

Planning Commission Meeting
March 26, 2015
Verbatim Excerpt

PCA 1998-MV-032/PCA 1998-MV-033/SEA 81-V-017-02 – FAIRFAX COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

Decision Only During Commission Matters
(Public Hearing held on February 12, 2015)

Commissioner Flanagan: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I request that the representative for the Fairfax County Water Authority confirm, on the record, their agreement to the proposed Special Exception Amendment development conditions dated March 10, 2015.

John McGranahan, Jr., Esquire, Applicant's Agent, Hunton & Williams, LLP: Thank you, Mr. Flanagan. For the record, my name is John McGranahan with the law firm of Hunton & Williams and I do confirm the applicant's agreement with the conditions dated March 10.

Commissioner Flanagan: Thank you.

Chairman Murphy: Thank you very much.

Commissioner Hurley: Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Murphy: Yes.

Commissioner Hurley: I was not here for the public hearing, but I did read all the letters that were sent to me and I did watch the video of the public hearing and I do intend to vote on this matter.

Chairman Murphy: Okay thank you.

Mr. McGranahan: Thank you.

Chairman Murphy: Thank you, Mr. McGranahan. Mr. Flanagan, please.

Commissioner Flanagan: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On March 19, we deferred the decisions on applications SEA 81-V-017-02, PCA 1998-MV-032, and PCA 1998-MV-033 to tonight in order to facilitate a closed session discussion of security issues. Public hearing testimony was previously given on February 12th, primarily about two issues:

- One, the quarry blasting limitations needed to, "Protect nearby residential buildings from noise and vibration," and required in the Comprehensive Plan – as required in the Comprehensive Plan; and
- Two, a proposed alternative to the Overlook – Occoquan Overlook Trail, a long standing recommendation in the Comprehensive Plan.

It is my intention tonight to recommend approval of the Water Authority Special Exception and Proffered Condition applications with a follow-on motion about blasting. As to the blasting issue, the Comprehensive Plan text allows for blasting, but requires the Planning Commission to be satisfied that such blasting will “Protect nearby residential buildings from noise and vibration.” Blasting limits, however, are now set by the Board of Zoning Appeals. Last week, you received testimony I presented to the Board of Zoning Appeals on March 4th, which I believe adequately addresses February 12 testimony we heard about updating current blasting limits. The BZA, however, has deferred a decision on blasting limits until May 4. My follow-on motion responds to the BZA’s March – May 4 deferral decision since the General Requirement 3 for approving a Special Exception by the Board of Supervisors requires that the quarry use for creating the future Water Authority Reservoir, “Shall be such that it will be harmonious with and will not adversely affect the use or development of neighboring properties in accordance with the applicable zoning district regulations and the adopted Comprehensive Plan.” As to the trail issue, no doubt you have been inundated (pardon the pun) with visits, phone calls, and emails that prefer the Occoquan Overlook Trail location in the Comprehensive Plan that would require a southern easement along the Occoquan River from the Water Authority. Staff in the staff report and Park and Transportation appendices also prefers the planned location. In addition, testimony by the public overwhelmingly not only prefers the Occoquan Overlook Trail location, but provides assurances that the entire missing link between the Sandy Run and Occoquan Regional Parks could be constructed immediately upon approval of the pending Special Exception. The Water Authority has instead voluntarily proposed an alternate to the planned southern easement with a Northern Trail easement across Water Authority property, but defers assurance of a connection to the Sandy Run Regional Park upstream to an indefinite future and thereby creates a trail to nowhere and possible trespass across private property by trail users at the dead end. The Water Authority has generally indicated that the southern alignment of the trail raises security concerns and they more specifically detailed those concerns in a closed session discussion that we had on March 19, as permitted by *Virginia Code* Section 2.2-3711(19). I would like to thank Mr. McGranahan, the applicant’s agent, for proposing an additional Condition 19 since March 19 to assure that the trail proposed by the Water Authority is not a trail to nowhere, but constructed when easements are available that will assure connection to Sandy Run Regional Park upstream. I would have supported such a condition, but staff prefers not to support for enforcement reasons. I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVE SEA 81-V-017-02 FOR THE FAIRFAX COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY, SUBJECT TO THE DEVELOPMENT CONDITIONS NOW DATED MARCH 10, 2015 AND APPROVE PCA 1998-MV-032 AND PCA 1998-MV-033, SUBJECT TO THE EXECUTION OF PROFFERS DATED NOVEMBER 4, 2014.

Commissioner Lawrence: Second.

Chairman Murphy: Seconded by Mr. Lawrence. Is there a discussion of the motion? I think we should each application individually. All those in favor of the motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that it approve SEA 81-V-017-02, say aye.

Commissioners: Aye.

Chairman Murphy: Opposed? Motion carries.

Chairman Murphy: All those who – in favor of the motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that it approve PCA 1998-MV-032, say aye.

Commissioners: Aye.

Chairman Murphy: Opposed? Motion carries.

Commissioner Flanagan: I further move that the –

Chairman Murphy: Wait a minute – one more.

Commissioner Flanagan: Oh you got one more?

Chairman Murphy: Yes – move that the Planning Commission recommend to the Board of Supervisors to approve PCA 1988 – 1998-MV-033, say aye.

Commissioners: Aye.

Chairman Murphy: Opposed? Motion carries.

Commissioner Flanagan: I FURTHER MOVE, Mr. Chairman, THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS APPROVE:

- A MODIFICATION OF SECTION 13-303 AND SECTION 13-304 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE IN FAVOR OF THE TRANSITIONAL SCREENING AND BARRIERS, AS SHOWN ON THE SEA PLAT; AND
- A MODIFICATION OF SECT. 17-201, REQUIRING TRAILS ALONG THE OCCOQUAN RIVER AND ALONG OX ROAD ARE GENERALLY – AS GENERALLY DEPICTED ON THE COUNTYWIDE TRAILS PLAN IN FAVOR OF THE TRAIL SHOWN ON THE SEA PLAT AND DESCRIBED IN THE DEVELOPMENT CONDITIONS.

Commissioner Lawrence: Second.

Chairman Murphy: Seconded by Mr. Lawrence. Is there a discussion of that motion? All those in favor of the motion, say aye.

Commissioners: Aye.

Chairman Murphy: Opposed? Motion carries.

Commissioner Flanagan: Thank you. Finally, I MOVE THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONSIDER THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION MOTIONS REGARDING SEA 81-V-017-02 ARE BASED ON TESTIMONY REGARDING BLASTING LIMITATIONS PROVIDED TO THE PLANNING

COMMISSION ON FEBRUARY 12 AND THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS ON MARCH 4.

Commissioner Lawrence: Second.

Chairman Murphy: Seconded by Mr. Lawrence. Is there a discussion of that motion? All those in favor of the motion say aye.

Commissioners: Aye.

Chairman Murphy: Opposed? Motion carries.

Commissioner Flanagan: Thank you. That's all, Mr. Chairman. But I would like to say one thing about this.

Chairman Murphy: Please do.

Commissioner Flanagan: As you can imagine, this has been going on for two or three years. And I would like to compliment Nick Rogers, in particular, for the outstanding work that he's done.

Chairman Murphy: Yes. Here here.

Commissioner Flanagan: You know – giving me all the – hearing all – taking all my calls every – almost every day, I think – also, Bill Mayland, who has been most helpful in that regard. So I really do appreciate the – your guidance, you know, in coming to this conclusion tonight.

Chairman Murphy: Thank you. And thank Mr. Flanagan for doing a great job. He told me that after this application, all he wants to do is Agricultural and Forestal District so – I mean, that just shows you where we're going. And I don't blame him. I think he needs a little vacation. Great job, Earl. Yes, Mr. Ulfelder.

Commissioner Ulfelder: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to add that at the public hearing I had raised concerns about being faced with making a decision with – based on the information that was available at that time in the public forum. And I very much appreciate the fact that we were able to have the – the security briefing and executive session in order to go over the concerns. And I just wanted to add that this approach is permitted as an exception to the open meetings law – I want people to understand that – under Code Section 2.2-3711(19). And it allows us as members of a public body to hear and consider in a confidential setting plans to protect public safety, as it relates to terrorist activities or a related threat to public safety – as well as detailed discussions or reports or plans, relating to the security of governmental facilities, buildings, or structures. And in enacting the exemption, the General Assembly implicitly found that individuals like us who are appointed to public bodies occupy a position of trust and should be permitted to factor what is heard in this confidential setting into their decisions. I think, in this case, the applicant meticulously described in the closed session the specific threats that are posed by a publicly accessible southern alignment of the trail, as recommend in the Comprehensive Plan. But I believe that, in accordance with that statute, that I have a duty – as do the other

members of the Planning Commission – as part of the public trust invested in us to consider this information in casting our votes and that’s what I did in this case.

Chairman Murphy: A good statement. Thank you very much. I think as we travel down this uncertain road, we’re going to see a lot more applications that come in that we have to take security – security issues into consideration as we look at the infrastructure of facilities in our County. The phrase, “It’ll never happen here,” does not apply anymore anywhere.

Commissioner Lawrence: Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Murphy: Mr. Lawrence.

Commissioner Lawrence: I’d just like to observe that a fundamental function of government is public safety. Public safety can take on many dimension in these days. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Murphy: Okay. Thank you very much.

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(Each motion carried by a vote of 10-0. Commissioners Litzenberger and Sargeant were absent from the meeting.)

JLC