.

Koch also served on the Baseball Stadium Site Selection Task Force, which had been appointed by the Board of Supervisors to discuss the possibility of building a baseball stadium in Fairfax County. He noted that the task force had visited baseball stadiums in Fort Worth, Texas; Cleveland, Ohio and Denver, Colorado to explore their unique features, such as hands-on demonstrations and activities for children and conference rooms.

Koch has witnessed developments in Sully District that have mainly involved consolidation of large properties, such as Centre Ridge and Centreville Farms, but notes that developments of smaller properties are now just as controversial because the property is surrounded by already-developed land. He explains that large developments offered more leverage because applicants could provide a school site or parkland due to the quantity of land involved. Koch believes that the

environment of the county will continue to change to meet the demands of a growing population through redevelopment and land consolidations that will offer mass transit opportunities.

Koch enjoys and takes pride in his role as a Planning Commissioner. He said the responsibilities of a Commissioner are to obey the law, follow adopted procedures that have been set forth and avoid being "arbitrary and capricious." Koch believes that Commission recommendations, when warranted, can deviate a little bit from the Comprehensive Plan. "I believe that the Planning Commissioners have some leverage to address particular circumstances where the developer can address some specific concern by the community," he said. Koch notes that staff does not have that luxury because they must make their determination based on the Comprehensive Plan, which is a guide that cannot envision all the possible circumstances that arise. He believes that the county land use planning process has become more streamlined, which has improved communication between staff and the Commission over the years.

Koch helped establish the West Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA) where he has been a charter member since 1981 and had previously served as chairman and vice-chairman of its Land Use Committee. He regularly attends WFCCA and Sully District Council meetings as well as Sully District Task Force meetings during the North County Area Plans Review cycle. He observes at the WFCCA and his HOA meetings, that District citizens are constructive and fair, recognize that property owners have the right to develop, thoroughly understand the county's land use process and acknowledge their constraints along with those of the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

In 2000, Koch received the Outstanding Achievement in Community Service Award from the WFCCA, which he cites as the highest honor he has received. He was the second recipient of the award following James McDonald, former chairman of the WFCCA's Land Use Committee and a close friend of Koch's before he had passed away due to cancer. The

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South County Area Plans Review

The Planning Commission recently completed its part of the 2005- 2006 South County Area Plans Review (APR) process with its APR mark-up session on July 26th. Public hearings were held for all active APR nominations in each district during the last two weeks of June. At the July 26 meeting of the Commission, each nomination was considered for approval in some form. The Commission has four options for approval. They may approve the nomination as originally

submitted or support the Task Force alternative, the Staff alternative or the PC alternative. The "alternatives" are developed by either the Task Force, Planning Division (DPZ) staff, or the Planning Commission itself. When a nomination receives a recommendation for approval, the recommended language is forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for public hearing. Any nominations that are denied by the Commission are not given further consideration by

the Board. The Board will hold public hearings on APR items in September and will hold mark-up in December 2006.

The Planning Commission office received 145 nominations for review in September 2005. Of those nominations, 69 received a public hearing. The remaining 76 nominations were rejected, withdrawn by the nominator or deferred for potential special studies.

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Commissioner Ronald Koch

(Continued from page 2)

award recognized his contributions to the Centreville community.

Koch was designated as a "Hometown Hero" by the Centre Ridge Commerce Bank in Centreville on December 22, 2005 for his volunteer work. He received a \$500 check from Commerce Bank, which he donated to the Fairfax Area Christian Emergency and Transitional Services (FACETS).

Koch has committed a lot of his "spare" time and energy to the programs and services provided by FACETS. He drives the FACETS RV each month to deliver services, food and clothing to homeless and low-income people living in the county. Koch also entertains the children by performing magic shows, although he admits that he adds some comedy to his routine when the tricks do not turn out as anticipated. He had previously performed magic shows at the County Boys Probation Home

and Camp 30 and taught parenting classes at the county jail and pre-release center. For the past nine years, Koch has been mentoring three at-risk youth — two are now 17 and one is 15 — from low-income families through the FACETS Mentoring Program.

Koch has an extensive career history, having worked for the Federal Bureau of Prisons where he performed audits of penitentiaries, the Department of the Army where he installed automated systems nationwide and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation for a total of 33 years until he retired in 1997. He also served 26 years with the Virginia National Guard, retiring as Sergeant First Class. Of those 26 years, three of them were on active duty in Germany. Koch currently works as a registered private investigator, serving subpoenas for 10 law firms.

Koch has two daughters - Kelly, who is 33 years old, married, with two children (ages 2 and 3) and lives in

Richmond, Virginia and Theresa, who is 31 years old, married, with two children (ages 13 and 2 ½) and lives in Beaver Dam, Virginia. He also has two step-daughters - Suzanne Croy, who is 30 years old and lives in Fairfax and Kim Webb, who is 33 years old, with a daughter (age 12) and lives in Front Royal.

Koch has been married to his wife, Lois, for nine years. He and Lois are enthusiastic international travelers who have visited the following regions: Egypt, where they had their honeymoon; the Amazon; Ecuador; the Galapagos Islands; China; Vietnam; Thailand and India. They plan to travel on a safari in Africa next year.

Koch considers his major accomplishment on the Commission "as giving the citizen advocates in Sully District an opportunity to participate in the process and make a difference."

Thanks to All Our Volunteers at the Planning Commission Beverage Booth

This year marked the 25th year the Planning Commissioners, staff members and their families had the privilege of serving ice cold beverages to attendees at the Celebrate Fairfax! Festival. Thanks to our "family" for volunteering at the Commission beverage booth from Friday, June 9th, through Sunday, June 11th: Kara and Jay DeArrastia; Susan Donovan; Norma Duncan; Janet, Clifford, Jessica and Brian Hall; Jim Hart; Nancy Hopkins; Steve Hubbard; Ron and Lois Koch; Joan Kitch; Ken and Joyce Lawrence; Barbara Lippa; Myra Musialkiewicz; Henri Stein McCartney and Craig McCartney; Pete, Charlene and

Cherilyn Murphy; Mary Pascoe; Linda Rodeffer and Linda and Nigel Smyth.

Special thanks to Chairman Murphy for his continuing contributions of time and energy to the event and to Barbara Lippa, Executive Director, for again coordinating the volunteers and ensuring coverage for the weekend.

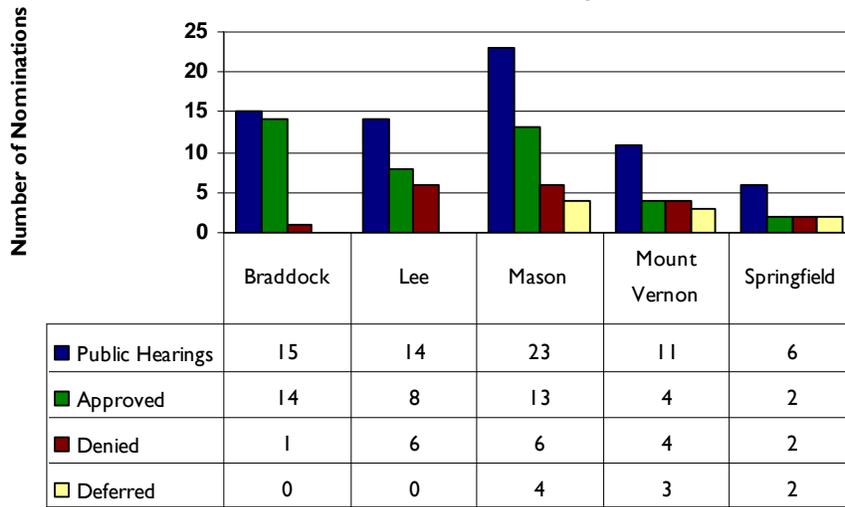
All proceeds from the booth's sales, in addition to separate donations, have been contributed to the trust funds for Detective Vicky Armel and Master Police Officer Michael Garbarino, who were lost in the line of duty on May 8, 2006, at the Sully District Governmental Center.



Volunteers (left to right) Craig McCartney, Norma Duncan, Henri Stein McCartney and Joan Kitch serve drinks at the Beverage Booth.

South County Area Plans Review

APR Nominations by District



(Continued from page 2)

Forty-one nominations have been forwarded to the Board with a recommendation for approval from the Planning Commission. Decision was deferred on nine nominations, which are scheduled for decision in September prior to the Board’s public hearings. The chart to the left shows a breakdown of actions by district.

For information on individual APR nominations, visit the Department of Planning and Zoning’s Web site at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/apr/0506srbooklog.htm.

New Committee Seeks to Establish Principles for Transit-Oriented Development

In response to a directive from the Board of Supervisors, the Planning Commission established a new Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Committee that began its work in May 2006 to develop a consensus with community representatives that will result in a more refined, standardized definition and set of principles for transit-oriented development. These principles are often referenced for residential, commercial and mixed-use developments surrounding rail stations in an urban setting, but are also applied to stations in suburban settings such as Fairfax County.

The Commission appointed the following members to the committee: Chairman Walter Alcorn, At-Large; John Byers, Mount Vernon District; Frank de la Fe, Hunter Mill District; Rodney Lusk, Lee District and Ken Lawrence, Providence District. The alternates are Suzanne Harsel, Braddock District and Nancy Hopkins, Dranesville District.

At its first meeting on May 24th, the Committee and community

participants discussed the consensus process that would be followed to establish guidance for transit-oriented development. The guidance will be provided in the context of the Policy Plan volume of the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan.

To help provide the group with sufficient background information, the TOD Committee has invited to its last four meetings a series of guest speakers: Stewart Schwartz, Executive Director of the Coalition for Smarter Growth; Patricia Nicoson, President, Dulles Corridor Rail Association; Jim Snyder, retired planning section supervisor of Master Planning and Development Planning in Arlington County, VA; Jeff Speck, co-author of “Suburban Nation” and the Director of Design at the National Endowment for the Arts; John Carter, Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery County, MD; Nat Bottigheimer, Director, Planning and Project Development, WMATA and Mariia Zimmerman, Vice President for Policy, Reconnecting America and the Center for TOD.

One Committee meeting in August and one in September will focus on panels of citizens who either live or work near existing or proposed Metro stations throughout the County and use the transit system or those who may live farther away but are still interested in such development to share their ideas on the TOD definition and guiding principles.

The committee will evaluate the variety of information it receives and develop a recommendation for a Policy Plan amendment, which will be forwarded to the Board later this year. Any Board-authorized amendments will then be subject to public hearing by the Planning Commission and Board.

For more information, including meeting minutes, schedules, meeting locations, recent presentations and multiple-listed resources on the topic, please visit the Commission’s Web page devoted to this subject at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/tod.htm.

Making Land Use Web Information Easier to Access

On January 26, 2006, At-large Commissioner Walter Alcorn was appointed by the Board of Supervisors to lead a new advisory group of citizens to work with county staff to improve the delivery of land use information via the county's Web site.



Chartered as the Land Use Information Accessibility Advisory Group, its purpose is: 1) to assist county staff with making land use information that is now provided by the Departments of Planning and Zoning (DPZ), Tax Administration (DTA), Information Technology and Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) more accessible to the average county Web user and 2) to provide the Board with recommendations to guide information technology budget investments in the Land Development System's online portal (LDSNET) functionality.

The inaugural meeting was held on

April 26, 2006 and the group will continue to meet monthly through November. Early meetings were spent reviewing the county's current online systems that provide land use information, along with the enhancements already underway to modify the LDSNET, Geographic Information System (GIS) and DTA data systems. The group has reviewed "best practices" from other jurisdictions, including Louisville, Kentucky; Howard County, Maryland and Orange County and San Diego, California. In addition, the group reviewed new Web pages designed by the Office of Public Affairs, in concert with the various county land use departments, to provide land use information in a more logical, citizen-friendly, accessible format. This newly-formatted information for DPZ and DPWES made its debut on the county Web site in August.

Another application currently undergoing redesign is "My Neighborhood," which relates various GIS layers to specific county addresses or areas and shows map history of an area through aerial

photos. This application was demonstrated to the group, along with upgrades already underway. The group also discussed the possibility of future upgrades that could include 3D visualization software, as well as other suggested improvements.

It is anticipated that the Advisory Group will discuss preliminary recommendations in September. Given cost implications of any proposed enhancements, priorities will likely be categorized as follows: (1) "quick hits" that can be accomplished in a short period of time; (2) medium difficulty enhancements that could take 2 to 5 years to complete and (3) longer term changes (5 to 10 years).

The remaining Wednesday meetings that are currently scheduled are: September 6th, October 11th and November 8th. Meetings of the Advisory Group begin at 7:15 p.m. in the Government Center Conference Center and are open to the public.

Transportation Plan Update

The Transportation Plan is an element of the Comprehensive Plan and serves as a guide for long-range transportation development in the county. The current Transportation policies were originally adopted in 1990. The policies are accompanied by the Transportation Plan Map, which was adopted in 1991 and revised in 2001. Since late 2004, the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (DOT) has been working on a comprehensive review of the Transportation Plan to better serve the growing demand for transportation in the area. This review and update were needed due

since the county population has grown by 28% - over 200,000 people - and employment has grown by 47%, bringing new traffic patterns and increased numbers of vehicles to our roads. With the high rate of development that exists in the county, population and employment centers are expected to continue to grow, increasing transportation demand.

Beginning in March 2005, DOT held public meetings in various locations throughout the county to educate residents on the proposed changes to the Transportation Plan, and to

gather public input. These meetings continued



in July and November 2005 to discuss future travel demand forecast results and proposed revisions to the transportation objectives and policies. DOT began soliciting public comments in December 2004, and continued to collect comments until May 31, 2005. The comment period was again opened in November 2005 for one month to collect final public comment. All public comments were

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Transportation Plan Update

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compiled and presented as an attachment to the Staff Report.

The final draft of the plan was presented to the Planning Commission at its public hearing on May 4, 2006. The Commission approved the plan, with modifications, on May 25th. The Board of Supervisors held their public hearing and adopted the Policy Plan amendments on July 10th. The updated Transportation Plan Map was then adopted on July 31st.

The most significant changes to the Policy Plan are intended to mitigate the impact to roads as the demand for transportation in the area increases. The overall goal is to improve transportation alternatives in areas with high density residential and/or employment centers to encourage individuals to leave their car at home. The Plan sets forth 13 objectives to achieve these goals, which are noted below:

- ☞ Provide a multi-modal transportation system that provides transportation choices and reduces reliance on single-occupancy car trips;
- ☞ Increase HOV lanes on non-interstate, major arterial highways and consider implementing HOT (high-occupancy toll) lanes;
- ☞ Offer improved transportation alternatives, such as



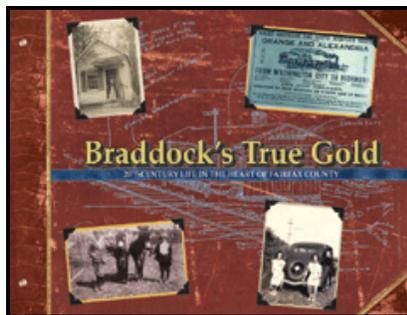
expanded bus and rail service, on-road bike lanes, trails and sidewalks around transit centers;

- ☞ Provide a comprehensive, integrated network of bus, rail, on-road bike lanes, trails and sidewalks linking centers of activity with residential centers;
- ☞ Implement Transportation Demand Management (TDM) measures, including promoting alternative modes of transportation, teleworking, tele-learning, alternative work schedules and flex-time;
- ☞ Ensure that land-use and transportation objectives are complementary; and
- ☞ Work with other local jurisdictions to address inter-county travel and regional growth and development.

With Phase I completed, Phase II of the Transportation Plan Update will begin shortly. In Phase II, county staff will review each Area Plan volume and update as needed to integrate changes made in Phase I to the Transportation Plan Map. The revisions to the Area Plan volumes will contain specific language regarding improvements and expansions identified for the area.

More information, including presentations, the Staff Report, demand forecast results and the Plan map can be found online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/transplanupdate.htm.

Braddock's True Gold: Memories of 20th-Century Life in the Heart of Fairfax County



Braddock's True Gold: Memories of 20th-Century Life in the Heart of Fairfax County, a 193-page book by Marion Meany and Mary Lipsey contains stories, illustrations, memories and

recollections from over 50 long-time residents of the Braddock District during the years 1907 through 1990. It was published on June 5th thanks to an extensive history project spearheaded by Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova.

Supervisor Bulova presented the 2004/2005 Miniseries: "A Look Back at Braddock," at town meetings, which featured discussions about evidence of historical activities in the area and the area's evolution from early history to the present. The Braddock District history project

encouraged citizens to provide written anecdotes, maps, photographs, historic materials and oral histories for inclusion in *Braddock's True Gold*. The project also featured a history paper competition that involved students of area schools and all submissions were published in the book.

Braddock District residents provided their perspectives and shared their experiences about the evolving character of the communities within the district. *Braddock's True Gold*

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Braddock's True Gold

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celebrates Braddock District's history by preserving the memories of its proud residents. The name of the book was inspired by the legend of Edward Braddock, a British general who died leading troops against the French at Fort Duquesne in 1775. While traveling down a trail that eventually became Braddock Road, the general lightened his load by filling two cannons with gold and burying them along the way. After his death, the gold was never recovered.

Braddock District was formed from the former Falls Church District and portions of Lee District. Braddock includes these historic sites: St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church, Oak Hill mansion, Lake Accotink Railroad Trestle, White Oaks school house and Wakefield Chapel.

One memory chronicled the strong opposition by residents against the Burke International Airport proposal

in the 1960s, leading to the creation of the Burke Civic Association. The original Burke International Airport site covered all of Burke Centre from the Burke Post Office to Route 123. After the proposal was defeated, the land was auctioned off by the Federal Government. Developers and investors bought the land at low prices thus spawning new subdivisions in the area. The airport was later constructed in Chantilly, and is now known as Washington Dulles International Airport.

As anticipated by Supervisor Bulova, *Braddock's True Gold* has inspired other districts to tell their stories. To date, Dranesville and Providence have begun to collect historic information from residents in their respective districts.

Braddock's True Gold is for sale for \$25.00 at the Office of Maps and Publications in the Fairfax County Government Center, the Fairfax City Museum and Visitors Center, the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum and



Supervisor Bulova (left), Commissioner Harsel (with map) and other Braddock District residents at Bulova's office. Photo by Jahi Chikwendiu – *The Washington Post*

the Manassas Museum. A complete collection of transcripts from the project is available at the Virginia Room at the Fairfax City Regional Library.

More historical information is posted on the Braddock District Web site, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock, including a layered map depicting changes in the district's boundaries, roads and property lines.

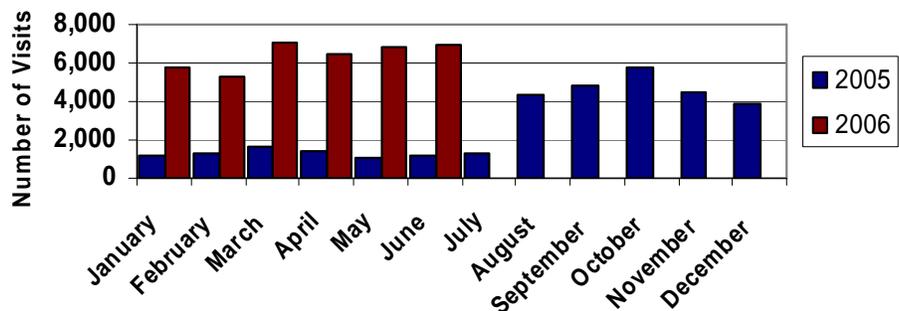
Planning Commission Website Activity

The Planning Commission Web site experienced a high volume of visitors in the first six months of 2006. From January through June, there were 38,279 Web site visits. In comparison, last year there were only 32,425 visits recorded. To explain the high numbers of visitors that were recorded so far in 2006, the Planning Commission Office consulted staff in the Department of Information Technology, Public Access Technologies (PAT) division. PAT staff was asked if there were any changes to the county Web site overall that would help explain the unusually high numbers of visitors to the Planning Commission Web site. PAT staff indicated that there was one change to the hierarchy of the

site in August 2005, and that change, in conjunction with a recon-figuration of the county's Web site monitoring software, has allowed their group to accurately count all visitors to the county Web sites. This means that the Planning Commission Web site received over 38,000 visitors so far this year (not including internal visitors), while the recorded number of just over

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Number of Visits to the PC Website, 2005 and 2006



Planning Commission Website Activity

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32,000 for 2005 was artificially low because not all visitors were counted. The chart on the previous page shows the recorded numbers of visitors to the site, by month, for 2005 and the first six months of 2006.

The newest addition to the Planning Commission Web site is a page dedicated to the activities of the Transit-Oriented Development Committee. The page was first published in May 2006, just prior to the first meeting of the committee. In May and June, this page received 441 visits. Visitors to the page can view and download committee meeting agendas, minutes of past meetings, handouts and presentations provided at the meetings, as well as additional resource information on TOD. The page may be viewed at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/tod.htm.

Land Use Actions

2006 Second Quarter Overview

The Planning Commission held 16 regular meetings and took action on 93 land use applications during the second quarter of 2006. This is consistent with the number of second quarter meetings held in 2003 but is more than the number of meetings held in 2004 and 2005. As noted below, there was an increase in the number of speakers testifying at public hearings during the second quarter of 2006, due to the Area Plans Review public hearings held in June. The table below documents second quarter Commission activity over a five-year period.

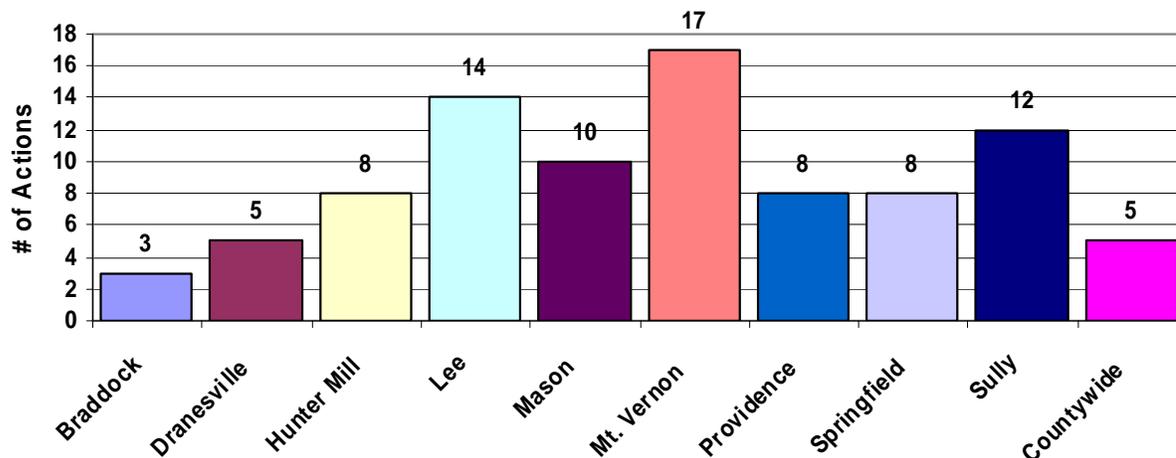
Second Quarter Comparison: 2002 - 2006					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Meetings	15	16	13	15	16
Speakers	134	168	95	190	209
Actions	120	89	70	97	93

District Breakdown

During the second quarter of 2006, the Planning Commission took action on more land use applications located in the Mount Vernon District than in other Districts. The figure below depicts second quarter activity for each district.

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2nd Quarter 2006 Actions by District



Land Use Actions

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Types of Land Use Actions

From April through June of 2006, the Commission took more action on Area Plans Review nominations and public facility applications than on other application types. Comparison between first quarter and second quarter land use actions reveals a slight increase in the number of actions taken on special exception applications and a significant decrease in the actions taken on special exception amendments. The chart below details the land use actions taken by the Planning Commission according to type of application.

Quarterly Breakdown of 2006 Actions by Application Type

Type of Land Use Action	1st	2nd	TOTALS
Special Exception Applications SE (new applications for a Special Exception)	<u>15</u> 7	<u>10</u> 9	<u>25</u> 16
Rezoning Applications & Associated Development Plans RZ (new rezoning applications) PCA (amendments to previously approved proffers) FDP (new final development plans) FDPA (amendments to a previously approved FDP) CPA (amendments to a previously approved Conceptual Plan)	<u>25</u> 7 8 3 7 0	<u>23</u> 11 3 6 2 1	<u>48</u> 18 11 9 9 1
Comprehensive Signage Plan Applications CSP (new applications)	<u>0</u> 0	<u>0</u> 0	<u>0</u> 0
Public Facility Applications 2232 (new applications for a public facility) 2232A (amendments to previously approved 2232s) FS (new requests for a feature shown determination)	<u>20</u> 1 0 16	<u>25</u> 3 0 17	<u>45</u> 4 0 33
Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan Board Authorized Plan Amendments	<u>2</u> 2	<u>31</u> 4	<u>33</u> 6
Agricultural & Forestal District Applications AF (new applications) AR (to review an existing AF district)	<u>0</u> 0 0	<u>0</u> 0 0	0
Code Amendments	5	4	9
Miscellaneous Review of Site Plans, Architectural Renderings, etc. Zoning Ordinance Amendment Work Program Capital Improvement Program	<u>3</u> 1 1 1	<u>0</u> 0 0 0	<u>3</u> 1 1 1
TOTAL	70	93	163

The Planning Commission and its staff wish
Commissioner John Byers a Happy 80th Birthday!



Committee Meetings: April – August 2006

Environment Committee

Walter Alcorn, Chair

Members: John Byers, Jim Hart, Nancy Hopkins, Laurie Frost Wilson
 Alternate: Frank de la Fe

The committee met twice (April 27th and June 1st) with members of the Environmental Quality Advisory Council and staff from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services and the Department of Planning and Zoning to continue discussion of a proposed Policy Plan amendment on stream protection policies.

Schools Facilities Committee

Suzanne Harsel, Chair

Members: Walter Alcorn, John Byers, Laurie Frost Wilson
 Alternates: Frank de la Fe, Rodney Lusk

The committee met on May 31st with members of the School Board

and staff from Fairfax County Public Schools to discuss the proposed update to the formula used in conjunction with the Residential Density Development Criteria to evaluate land use applications.

Transportation Committee

Frank de la Fe, Chair

Members: Jim Hart, Ron Koch, Ken Lawrence, Laurie Frost Wilson
 Alternates: John Byers, Rodney Lusk

On July 13th, the committee met with members of the Transportation Advisory Commission and staff from the Department of Transportation to discuss the Phase II process for amending the Countywide Transportation Policies contained in each of the four Area volumes of the Comprehensive Plan. The goal of the Phase II process is to ensure that language/maps match recent Policy Plan revisions adopted by the Board.

Transit-Oriented Development Committee

Walter Alcorn, Chair

Members: John Byers, Frank de la Fe, Ken Lawrence, Rodney Lusk
 Alternates: Suzanne Harsel, Nancy Hopkins

The newly-established committee met on May 24th, June 8th, July 6th, July 26th, July 27th and August 2nd to begin discussions with the community that will culminate with recommending guidance for transit-oriented development projects in the County. The recommendations of the committee could result in proposed revisions to the Policy Plan volume of the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan which would be subject to public hearings before the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. (See page 4 for the extended article on this committee.)

What's New on the PC Roundtable Program?



Every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday at 10:30 p.m. (when the Planning Commission is not in session), Fairfax County Cable Channel 16 broadcasts "The Planning Commission Roundtable." This 30-minute program is designed to help viewers gain a better understanding of the Commission's role in land use planning and development, relevant land use issues and projects, and how to voice support or concern over development in and around the community. The *PC Roundtable* is moderated by Commission Chairman Peter F. Murphy, Jr., with topics and guests changing regularly.

The **May/June Roundtable** program focused discussion on changes that have occurred in our environment and how the county's

policies have evolved over the last ten years. In addition to Chairman Murphy, the broadcast featured Stella Koch, Chair of the County's Environmental Quality Advisory Council; Kambiz Agazi, County Environmental Coordinator; and Walter Alcorn, Commissioner At-Large and Chair of the Commission's Environment Committee.

The **July-September** broadcast features Chairman Murphy; Fred Selden, Director of the Planning Division, Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ); Leanna Hush, Planning Division Planner, DPZ; and At-Large Commissioner Walter Alcorn, Chair of the Commission's Transit-Oriented Development Committee. The panel discusses the mission and goal of the new committee, how community input will be gathered, and the anticipated results of the committee's work to define and

establish guidelines for transit-oriented development.

The *PC Roundtable* can also be viewed via live video streaming during the scheduled Channel 16 broadcast or anytime through Video on Demand at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/pc_roundtable.htm.

Viewers can submit questions about featured topics by either regular mail to the Planning Commission Office at 12000 Government Parkway, Suite 330, Fairfax, VA 22035, or by e-mail to plancom@fairfaxcounty.gov. A Q&A session will be included in a future program.

For a summary description of all previous Planning Commission Roundtable programs, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/roundtable.pdf.



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**2006
Planning
Commission**

Peter F. Murphy, Jr.
Chairman
Springfield District

John R. Byers
Vice-Chairman
Mount Vernon District

Suzanne F. Harsel
Secretary
Braddock District

Walter L. Alcorn
Parliamentarian
At-Large

Frank A. de la Fe
Hunter Mill District

Janet R. Hall
Mason District

James R. Hart
At-Large

Nancy Hopkins
Dranesville District

Ronald W. Koch
Sully District

Kenneth A. Lawrence
Providence District

Rodney L. Lusk
Lee District

Laurie Frost Wilson
At-Large

**The following staff
contributed to this issue of
the Planning Communicator:**

- Kara DeArrastia
- Sara Robin Hardy
- Barbara Lippa
- Henri Stein McCartney

Bill Shoup, Zoning Administrator, Retires



Four generations of Zoning Administrators (right to left) Phil Yates, Jane Gwinn, Bill Shoup and Eileen McLane

Congratulations to Bill Shoup, recently-retired Zoning Administrator, on 29 years of dedicated service to Fairfax County. A retirement reception was held in his honor on Thursday, June 8th, in Room 106 of the Herrity Building, where attendees, including former Zoning Administrators Jane Gwinn and Philip Yates, as well as his replacement, Eileen McLane, wished him well as he embarked on his new journey.

Bill thanked Commissioners for their patience, understanding and kindnesses that had been extended to him throughout his entire career with the county. He wishes them well and expresses his appreciation for all their hard work.

PC Staff Member Completes Emergency Training

Congratulations to Henri Stein McCartney, Management Analyst II, PC Office, for completing the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training course at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy in April. As one of the Citizen Corps programs, CERT educates county residents about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and provides training for basic "disaster response" skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during field exercises, CERT graduates are trained to help save and sustain lives in their neighborhood or workplace when professional responders are not immediately available to help. More information on CERT is available at the Citizen Corps Web site, www.citizencorps.gov/cert.



Congratulations to Susan Donovan, former Deputy Clerk, on her new position with the Fairfax – Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) which she began on July 10th. In this new post, she serves as an administrative assistant to the Deputy Director of the CSB, which consists of 1,200 employees. Susan also is an administrative assistant to the Director of Planning and Site Development, which includes involvement with the agency Capital Improvement Program (CIP) submissions. She anticipates representing the CSB at the Planning Commission CIP workshops each year. The Planning Commission and staff wish Susan well in her new position.



Congratulations to Commissioner Lusk and his wife, Jacqueline, on the birth of their second daughter, Addison Grey Lusk. She was born on Tuesday, May 23rd at 2:34 a.m. at INOVA Fairfax Hospital. She weighed in at 6 pounds and 13 ounces. Their first daughter, Sheridan, now has a baby sister.

Congratulations also go out to Clara Quintero-Johnson and her husband, Craig, on the birth of their first daughter, Clarisa Olivia Johnson. She was born on Sunday, July 30th at 9:15 a.m. She weighed in at a very healthy 9 pounds, 13 ounces and 19.5 inches long. Their son, Daniel, now has a baby sister.



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