

## **CCHCA Annual General Meeting – May 14, 2009**

**Location: Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway**

**Attendance: Katie Baxter-Gagen, Hildie Carney, Katy Sidwell, Dia Pullen, Andy and Jackie Pachuta, Nina Prescott, Stephanie Uttenweiler, Steve Caruso, Judy Fraser, Patrice Winter and Ernie Klimonda**

Chris Martin the City of Fairfax Director of Historic Resources started the evening with a welcome to the center and thanked Hildie and Patrice for their efforts in lobbying the city to buy the property and build the interpretive center. He mentioned the need for volunteers on the weekend for 4 hour shifts. There was a discussion of the wildlife conservation concerns sparked by CCH member Tom Peterson.

Sharon Stark from Mr. Connolly's office spoke next. She mentioned Connolly's direction to the staff to have a "hands-on approach in providing the best service possible to the residents of the 11th Congressional District. If someone is having a problem with the federal government, whether it is with the Social Security Administration, the Veterans Administration or any other federal agency, call the District Office for help."

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She also mentioned the following two pieces of legislation:

1. Legislation that passed the U.S. House of Representatives on May 14 authorizes an estimated \$10 million for Fairfax County, Prince William County, and the City of Fairfax in Fiscal Year 2010 to upgrade public school buildings, while creating clean energy jobs, reducing dependence on foreign oil and lowering energy costs for taxpayers, Congressman Gerry Connolly said.

Connolly said the legislation would authorize funds to make school buildings more energy efficient and more reliant on renewable sources of energy. The bill also generates long-term savings for schools by reducing energy expenses. Green schools reduce pollution by using about 30% less water and energy than conventional schools, and emit almost 40% less harmful carbon dioxide.

Connolly estimated that the House-passed bill would authorize the following amounts to school systems in the 11th CD:

- Fairfax County Public Schools - \$8,086,000
- Prince William County Public Schools - \$2,815,000
- Fairfax City Public Schools - \$88,000

Connolly said that schools across the Commonwealth of Virginia would receive an estimated \$103.5 million under the provisions of the House-passed legislation.

Nationally, the bill would provide over \$6 billion in funding in FY 2010 to the nation's schools and the Economic Policy Institute estimates it would create as many as 136,000 new jobs. Additional funding would be authorized through FY 2015.

"Our schools should be safe and healthy learning environments for our children. This bill gives us a chance to upgrade our school buildings and further boost student achievement, while creating good green jobs locally," Connolly said.

The 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act (H.R. 2187) passed the House by a vote of 275-155. The Senate must still act on the bill.

2. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has awarded \$77.5 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding for the Rail to Dulles project. The move will result in a \$15 million savings in overall project costs thanks to efforts by Congressmen Gerry Connolly and Jim Moran.

"Given the challenges of financing large-scale transportation projects, these proposals we are advancing to DOT on behalf of MWAA should be lauded for maximizing the use of limited federal funding and seeking to use public funds to create more jobs and not simply incur new debt," Connolly said. "Every dollar we get for the project now will continue to reduce the overall cost of the financing."

"I'm pleased to see the DOT moving so quickly on such an important project to our region," said Moran. "It says a lot about the Secretary LaHood's leadership and the administration's vision for public transit."

The DOT funding does not increase the federal commitment to Dulles Rail, but the expedited funds will allow the project manager, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA), to save on financing costs while putting additional dollars into the Northern Virginia economy now.

In an April 30 letter to Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, Connolly and Congressman Jim Moran requested that DOT accelerate the payout of already-committed funds for Dulles Rail, noting that millions of dollars in financing costs could be saved.

In March, federal, state, and local officials signed the \$900 million multi-year, full funding grant agreement with DOT's Federal Transit Administration for Phase 1 of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project

In their letter to LaHood, Connolly and Moran urged DOT to make a strategic infusion of funds from the Recovery Act for Dulles Rail to save money on Phase 1 of the project, bolster the economy, advance preliminary engineering on Phase 2, and create additional jobs now.

Every dollar in federal funding that is provided to the project now will help to reduce overall financing costs for the project. Additional infusions of early dollars from the Recovery Act's DOT New Starts funding or the Secretary's discretionary funds could end up saving as much as \$750 million in financing costs for the project.

Overall, DOT today awarded \$742.5 million in Recovery Act funds to pay for transit projects in nine states: Virginia; New York; Arizona; California; Colorado; Oregon; Texas; Utah; and Washington state.

Minutes from previous meeting were reviewed.

The Tres. report is on the website if anyone wants to review. [www.cchca.org](http://www.cchca.org) then click The Board and Committees then click on Tres.

Hildie (VP Civic Affairs) mentioned that the membership forms had been distributed.

Nina and Stephanie (Social) mentioned they needed more volunteers. Next event is the end of school ice cream social on June 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. Discussion on whether to pay for the moonbounce vs. magician for the Labor Day party.

Steve Caruso spoke about the creek cleanup, 13 volunteers showed. He feels the creek is cleaner overall, due to our and the City's efforts over the years. Thanks were given to long time helper Ed Preston and to new faces as well Andy Pachuta and Tom Horn. They actually managed to remove a tent that has been stubbornly buried for at least 3 years.

Nasrin needs help with the Commons. City needs to cut back the growth from the trees.

Yanji is welcoming the new residents with a packet of city info. and a small gift item.

A community yard sale is in the works and Leslie Daniels volunteered to help organize.

Lisa Whetzel mentioned the recent Forbes article in which Fairfax rated #3

### **In Depth: America's Top 25 Towns To Live Well**

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Speed



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To determine the best towns in which to live well, Forbes teamed with [ZoomProspector.com](http://ZoomProspector.com), a San Francisco-based consulting firm specializing in corporate relocation. Because geographical definitions range widely, we used the term "town" to describe every city, town, borough or Census-designated-place under 100,000 people. To rank each town, we looked at median income; average commute; distance to highways and airports; per capita venture capital funding; per capita number of small businesses, sole-proprietorships and start-ups; the percentage of the population with bachelor's degrees or higher; the share of professional-level workers as defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS); the percentage of young and educated people, or those 25-34 with a bachelor's degree or higher; and the percentage of foreign-born residents with a bachelor's degree or higher. We also measured the per capita number of restaurants, bars, museums and cultural institutions.

### 3. Fairfax, Va.

Population: 22,650

Location: A western Washington D.C., suburb.

Median income: \$86,088

**Strongest categories:** A great place for entrepreneurs, Fairfax has the second highest number of sole-proprietors of any place measured on our list and as a result, its start-ups per capita ranks first. Home to a strong public school system and a high median salary of \$86,088, is packed with entrepreneurs--its rate of 0.14 sole proprietors per capita ranks in the top 1% nationwide.

**Drawbacks:** The measures keeping Fairfax out of the top spot are its entertainment and cultural offerings as well as the number of young and educated people. Fairfax is a great place to raise a family and start a business, but few highly educated people ages 25-34 call it home.

New slate of board members were nominated:

Jackie Pachuta	Publications
Andy Pachuta	Tres
Dia	Secretary
Nina/Stephanie	Social
Steve	Block Captain
Alicia Thomas	Community Safety
Tania Dedham	Membership
Judy Fraser	VP Civic
Hildie	President

There was a welcoming induction ceremony officiated by Patrice.

Hilde as the new President thanked all for the great turnout. She mentioned that the mayor uses our community and civic association as an example and asset. She welcomed all to participate and volunteer.

Patrice spoke of the car thefts. There have been many break ins of late. The city is making more patrols and Ernie will send out a yahoo message reminding all to lockup and take valuables out of the car.