

Planning Commission Meeting
April 3, 2013
Verbatim Excerpt

FAIRFAX FORWARD WORK PROGRAM

Decision Only During Commission Matters
(Public Hearing held on March 27, 2013)

Commissioner Lawrence: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a couple of decisions to do. I would like to do Fairfax Forward first, if I may. And before we go on verbatim to make the motion – with your permission, I have a couple things I need to say.

Chairman Murphy: Sure.

Commissioner Lawrence: On Fairfax Forward, we received today – it's dated April 3rd – an addendum from staff to the staff report. It's a very brief one and on the cover page it gives a summary of what the addendum contains and what changes were made. They're pretty straight-forward. I'm going to move approval of this program tonight, but as we'll be seeing in the motions that I'm going to make, it will be approved – we will recommend that it be approved for operation as a pilot program in an evaluation phase of operation. And we're timing that to come out with the first evaluation of the Work Program itself so that the process we're working with and the Program that is being worked on will get evaluated at the same time, according to a specific set of criteria. So what that motion means is that it's time to find out about this thing by doing it. There is only so much we can do prospectively and I think we've done – with the great work of staff – all that can be done about it. Therefore, Mr. Chairman – now I'm ready for verbatim – I MOVE THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADOPT THE REVISED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVIEW PROCESS OUTLINED IN THE FAIRFAX FORWARD STAFF REPORT DATED FEBRUARY 20, 2013, AND SUBSEQUENT ADDENDUM DATED APRIL 3, 2013, WHICH USES A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT WORK PROGRAM TO SCHEDULE FUTURE PLANNING STUDIES.

Commissioners Migliaccio and Sargeant: Second.

Chairman Murphy: Seconded by Mr. Migliaccio and Mr. Sargeant. Is there a discussion of the motion?

Commissioner Flanagan: Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Murphy: Yes, Mr. Flanagan.

Commissioner Flanagan: Yes, I just want to have for the record that I did not attend the public hearing on the 27th of March. However, I did watch the entire proceeding by television and so I will be voting tonight on this particular provision. And had I been here, I would have put into the record the fact that the Mount Vernon Council wholeheartedly – I think you all received a letter

previously, probably by an email, that the Mount Vernon Council wholeheartedly recommends the approval of this – the Fairfax Forward as drafted.

Chairman Murphy: Okay. Thank you very much. I have a couple of comments I want to make. During this entire process, including the discussions in the Committee – and I want to congratulate Mr. Lawrence for doing a great job in leading us through this process and the staff, Marianne Gardner and Meghan Van Dam. I had a couple concerns and I still have those concerns about the involvement of the citizens in this process. And we continuously say that the Planning Commission is the custodian of the Comprehensive Plan, but it is the citizens' plan. And my concern was that with this new process there is a possibility that we may be taking the citizens out of the process not completely, but diluting their participation in the process. But I can't vote against this because the only way we're going to find out if that is good or whether it was just a figment of my imagination is to go into this Program with the idea – which I think is going to come up in a future motion – that we have some sort of monitoring or pilot program where we can sit back and take a look at something that is this important to the citizens of the County, the Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors and take a look at it and see if it's working and to ensure that the citizens are still an important, crucial part of the planning process in Fairfax County at the stage where it really counts the most. And that's when we're looking at the Comprehensive Plan. Is there further discussion of the motion? All those in favor of the motion as articulated by Commissioner Lawrence to approve Fairfax Forward, as contained in the staff report dated February 20, 2013, and as amended by the addendum dated April 3, 2013, say aye.

Commissioners: Aye.

Chairman Murphy: Opposed? Motion carries. Mr. Lawrence.

Commissioner Lawrence: I MOVE THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADOPT THE PILOT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT WORK PROGRAM DATED FEBRUARY 28, 2013, AS A FORMAL TEST OF PROGRAM OPERATIONS.

Commissioner Hedetniemi: Second.

Chairman Murphy: Seconded by Ms. Hedetniemi and also the Chair seconds that motion because this is what I think is going to be a crucial part of this entire Program. Is there a discussion of the motion? All those in favor of the motion, say aye.

Commissioners: Aye.

Chairman Murphy: Opposed? Motion carries. Commissioner Lawrence, please.

Commissioner Lawrence: I MOVE THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMEND TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THAT AFTER TWO YEARS, STAFF SHOULD EVALUATE THE EFFICIENCY, EFFECTIVENESS, ACCESSIBILITY, AND IMPACT OF

THE NEW PROCESS AND THE PILOT WORK PROGRAM. MEASUREMENT CRITERIA SHOULD BE DEVELOPED BY STAFF IN CONCERT WITH THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, ALLOWING FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT, AND SHOULD BE ASSESSED UTILIZING SURVEYS, INTERVIEWS, OR OTHER METHODS TO REACH ALL PARTIES INVOLVED. THE EVALUATION SHOULD CONCLUDE WITH RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON MODIFICATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

Commissioner Hedetniemi: Second.

Chairman Murphy: Seconded by Ms. Hedetniemi. Is there a discussion – and seconded by the Chair – is there a discussion of that motion? All those in favor of the motion as articulated by Mr. Lawrence, say aye.

Commissioners: Aye.

Chairman Murphy: Opposed? Motion carries.

Commissioner Lawrence: Finally, Mr. Chairman, I MOVE THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION RESCIND THE OUTSTANDING AREA PLANS REVIEW NOMINATIONS LISTED ON ATTACHMENT VII OF THE STAFF REPORT DATED FEBRUARY 20, 2013, AND RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESCIND THE OUTSTANDING BOARD-AUTHORIZED AMENDMENTS LISTED WITHIN THE SAME DOCUMENT.

Commissioner de la Fe: Second.

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

Commissioners: Aye.

Chairman Murphy: Opposed? Motion carries.

Commissioner Lawrence: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Murphy: Thank you. Once again, I want to thank Mr. Lawrence. And I think – intrinsic in these motions is the fact that the Planning Commission has a definite role in ensuring that in each of our districts, with our At-Large Commissioners joining in, that this is monitored very carefully and that we have a good notion when we finish the monitoring process as to what the results of this new Program are going to be. Again, I thank staff for all their hard work and for putting up with me – and not necessarily in that order.

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(The motions carried unanimously with Commissioner Hall absent from the meeting.)

JLC