

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON REGIONAL COMMISSION

Monday, February 27, 2023 at 6:00 pm

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: All attending in-person: **Chair Jason Graham – City of Fredericksburg;** Jeff Sili, Jeff Black – **Caroline County;** Jon Gerlach, – **City of Fredericksburg;** Cathy Binder & Annie Cupka – **King George County;** Chris Yakabouski, Lori Hayes – **Spotsylvania County;** Darrell English, Meg Bohmke – **Stafford County.**
Attending Virtually - Pamela Yeung attending virtually (Alternate) – **Stafford County;** Matt Kelly (Alternate) (Arrived after role call)– **City of Fredericksburg;**

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tim McLaughlin (Alternate), David Ross (Alternate) – **Spotsylvania County;** Crystal Vanuch (Alternate) – **Stafford County**

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Attending In-Person: Deuntay Diggs – **Stafford Citizen;** Gavin Gordon – **Spotsylvania Citizen.** Attending Virtually: Paul Agnello, unknown (540-388-1914), unknown (540-734-0328)

STAFF: Attending In-Person: Chip Boyles, Kate Gibson, Meredith Keppel, Ian Ollis, Sam Shoukas. Attending Virtually: Colie Touzel

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Graham 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 GWRC MEETING AGENDA – Mr. Graham asked for a motion to approve the February 27, 2023 meeting agenda. Meg Bohmke Motioned for approval of the agenda, Mr. Sili seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Graham asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2023 GWRC Board Meeting. Mr. Gerlach motioned for approval of the minutes, Ms. Bohmke seconded. Mr. Graham thanked Mr. English to filling in as Chair at the January 23, 2023 Board Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Mr. Boyles presented on the January, 2023 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. There were no questions from the Board.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: There were no written public comments.

PRESENTATIONS:

Sam Shoukas gave an update on the Continuum of Care (CoC) Winter Point in Time (PIT) Count. Ms. Shoukas discussed the current numbers of unsheltered homelessness in the region and a plan to address the unsheltered population. Ms. Shoukas also discussed barriers to the PIT count and how the CoC plans to address this. Ms. Shoukas informed the Board that the Fredericksburg Regional CoC was the only CoC in the state to receive funds for rural homelessness, and that they will be partnering with Empowerhouse to have specific programs for King George and Caroline Counties. Ms. Shoukas took questions from the Board Members regarding the type of data collected, number of unsheltered homeless in the rural counties, more specifics about the grant for the rural areas, and the logistics of the PIT count. Mr. Boyles discussed how the CoC is in discussion with the City of Fredericksburg for immediate need outreach responses when needed. A proposal on a solution program may be forthcoming to the Commission. The Board discussed current issues with sheltered and unsheltered homelessness.

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution 23-06: Authorization to Join VML/VACO Virginia Investment Pool for GWRC Finances (ACTION ITEM):

Mr. Boyles introduced Resolution 23-06 for vote. The Resolution would be for the GWRC to join the VML/VACO Virginia Investment Pool. Mr. Black motioned for approval, and Mr. English seconded. Motion carried unanimously with no discussion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Grant Award for Safe Streets Grant

Mr. Graham introduced Ian Ollis to discuss the Safe Streets grant award received by FAMPO. Mr. Ollis indicated that this grant allowed FAMPO and GWRC staff to draw up a Safety Action Plan and how all five GWRC jurisdictions will be included. He also went into details on how the grant will work. As the Board had already voted on the resolution to apply for the grant in August, 2022, no vote was needed. Mr. Ollis took questions from the Board on locality match amount, use of funds, and types of projects.

Green Streets 3G Grants Application

Mr. Graham introduced Meredith Keppel to discuss the Green Streets 3G Grant Application. Ms. Keppel presented the scope of work included in the grant for a regional planning charrette and that it was a no-cost grant. Ms. Keppel took questions and comments from the Board on where this grant can be applied and about how the grant can be used by all five GWRC localities. Board members asked about duplication of efforts with other grants and the scope of work of the grant. Ms. Keppel addressed the Board's concerns and questions.

Annual Review of GWRC-FAMPO MOU

Mr. Boyles presented the Memorandum of Agreement between the George Washington Regional Commission and Fredericksburg Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. It is a requirement for the Board to review the MOU every February. No decision was needed, and any concerns or questions could be addressed at a later date.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Boyles went over his Executive Director's Report which is available in the packet.

Mr. Boyles let the Board know that starting in February, every quarter there will be a spreadsheet with updates on the Strategic Action Items. This will include notes on progress and completion. Mr. Boyles also informed the Board that at the March Board meeting, there will be an orientation session for all Board members on the GWRC's operations, finances, and more discussion on the GWRC's 5-year Strategic Plan.

Mr. Boyles also introduced a plan to work with Friends of the Rappahannock on a National Fish and Wildlife Federation grant that would create an online portal for the entire region to address or identify environmental issues and potential solutions.

Mr. Boyles also updated the Board on the new staff member for the GWRideConnect Program and that the GWRC is now at full staff.

An update on Senate Bill No. 1137 was given to the Board, and SB 1137 was voted down in the Virginia House of Representatives. Mr. Boyles let the Board know that the GWRC is willing to follow-up on and work on potential future Bills in the General Assembly of Virginia. The Board discussed the Bill and what the GWRC's roll would be in any future Bills involving the localities.

Mr. Boyles then let the Board members know that he will be reaching out to the locality's CAOs (excluding City of Fredericksburg) regarding applying for Community Development Block Grants through DHCD. The City of Fredericksburg is an entitlement city and not eligible for State CDBG funds. Fredericksburg receives CDBG funds directly from HUD.

CORRESPONDENTS

Mr. Graham asked for any correspondence. Mr. Boyles stated that the only correspondence was a letter from the GWRC thanking Stafford County Government for the finance and human resources department's services provided to GWRC staff.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Graham asked for any other comment. No comment was received. The February 27, 2023 George Washington Commission Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:11 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for March 27, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

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

