

DRAFT Minutes
October 13, 2016
Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee

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

There were no official agenda items for the October NCAC Meeting, but the membership did have two discussions on separate items. A brief description of those items are listed below:

NC Proposed Process Changes:

There was some concern from the membership that the process changes discussed and proposed by the sub-committee last year had not been put to a vote. Many of the members were still unclear about what those proposed process changes were and many of the members had not discussed it with their Civic Associations. To that end, it was determined that Paul Bolejack, NC rep for the Waverly Hills neighborhood, would present a presentation he had prepared and shared with the membership earlier this year, at the November NCAC Meeting.

Conservation and Land Easements:

Sarah McKinley brought up a development issue her Civic Association (Columbia Heights) was dealing with internally. The issue was a developer wanting to develop a parcel of land in the neighborhood that had a number of mature trees, including a massive Willow Oak. The trees would be cut down and the neighborhood was investigating ways to prevent it from happening. Sarah had approached the owner about the possibility of selling the land to the county for use as a neighborhood park.

One issue of particular concern to NC members was information that Sarah received from Parks and Recreation, who told her that the County's acquisition of this land was not included in the Columbia Heights neighborhood plan, written over a decade ago. Parks people noted that this was one factor weighing against the County's purchase of the property. Discussion among NC members

included the possible need for neighborhoods to update their plans to include the possibility of supporting either conservation easements or acquisition of land. One member asked whether all the neighborhood plans should consider including a blanket statement to this effect.

Sarah McKinley proposed a general motion from NC that could be used in her outreach. That motion, which was approved by the NCAC unanimously, read as follows:

“The Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee strongly supports Arlington County acquiring land to establish new, free-standing parks, and to expand existing parks, as a key principle of neighborhood conservation. This is in accord with the Public Spaces Master Plan.”