

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee
May 11, 2017

Meeting Minutes - Final

Meeting location: Navy League Building
2300 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22201

1. Roll Call and Brief Neighborhood Report
 - a. Waycroft-Woodlawn – park officially opened and thanked the county NC team for their work.
 - b. Fairlington – home & garden tour this coming weekend.
2. Approval of Minutes from April 13, 2017 NCAC Meeting – Approved, with correction of a minor typographical error.
3. Officers and Staff Report – n/a
4. Discussion / Action Items
 - a. Guest - Mark Schwartz, Arlington County Manager
Questions/Comments addressed to the County Manager:
 - i. Jim Feaster – Noted the purpose of NC is to build a sense of community, not necessarily construct sidewalks. Wonders whether there are other ways to accomplish this.
 - ii. Darcey Cuffman - asked if the county has a master list of all the projects being worked on and funded by the county.

Tim McIntosh – the county has created maps and lists of missing infrastructure that they maintain.

Mark Schwartz – In the past few years the County has created a website, "My Arlington" App, with the status of many Arlington County projects. Mark would like to integrate all of this type of information and locate it in this App. Regarding the CIP – Currently the county does not list all of the county needs with notes on which ones are being addressed. The last "Needs Assessment" for the county was done 9 years ago and should be updated.
 - iii. Sandra Hernandez – asked about the street light project in Foxcroft Heights Civic Association

Mark Schwartz - noted that the county is currently drafting a Street Light Management plan.

- iv. Liz Kauffman – asked if there is another funding source that could be considered for the Edison Park project in Arlington Forest. The civic association expressed concerns regarding the very high cost estimate, partially due to storm water management needs.

Tim McIntosh - there is some cost sharing of NC project costs with storm water management where warranted.

Sarah McKinley – noted that NC project costs are exploding due to other Arlington County priorities, not because of what the neighborhoods need or request. Example, storm/sewer pipes in the road - this work is being included in NC sidewalk projects. Sarah would like the county to find a way to share these costs.

Tim McIntosh -explained further on cost sharing opportunities with several other county departments.

- v. Tracie Morris – expressed concern over NC projects burdened with long wait times due to the county having other construction priorities added to a project, and/or having to wait until other county projects in the same area can be done at the same time. Neighborhoods should be involved in the decision process when it involves waiting.
- vi. David Haring – questioned why schools take 18 months to build and sidewalks take 4 years. Lessons learned in the past – NC changed how projects were cued in the list, so that by the time a project got funded it could be completed quickly.
- vii. Bill Braswell – noted DES has old systems and arrangements on who pays for what and what type of project. Example - DES rules keep changing on street light fixtures. How can disparate groups within the county work together better to process and complete projects?
- viii. Mark Schwartz – (Reframing of Bill’s question) How can we do a better job of governing facility and construction projects? Mark suggested inviting Greg Emanuel to come in and talk about how DES works. Personnel changes in DES have occurred and more will come, enabling them to become better “doers”.
- ix. Rob Swennes – believes it is a good idea for small groups to review processes. On project sizes, the block is the unit size. On project costs, some things are nice to do versus some are legally required.
Rob noted that the (Service Request) App used to work but now it does not. He would like to know how to get it to work again, as he believes it is/was a great resource.
Mark Schwartz – The county’s work order management system is getting overhauled.
- x. Deborah Candeub – remarked that there are concerns with pedestrian street crossing safety at one or more of the intersections in Dominion Hills, and that it will be several years before this can get through the cue with NCAC. The CA doesn’t have access to temporary measures to address it. Could this be brought to the Complete Streets Program?

Tim McIntosh - noted that temporary measures such as tactical urban solutions are not able to be utilized within neighborhoods at this time by the county because of limited resources and staff, and the priority is to address safety on arterial roads.

- xi. Sarah McKinley – Asked if some of the money left over in the county budget at the end of a fiscal year could be given to the NC program.

Mark Schwartz – responded that this type of request can be made at the end of the fiscal year if there is money left over. Mark also noted that this is not the best route for NC to try to increase funding, and recommended NCAC put their energy into focus on their bi-annual funding/budget allocation and looking into how NC could modify their process.

- xii. John Kirkpatrick – Wanted to know who would build sidewalk projects if NC did not.
Mark Schwartz – In the past, sidewalk projects were handled by DES.

- b. Presentation of the Williamsburg NC Plan, introduced by Katie Brown-Henry, and the Plan was presented by Jon Levine.

- i. Bill Braswell made a motion for the Williamsburg Plan to be approved by the NCAC and to be forwarded to the County Board for acceptance.

Mr. Braswell’s motion was seconded by Jim Feaster.

- ii. Parker Harrington read a statement noting concerns he had about comments and criticisms in the Williamsburg Plan related to O’Connell HS. He noted that the HS contributes in many ways to the county, and has been at its current location longer than most of the houses built around it.

Mr. Harrington made a motion to request changes be made to the Williamsburg NC Plan and that the administration at O’Connell HS be given an opportunity to address some of the civic association’s concerns.

Mr. Harrington’s motion was seconded by Adam Mungo.

The NCAC discussed the Williamsburg Plan and Mr. Harrington’s motion. It was noted that the number of civic association survey responses received when preparing the Williamsburg NC Plan was 17%, which is greater than the required minimum to represent a sampling of the civic association’s views. It was also noted that O’Connell HS borders the civic association, and not included within its boundaries.

The Chair called the question of whether there should be a vote on Mr. Harrington’s motion. (Aye – go to a vote / Nay – continue discussion). Vote taken:

Aye – 19 / Nay – 2.

The Chair called for a vote to be taken on Mr. Harrington’s motion:

Aye – 5 / Nay – 16 / Abstain – 4.

- iii. Adam Mungo - requested a friendly amendment be made to Mr. Braswell's motion, which would include Mr. Harrington's statement as an appendix to the Williamsburg Plan.

Bill Braswell chose not to accept the amendment.

- iv. The Chair called for a vote to be taken on Mr. Braswell's motion:

Aye – 18 / Nay – 4 / Abstain – 1.

- c. Introduction and update on the new "Neighborhood Complete Streets" Program, given by Michelle Stafford, Complete Streets Program Manager and a Principal Planner in DES.
 - i. There is no longer a traffic calming program, as it was re-programmed by the county.
 - ii. The Neighborhood Complete Streets Program (NCS) uses a point system which will be used to evaluate and prioritize projects. It does not consider speeding alone as a qualifier for projects.
 - iii. NCS is taking applications for new project consideration until June 15, 2017.
 - iv. NCS is to be a complementary program to Neighborhood Conservation, not a competing program.
 - v. If a project was rejected in the past by Missing Links due to high cost estimates, it can be considered under NCS.