

Commissioner Frank A. de la Fe

(Continued from page 4)

de la Fe credits his familiarity with FCPA processes that now assist him in his current role as Chair of the Planning Commission's Parks Committee.

"The issues currently under discussion [by the committee] relate to the appropriate level of contributions requested from applicants who are proposing projects that will impact park facilities and also updating of the Area Plans to assure their conformance with the revised Parks Policy Plan," he explained.

de la Fe volunteered to Chair the Commission's Transportation Committee because his "personal goal is to assure that the Planning Commission takes all actions necessary to enable the most timely construction of the Metrorail extension to Dulles Airport." He notes that the project was initially planned 40 years ago and appeared very promising until a year ago due to a number of issues raised that have delayed the progress.

de la Fe said he looks forward to riding the rail to Dulles but is

"I devote 120 percent of my time to just one issue that I'm interested in doing...you really can't, from my perspective, do a job well unless you devote your time to it"

skeptical whether it will actually happen in his lifetime.

de la Fe was elected Parliamentarian on January 17, 2007. "The most challenging duty of being Parliamentarian will be trying to figure out when to intercede in some procedural issue," he said. "The most rewarding duty is that I probably won't have to do it very often."

de la Fe had an extensive career with the Federal Government beginning in the 1960s. He was recruited by National Aeronautics and Space Administration right out of undergraduate school, which he notes, "As a non-scientist, to be offered a job by NASA in 1963 was too good to pass up."

He left NASA two months before the moon landing to help create the Illinois State Bureau of the Budget. Unfortunately, de la Fe missed watching this historic event on television because his side of the street in a Springfield, Illinois neighborhood did not have cable at the time.

"Essentially almost every job that I had in the Federal Government was helping to create new organizations," he said. These new organizations included the Special Action Office for Drug Abuse Prevention.

de la Fe has been retired for almost 11 years and admits that the Planning Commission now takes up most of his time. "I devote 120 percent of my time to just one issue that I'm interested in doing. If you get involved, really involved in something like this, you get to participate and touch so many other issues that you really can't, from my perspective, do a job well unless you devote your time to it," he said.

Environment Committee's "Green Building" Tour

On Saturday, April 28, the Planning Commission's Environment Committee toured the Wetlands Studies and Solutions (WSSI) office in Gainesville, VA to see its nationally-certified, environmentally-friendly, "green" building.

The WSSI building was constructed using low impact development techniques to manage its stormwater, and is certified "Gold" under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Commercial Interiors (LEED-CI) standards, set forth by the U.S. Green Building Council. This LEED program is voluntary and allows developers to be recognized as environmentally-conscious in design, engineering and construction. The WSSI building featured a rooftop rain garden (pictured at right) and underground gravel bed detention system, reflective and "green" roof, native landscaping, pervious surfaces, and downward-directed lighting into the site. The interior was also "environmentally-friendly" and featured sensors for lighting, individually-controlled thermal comfort zones, emission-free fabrics and surfaces, and individual task lighting for employees. *(continued on page 9)*



The rooftop rain garden at Wetlands Studies and Solutions in Gainesville, VA.

Website Statistics

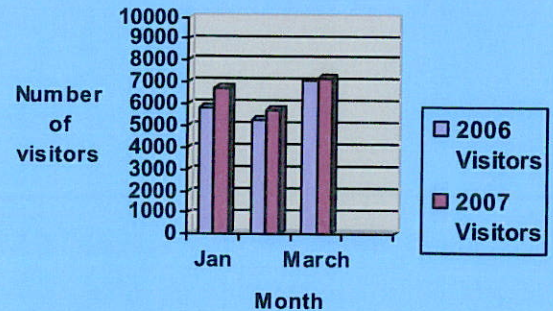
During the first three months of 2007, the Planning Commission website experienced a high volume of visitors, receiving 19,672 hits. March was the most active month overall with 7,191 views, followed by January with 6,784 and February with 5,697.

Those numbers are up slightly from the first three months of 2006, when 18,123 visitors explored various portions of the Planning Commission website.

While the majority of these visitors came from within the United States, many of them were not local. Three of the top five localities who viewed the site were not from Virginia—Marina Del Rey, CA, Redmond, WA and Las Vegas, NV.

There were also many international visitors as well. China, Sweden, Switzerland, Australia and Japan were just a few of the countries that viewed the website.

2006-2007 Website Visitor Comparison

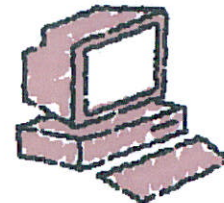


Top Five Pages Viewed on the Planning Commission Website

1. The Planning Commission Homepage
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/>
2. Calendar and Agenda
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/meetingcalendar.htm>
3. Transit-Oriented Development Committee Page
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/tod.htm>
4. Committees
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/committee.htm>
5. Minutes
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/minutes.htm>

Top Five Visitor Locations

1. Marina Del Rey, California
2. Redmond, Washington
3. Herndon, Virginia
4. Las Vegas, Nevada
5. Washington, D.C.



Environment Committee's "Green Building" Tour



Pictured on the WSSI rooftop rain garden (clockwise): Commissioners James Hart, Nancy Hopkins and Ken Lawrence; Bill Nell & Mike Rolband from WSSI; Noel Kaplan from DPZ; and PC Executive Director Barbara Lipka. Not pictured: Commissioner Earl Flanagan, Pam Nee from DPZ, and PC Assistant Director Robin Hardy.

(continued from page 5)

The Environment Committee has already heard presentations on "green" buildings by the U.S. Green Building Council and Energy Star at its meetings in March and April. In May, the Committee will continue its focus on this issue with a presentation from the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association.

The Board of Supervisors has also continued its interest in environmental matters. In March, Chairman Gerald Connolly announced a "cool counties" initiative with the Sierra Club. Part of this initiative will be the promotion of "green" buildings for public and private use.

To catch up with all of the Committee's activities for January through April, check out the "Committee Update" section on page seven.