

Fairfax County Economic Advisory Commission
Meeting Summary
May 20, 2014, 8:00AM

Those commission members attending the meeting included: Chairman John Foust, Vice Chairman Pat Herrity, Board Chairman Sharon Bulova, Supervisor Penny Gross, Herndon Town Councilwoman Grace Wolf, Barry Biggar, Christian Deshauer, Gerald Gordon, Kelly Pride Hebron, Stephen Keat, Denton Kent, Suzette Kern, Brian Schoeneman, Siddique Sheikh, Mark Silverwood, Alfred Thieme, John Thillmann, Joe Vidulich, and Carol Welti.

Chairman Foust opened the meeting

Chairman Foust introduced new EAC member, Siddique Sheikh. Mr. Sheikh mentioned an upcoming convention and trade show in Northern Virginia between the U.S. and South Asia.

Gerald Gordon introduced presenter Dr. Thomas Prohaska, Dean of George Mason University's College of Health and Human Services. Dr. Prohaska discussed GMU's efforts to address health issues of an aging population and stated that GMU is ready to enter partnerships to address, supplement, and complement existing health care more cost efficiently. Most health issues are significantly affected by socio-economic factors. Virginia institutions of higher learning currently have no schools of public health. GMU's Board of Visitors has approved a Public Health Institute, which will be developed over the coming year, allowing GMU greater access to the national Centers for Disease Control for research and study. Dr. Prohaska mentioned that home health, technology, and community health are the next steps in health care. Chairman Foust mentioned that GMU was a significant driver for the local economy. The Committee asked if there were ways in which Fairfax could assist GMU in this effort. Dr. Prohaska recommended a formal partnership to figure out how best to integrate health into the economy. The EAC asked Gerald Gordon to facilitate the formation of a small group to address such integration, with a focus on the diverse nature of the region.

Chairman Foust and Rob Stalzer, Deputy County Executive, discussed the EAC's Implementation Committee's work toward updating the county's economic Plan. Mr. Stalzer said staff still was soliciting feedback for the draft Plan to ensure that it properly addressed all areas of the county. Over the next several months, staff would develop a 3-5 year action plan of specific initiatives for continuing and growing the county's economic success. Based upon input from IC members, staff focused on the 4 main areas of People, Places, Environment, and Governance. Committee members discussed various changes to the draft plan language to better reflect member concerns, including a greater prominence for the area of affordable taxes. Mr. Stalzer said that staff would continue to receive and address Plan feedback, and will hold several outreach sessions with interested groups. He stated that staff would further update the Committee during the July meeting.

There was no further business.

Chairman Foust adjourned the meeting.