

FAIRFAX FORWARD PROCESS – FAIRFAX FORWARD 2016 PROCESS EVALUATION
(Countywide)

After Close of the Public Hearing

Vice Chairman de la Fe: Public hearing is closed. Mr. Murphy.

Commissioner Murphy: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I got involved with the APR process four years before I got on the Planning Commission. Two years, I was a member of the Springfield District Task Force. And the next two years, I succeeded George Mason as the task force chairman. It was a long time ago and – I got really into the system as time progressed and then came along Fairfax Forward. I was not, as the staff knows, the biggest cheerleader on the street when that parade passed me by. But I realized that this was an opportunity for the County to move forward in a different direction. And to do that, we needed – like we did during the old APR process when went from hearing the entire County in one week and spending nights in the Massie Building until four o'clock in the morning – some of us got up at six to get to work the next day – to breaking it down to the north and south – and we improved the process as we went along. And one of the reasons were able to do that is because we did have citizen participation. And some of those – some of those citizens who participated were community leaders and others were just walk-ins on the street. But the most valuable participation we had are those citizens who came before us and testified in a professional way and addressed the issues that we wanted to hear them address – and not get sidetracked with other issues that don't affect the process whatsoever. And we learned from that and we were able to work with staff and other citizens that came along through the process to improve every process that's faced the County. Because without citizen participation, we're nothing – because we do – do this for the citizen. It's call the citizens' plan. The Comprehensive Plan is the citizens' plan. And that doesn't mean that all the citizens agree with every Plan Amendment we put forward because we're not dealing with mathematics. We're dealing with land use. And I learned a lot tonight about some good comments that came before us as to how to improve the process and this was what this meeting was all about. And hopefully, this is what the workshop is going to be when we get into another phase – as we evolve and the parade continues to go down the street because it's going to be here for a while. And we might as well make it good and the only way we can make it good is to have positive comments from the citizens that deal directly with the issues we want to face and address. And we always want more citizen participation. That's why we have Land Use Committees. That's why we vet our applications in the community, sometimes three and four times before they get here. We would rather hear it in the community than hear it here. When we hear it here, we would like to have those issues addressed, ameliorated, and ready for a decision by the Planning Commission to go to the Board of Supervisors with the best recommendation we can put forth. And that's why we're here. And I hope we can continue to do it that way. If we don't, we are down the tubes. So therefore, Mr. Chairman, I WOULD LIKE TO MOVE THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION DEFER DECISION ONLY ON FAIRFAX FORWARD 2016 PROCESS EVALUATION REVIEW TO A DATE CERTAIN OF MAY 25TH, WITH THE RECORD REMAINING OPEN FOR COMMENT.

Commissioners Hart and Lawrence: Second.

Vice Chairman de la Fe: Seconded by Mr. Hart and Mr. Lawrence. Any discussion? Hearing and seeing none, all those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

Commissioners: Aye.

Vice Chairman de la Fe: Opposed? The motion carries.

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(The motion carried by a vote of 11-0. Commissioner Flanagan was absent from the meeting.)

JLC