

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee  
April 29, 2021

**Meeting Notes - Draft**

Meeting location: Virtual through MS Teams

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1. Rob Swennes welcomed the Committee to the meeting and provided guidelines and instructions for the members of the NCAC, covering how the meeting will be run and instructions on how to communicate in the virtual setting.

Tim McIntosh introduced and welcomed Leo Sarli, member of the Planning Commission and he is our liaison to the Planning Commission.

2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes from the February 2021 NCAC Meeting:

Tim indicated that the February 2021 minutes will be available at the May's NCAC meeting.

4. Officers and Staff Report

Tim shared that the four projects from the December 2020 funding session were all approved by the County Board;

Angela announced that the Points Committee meeting will be held on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, a Teams link has been forwarded to the NCAC; also, neighborhoods have until May 17<sup>th</sup> to submit first/second or reaffirm priority projects for the December 2021 funding session. Angela announced that both Westover Village, 16<sup>th</sup> St N and N. Longfellow St, and Tara Leeway Heights, 15<sup>th</sup> St N, N. Kenilworth St to N. Inglewood St street improvement projects has qualified and will be presented at the June's funding session, as well as, RAFOM's, Hillside Park project.

5. Discussion / Action Items:

- a. Plaque Request for Mr. Erik Gutshall in Zitkala-Sa Park (Lyon Park Neighborhood)

Diane Probus, Department of Parks & Recreations (DPR) and Thora Colot, NCAC Representative on behalf of the Lyon Park Neighborhood presented for consideration a plaque request for Mr. Erik Gutshall. It was also presented to the Historical and Landmark Review Board (HALRB).

- Jackie Wilson (Old Dominion) made a motion for the NCAC to approve the plaque request for Mr. Erik Gutshall.
- Motion was seconded.

- Question from Jerry Paull (Rock Spring) – how much it will cost and who pays for it. Diane and Thora stated that the applicant (Lyon Park CA) will pay for the plaque and mounting on the bollard.
- A vote was taken on the motion and was unanimously approved.

b. NCAC Letter regarding Whitetail Deer in Northern Virginia:

Kathy Reeder (Glencarlyn) discussed the draft letter that Tim sent out regarding the presentation in February on Whitetail Deer in N. VA by Bill Browning. It was discussed as an executive committee, and a letter was drafted for your consideration, with the hopes of submitting it to the County Board, County Manager and probably the head of Parks & Recreation supporting Bill's efforts to raise awareness about this problem and encourage the County to pursue resolution.

Questions:

- Jackie Wilson asked about the population of deer and the methods used to capture them, i.e. arrows, shotguns, etc., and wanted to know more about it. Tim and Kathy provided some background information on the deer population, as well as referring Jackie to the audio presentation that was presented by Bill Browning if she would like to go back to listen to it.
- Frank McDermont wanted to know if there were any results from the drone surveys. Tim indicated from staff side that we haven't heard anything, and Kathy hasn't heard of any results being correlated at this point. However, Phil is quite familiar with the drone study, and indicated that the survey has gathered a lot of information and is currently being reviewed. **No injuries or casualties to either humans or pets have occurred at this time.**
- A vote was taken on the motion to forward the letter to the County Board: 23 in favor, 1 opposed, and 4 abstentions.

c. Neighborhood Conservation Program Review (NCPR) Briefing: Anthony Fusarelli, Assistant Director for CPHD and Co-Chair for NCPR, and Hans Bauman, Co-Chair for NCPR – Before the presentation began, Tim provided a quick introduction of the NCPR.

Questions:

- Tom Sitzler (High View Park) – what was the logic with determining that rentals are not benefiting from the program vs. homeowners? He sees it as misleading and that renters do benefit from the improvements. Hans and Anthony stated that the findings can be misleading; however, the study is based on qualitative data and demographic observation.
- David Litman (Aurora Highland) – has the group looked at the livability of 22202 initiative as a model for planning and possible rebranding? Anthony stated that the model wasn't something that they specifically looked at and it didn't come up while conducting the program review. However, the initiative can be looked at by staff as they get into specific aspects of the framework, and possibly incorporate some of the elements of the model.

- Alex (Waverly Hills) – what is the specific timeline in revising the points system and petitioning process? Tim stated that staff will begin working on the framework throughout the coming months; can begin working on small elements of it, like tweaking the points systems, petitioning process and working through the larger aspects of the framework, as we continue to do our regular workloads.
- Sarah M. (Columbia Heights) – commented that there is a big misconception that multi-family units/renters do not benefit from this program – specifically, her neighborhood has benefited these multi-family/renters from two recent street improvement projects, which are highly populated with multi-family units, condos, school aged children. These improvements have allowed the elevator buildings access in the use of these projects.
- Kristin G – is it my understanding that in the past, neighborhoods with fewer resources/projects are now, in recent time, the trend has been adjusted and is it geographically distributed now? Anthony indicated that the overall trend in recent years, the distribution level is correct.
- Eileen J. (Arlington Hgts) – are there any recommendations about how we look at County-wide needs when we have Civic Associations that don't participate? Anthony, Hans and Tim basically stated that this wasn't something they explored and no specific details on how to tackle those neighborhoods. Hans indicated, for example the Arlington View neighborhood was approached as to their low participation level and it was stated that they have what they need. Other neighborhoods may have most of their infrastructure built-out, and no need to be as involved as others. Staff will continue to develop strategies to work with those neighborhoods that are not active.
- Ed Hilz (Fairlington) – when rebranding change name to “Neighborhood Improvements”. Did the task force discuss a partnership with County staff to implement the results of the neighborhood inventory? Tim stated that we didn't completely rely on the NIP, and that other County programs, such as WSS is doing a comprehensive review and looking at missing sidewalks throughout the County. Can the County's Engagement Team work with renters, as well? Tim stated that this is something we can consider, as we have been consistently working with the County's Communication Team. They have been very supportive in assisting us with virtual meetings and other communications, particularly during COVID-19.
- Tim stated that there may be other comments or questions, and please send them to him. The NCPR is posted on the NCAC webpage, as well as the presentation.
- Tim stated both the presentation and NCPR will be on the NCAC webpage.

6. Other/New Business:

None.

7. Meeting adjourned at 9pm