

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee
January 11, 2018

Meeting Minutes – APPROVED

Meeting location: Navy League Building
2300 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22201

1. Roll Call and Brief Neighborhood Report
 - a. Ed Hilz introduced Rebecca Sayers, the new Alternate Representative for Fairlington.
 - b. Bill Braswell – noted 2 projects in the Tara-Leeway Heights and neighboring areas: the Reed School is in the process of designing and creating a new Elementary School, and the Virginia Hospital Center is building a new outpatient center and parking garage. Bill complemented the APS staff and consultants on their plans and ideas. In contrast to this positive process, the VHC project is creating problems for the surrounding neighborhood with light pollution, traffic access and setbacks. He encouraged neighborhoods and civic associations to get involved in these processes.
2. Approval of Minutes from November 09, 2017 NCAC Meeting:
 - a. The Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Officers and Staff Report
 - a. Tim McIntosh welcomed 3 Arlington County High School students who were attending the meeting. They are working on a school project on county commissions.
 - b. Tim announced that the NC Fern Street Project in Aurora Highlands received the County Manager's Excellence Award, and was one of eight recipients of the award this year.
 - c. Tim announced that a plaque has been made as a special tribute to Sena Wijesinha, honoring his dedication and contributions to Arlington County. It will be presented on January 30th in the County Board Room by County Manager Mark Schwartz, with Sena as the first recipient of the new CARES Award.
4. Discussion / Action Items:
 - a. NCAC Elections

Tim thanked Sarah McKinley for her commitment and service to the NCAC as Committee Chair for the past 2 years.

NCAC Nominating Committee for the new slate of officers for the Executive Board: Dave Haring, Jim Feaster, and John Kirkpatrick.

Nominated Officers for 2018:

Alexandra Bocian, Chair (High View Park)

Rob Swennes, Vice-Chair (Leeway)

Phil Klingelhofer, Deputy Vice Chair (Boulevard Manor)

Bill Braswell made a motion to accept the slate of officers for 2018. This was seconded by Frieda Kulish.

Vote on the motion – Unanimous approval.

b. Presentation on the Bicycle Master Plan

The presentation was made by Ritch Viola, Planning Supervisor, Department of Environmental Services (DES).

Ritch described the updates and changes the county is working on for the Bicycle Master Plan, which was last worked on approximately 10 years ago. Ritch described the next steps for the Bicycle Master Plan:

Fall, 2018 – finalize bicycle elements

Winter, 2018 - completing the policy framework

Questions/Comments:

- i. Eileen Janas asked if Arlington County requires bicycles be registered.

Ritch replied no, but noted that it can be useful if stolen.

- ii. Ed Hilz noted that in DC the bike lanes seem well defined, and asked if we are providing that here.

Ritch said we have a few, identified as protected bike lanes, and there is a lot of support for them in Arl. Co. He is looking into how to provide more safe, protected bike lanes, and they are trying to address this in the master plan. Ritch further noted that the number of bike riders in Arlington has been increasing every year.

- iii. Sarah McKinley suggested adding signage on roads to let bikers know safe streets and routes, such as adding signage on Columbia Pike to direct bikers to 12th Street, which is safer to ride on.

Deborah Wood noted the difficulty in finding and following bike lanes.

Ritch explained that signs are difficult for the county to maintain, and there are some. Maps are a better tool, allowing people to learn the routes.

- iv. Jon Levine asked if Safe Routes to School is being incorporated into the master plan.

Ritch replied that Arlington Public Schools is working with them to improve access to each school.

Jon asked if snow and ice can be removed from the trails in the winter.

Ritch replied that the county has 2 pieces of equipment that can do this, with limited coverage of the county possible between them, and the focus has to remain on commuter routes.

Jon asked if a bike path could be made over Rt. 395 or GW Pkwy.

Ritch is interested in this, but it is not being looked at right now, as it requires coordination with other jurisdictions.

- v. Paul Bolejack asked what constraints do we as a county have to providing bike lanes.

Ritch explained the constraints in the county – 1.) existing roadway width and there are tradeoffs and balances that need to be made between cars, buses, bikes and pedestrians, and 2.) there are limited funds, so expense of projects for improvements need to be weighed.

- vi. Ken Robinson – asked for a comparison of cost between a bike lane and a bus.

Ritch said a bus costs around \$500,000 and painting a stripe for a bike lane is inexpensive, assuming the road already has the necessary width.

- vii. Deborah Wood asked if when constructing multi-family housing, is bike parking being incorporated.

Ritch replied yes.

- viii. Frieda Kulish asked if it is illegal for bikes to ride down sidewalks.

Ritch explained that it is only illegal if there is a sign posted prohibiting bikes.

c. Streetlight Management Plan

The presentation on the new Streetlight Management Plan was made by Santosh Neupane, Streetlight Program Coordinator. Attending was also Hui Wang, Transportation, Engineering and Operations (TE&O) Bureau Chief, Department of Environmental Services (DES).

Questions/Comments:

- i. Ed Hilz asked who purchases streetlights.

Hui explained that Dominion will own the fixtures on most residential streets and Arlington County will own the fixtures in commercial corridors, as shown on the Management Plan. Arlington County will also set the standard for all fixtures, whether purchased by Dominion or us.

- ii. Jerry Paull asked how the Streetlight Management Plan will affect NC projects.

Santosh answered that new projects will be impacted by the new plan.

- iii. Sarah McKinley asked if a light fixture is out, does the county still pay rent to Dominion.

Santosh explained that once a fixture has been dark for a certain number of days the county does not pay Dominion.

Hui further commented that if a resident sees a fixture is out, the pole number can be reported directly to Dominion for the quickest response, or it can be reported to Arlington County and someone will be sent out to inspect the fixture.

- iv. Bill Braswell asked about the light bulb types being used, sodium and LED, and how are they being improved.

Hui responded that at this time over 80% of the county owned streetlights are LED.

5. Other/New Business:

(None.)

6. Meeting adjourned.