

**Public Facilities Review Committee
Ashlawn Elementary School Expansion
Meeting Summary
Wednesday, February 20, 2013**

Attendees

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| <i>PFRC Members (√ = present):</i> | <i>Arlington Public Schools (APS):</i> |
| √ Charles Monfort, Chair | John Chadwick, APS |
| √ Lander Allin, Schools | Jennifer Xu, APS |
| Jeff Certosimo, Housing Commission | Doug Gehley, SHW Group |
| √ Elizabeth Gearin, Parks & Rec. Commission | Christiane Dejong, SHW |
| Brian Harner, Planning Commission | Don Hoover, Oculus |
| √ Eric Harold, E2C2 | |
| √ Jana Lynott, Transportation Commission | <i>County Staff:</i> |
| √ Inta Malis, Planning Commission | Dennis Sellin, DES |
| √ John Miller, At-Large | Sergio Enriquez, DPR |
| Heather Obora, Schools | Marco Rivero, CPHD |
| Betty Siegel, At-Large | |
| Jason Widstrom, Fiscal Affairs Adv. Comm. | <i>Observers:</i> |
| | Alan Cohen, Neighbor |
| <i>Ashlawn Project-Specific PFRC Members:</i> | |
| √ Tamara Gelboin, Boulevard Manor CA | <i>New ES#1 Project-Specific PFRC Members:</i> |
| √ Josh Handler, Boulevard Manor CA | Lynn Pollock, Rock Spring CA |
| Matt Robarge, Dominion Hills CA | Moe Kabiri, Rock Spring CA |
| Scott Christensen, Dominion Hills CA | Paul Cullen, Williamsburg CA |
| √ Ed Hilz, Urban Forestry Commission | Jim Lunson, Williamsburg CA |
| Craig Esherick, Sports Commission | David Friedman, Yorktown CA |
| | David Haring, Yorktown CA |
| | Ann Hafer, Franklin Area CA |
| | Ed Hilz, Urban Forestry Commission |
| | Craig Esherick, Sports Commission |

Schematic Design Plans

The schematic design for Ashlawn Elementary School was presented, including site development and landscaping, building design, and vehicular and pedestrian circulation. A letter from the PFRC Chair to the County Board, with copies to the School Board, will inform the County Board and the School Board of the PFRC's recommendation with regard to the schematic design. The School Board will review the schematic design for action at its meeting on February 21, 2013.

Oculus provided an overview of site development and landscaping, including preservation of existing and provision of new canopy and understory trees, pedestrian entrances and pathways, handicap access, bike racks, open space areas and ball fields, and site landscaping. Concerns that were raised and identified in the letter to the County Board included:

- Requirements for long-term landscaping maintenance should be addressed in a use permit condition.
- The amount of chain link fence on the site should be held to the absolute minimum.

- The area used as a neighborhood sledding hill should be kept free of additional landscaping.
- The amount of paved pathways should be reduced, including consideration for permeable pathways, and paths should be placed where students can actually be expected to travel.

SHW provided an overview of the expansion program, including internal layout and uses, building design, and details of the façade elevations and treatment. Concerns that were raised and identified in the letter to the County Board included:

- The windows in the southwestern corner of the media center should be consistent with others in the media center.
- The visual impact of the blank brick walls on the addition's eastern façade should be reduced.
- The main school entry is not clear or prominent and should be enhanced.
- Additional screening and placement of rooftop mechanical equipment on the existing structures should be considered.

Transportation Study

There was some discussion about ways to minimize on-site impervious surface areas, reducing on-site parking, and improving traffic patterns at the 8th Road intersection. DES provided an overview of the draft Transportation Recommendation Matrix, which included the 53 recommendations of the TDG Transportation Study, plus one recommendation of the County, for a total of 54 recommendations. Of the 54 recommendations, 45 addressed pedestrian access and safety issues. The Matrix prioritized the recommendations based on high, medium and low priority, required, or discouraged. The PFRC recommended that the Matrix be reformatted to prioritize the recommendations based on student safety impacts. The reformatted Matrix will be discussed in further detail at the next PFRC meeting in March.

While consensus among the PFRC had already been reached at an earlier PFRC meeting supporting the Manchester Street parent drop-off loop, the PFRC agreed to indicate in its letter to the County Board the following transportation concerns:

- Handicap accessibility to the school should be reviewed, especially as it relates to building entry and location of handicapped parking.
- The amount and location of parking needs further clarification.
- Transportation infrastructure improvements should be prioritized based on the greatest immediate impact on student safety. The agencies responsible for implementation should be assigned to each improvement.
- Operational traffic management issues need further review and clarification as the process continues.

Next Steps

A letter from the PFRC Chair to the County Board will express PFRC's general support for the schematic design and identify elements that require further discussion. Those elements are identified above in the bulleted points.

The next steps in the process include:

- February 21, 2013 – School Board action on the schematic design.
- February 25, 2013 – E2C2 review of the Environmental Assessment.
- March 11, 2013 – Filing deadline for the Use Permit.
- March 12, 2013 – BLPC meeting
- March 13, 2013 – PFRC meeting to be held at Courthouse Plaza, lobby level conference rooms 109/111, from 7:00-8:30 pm.
- April 17, 2013 – PFRC meeting
- May 6, 2013 – Planning Commission meeting
- May 18, 2013 – County Board meeting

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 pm.