

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON REGIONAL COMMISSION

Monday, August 28, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Location: 406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg, VA 22401, GWRC Board Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: All attending in-person: **Chair Darrell English – Stafford County;** Jeff Black – **Caroline County;** Jason Graham, Jon Gerlach– **City of Fredericksburg;** Cathy Binder, Annie Cupka – **King George County;** Chris Yakabouski – **Spotsylvania County;** Meg Bohmke – **Stafford County.**

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jeff Sili – **Caroline County;** Lori Hayes, Tim McLaughlin (Alternate), David Ross (Alternate) – **Spotsylvania County;** Matt Kelly (Alternate) – **City of Fredericksburg;** Pamela Yeung (Alternate) & Crystal Vanuch (Alternate) – **Stafford County**

STAFF: Attending In-Person: Chip Boyles, Michele Dooling, Kari Eaves, Kate Gibson, Becky Golden, Sarah Oldaker, Ian Ollis, Megan Samples, Sam Shoukas; Virtually- Ian Ginger

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jamie Jackson, Melody Fowler – **FXBGO;** Gavin Gordon – **Spotsylvania Citizen**

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. English called the GWRC meeting to order at 6:00 pm. This was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and then Mr. Boyles took roll and indicated a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – Mr. English asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Graham motioned for approval of the Consent Agenda, and Mr. Gerlach seconded. Ms. Bohmke asked for a substitute motion for item 5e be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate approval. Mr. Graham accepted the amended motion to approve the Consent Agenda removing item 5e. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Bohmke then addressed item 5e from the Consent Agenda, the “Support Letter for FRA GO Virginia Grant Application.” She asked for Mr. Boyles to provide more clarification on the grant. Mr. Boyles explained the Regional Entrepreneurial Initiative (REI) from the GO Virginia program through DHCD for \$300,000, and the Fredericksburg Regional Alliance’s application for the REI through their Rivers Region Entrepreneurial Ecosystem. Mr. Boyles clarified this is just a request for a letter of support for the grant.

Commission members asked questions of Mr. Boyles and Ms. Oldaker regarding the grant, reporting, and metrics. Questions were answered accordingly. Ms. Bohmke made a motion to approve item 5e, Mr. Graham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Boyles presented the July, 2023 financial report and the FY 2023 year-end financial report, hitting on the highlights from the cashflow and revenue. All financial reports are included in the meeting packet and Executive Director’s Memo. The Commissioners had no questions.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: There was not any public involvement or comments

PRESENTATIONS: Mr. Boyles presented the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Review and update. Mr. Boyles stated that the Strategic Plan had to be reviewed every two years, and the Commission needed to discuss the Action Plan for 2025-2027 and funding needed for any additional activities.

Mr. Boyles presented the five program areas and the action/sub-action activities that have been completed or that are on-going. Mr. Boyles asked the Commissioners for ideas on additional activities that can be added to the Strategic Plan update, so that the Commission can include it in the FY 25 funding request to the localities.

Commission members asked questions about activities still needing to be completed by each program area, including a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), housing and land use strategy related to economic development, a regional litter cleanup program, among other potential activities.

The Commission agreed to continue the discussion and bring ideas to add to the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan Update.

OLD BUSINESS:

Round 5 FY 2024 Smart Scale Program Updates

Ms. Eaves gave a brief presentation on the Smart Scale Round 6 Timeline and recent updates/changes from the CTB July meeting. Ms. Eaves encouraged the Commissioners to go back to their jurisdiction and start working on their applications for Smart Scale. Mr. Black encouraged the other Commission members to have GWRC and FAMPO present to their individual Boards to explain the program and process.

Fredericksburg Transit Federal 5307 Funding Request & Future GWRC Funding Policy

Jamie Jackson, Director of FXBGO, presented the Transit Federal 5307 Funding Request to the Commission, which had been discussed at the June 2023 meeting. Ms. Jackson went over the funding reallocation request to move \$621,000 previously allocated by the GWRC Board to the Radio and Emergency Management System to the Transit Fiber & Security Project. Commission members asked questions regarding the FXBGO rebranding and the process behind the change in the name from FRED to FXBGO, the change-over of buses, and cost. Ms. Jackson answered their questions accordingly and informed the commission members that the Board would be included in any future rebranding decisions.

Mr. Graham made a motion to approve the Fredericksburg Transit Federal 5207 Funding Request, and Ms. Cupka seconded. The Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 24-5 - Southeast Crescent Regional Commission Grant Application and Authorization: Mr. Boyles presented the recent Southeast Crescent Regional Commission grant available for GWRC, and Resolution 24-5 authorizing the GWRC to apply and administer the Local Development District Capacity Building Grant. Caroline County is the only jurisdiction in PD16 approved for project funding as a

Transitional County. Mr. Boyles took questions from the Commission, and indicated this was not an Action Item and would be represented at the next meeting.

Ms. Bohmke asked if the Board could vote to approve the resolution at the August 2023 meeting. Mr. Black made a motion to approve Resolution 24-5, and Ms. Binder Seconded. The Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 24-4 – GWRC Personnel Policies Revisions – Phase 2: Mr. Boyles presented the next phase of GWRC Personnel Policy revisions including the Animal Policy, changing the employee Introductory Period from 90 days to 180 days, Support Letter policy, an Asset Management Policy, and a Check and Payment Policy. Mr. Boyles informed the Commission that these were being presented at this meeting and would come back up in September for approval.

Ms. Bohmke made a motion to go ahead and approve Resolution 24-4, Mr. Black seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 24-2 – King George County Transportation Alternatives Program Project Support: Ms. Eaves presented on Resolution 24-2 covering the Transportation Alternatives Program for King George County which includes a King George Middle School to Dahlgren Road/King’s Highway sidewalk project. Ms. Eaves indicated that the Resolution was being presented to the Commission tonight, the King George Board of Supervisors would then need to vote on it, and it would come back to the GWRC Board for Resolution of Support approval. The Commissioners discussed approving the Resolution prior to the King George Board of Supervisors approving the plan, and agreed to wait until after the King George Board of Supervisors approved the Project.

FY25 Dues Structure: Mr. Boyles presented the FY25 Local Contributions that will be submitted to each locality’s Board of Supervisors. This included a per capita rate increase due to increased grant match recommendations and programmatic goals. The Commissioners asked questions regarding prior rates, current per capita rates, and rates at other PDCs. The Commissioners asked for Mr. Boyles to present these to each Board of Supervisors. Mr. Boyles agreed to contact each locality to present in the next month before submitting the FY25 Local Contribution requests.

Continuum of Care Unsheltered Liaison Proposal: Mr. Boyles and Ms. Shoukas presented a job description for a new Street Outreach Specialist in agreement with the CoC and the City of Fredericksburg to serve as a liaison assisting the unsheltered homeless and the business community, police department, and service providers. Commissioners asked questions regarding the position, capacity, and the regional need. Ms. Shoukas answered the Commissioner’s questions. The issue will be brought back on the September member agenda.

Executive Director’s Report: Mr. Boyles presented his Executive Director’s Report. He introduced the new Housing and Community Health Program Coordinator, Megan Samples. Mr. Boyles then highlighted Executive Director activities in the last two months which is included in the packet.

Mr. English asked for any other comment. No comment was received. The August 28, 2023 George Washington Commission Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Chip Boyles, Executive Director
(Draft Minutes prepared by Sarah Oldaker)