

**Fairlington Citizens Association
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Fairlington Community Center
3308 S Stafford St
August 12, 2015, as approved**

Board Members Present

President Guy Land
Secretary Carol Dabbs
Director Jonathan Ansley
Director Gretchen Fallon
Director Joe Hartman
Director Mark Jones
Director Chris Weathers

Members Absent

Vice President Kent Duffy
Treasurer Ed Hilz

Public Comment Period (speakers limited to 3 minutes each)

Jim Huryz described himself as part of an informal group with serious concerns re: AES expansion and renovation. He has talked to the County board and has received a great deal of info from FOIA. The issues which he is concerned about include: Storm water, traffic/parking, multimodal transport, future events at AES, future re-purposing, and the overall quality of life in Fairlington. His group is filing their own recommendations for Use Permit conditions. His feeling is that the community will be completely overwhelmed. He feels that FCA is acting as an agent for Arlington Public Schools, and that decisions were made prior to the first meetings of BLPC and PFRC.

Call to Order

The Executive Board meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. President Land noted that a quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

There was unanimous consent to approve the agenda distributed by President Land by email on August 9, as there was to take items out of order.

Approval of Minutes

Secretary Dabbs provided a draft of the July minutes on August 10th by email. These minutes were unanimously approved by the officers and directors present.

Officer Reports

President

September 15 is the new date for the September FCA meeting, at which the public presentation will be made by Danny Abramson to explain the newest plans for the Alexandria Gateway development; room availability is still pending.

We'll need to do our assessment of Fairlington Farmers' Market near the end of the year. There have been no complaints to us yet. He is thinking of a short online survey—just 3-4 questions—to inform our assessment. The managers of the market will survey attendees one Sunday as well.

Composting appears to be of growing interest in Fairlington. President Land has asked Christen Snow gather information about options; she's in touch with others who are interested as well. The idea is that FCA might potentially be able to help identify enough folks who want to subscribe to private services to reduce prices based on volume. We could potentially use part of an FCA public meeting to publicize options for such services.

Vice President--absent

Treasurer

Treasurer Hilz circulated the General Ledger January-May on August 10th. Other portions of the usual reports will be provided after September 20th.

Secretary

Voicemails in July and August have concerned tee shirts, locations to rent for an after-school program, and multiple hang-ups. All were referred to appropriate resources.

Notes from the FCA Listening Session on July 13 are appended to these minutes.

Other Reports

Community Facilities Study

Director Fallon reported that there are no scheduled meetings this month; reports are being drafted by the sub-committees. President Land indicated that the main point is to develop a process for decision-making in siting new county or school facilities.

Unfinished Business

New Business

Intergenerational Column

Carol Rosen spoke to the Board, and reminded us that we had agreed in May to have a series of articles, from the Intergenerational group, the first to be in the September AFB. LocaViva was proposed as the name of the column; Secretary Dabbs suggested that starting with Loca brings up "crazy" not "local" because of the Spanish meaning of the word. The group will think about this and make a decision in time for the September AFB. They want to have wide intergenerational appeal, not to be pitched especially to the older generation.

Abingdon School Use Permit

President Land does not have a draft resolution at this point.

Use permit likely to be on the agenda for the County board on Saturday Sept 19th, but is likely to be held over to the Tuesday session on the 22nd.

One issue at the heart of the Use Permit, but which we haven't been focusing on, is preservation of green space especially in the playing field and contiguous to it. A lease agreement for 15 park spaces in the FV tennis court lot, which would help preserve such space, has been reviewed by counsel for both APS and FV; FV Board had questions at their last board meeting, and so tabled the motion to approve the agreement pending answers to those questions. Subsequent conversations between John Chadwick (APS) and Terry Placek (FV) indicate that it's very likely that the lease will be agreed to by both parties. The PFRC will meet on September 7th, and he thinks that this issue will likely be resolved by then.

Another issue is the potential utility of a second entrance to the school property during construction, perhaps thru Reynolds Park. Secretary Dabbs raised the possibility of an entrance off 29th St, closer to Abingdon Street than the entrance to the school parking lot.

There is also concern about the impact of the construction on the integrity of nearby buildings—President Land thinks that a pre-construction benchmark should be taken, and that regular monitoring during and after construction should be included in the Use Permit.

Construction worker parking will be needed; President Land would like the construction contract to include provisions for worker parking, possibly on site.

Shirlington Civic Association (SCA)

We discussed the status of the application of the Shirlington Civic Association to join the Arlington County Civic Federation and to the County Board to establish their organization. In addition, SCA has indicated some interest in changes to their boundaries (beyond the technical adjustment due to the movement of Randolph Road). However, for historical reasons, we would not initiate a request for such a change.

Secretary Dabbs moved that FCA support the SCA application to become a Civic Association, Director Jones seconded the motion, and it passed 7-0-0.

Home improvements seminar/workshop/expo

This has been brought up previously, and there were mixed opinions about whether we should take it on or not. There is a question of when it would take place. The county does a home expo; the consensus is that anything we do would need to be focused specifically on Fairlington issues. We would want to include the permitting issues, for example. Director Weathers was asked to pull together ideas for us to discuss and react to; VP Duffy has also expressed interest in working on this.

Paper shred/electronics recycling

We discussed several options for this activity, including combining it with a session of the FFM or perhaps with FV's event. Guy will check with FFM and FV to see if there's interest in combining efforts.

Potential Fall Activities

Tree/plant walk

President Land is talking to possible resource persons to contribute to this activity.

History walk

President Land has in mind including a dozen places or so. He plans to discuss this with the Fairlington Historical Society over the weekend.

Other

5K Planning

Director Hartman indicated that we need to pull together a committee to begin work on the 5K for next year within a couple of months. This will be more difficult next year because Joe Reed is moving to another job, so the coordinator from AES will be someone new to this.

Farmers' Market Liaison

President Land indicated that he seeks a volunteer from the board to serve in this role, since we've lost Director Penn, who served in this capacity.

Tee Shirt Order

President Land will send ex-Director Street's contact info so Director Ansley can prepare an order to replenish our stock of tee shirts.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and passed at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Dabbs, Secretary

Appendix 1: Notes from FCA Listening Session regarding AES Use Permit Conditions

Fairlington Villages Community Center
3001 Abingdon St. South, Arlington, VA
July 13, 2015

The listening session was called to order at 7:00 pm by FCA President Land. He introduced other FCA representatives and Fairlington Villages (FV) board members.

He explained that tonight's discussion topic is the Use Permit Conditions that the Public Facilities Review Committee, followed by the County Board, will consider in September, to discover what nearby residents consider important that we assure be included. These might include the construction process and the conditions after construction ends. If Arlington Public Schools (APS) were not honoring the conditions for the Use Permit, we would be able to complain to the County Board to seek relief.

Given that County staff will be doing their work to prepare for those discussions over the next couple of months, now is a good time for us to learn concerns of the community so as to include them in our discussions with them about the Use Permit Conditions.

President Land asked those attending what they are worried about re: the construction process?

Q1—Where will the construction trailers be located, and would they take up the entire current parking lot?

President Land clarified that he will not attempt to answer questions tonight, but indicated that this is a question already on the list of items to be discussed with respect to the Use Permit conditions.

Q2—What will happen to 29th St, what will be parked there?

Q3—Has Fairlington Villages approved leasing to Arlington Public Schools of Fairlington Villages Community Center parking lot spaces?

Cindy Koonz (VP of FV) indicated that the discussion is still underway with APS—FV Board is waiting for APS response to its latest questions. The FV traffic and parking committee has had discussions, but has not made a recommendation to the FV board yet; the FV board has not taken any votes. FV board has done considerable study of the utilization of that parking lot, as well as the one on the other side of 31st St. To control how much school parking would take place, a sticker or hangtag would be required for school parkers in the FV lot.

Q4—Has APS considered allowing teachers to park at the Trade Center and bussing them to AES? Or what about construction worker parking there with bussing to AES.

Koonz was not aware of any such consideration, but consensus was that it might be an idea to consider.

Q5—Why isn't construction starting now? Funds were approved in November 2014.

President Land explained that this is indeed moving forward quite quickly, with some work even having been done before the vote was taken to approve the funding. The schedule calls for APS to go to contract next spring, with construction starting in summer of 2016 to be completed before school starts in fall of 2017.

Q6—This weekend the County board will consider the McKinley Elementary School (ES) Use Permit, including renting 45 spaces in a church parking lot for construction workers.

President Land pointed out that item 10d on his list is parking for construction workers.

Q7—A complaint was raised about the transportation analysis for the renovated AES.

President Land pointed out that this discussion is about use conditions for construction, not the permanent situation after construction. With only one entrance/exit to AES, this may be a significant problem. In addition, there are time restrictions on some sites, for example prohibiting construction traffic during drop-off and pick-up times.

Q8—Comment was made that whichever entrance is used for construction, building foundations need to be monitored to assure that no damage is done by heavy truck construction, and that this is already on the list of questions to consider for the Use Permit.

Q9—President Land brought up the possibility that the “paper street” be used as the construction entrance.

Q10—The possibility that cars could use the “paper street,” leaving 29th St for the construction traffic was also brought up. President Land opined that if we had a good idea for how to route traffic during construction, it would probably be entertained by the County.

Q11—Given the current student projections, has consideration been given to re-opening Fairlington School?

It's officially off the table, but many people are thinking about it. Suggestions have been made to use the cafeteria and gym with trailers as classrooms as a stop-gap due to delays in new elementary school proposed for the TJ campus. In fact, there are projections that AES will be 90 pupils over the 725 capacity when the new facility opens.

Q12—Is there any chance that the AES building could be re-configured to accept more students?

That would require at least another year to accomplish, so it would make the situation worse, not better.

Q 13—President Land mentioned that a scheme acceptable to FCA, the Fairlington Historical Society (FHS), and APS has been identified for the relocation of the FHS/FCA commemorative trees.

Q 14—He also mentioned that Courtbridge II has agreement from APS for screening trees to protect their view. Therefore, there is a request for more screening along the border with FV

along 30th St. APS does not want to plant on non-APS property, but we might be able to convince them to plant a little screening on the far side of 29th St.

Q 15--Ashlawn Elementary School is behind schedule in construction, and the county needs the gym facility there for voting in Nov 2016—perhaps it could be available if it is built first, before other portions of the construction are undertaken.

Q16—What days of the week will be used for construction? Only week days, or also Saturdays?

President Land indicated that exterior construction at McKinley Elementary School was limited to week days and Saturdays, but that perhaps we need to specify noise limits for interior work that could go on until midnight. Or re-iterate that the County noise ordinance (which limits noise after 10 pm) applies.

Q14—A set of recent Use Conditions mentioned screening equipment on the roof; is this contemplated for AES?

One consideration for AES is that children currently climb onto the roof, and they might find such screening a good place to hide.

Q15—The foundation of pool 1 in FV might be affected by construction traffic if it were routed through Ft. Reynolds park. There is limited berm there.

Q16—A resident who lives near parking lot 43 of FV mentioned that porta potties should not to be located close to windows of residential units.

Q 17—President Land indicated that at some construction sites, there have been complaints about where workers change into/out of their work clothes.

Q 18—Similarly, there have been complaints about litter from construction worker lunches.

Q 19—It was suggested that access to the site from the Trades Center might be useful for construction maybe worth exploring.

The grade from the Trades Center to the AES property is very steep. Such access might also require an easement from Home Properties.

Q 20—Will there be designated contacts for community problems both during and after hours?

These are normal conditions of a Use Permit.

Q21—In some cases, the community liaison designated by APS was only required to be on site during construction hours. We may need something like school board office hours after biz hours to handle such problems.

President Land thought that the community engagement portion of the Use Permit conditions was not strong enough for McKinley construction, and would like to craft something stronger.

Q22—Will the upgrade in electrical service be disruptive? How?

This is a good question; while APS staff are considering this, it has not been discussed at BLPC or PFRC meetings.

Q23—What are the plans for exterior lighting during construction? Given the location of the border between Courtridge II and FV, care must be taken that such illumination does not shine into units in either community.

Q 24—What is planned regarding security after hours?

Q 25—If construction takes place during dry weather, what are the plans to control dust, and prevent it blowing into nearby buildings?

Q26—If the playing field were used for construction trailers and parking, could a screening devise be used to disguise it?

Q 27—Will there be security surveillance of the construction site? Is there normally a watchman overnight? We especially want to avoid congregation of folks up to no good.

The listening session ended at 8:25pm.

Reported by Carol Dabbs, Secretary, FCA