



Planning Communicator



A Publication of the Fairfax County Planning Commission

December 2010

Inside this issue:

James Zook Retires	2
Roundtable Update	2
Newswire Debuts	4
Web Statistics	4
Land Use Actions	5
Committee Updates	6
Open House	8
Upcoming Retirements	8
Farewell to PC Clerk Linda Rodeffer	9
Planning Commissioners Reappointed	9
Announcements	10

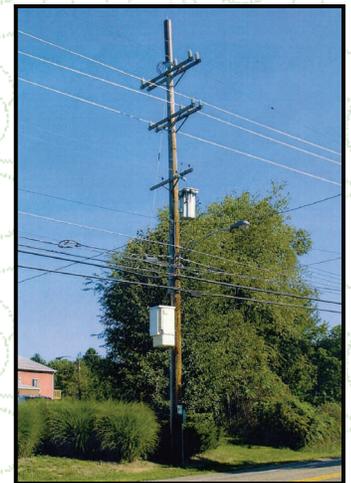
Telecommunication Applications: Increased Usage Fuels a Growing Need

Anyone who has recently attended or watched a televised meeting of the Fairfax County Planning Commission has probably noticed a growing trend — more telecommunications applications. While county business and residential needs drive the requests for expanded services, there is also renewed interest among residents on whether these telecommunication facilities may negatively impact the surrounding community.

When the first telecommunications application was filed in Fairfax County in 1983, little was known about cellular technology or its operational infrastructure. Planning Commission Chairman Pete Murphy remembers that first application--it was in the Springfield District. "I handled the very first telecommunications case in Fairfax County. It was a monopole on West Ox Road. We didn't really know what it was or too much about it, we just voted it in," Since that time, more than 750 antenna sites have been erected, including approximately 100 monopole towers, and the number of service providers in the County has multiplied as well.

If it is safe to say that the level of awareness over these facilities has been raised over the last several years, it is also true that much has changed in the way cellular devices are used. The average consumer now utilizes electronic devices more for data use (sending and receiving texts and photos, streaming media services, etc.) rather than simply phone calls. As a result, increased bandwidth is needed to transmit this data and more sites must be placed closer together. Thus, to meet this public demand for increased service and better coverage, the number of telecommunications applications continues to increase. "It's an issue of supply and

demand," indicates Chairman Murphy. "As more and more people use cell phones and devices like iPods and the need for bandwidth grows, the numbers of poles needed also grow. It is almost a public utility in many respects." Currently, it is estimated that about 93 percent of Fairfax County residents use cellular technology.



Distributive Antenna System (DAS) Node

While local governments regulate the placement of cell phone sites and telecommunications equipment within the community, such regulations are governed by the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. As provided by the Telecommunications Act: "A State or Local Government may not unreasonably discriminate among providers of functionally equivalent personal wireless services, and may not regulate in a manner that prohibits or has the effect of prohibiting the provision of wireless services. A State or Local Government also may not regulate the placement, construction or modification of these facilities on the basis of environmental effects of radio frequency (RF) emissions, to the extent the facilities comply with the Commission's regulations concerning such emissions."

(Continued on page 3)

DPZ Director James Zook Retires

James Zook, Director, Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ), retired on October 12, 2010, after serving 25 years in that position.

At the Planning Commission meeting on October 20, 2010, Chairman Peter F. Murphy, Jr., on behalf of the Planning Commission, recognized Mr. Zook for his service to Fairfax County, noting that he was an excellent administrator who had contributed a great deal of expertise and professionalism to the land use process. He said that Mr. Zook always had his ears open and was willing to meet with Commissioners and citizens to resolve issues.

In response to the tribute from the Planning Commission, Mr. Zook replied, "I know that DPZ Staff will continue to do exceptional work to benefit present and future generations, and I know that the department will continue to have the fine reputation it has enjoyed with the Planning Commission over the years. It has been my distinct pleasure and great good



fortune to have worked with the Planning Commissioners over the past 25 years. I wish the best in the future for you and I thank you for the fine working relationship that we have enjoyed over the years."

Following a 30-day break in service, Mr. Zook returned to the county on November 12th to serve in a limited term capacity through the end of June 2011. In addition to assisting the new Director (when hired), Mr. Zook will serve as a "consultant" to provide guidance to staff, the Commission and the Board of Supervisors on implementation of the Tysons Corner Plan, Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Project, Phase II Dulles Metrorail project and other duties as assigned.

Fred Selden, Planning Division Director, DPZ, was appointed Acting Director and will handle director level issues until Mr. Zook's successor is appointed.

Planning Commission Roundtable Update



The *Planning Commission Roundtable*, a 30-minute panel discussion on Cox Cable Channel 16, is broadcast every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday at 10:30 p.m. (if the Commission is not in session or the meeting has finished) and features various "experts" on land use-related issues of interest to Fairfax County residents. The *PC Roundtable* has covered more than 60 topics since its inception in 2003. A summary of each broadcast is included on the Planning Commission Web site. All former broadcasts can be viewed at the Planning Commission Office, Suite 330, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035. For summary information about previous *PC Roundtable* programs, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/roundtable.pdf.

The three programs described below were broadcast from May 2010 – August 2010, with the most recent edition available via live video streaming during the scheduled Channel 16 broadcast times. The July/August telecast is also available anytime via Video on Demand on the county's Web site at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/pc_roundtable.htm. Beginning with the

Telecommunication Facilities and Safety Issues – Broadcast in December 2010

This latest edition of the *PC Roundtable* focuses discussion on telecommunication facilities built in the county, along with Federal and State rules governing construction, and safety considerations. Joining Planning Commission Chairman Pete Murphy are: Jeffrey Steinberg, Deputy Chief of the Spectrum and Competition Policy Division at the FCC; Dominick Arcuri, Senior Vice President, Mid-Atlantic, Midwest and Southeast Regions, RCC Consultants; and David Marshall, Chief, Facilities Planning Branch, Planning Division, in the Department of Planning and Zoning. **(Note: this is Part 1 on Telecommunications Facilities; Part 2 will be broadcast in January.)**

"Virtual Fairfax" – Broadcast in October/November 2010

This telecast, anchored by Planning Commission Chairman Pete Murphy, included: Vice Chairman and At-Large Planning Commissioner Walter Alcorn; GIS and Mapping Services Branch Manager Thomas Conry and Michael Liddle, GIS Customer Services Supervisor, both with the Enterprise Services Division of the Department of Information Technology. Viewers were

shown how to navigate the county in 3-D via the "Virtual Fairfax" link on the county's Web site, view buildings in key county areas in 3-D, determine terrain and building elevations, evaluate the shadow impact of buildings, add their own 3-D building models, view their impact; print maps/views, create links or snapshots of specific locations and turn on parcel outlines and road information. "Virtual Fairfax" also links to key county systems containing assessment information, nearby zoning and building activity, as well as school districts, elected officials, parks and calls for police service.

Laurel Hill Adaptive Resource Project – Broadcast in September 2010

This edition of the *PC Roundtable* updated viewers on the Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Project. Participants on this program were Planning Commission Chairman Pete Murphy, At-Large Planning Commissioner Timothy Sargeant, Chairman of the Laurel Hill Project; and Chris Caperton, the Laurel Hill Project Coordinator, Department of Planning and Zoning, as they discussed how the former Lorton prison facility is being transformed into a vibrant community featuring shops, residences and park facilities.

Telecom.Applications: Fueling a Growing Need

(Continued from page 1)

While these telecommunication applications continue to generate increased interest, much of the public comment received by the Planning Commission is focused on health concerns and property value impacts. However, as set forth by the Telecommunications Act, a local government may not base its decision on a telecommunications proposal on health concerns provided the facilities comply with regulations set by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Federal standards used by the FCC are identical to those used by the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurement (NCRP). Moreover, County residential sales data has not shown to date that such facilities impact housing values.

All telecommunication proposals within Fairfax County require a 2232 review to determine conformance with the Comprehensive Plan. Proposals also must meet Zoning Ordinance requirements and, depending on the type of structure and its location, may also be subject to a special exception. While the collocation of a cellular site on an existing structure (building rooftop, existing monopole or tower, water tank etc.) can be approved by the Planning Commission without a public hearing through the "feature shown" process, all new telecommunication structures, generally referred to as "monopoles" or "towers" require a public hearing before the Planning Commission. The notification process for such hearings involves the mailing of notification letters to all adjoining property owners with a minimum of 25 notices required, posting of the property, and newspaper advertisement. In general unless additional time is agreed to by the applicant, telecommunication applications for new structures must be acted upon within 150 days from acceptance by the County. The Planning Commission's decision may only be appealed to the Board of Supervisors by the owner of the subject property or the owner's agent.

Public sites, such as schools and parks, can also play host to telecommunication sites as long as they meet established criteria. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), for example, has a policy to permit these uses on their property provided that 2232 review approval is first granted by the Planning Commission. These facilities are subject to the same FCC guidelines and safety requirements. All new telecommunications structures and those involving the replacement of an existing school structure such as a stadium lighting structure by more than 25 percent in height over the height and diameter of the existing structure requires a 2232 review public hearing before the Planning Commission.

Currently, 23 school sites are being utilized for telecommunications purposes in Fairfax County. Applications for other school sites are pending or are under review by staff.

The need for additional cell sites is driven by the requirement for coverage to a given geographical area and to maintain adequate call capacity at each site. Several cellular carriers can collocate on the same structure, thereby eliminating the need for additional towers. Distributive Antenna Systems (DAS) are being used and proposed in certain areas of the County as they allow several carriers to use the same antennas.

After a telecommunications facility has been erected, a citizen can seek help with any potential problems that may arise. If there are zoning-related issues (lack of screening, setbacks, etc.) a zoning violation may be issued following a valid complaint. A resident may also seek relief from the FCC if there are issues related to the Commission's radio frequency emission rules. The maintenance of telecommunication sites falls to the company which installed it.



A monopole installation in Fairfax County

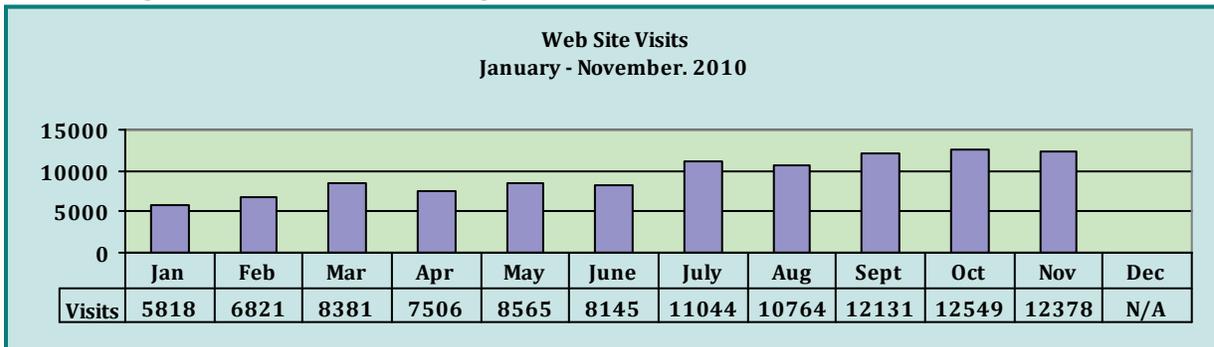
In September, the Planning Commission formally constituted a Telecommunications Committee to discuss and evaluate the existing review process and requirements used for telecommunication applications, and determine whether any changes might be needed.

To provide further information on this topic, the monthly *Planning Commission Roundtable* is currently broadcasting programs in both December and January devoted to telecommunications facilities and safety issues in Fairfax County. Guests on these programs are: Jeffrey Steinberg, Deputy Chief of the Spectrum and Competition Policy Division at the FCC; Dominick Arcuri, Senior Vice President, Mid-Atlantic, Midwest and Southeast Regions, RCC Consultants; and David Marshall, Chief, Facilities Planning Branch, Planning Division, in the Department of Planning and Zoning. The December 2010 and January 2011 broadcasts may be viewed on Fairfax County Cable Channel 16 either on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. or Wednesdays at 10:30 p.m. when the Planning Commission is not in session. For more information, please visit: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable>.

Additional online information on this topic is available at the following sites:
<http://www.fcc.gov>
<http://www.fcc.gov/oet/rfsafety>
<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb>

Planning Commission Web Site Statistics

According to data obtained from *WebTrends* (via the Department of Information Technology), there were 104,102 visits to the Planning Commission Web site between January 1, 2010 through the end of November (information for December is not available). This is significantly higher than the 77,397 visits to the site in 2009. As illustrated in the chart below, there were more visits to the site from September through November than in the other eight months for which data are available.



The top five pages viewed on the Commission's Web site in 2010 are listed below.

1. Home Page
2. Meeting Calendar
3. Tysons Corner Committee Information
4. Planning Commission Members
5. Meeting Information

The chart to the right depicts the number of hits to the Commission's Web site for the past four years. *WebTrends* registers a *hit* for each file requested by a visitor. Hits and visits to the Web site from internal visitors (i.e. county staff) are not recorded by *WebTrends*.



In 2010, 90.44 percent of visits originated in the United States, 3.83 percent were from an unknown origin and the remaining 5.73 percent were international visits. The top five international and domestic visits are listed below.

Top Five Countries by Visit:

1. United States
2. Canada
3. China
4. Australia
5. United Kingdom



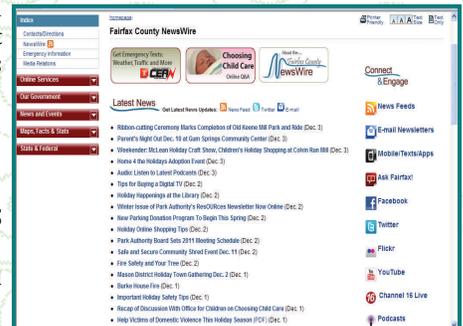
Top Five States by Visit:

1. California
2. Virginia
3. Washington
4. Illinois
5. New York

NewsWire Debuts

On September 30, 2010 the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs (OPA) unveiled *NewsWire*, a new way to share county information with the public. In response to a request from the Board of Supervisors for better information coordination and in recognition that people seek and interact with news content in different ways, *NewsWire* accomplishes the following three objectives: (1) presents county news of all sizes in one location; (2) publishes content through many tools and engages the public; and (3) creates an integrated, comprehensive news and engagement platform to meet the demands of changing times. According to OPA, *NewsWire* allows the public to:

- See all county news on one Webpage
- View news by selected topics and locations
- Choose multiple ways to get news, such as new e-mail newsletters, more than 40 RSS news feeds, mobile options and social media sites
- Engage and interact with Fairfax County government on *Ask Fairfax!* chats, social media sites and social voting opportunities



A new Twitter account (www.twitter.com/fairfaxnewswire) will automatically publish the latest *NewsWire* updates and a new online community feature, *AskFairfax!* will allow visitors to chat with county staff about various topics. *NewsWire* includes an Event Map that features selected events. For more information about the development and advantages of *NewsWire*, link to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/about-newswire.htm>. *NewsWire* is available on the Web at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news.

Land Use Actions Update

Three-Year Quarterly Comparison

As documented in the table below, fewer Planning Commission meetings are consistently held during the third and fourth quarters (July through December) of each year due to the August recess and the holiday season.

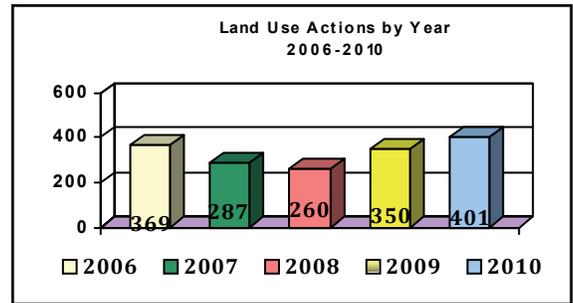
2008 - 2010 Meeting Information						
Quarters	2008		2009		2010	
	1 st & 2 nd	3 rd & 4 th	1 st & 2 nd	3 rd & 4 th	1 st & 2 nd	3 rd & 4 th
	(Jan. - June)	(July - Dec.)	(Jan. - June)	(July - Dec.)	(Jan. - June)	(July - Dec.)
Meetings	26	17	26	20	28	15
Speakers	95	75	207	59	202	161
Actions	124	136 *	178	172	240	161

Fewer speakers are expected as a result of fewer meetings during the second half of each year; however, an increase or decrease in the number of actions taken by the Planning Commission during any given time period cannot be predicted due to unexpected deferrals of scheduled public hearings and/or the volume of public facility applications.

"Feature shown" (FS) public facility applications do not require public hearings and are handled during Commission Matters. The number of new and amended FS applications has increased dramatically during the past several years due to the introduction of new telecommunications carriers in the area, as well as the market demand for better coverage for electronic wireless devices. The higher number of actions during the second half of 2008 (identified by an asterisk) occurred because there was a high volume of FS applications acted on during the fourth quarter of 2008.

Five-Year Comparison of Land-Use Actions

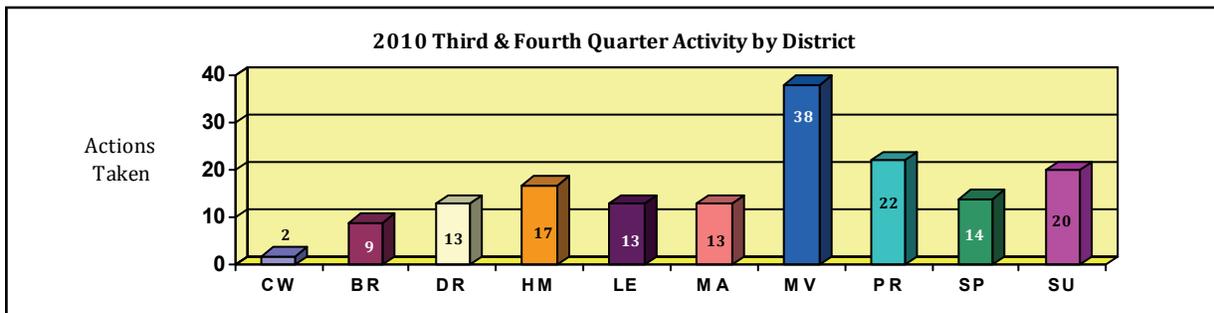
As illustrated in the adjacent chart, the highest volume of land-use actions taken by the Planning Commission in the five-year period of 2006 - 2010 occurred in 2006, due to the South County Are Plans Review (APR) process. The significant increase in 2009 and 2010 land-use actions as compared to the number of actions taken in 2007 and 2008 is due to:



- Public hearings and the mark-up session on BRAC-Related APR nominations, requiring Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) analysis, occurred in 2009;
- Public hearings and the mark-up session on 2008-2009 North County APR nominations occurred in 2009 (those not requiring VDOT review) and 2010 (items subject to VDOT review);
- Public hearings on 2009-2010 South County APR nominations (not requiring VDOT review) occurred in 2010;
- Public hearings on the Tysons Plan Amendment (and related Zoning Ordinance Amendment) occurred in 2010; and
- Increased "Feature Shown" actions caused by new technology, increased consumer demand and the introduction of a new telecommunications provider (Clearwire) in Fairfax County.

July - December 2010 District Breakdown

The figure below depicts land-use activity for each district for the second half of 2010. During the third and fourth quarters of this year, the Planning Commission took the most land-use actions on applications located in the Mount Vernon District (due to the volume of Mount Vernon South County APR nominations).



Committee Updates

Environment Committee

Members: James Hart, Earl Flanagan, Tim Sargeant, Jay Donahue, Ken Lawrence

Alternates: Walter Alcorn, Frank de la Fe

The Environment Committee met on September 30th to continue discussion on the Green Building Policy with Noel Kaplan and Maya Dhavale, both with the Environment and Development Review Branch, Planning Division (PD), Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ). After reviewing materials and outstanding issues such as potential stakeholders, additional staff members needed, etc., Mr. Kaplan and Ms. Dhavale agreed to draft a strawman document that would address issues raised during the meeting.

Stormwater management was the main topic for the October 6th meeting. Randy Bartlett, Director of the Stormwater Management Division, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES), delivered a presentation on stormwater management as it related to State and Federal regulations. The Committee discussed how these regulations could impact land use and development, especially in terms of cost and green building certification.



At its December 2nd meeting, the Committee received a briefing from Ellen Eggerton, Engineer and Green Building Ombudsman, Land Development Services, DPWES, on green building energy monitoring and data collection.

Telecommunications Committee

Members: Janet Hall, Peter Murphy, John Litzenger

The Telecommunications Committee was formally constituted on September 15th and began with a discussion on recent telecommunications application trends. David Marshall, Chief, Facilities Planning Branch, PD, DPZ, reported that the volume of applications continued to trend upwards reaching a high of 179 applications in 2009 and was currently on pace to exceed that record this year since 137 applications had already been

filed through August.

Noting that the Comprehensive Plan had been updated in 1992 to add a Telecommunications section, Mr. Marshall said that 24 to 26 locations had been allocated for build-out at that time. However, he noted that these location numbers had been greatly exceeded during the last several years due to high demand. With most commercial and industrial sites already utilized, Mr. Marshall added, there would be a growing importance in placing facilities on publicly owned properties.

Mr. Marshall also noted that with applications at an all-time high, the Board of Supervisors had asked the Planning Commission to investigate possible improvements to the process. However, Mr. Marshall also pointed out that while demand for facilities was increasing as more people communicated via cell phone and text message, community concerns were also being raised frequently related to potential health issues, negative impact on housing values, and alternative sites. David Jillson, Senior Planner, Facilities Planning Branch, PD, DPZ, explained the concept of distributive antenna systems (DAS) and their benefits. Multiple carriers could use the same antennas and review of these applications was different from typical monopole installations, Mr. Jillson said. He noted that the potential impact was spread over a larger area and the usual balloon tests could not be used to gauge appearance. Mr. Marshall added that DAS applications also took longer to review, as more staff and property owners were involved in the process.

Meeting again on November 18th, the focus was on the Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) telecommunications process and radio frequency testing. According to FCPS, the number of monopoles placed on county schools had increased from 15 poles in 2007 to 23 poles in 2010, with revenue topping \$1 million for the first time. It was estimated that in FY 2011 at least five more monopoles would be placed on school properties around the county.

The Committee and staff also discussed radio frequency emissions and whether

testing should be done prior to any new telecommunications installations. It was noted that while the County's Department of Information Technology (DIT) had previously provided analysis on facilities to ensure that Maximum Permitted Exposure (MPE) did not exceed limits, the sole engineer in charge had retired and not been replaced. To avoid the appearance of any conflict of interest with commercial carriers whom DIT occasionally worked with, it was suggested that carriers file their own independent emissions analysis when submitting applications. It was pointed out that while the Board of Supervisors agreed with this suggestion in principle, they also realized that it would be time consuming and costly for all parties involved, therefore they suggested that any RF analysis be at the discretion of the respective District Planning Commissioner.



Following Committee discussion, DPZ staff was requested to return in January with possible changes to the Policy Plan text on telecommunication facilities.

Land Use Process Review Committee

Members: Peter Murphy, Frank de la Fe, Ken Lawrence, Earl Flanagan, Tim Sargeant

Alternates: James Hart, John Litzenger

The Land Use Process Review Committee was constituted on September 16th and met for an inaugural discussion on application fee proposals and implementation.

Leslie Johnson, Assistant Zoning Administrator, Zoning Administrative Division, DPZ, told the Committee that the proposed fee increase for rezoning applications, special exception applications and special permits were in line with the increases by DPWES. Staff would present the proposal to the Board of Supervisors for authorization in the FY 2012 Budget, she said. There would also be a proposed reduction in appeal fees as staff thought that the current rates were cost-prohibitive for aggrieved parties, especially homeowners.

(Continued on page 7)

Committee Updates

(Continued from page 6)

Regina Coyle, Director, Zoning Evaluation Division (ZED), DPZ, reported that the affidavit-related fee increase had gone into effect July 1, 2009, and that staff was developing a system to track charges and payments received. She noted that staff had examined short payment turnaround time for Planning Commission hearing deferrals compared to the longer turnaround time for Board of Supervisors deferrals. She explained that staff would check to see if payment had been received before the rescheduled hearing for either body, and if not, the option to further defer the hearing would fall to the relevant District Commissioner or Supervisor.

A new second fee had also gone into effect on July 1, 2009, Ms. Coyle said. This was for interpretation requests related to previously approved zoning applications submitted to ZED. Currently a flat fee of \$500 was assessed for interpretation requests and that rate could increase if a new proposal was adopted, she said.

Chairman Murphy suggested that staff examine language used in the public hearing notification letters for rezoning, special exception and 2232 applications to ensure it clearly communicated the proposed recommendations. Commissioner Hart asked staff to review signage posting policies to ensure that it was accessible and clearly visible and also suggested that staff assess the various methods other jurisdictions utilized.



Transportation Committee

Members: Tim Sargeant, Jay Donahue, Frank de la Fe, James Hart, Ken Lawrence, Earl Flanagan

The first topic for the October 20th Transportation meeting was the Wiehle Avenue Metro station and parking relocation. Beth Iannetta, Senior Transportation Planner, Capitol Projects Section, Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT), addressed the planned parking relocation at the Reston

East Park-and-Ride as construction on the parking garage of the Wiehle Avenue Metro station was slated to begin. Noting that approximately 40 to 200 parking spaces would be impacted by preliminary work to the Park-and-Ride lot at the end of November, Ms. Iannetta explained that four temporary parking sites would be established to help commuters. Those temporary lots would cease operation 30 days after completion of the parking garage she noted. Commissioner Lawrence suggested posting signs at the Sunset Hills lot indicating that parking would not be permanent.

Daniel Rathbone, Chief, Transportation Planning Division, FCDOT, presented information on the new VISSIM traffic simulation software as well as the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Proffer Study. Mr. Rathbone reported that the general consensus was to avoid a "one size fits all approach" and if the Committee supported the recommendations, DPZ would draft a proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment. Chairman de la Fe suggested that staff brief the Board's Transportation Committee prior to drafting any Ordinance language.

On a related topic, Commissioner Litzenberger suggested that the county develop a mechanism that would require an applicant to pay a transportation infrastructure bond if traffic level of service was exceeded. Chairman de la Fe agreed with this and reminded the Committee that the county had limited phases of development to coincide with infrastructure improvements in the past. He recommended that FCDOT, DPZ, and the County Attorney's Office address this issue. Jeffrey Parnes, Chairman of the Transportation Advisory Commission (TAC), recommended that the Commissioners collaborate with their TAC counterparts to review transportation impacts for projects in their respective districts.

The Committee met again on November 3rd to discuss the creation of a countywide Bicycle Master Plan. Robert Patten and Daniel Goodman, Senior Planners with Toole Design Group, reported on the draft Tysons Corner



Bicycle Master Plan.

Commissioner Lawrence commented that one of the provisions of the Comprehensive

Plan for Tysons Corner was for the development of public facilities and road improvements, and if the Virginia Department of Transportation did not permit placement of utilities and stormwater management facilities underneath future road improvements, the county would need to negotiate with Tysons landowners. Mr. Patten said that some jurisdictions were addressing this issue with the "green street" concept, using plants to treat stormwater before it was discharged.

Mr. Goodman commented on the emergence of cycle tracks, which are separate bicycle paths located alongside roads (not sidewalks) and not meant to be shared with pedestrians. Responding to a question from Commissioner Lawrence, Mr. Patten said that the tracks could be composed of pervious pavement and also include facets of green street design. Charlie Strunk, Bicycle Coordinator, Transportation Planning Division, FCDOT, added that "electric personal assistive mobility devices," such as segways and motorized wheelchairs, would also be allowed on the tracks per the latest revisions to the *Code of Virginia*.

Mr. Patten and Mr. Goodman indicated that FCDOT would be working with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to identify locations for bicycle facilities at the new Silver Line Metro stations to ensure accessibility. Chairman de la Fe pointed out that all of the Tysons Metro stations would accommodate kiss-and-ride areas and space would need to be reserved for bicycle racks and lockers. Mr. Patten indicated that space would be provided on the streetscape, and that future improvements to Route 7 would include a shared bicycle/pedestrian path, minimized crossing points and signals for bicycle traffic.

Planning Commission Holiday Open House

Planning Commission staff hosted a holiday open house from 3 to 6 p.m. on December 13th, inviting former and current Commissioners and staff to celebrate the holiday season and recent retirement of Linda Rodeffer, Clerk to the Commission. With approximately 30 attendees exchanging holiday greetings and recalling fond memories, a great time was had by all!



Planning Technician Toni Denson poses with recent PC staff retirees Norma Duncan and Linda Rodeffer.

Chairman Peter Murphy and former Planning Commission members Rosemarie Annunziata and John Byers.



Chairman Murphy presents Rodeffer with a retirement gift on behalf of the Planning Commission



Past and present Commissioners and staff mingled at the Open House.



Upcoming Retirements

The following members of County staff plan to retire over the next two months:

- ★ Kathy Ichter, Director, Fairfax County Department of Transportation, will retire in February 2011, after 27 years of dedicated service.
- ★ David Jillson, Senior Planner, Facilities Planning Branch, Planning Division (PD), Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ), will retire on December 31, 2010, after 30 years of dedicated service to the county. Jillson began his county career with the Park Authority in December 1980, and transferred to DPZ in September 1994.
- ★ David Marshall, Chief, Facilities Planning Branch, PD, DPZ, will retire on January 14, 2011, after over 27 years of dedicated service to DPZ.



The Planning Commission and staff wish them well in their future endeavors.

PC Bids Farewell to Linda Rodeffer

"Don't act your age [in retirement]. Act like the inner young person you have always been." — J. A. West

Linda B. Rodeffer began her 13-year career with the Planning Commission Office in June 1997 continuing until her retirement on November 19, 2010. Linda was initially hired as an Associate Clerk (Secretary II later reclassified to Administrative Assistant III), was promoted to Deputy Clerk (Administrative Assistant IV) and later to Clerk (Administrative Assistant V). As Clerk to the Planning Commission, her duties varied from supervising the Clerical Branch staff, serving as legal custodian of all Commission records, attending Commission regular and committee meetings and serving as Notary Public for the Commissioners and citizens, to composing, formatting and typing routine correspondence for Commission members. During her tenure with the Commission Office, Linda received two Outstanding Performance Awards. The first, in November 2006, for attending all the Transit-Oriented Development Committee meetings and composing the required minutes in a very tight timeframe for the use of all participants, and the other, in July 2010, for attending all the Tysons Corner Committee meetings and composing those required minutes.

Linda began working for Fairfax County as a Clerk-Typist in the General District Court from August 1984 to October 1987, a Clerical Specialist in the Circuit Court from October 1987 to August 1994 and a Secretary I in the Department of Tax Administration from August 1994 to June 1997. Prior to that, she worked for the Department of the Navy as an administrative assistant and private secretary to the Director of Naval Telecommunications in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations from 1970 to 1976.

In recognition of her exceptional service to Fairfax County, Linda received a certificate of appreciation on November 18, 2010 during the Planning Commission meeting. Presented by Chairman Peter F. Murphy, Jr., the certificate read: "The County of Fairfax, Virginia, presents this certificate of appreciation to Linda B. Rodeffer on the occasion of her



Chairman Murphy presents Linda her certificate of appreciation on November 18, 2010

retirement in recognition of over 23 years of dedicated service to Fairfax County Government and citizens." The certificate was signed by Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Peter F. Murphy, Jr. congratulated Linda on her years of service with the County:

"Personally, I've known Linda for the entire 13 years she's been on the Planning Commission staff, and we can spend the rest of

the evening, which might not be a bad idea, summing up and talking about all the things that she did so well for so many years for so many members of the Planning Commission, for the Board of Supervisors and most importantly, for the citizens of Fairfax County. Linda is one of the people who talks to the public a lot, talks to our citizens about the issues, about what's coming up in the Commission. Her personal attention to detail and her professionalism, and what she does in the office, particularly with her communicating with the public, has been a great asset to the Planning Commission. She will be missed and we wish her the best of luck."

Linda also expressed her appreciation to the Commission: "I've enjoyed my last 13 years with the Planning Commission and I'd like to thank all the Commissioners for their support throughout that time, especially Chairman Murphy and Secretary Harsel, and I'd also like to thank Barbara Lippa [Executive Director] and Robin Ransom [Assistant Director] for all their support throughout the years. I'll miss everybody and I hope we stay in touch."

Planning Commission Office staff held a pizza party in Linda's honor on November 19, 2010, where she was presented with a gift from staff.

Linda was also recognized at the Planning Commission Holiday Open House on December 13, 2010, where she received a gift presented to her by Chairman Murphy on behalf of all the Commissioners.

The Commission and staff wish Linda all the best with her future endeavors in retirement.

Planning Commissioners Reappointed

At its December 7, 2010 meeting, the Board of Supervisors reappointed three Planning Commissioners for four-year terms. Mason District Commissioner Janet Hall was reappointed to her fifth term. Springfield District Commissioner Pete Murphy was appointed to his eighth term. and At-Large Commissioner Tim Sargeant was reappointed to his second term. The reappointed members will be sworn-in at the Commission meeting on January 13, 2011, by the Clerk of the Circuit Court, John Frey. All three terms will expire at the end of December, 2014.

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2010 Planning Commission

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Springfield District

Walter L. Alcorn
Vice-Chairman
At-Large

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Secretary
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Mason District

John L. Litzenberger, Jr.
Sully District

Earl L. Flanagan
Mount Vernon District

Jay P. Donahue
Dranesville District

Timothy J. Sargeant
At-Large

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

Barbara Lippa **Robin Ransom**
Christopher Remer **Kara DeArrastia**



This publication will be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 703-324-2865 (V), 703-324-7951 (TTY). Please allow seven days for the preparation of material.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to At-Large Commissioner **Walter Alcorn** on receiving the President's Award from the Dulles Corridor Rail Association's (DCRA) Board of Directors on December 1, 2010, in recognition of his work as Chairman of the Commission's Tysons Corner Committee.

Congratulations also to Planning Commission Office employees **Kara DeArrastia** (Deputy Clerk to the Commission) and **Jeanette Nord** (Associate Clerk to the Commission) who received Outstanding Performance Awards on November 19, 2010 for the following:



(left to right) Hon. Thomas Davis Rust, Virginia House of Delegates; Patricia Nicoson, President of DCRA; Alcorn; and Hon. Kenneth R. Plum, Virginia House of Delegates



(left to right) Pat Harrison, Dep. County Executive; Kara DeArrastia; Jeanette Nord; and Anthony Griffin, County Executive

duties of an Administrative Assistant III position eliminated in April due to budgetary constraints, including receptionist duties and posting documents to the Commission's Web site."

"While researching how to transfer VHS tapes of Commission meetings to DVDs, Kara purchased and installed the necessary equipment and also developed dubbing procedures. From September 2009 to August 2010, Kara and Jeanette converted 474 meetings from VHS to DVD, from 2002 to the present. In addition to extending the life of the media, this freed up storage space in the Planning Commission office where the DVDs will be maintained. In addition to their regular duties, Kara and Jeanette assumed the

New ZED Director Named

The Planning Commission members and staff welcome Barbara Berlin, who began serving as the new Director of the Zoning Evaluation Division (ZED) with the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ), on December 6, 2010. Berlin relocated to the area from Pleasanton, California. She has over 25 years of professional planning experience working primarily in the public sector. Most recently, she served as the Deputy Director of Community Development and Planning for the City of Stockton, California where she led current and advanced planning divisions. Berlin also served previously as Planning

Director for the Town of Marana, Arizona; a Smart Growth Planner for the Environmental Law and Policy Center in Chicago, Illinois; and Manager of Real Estate Planning for the Chicago Transit Authority. Berlin is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners with a Masters Degree in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan. Fred Selden, Acting Director of DPZ, believes that Berlin's "extensive experience in managing various planning departments and exceptional leadership and communication skills will be great assets to DPZ."