

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
GEORGE WASHINGTON REGIONAL COMMISSION**

October 20, 2014

The Robert C. Gibbons Conference Room  
406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg Virginia

**MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING:** **City of Fredericksburg:** Matthew Kelly, Bill Withers;  
**Caroline County:** Jeff Black, Jeff Sili; **King George County:** Jim Howard, Dale Sisson;  
**Spotsylvania County:** Paul Trampe; **Stafford County:** Gary Snellings

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chris Yakabouski – Spotsylvania County; Cord Sterling – Stafford County

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Hunter Snellings – City of Fredericksburg; Elizabeth Borst –  
Farmer’s Market

**STAFF:** Tim Ware, Executive Director; Andy Waple, FAMPO; Marti Donley, FAMPO; Daniel  
Reese, FAMPO; Diana Utz, GWRC; JoAnna Roberson - GWRC

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Howard called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with a quorum present, which was followed by  
the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF GWRC MEETING AGENDA**

Upon motion by Mr. Sisson and seconded by Mr. Sili, with all in consensus, the agenda for the  
October 20th meeting was approved as submitted with one additional item added. Mr. Ware  
advised that Ms. Elizabeth Borst with the Farmer’s Market would be speaking briefly to the  
Commission at tonight’s meeting.

**APPROVAL OF GWRC MEETING MINUTES (September 15, 2014) - (Action Item)**

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and seconded by Mr. Snellings, with all in consensus, the minutes  
from the September 15th meeting were approved as submitted.

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT** - None

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Ware relayed that the Financial Report is included in tonight’s agenda packet. Mr. Ware stated  
that the current agency’s balance is \$343,735.12. Mr. Sisson complimented Mr. Ware on the  
agency’s financial stability at this point in the year and referenced that in years past, this figure had  
not always been as positive. Mr. Ware advised that the audit has been completed and the report is  
due in November. Mr. Ware stated that this report should be received prior to the next GWRC  
meeting and if so, the report will be included within the November agenda packet.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Ware advised that it is still unknown how the State budget will affect the GWRC budget. Right now, the impact is at least the 5% funding decrease. Mr. Ware stated that as of now, the State budget has not had any impacts on either the Transportation or DRPT budgets.

Mr. Ware asked the Commission if they felt it was a good time to explore a non-profit corporation for enhanced funding options creating non-profits within the Commission. Mr. Sili inquired as to how much it would cost for the initial start-up to implement the grant program. Mr. Ware advised that at this time he did not have that information available. It was majority consensus from the Commission members to proceed in evaluating this process and asked that Mr. Ware provide data, facts & general information regarding this opportunity. Mr. Ware advised that he would compile the information and forward it to the Commission members and the item can be re-addressed at an upcoming GWRC meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### Broadband Update – Tim Ware

Mr. Ware advised that the message received from the Commission at the October meeting was delivered to the Broadband representatives and that it was heard loud and clear. Mr. Ware stated that the Broadband committee has approved meeting with two separate vendors to get more information on the services and programs they will be able to offer. Mr. Ware relayed that the meeting with the vendors is scheduled for November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Ware stated that the two vendor partnerships being explored are Telegia and Conxx. Mr. Ware relayed that both of these partnerships have been successful in other areas and have a great interest of expanding into Virginia.

Mr. Ware advised that this region's needs have been based and ranked according to population and broadband speed. This region's needs have been compared to other areas within Virginia to include Fairfax, Norfolk, & Richmond. Mr. Sisson expressed concern that the information stated on the graph did not accurately represent the current capabilities in King George County.

Mr. Sisson stated that potential partnerships have also given presentations to King George County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Sisson stated that the prices exceeded the services and it did not work for King George at that time. Mr. Sisson stated that he was certainly open and receptive to seeing if pricing, services, etc. will now be something to re-consider on a regional basis.

Mr. Snellings relayed that the Stafford County Board of Supervisors is voting tomorrow on whether they will be exploring broadband options with another company who has been prominent and successful with regions to the north of Stafford that include Fairfax, Loudon, etc.

Mr. Howard relayed that after the presentation was made to King George County, that an advisory sub-committee was formed and they will be meeting soon. Mr. Howard stated that it would be beneficial if Mr. Ware briefed this advisory committee of the latest findings so it could be discussed

at their upcoming meeting. Mr. Ware relayed that he would send the information out to Mr. Quesenberry.

Mr. Ware advised that he would provide updates to the Commission on the information that is to be presented by the two partners at the upcoming November meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **a.) The 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness – Mr. Hunter Snellings**

Mr. Snellings stated that he is the Community Development Planner for the City of Fredericksburg and he wanted to briefly update the commission on the Fredericksburg region's Continuum of Care plan to end homelessness in ten years.

Mr. Snellings relayed that the Vision of this Plan is that by 2024 every citizen within PD16 will have access to a home as the result of a system that addresses housing crisis at the onset. Mr. Snellings stated that in conjunction with the Hearth Act of 2007, the "Opening Doors" vision is to re-tool the homeless response systems by transforming homeless services to a crisis response system that will help prevent homelessness and will rapidly return people who are in a homeless situation back into some type of stable housing.

Mr. Snellings advised that each jurisdiction within the region is affected with homeless residents. Mr. Snellings stated that a lot of these people who fall into this category are people who are actually working and have money to pay rent; however, have no money left for food, clothing, & necessities. Mr. Snellings relayed that the regional totals of the number of HUD individuals within PD16 has increased by 6%; however, the number of homeless cases that have been attributed to either substance abuse or mental health issues have actually decreased by 30%.

Mr. Snellings stated that the Point-In-Time contact is conducted the last week in January and volunteers physically go out to where the homeless people reside and count the numbers of those in a homeless situation. Mr. Snellings advised that these counts are true "HUD" residents and do not reflect those living in hotels, shelters, or with family members.

Mr. Snellings relayed that the current services that are provided within the region include the following:

**Emergency Shelters** – first door that is available

**Permanent Supportive Housing** – serve those residents with disabling conditions whereby a population is one that is not self-sustaining

**Transitional Housing** – residents who work but need longer stay shelters that will house them for up to 2 years (even though the numbers in this region reflect only 9 months of additional assistance needed)

**Prevention/Diversion** – if someone finds out they are going to be evicted from their current dwelling immediately and have no family or friends to live with on a short-term basis

**Rapid Re-Housing** – whereby all service providers work to get individuals back into a permanent dwelling as soon as possible.

Mr. Snellings stated that the housing challenges involve the following topics:

**Defining Affordability** – Mr. Snellings stated that the region has a challenge because there are very limited affordable housing options within PD16. Mr. Snellings stated that data indicates that no more than 30% of an individual’s income should be going to housing and that more than 30% are in a “house poor” situation. Mr. Snellings stated that to coincide with the State average, the CC must work to acquire and maintain affordable housing so that 80% of the population is affected. Mr. Snellings stated that with today’s market value rental rates a citizen would need to have 4 full-time jobs to be able to adequately afford a two-bedroom apartment within this region.

Mr. Snellings stated that in building the new system that five working groups have been established and they include the following:

**Homeless Systems** – direct service providers, coordination, structure & responsiveness

**Data** – the consistency, accuracy, & quality of data and performance measures collected is essential

**Housing First** – developers, planners & rental owners come to the table to work on providing affordable housing options within the region

**Supportive Services** – client empowered case management

**Community Outreach** – ongoing coordination with all public service providers that include members from the local jail, the hospital, police/sheriff departments, etc. Mr. Snellings stated that the data reveals the following cost break-downs for services provided to citizens that include: 1 night in a jail = \$59.00; 1 night in the hospital = \$1,471.28; 1 night in a shelter = \$75.00; & one single person focused back into a permanent housing situation = \$20.00 per day.

Mr. Snellings stated that the following initiatives are underway:

Revision of a coordinated assessment system that increases communication across direct service agency providers and provides for a document that ensures all agencies across the board are consistent.

Re-organization of the CoC structure – Mr. Snellings stated that there is now a full-time CoC Coordinator who has been hired and is employed by GWRC and he has been an asset. He is currently working on the committee structures and current representation.

Exploring new & upgraded HMIS provider options and performance measures – Mr. Snellings stated that if you do not upgrade, even if it is initially costly, this region will be losing out on services, options, etc. that are available.

**b.) Approval of GWRC Resolution No. 15-03, Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute Renewals to Short-Term Leases for Park & Ride Spaces Located at the Fredericksburg Field House & the Chatham Square Shopping Center**  
– Ms. Diana Utz, GWRC

Ms. Utz advised that Resolution No. 15-03 is seeking approval on the annual lease agreement renewal for Park & Ride spaces through private property owners. These leased spaces are being utilized for the Dahlgren commuters and are funded through CMAQ at \$1.00 a day per space. Ms. Utz advised that we are currently leasing 60 spaces at the Fredericksburg Field House and 30 spaces at the Chatham Square Shopping Center. Ms. Utz also advised that per regulations of utilizing CMAQ funding, that the region's plan must stipulate that permanent parking lots are being sought. Ms. Utz stated that this is addressed regularly; however, to date, there is not a VDOT planned Park & Ride lot to be built that services the Route 3 East corridor.

Upon motion by Mr. Sisson and seconded by Mr. Kelly, with all in consensus, Resolution No. 15-03 was adopted.

**c.) Approval of GWRC Resolution No. 15-04, Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute Renewals to Short-Term Leases for Park & Ride Spaces Located at the Claiborne Run Shopping Center** – Ms. Diana Utz, GWRC

Ms. Utz advised that Resolution No. 15-04 is similar to Resolution No. 15-03; however, is a three-way agreement between GWRC, Stafford County, and the private property owner. This leased lot is located at the Claiborne Run Shopping Center and is for 15 spaces. Ms. Utz advised that the reason Stafford County is a partner with this Resolution is that the insurance regulations are supported by Stafford County.

Upon motion by Mr. Sisson and seconded by Mr. Snellings, with all in consensus, Resolution No. 15-04 was adopted.

Mr. Kelly stated that he realized the region needs additional Park & Ride lots to accommodate the daily work commuters and he only sees this need increasing. Mr. Kelly asked if at the November meeting a report could be given to the Commission on the break-down of the VDOT Park & Ride lots within the region; the current number of spaces in the lot; the number of spaces available before being at capacity; etc. It was consensus from the Commission that all would like to see this report and Ms. Utz advised that she would provide this data at the November GWRC meeting.

**d.) Farmer's Market Presentation** – Ms. Elizabeth Borst

Ms. Borst advised that GWRC is the funding agency for the Farmer's Markets within the region. Ms. Borst stated that the markets are currently largely self-funded; however, there are many state grant opportunities that this region would qualify for. The grants do in fact require a locality match in order to qualify.

Ms. Borst stated that currently the grant of interest is a grant in the amount of \$35,000; \$20,000 match of which has already been secured. Ms. Borst stated that in order to proceed, the grant would require a local match of approximately \$5,000 to \$10,000. Ms. Borst stated that the grant is a rolling grant; however the end of November is the time frame on when the initial application can be submitted. Ms. Borst stated that GWRC may have some designated funding already that could be applied. Ms. Borst stated that receiving this grant would allow the Farmer's Market to double the amount of funding that is currently being offered through the local Social Service departments to residents within PD16 for food stamp benefits which are accepted at all of the local farmer's market sites.

Mr. Howard stated that he felt the Commission needed more specifics on the grant – i.e. what exactly does the grant cover; are there re-occurring expenses or is it just a one-time cash match infusion; exactly how much the local matches would be; etc.

Mr. Ware advised that he would gather this information and forward it to the Commission members for their review so this item could be re-addressed and have action taken at the upcoming November meeting.

**e.) Other New Business** (if any) - None

**Adjourn** The GWRC meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next GWRC meeting is November 17th at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Timothy Ware  
Executive Director  
(Draft minutes prepared by JoAnna Roberson)