

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee  
November 9, 2017

**Meeting Minutes – DRAFT-v2**

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

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1. Roll Call and Brief Neighborhood Report
  - a. David Litman – the Nellie Custis Park project’s design was approved by the Aurora Highland CA
  - b. Bernie Berne – brought up concerns in the Buckingham CA about increased density to address affordable housing needs in Arlington
  - c. Sarah McKinley – Columbia Heights will hold their annual Civic Association (CA) meeting. They intend to discuss updates to their Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Plan, and are considering using a “Charrette” process to accomplish it.
  - d. John Seggerman – The Donaldson Run / **Vacation Lane Project** is underway.
  - e. Kathy Reeder – The NC 4<sup>th</sup> St. South proposed project has been approved by the Glencarlyn CA.
  - f. Frieda Kulish – brought up concerns from her CA that an old house was torn down in the historic district of Maywood CA, and new development has begun that is inconsistent with established design guidelines for that area. They are unhappy with the HALRB review process that allowed it.
  - g. David Haring – the Chester Hills project unified a park and adjacent properties into a wonderful park and green spaces in the Yorktown CA. They are happy with the results.
2. Approval of Minutes from October 12, 2017 NCAC Meeting:
  - a. The Meeting Minutes were Approved unanimously.
3. Officers and Staff Report
  - a. Sarah McKinley reported on the NCAC funding meeting with the County Manager. She noted the county’s reassurances of ongoing support for the NC Program.
4. Discussion / Action Items:
  - a. Presentation/Conversation with Stephen Agostini, the new Director of the Department of Management and Finance (DMF)

Stephen Agostini introduced himself, and briefed the group on his background, his ideas about his roll as the new Director of DMF.

Questions/Comments:

- i. Ed Hilz asked about Arl. Co.'s Comprehensive Plan.

Stephen gave examples of areas he felt could use work, such as getting better quality feedback from residents, and the fact that public facilities and safety are not included.

- ii. Eileen Janas asked about Stephen's background.

Stephen replied that much of his previous work was for both state and local governments, such as San Francisco and Chicago.

- iii. John Kirkpatrick asked if other departments can contribute more funds to NC projects?

David Litman further asked how other departments can contribute to NC park projects, especially with water & run off issues.

Bill Braswell noted that over time it has become increasingly complicated to get a project done in Arlington Co.

Ed Hilz asked how NCAC could have DES take back paying for their part of NC's projects.

Stephen explained that DES has a different funding system than NC projects, which are Capital Improvement Projects.

- iv. Robert Swennes commented that it would be interesting to see a breakdown of the costs of a NC project into what the NCAC wanted and what Arl.Co. wanted included.

Stephen agreed.

Tim McIntosh noted that there have been recent examples of shared project cost, such as for improvements to bus stops in the N Sycamore St. Project. These were included in this project at the behest of TE&O.

Rob agreed with Tim, stating that some components of NC's projects are county driven rather than neighborhood driven.

- v. Darcey Cuffman asked what would Stephen like to see streamlined?

Stephen answered, input from citizens, noting that almost 200 people spoke at the recent budget round tables.

- vi. Ed Hilz asked about contractors

Stephen replied that purchasing is within his department, and they are looking at how we as a county acquire contractors.

b. Presentation on “Street Print – an update”

The presentation was made by Richard Best, Principle Planner, Department of Environmental Services (DES).

Information was provided to the group on how and why Arlington County is doing away with Street Prints. Over a 12-year period of installing them, maintenance have proven to be expensive and not long lasting. For example, in 2000, cost was approximately \$4 per sq. ft., vs. now, cost is approximately \$18 per sq. ft. to install, with only a life span of 5 to 15 years, depending on traffic/use.

Questions/Comments:

- i. Richard provided his email contact information for any further questions or comments: rbest@arlingtonva.us
- ii. Eileen Janas made a motion to endorse the policy changes presented by Richard Best, which are to remove and repave over the raised crosswalks and street prints, which will be replaced with thermal crosswalks. This was seconded by Howard Solodky.
- iii. Rob Swennes suggested the motion be amended, as he had concerns that the 27 still existing raised crosswalks would be eliminated but no speed humps would be built in their stead. He suggested a speed hump be installed within 100’ to 150’ to maintain the traffic calming need.

Bill Braswell noted that as the policy change stands, there is no consultation with the affected citizens when crosswalks with street prints are removed rather than maintained.

Ed Hilz agreed with Bill, and added that citizens need to be communicated and consulted with.

- iv. Friendly Amendment #1, made by Rob Swennes - When the county proposes to remove an existing raised crosswalk, the default position is that the county will install a speed hump in the near vicinity to maintain the traffic calming effect.
- v. Friendly Amendment #2, made by Bill Braswell – Prior to removal, the neighborhood needs to be consulted.
- vi. Eileen accepted both Friendly Amendments #1 and #2.
- vii. Sarah McKinley called for a vote to call the question to cease discussion and move to vote on the change.

Aye – 29 / Nay – 0 / Abstain – 0

- viii. Vote on the motion:

Aye – 29 / Nay – 0 / Abstain – 0

- c. Review and Vote on Letter to the County Manager regarding the 2018 NC Bond.
  - i. Sarah McKinley provided a copy of the draft letter from the NCAC (ATTACHED) to increase funding from \$12 million to \$18 million.
  - ii. Ken Matzkin – brought up his concern about DES and WSS, noting that they should pay their equitable portion of project costs, because NC projects are unreasonably burdened with other departments that are dipping into NC money when NC projects are being constructed.
  - iii. Sarah McKinley made a motion to approve the letter as drafted, and Rob Swennes seconded.
  - iv. The letter was unanimously supported and approved as drafted.
- 5. Other/New Business:
  - a. Tim McIntosh announced that the NCAC needs volunteers to be a part of the nominating committee to select one additional NCAC Executive Committee member for the next year.
- 6. Meeting adjourned.