

DRAFT Minutes
June 11, 2014
Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee

1. Roll Call and Brief Neighborhood Report
2. Officers and Staff Report

Funding round discussion:

Edie Wilson - Can you give us a percentage of the cost increase amounts? Ramzi Awwad - 10-15% plus 20% we have not had a price increase in the past 2.5 years ago. Jim Feaster - You say the projects are becoming more complex, does that mean projects are harder? Ramzi Awwad - It seems like the projects are much more complicated. Bernie Berne - I notice some of these items are from water control. How are you going to assess this at a later date? Ramzi Awwad - The success will be in the results. We have to balance the upfront cost in order to balance the positives. Bernie Berne - But how are you going to assess that? Ramzi Awwad - We'll be able to assess each project. Jonathan Levine - Given the current backlog of projects not being complete, is the three years a realistic goal? Ramzi Awwad - We acknowledge there has been a backlog, but we have taken the steps to make it better. Rob Swennes - With regard to these new requirements, are they imposed because of law or because of an internal group within the county? Ramzi Awwad - For the Memorandum of Traffic (MOT), its internal and the focus is on safety. Tree protection and stormwater are a result of law. A big part is stormwater driven by the state. Rob Swennes - Higher costs mean less projects that we can fund so we need to consider that in the future. Ramzi Awwad - We are looking at ways to partner with other groups like Water, Sewer and Streets and have done so on paving. John Seggerman - Were there multiple bidders for the new contract? Ramzi Awwad - Yes. David Haring - Was there an escalation cost? Ramzi Awwad - There is a price escalation, but it's based on the consumer price index. David Haring - Why do we have a 20% plus a 3% escalation? Construction price index not consumer price index. We wanted to get lower numbers up front. Stephen Hughes - Can you tell us what the time frame for completing these projects is in a perfect world? Ramzi Awwad - In a perfect world, it would be about 3-4 years. We have to deal with utilities which hold us up. Sarah McKinley - The amount of work that DES does is immense Ramzi has restructured the Bureau. Ramzi Awwad- Additional supervisors, consistent plan sets, and quality control are just a few items I have been working on that will

make a big difference in delivery of projects. Bill Braswell - I met with DVP regarding strategic undergrounding. They are trying to bury lines and it will be another pressure on us. Stacy Myer - I live across from Nelly Custis Park and I'm concerned about the planning and the second scoping meeting was not advertised. Concerned about design, placement of play structure. We want to preserve the green space. Hold approving the project. Alice Lee - I'm the only house adjacent to the park. I have concerns with a new playground. Ron Lee - It looks like the tricycle loop is much closer to the fence. Scott Miles - There is a lot of work and support and we don't think the NC process has been followed properly. The process to scope out the park is designed to get feedback. That process fell apart in the middle. It was taken up at the Civic Association meeting. We have a letter from the Association, but we don't know if there was a quorum. I ask that you refrain from funding this. Kari Klaus - The second scoping meeting is where the process broke down and we should take the time out to follow the process properly. I did not know what was going on and minutes were not taken by the Association. I think it needs to be benched. Edie Wilson - Was this discussed at the parks commission? I would like the Chair to develop a memorandum of understanding between NC and the Parks Commission. Jonathan Levine - Did the people who were present vote unanimously? Bruce Cameron - Yes. Jonathan Levine - How did the Association President determine the priority project. Bruce Cameron - Chris Mann talked with neighbors, community groups, it was discussed at meetings. Stephen Hughes - How many people generally attend the Association meetings? Bruce Cameron - We had a great newsletter. We used to do 1200 to 1300 newsletters. Dennis McGarry - How many people were there the night you voted on the project. Geva Lester - Probably 15-20. Shannon Early - Ten people voted. Bernie Berne - These park projects should be shared with the Parks Commission and E2C2. I will vote against this project because it's not environmentally friendly. Sarah McKinley - Getting a project to this stage where it gets funded takes a huge amount of time. If we move forward, is there a possibility that changes could be made to the plan? Geva Lester - A lot of the issues that we are talking about come into the design phase. Kari Klaus - The way it's voted is on the scope language. Shannon Early - It's a rough concept phase. They wanted a large climbing structure, based on what we talked about. The actual location will have to wait until more design is done. After scoping, we then do design with more meetings. Bruce Cameron - If it's unanimous we don't need a quorum. David Haring - How important is the project to the Association? Was it in the NC Plan? Edie Wilson - Move that Nelly Custis Park be postponed to the Fall funding round. Rob Swennes - I am concerned about whether or not process was followed. I'm not sure how well the second scoping meeting was advertised. If people didn't get notified it creates a

process issue. The County Board is sensitive to due process. Jim Feaster - Speak against the motion since we are interfering in the Civic Association. Bruce Cameron - If you are going to take that approach are we as NC going to dictate to every Association what they should do? Brian Hannigan - Very sympathetic to the challenge of getting people out to meetings. It's difficult to get people to sign up for listserves. There was an initial scoping meeting, but these people were not contacted for the second scoping meeting even though it took place at the Association. Did the county contact the group about a second meeting? Bill Braswell - Friendly amendment, that we recommend the project be approved contingent upon the Civic Association makes this work. Edie Wilson - We get into some procedural issues and put pressure on the community. David Haring - When we send our list to the County Board we haven't done our due diligence. Six months won't make a difference. When we send a package to the county board they will have an issue with it. Bruce Cameron - You are second guessing the process. Harry Spector - Procedural issue with the community. The neighbors deserve to have due process. Can we approve this contingent upon Association proving they did follow proper procedure?

Vote on deferring funding of the Nelly Custis Park Project until the Fall Funding round in December.

15 - in favor

14 - not in favor

1 - abstention.

Bernie Berne – Move that we approve all the projects recommended by the Points Committee except for the Nelly Custis Park Project

28 - in favor

0 – not in favor

0 – abstentions

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm