

**Public Facilities Review Committee
New ES#1 (Williamsburg MS Campus)
Meeting Summary
Wednesday, April 17, 2013**

Attendees

<u>PFRC Members (√ = present):</u>	<u>Arlington Public Schools (APS):</u>
√ Charles Monfort, Chair	John Chadwick, APS
√ Lander Allin, Schools	Steve Stricker, APS
Jeff Certosimo, Housing Commission	Wyck Knox, VMDO Architects
√ Elizabeth Gearin, Parks & Rec. Commission	
√ Eric Harold, E2C2	<u>County Staff:</u>
√ Jana Lynott, Transportation Commission	Matt Pfeiffer, DCPHD
√ Inta Malis, Planning Commission	Lisa Maher, DES
√ John Miller, At-Large	Robin Leonard, DPR
√ Heather Obora, Schools	Freida Wray, DCPHD
Betty Siegel, At-Large	
√ Steve Sockwell, Planning Commission	<u>Observers:</u>
Jason Widstrom, Fiscal Affairs Adv. Comm.	Tony Trabandt, Resident
	Judy Hadden, Resident
<u>New ES#1 Project-Specific PFRC Members (√ = present):</u>	Chuck Hadden, Resident
√ Lynn Pollock, Rock Spring CA	Gail Harrison, Rock Spring CA
√ Moe Kabiri, Rock Spring CA	Wallace Sansone, Franklin Area CA
Paul Cullen, Williamsburg CA	Harriet Sansone, Resident
√ Jim Lunson, Williamsburg CA	Chris Munson, Resident
David Friedman, Yorktown CA	
√ David Haring, Yorktown CA	<u>Ashlawn Project-Specific PFRC Members (√ = present):</u>
Ann Hafer, Franklin Area CA	Josh Handler, Boulevard Manor CA
√ Craig Esherick, Sports Commission	Tamela Gelboin, Boulevard Manor CA
√ Ed Hilz, Urban Forestry Commission	Matt Robarge, Dominion Hills CA
	Scott Christensen, Dominion Hills CA
	Craig Esherick, Sports Commission
	Ed Hilz, Urban Forestry Commission

Schematic Site and Building Design

An overview of the schematic design was provided, including site design, landscaping, building design, building materials, floor layouts, and energy efficiencies. There was a question about how the loading dock would be screened from the street and adjacent residences. The use of evergreen trees would not address the immediate need for screening. The architect was asked to consider a screening wall. There was also a concern about the height of the retaining wall as viewed from 36th Street, and potential impact on views and safety. The architect agreed to examine the retaining wall height and consider strategies to mitigate its impact on the street. APS agreed to provide sample building materials at the next PFRC meeting on May 1.

Artificial/Lighted Soccer Fields

J. Chadwick indicated that APS is proceeding with a site design that does not include artificial turf and lighting on fields. While APS would like to have artificial fields, with

no lighting, the budget does not support it at a cost of approximately \$700,000 – 800,000 per field. M. Pfeiffer indicated that the County has not reached a decision regarding provision of artificial fields and lighting at Williamsburg. Artificial turf is not included in the CIP at this location, and consideration of artificial turf would require a change in County policy. C. Monfort indicated that the Arlington Soccer Association proposes to contribute \$100,000 toward provision of an artificial field, and there are other organizations lobbying for it. As a part of this process, and if it decides to do so, the PFRC could recommend to the County Board that an artificial field with no lighting be provided. J. Lunson indicated that the Williamsburg Civic Association is opposed to the provision of lighted fields.

PFRC members were asked to identify the pros and cons of provision of artificial fields, with or without lighting. Some of the comments are included below. At the end of the discussion C. Monfort sensed that the PFRC may support provision of artificial turf field(s), but does not support lighting of field(s).

- Soccer fields should not include lighting given the Williamsburg Civic Association's position.
- The Rock Springs Civic Association is concerned about lighting of fields, noise and crime.
- There would be a tremendous benefit to providing artificial turf, with or without lighting, as it would provide additional programming time. However, would it be worth providing without the lighting?
- There is a huge demand for artificial fields. However, their long term use and maintenance is an issue with the County. R. Leonard responded that the CIP includes funds to replace existing turf fields in need of replacement.
- Provision of artificial fields will result in the loss of neighborhood open space.
- The Sports Commission has established a field fund and they would be happy to use some of the fund to support an artificial field. The Arlington Soccer Association is the largest organization that uses the fields, and the provision of artificial fields will meet their need for additional fields. The Sports Commission will prepare a letter of recommendation to the County Board for provision of an artificial field.
- There are environmental benefits to provision of artificial fields.

Public Comments

The following comments were expressed by the general public in attendance:

- The community received no responses from the County or APS staff on their questions regarding safety and technical issues with the Williamsburg/Kensington Street intersection. A meeting was requested with the project engineers (County staff and APS consultants) to ensure that the intersection is safe.
- The Williamsburg/Kensington Street intersection should be fixed, and the Neighborhood Conservation project should be redesigned to include a traffic light.
- The Rock Spring Civic Association strongly opposes the lighting of fields and wrote a letter to the County Board outlining their concerns. In addition, the civic

association is opposed to the use of solar panels on the soccer field due to safety concerns, and has no position with regard to the use of artificial turf.

- Not all residents have been informed of meetings with County and APS staff.

Next Steps

The next steps in the process include:

- April 22, 2013 – E2C2 meeting (informational item)
- May 1, 2013 – PFRC meeting
- May 20, 2013 – E2C2 meeting (action item)
- June 19, 2013 – PFRC meeting
- July 15, 2013 – Use Permit filing deadline
- September 5, 2013 – Transportation Commission meeting
- September 9, 2013 – Planning Commission meeting
- September 21, 2013 – County Board meeting

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.