

DRAFT Minutes  
April, 14 2016  
Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee

1. Roll Call and Brief Neighborhood Report
2. Approval of March, 2016 Minutes (approved)
3. Officers and Staff Report

Chestnut Hills Plaque Approval - Rob Swennes motion to approve the request, Alexandra second. All in favor.

Frieda Kulish - Is there anything related to the Freedmans village? Chikwe Njoku - Not at this time, we are doing some oral histories and interpretations. Green Valley Pharmacy is a local historic district. Frieda Kulish - What is the ultimate source of funding? Chikwe Njoku - Parks has their own bond, but the rest will come out of the CIP Process. Sarah McKinley - Earlier this year the state announced the DMV office was going to move from South Four Mile Run and it was reversed. What is the status of that? Richard Tucker – The owners re-upped their lease for 10 years. Natasha Pinol - Are you considering something like the Torpedo Factory? Scott McPartlin – It's not off the table. We need to figure that out and there will be a comprehensive community process. Frank Winchell - What would you do about the Four Mile Run stream? Scott McPartlin - In 2000, we started the Four Mile Run stream restoration project and we are about to do some construction. The environmental engineers are creating creative techniques to mitigate flooding. Darcy Cuffman – There are several businesses in that area. Have the property owners been notified about this study? Richard Tucker - We are planning a press release and we will be engaging them. There is a business association being formed right now and we will be working with them. Darcy Cuffman - Is it possible that some of these businesses will go away? Richard Tucker - We have to have that discussion. The business owners are leasing but the property owners have the final say. Darcy Cuffman - The five properties acquired, will those properties be restored? Scott McPartlin – That has not been determined. They were acquired through park bonds and we will have an engagement process. Bruce Cameron - I'm concerned about the cascading effect on adjacent neighborhoods. Aurora Highlands has an expanded bus lot we are dealing with and we would like an expanded arts center. Virginia Highlands Community Center needs a master plan. Please keep the adjacent neighborhoods

in the loop. Alexandra Bocian - I have a concern with the small businesses. Once you move them, it's difficult for them to survive if they have to come back. Are you thinking of walk arounds? Richard Tucker - We have not started the planning. There is a lot of sentiment for them to stay. We'll have to see once we get into the process. Deborah Candeub - The outreach will focus on adjacent neighborhoods, which is appropriate, but with the industrial area, there needs to be outreach as well and the businesses need to be a part of the process. Richard Tucker - We will have reps from the CA's, the advisory boards, commissions, and the County Board. We recognize that the outreach will need to be comprehensive and focus on businesses as well as residential areas. Deborah Candeub - At what point do you start the discussions with schools? Richard Tucker - In each planning effort, where we have residential development, we'll do an assessment on the types of housing. We'll figure out how many students will be affected, but we have to develop the plan first. Scott McPartlin - With the park we have the CA's as stakeholders, but we also have community wide stakeholders, sports leagues, etc. We will have a coordinated effort with our communications staff for outreach. Rob Swennes - The concern I have is the industrial area is a large segment of this. The county is growing so there has to be a space for industrial. You also have organizations in this area that the county relies on such as non-profits. The Arlington Food Assistance Center is one that gets a lot of money from the county. You have to think about these businesses or you will get pushback.

#### Process Changes Presentation by Paul Bolejack:

Bruce Cameron - I like these changes and appreciate the presentation. The 30 days should be longer and we should specify how the neighborhood should reach out. Paul Bolejack - Affected property owners should be able to weigh in on the design issues. Sarah McKinley - Another objection at Civic Federation meeting was there is so much turnover in CA's that the records will get lost. We can deal with that by using the Virginia Room. They can keep our records. Paul Bolejack - For those CA's that are not used to this kind of process we could help them and give them best practices. Sarah McKinley - The lesson we learned from Nelly Custis is that it doesn't matter what the process is someone will challenge it. Alexandra Bocian - Can we have a copy of this to bring to our CA's so we can talk with them? Paul Bolejack - Yes, I could help with the presentations to CA's. Bill Braswell - Saturday the CB will approve the operating budget. I have been advised by the CB to not change the process anytime soon. We need to focus on our design backlog so we can get projects out. Jim Feaster - I don't like to cede sidewalks to the residents. I'm not opposed to policy changes, but we are

pushing all the work to the CA's, which they will have a hard time managing. Right now, NC staff does that. You will have to defend this process to capture the votes in front of the NCAC and the CB. We do not want to damage our reputation. I would vote against this. Paul Bolejack - Right now we do have the clipboard petition which requires a lot of effort. Bruce Cameron - You are saying the property owners, they are the abutting property owners and that mentality has to stop. Jim Feaster - I agree, but I'm concerned about burdening the CA's. Harry Spector - I don't know why the CB would not want more democracy over less, we are including more people. As for the workload, I had some issues with projects so I passed rule for NC projects. We have our own process and they have to get support. I know there would be support before I submit a project to staff for review. I'm frustrated with the existing rules because one or two homeowners derail a project that is meant for the community.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm