

Arlington Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC)
Wednesday, January 10, 2018
Courthouse Plaza, Dogwood & Cherry Rooms
2100 Clarendon Boulevard
Minutes (approved with edit May 9, 2018)

Present: Pamela Van Hine, Chair; Eric Goldstein, Vice Chair; Ellen Armbruster; John Armstrong; Eric Goodman; Christine Ng; Chris Yarie; David Patton; Ritch Viola

Guests: Christine Sherman; Shelley Peart; Henry Dunbar; Bill Roberts; Dennis Leech; Alli Henry; Ian Blackwell; Angelique Earley; Gillian Burgess; Megan Jones; Eric Cassel; Dan Murphy; Mark Schwartz

The meeting was called to order by the chair at 7:01 PM

Items of Interest and Public Comment:

The Chair welcomed attendees to the first meeting of the PAC for the new year. Attendees introduced themselves.

Invited Speaker: Lt. Dan Murphy, ACPD

Lt. Murphy provided the PAC with a brief update on 2017 collision numbers from ACPD. He indicated that the numbers are still preliminary and that he will provide a full report to the PAC when numbers are finalized. So far, he found an increase in pedestrian collisions up to over 140, versus 101 from the previous year. However, he indicated that new systems put in place in late 2016 captures more of the collisions that occur, rather than a sign that the number of collisions has increased. He indicated that he is manually reviewing all the reports to categorize them. Lt. Murphy also reported that ACPD had conducted 11 stings and issued 148 summons to drivers at those stings for not yielding to pedestrians. They are attempting to increase these stings to be a weekly occurrence.

Invited Speaker: Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Manager

Mr. Schwartz thanked everyone for attending, and thanked the PAC for its engagement with him on issues including the County budget, the National Foreign Affairs Training Center, South Park redevelopment, and the Neighborhood Complete Streets Program.

Regarding the budget, he indicated that the upcoming year will be one of the toughest years. Due to office vacancies, the commercial building assessments will likely come in below what was projected. There will be a \$20 million gap to fill to continue current operations. He projected the need for layoffs and program cuts, and indicated that only areas identified by the County Board for increased funding (i.e. affordable housing) would receive increases.

Mr. Schwartz responded to questions from PAC members regarding future years' budgets, close out funds, and tax rate increases. He indicated that the budget issues for the next several years are not likely to get easier; that there is not unallocated close out funds available to bridge the gap; and that the Board has not asked to prepare a budget that includes a tax rate increase.

Mr. Schwartz also discussed other areas of interest with the PAC, including the Report a Problem software, Vision Zero; pedestrian access around construction sites, and snow removal.

Mr. Schwartz also discussed his role in the structure and management of the PAC. He indicated that he is not proposing to change the PAC's charter and he thinks it works well for the PAC. He also discussed with the PAC its role as a committee advising the Manager, rather than a commission appointed by the board.

The chair thanked Mr. Schwartz for attending and discussing this issues with the PAC.

Invited Speaker: Eric Cassel, President, Friends of Long Bridge Park

Mr. Cassel provided the PAC an overview of the geography around Long Bridge Park and the missing connections for pedestrian travel in and around the area. He discussed with the PAC the current federal government efforts surrounding the [Long Bridge Project](#) and explained the need to add pedestrian pathways both from Long Bridge Park over the George Washington Parkway to the Mount Vernon Trail and the need for pedestrian facilities over the Potomac to the District of Columbia on or near the Long Bridge. The PAC thanked Mr. Cassel for his presentation and agreed to send a [letter](#) to the County Manager explaining our support for these efforts, for inclusion with the County's submission to the Long Bridge Project.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 14 at 7:00 PM in Courthouse Plaza, Dogwood & Cherry Rooms. The meeting was adjourned at 9:01 PM