

**Fairlington Citizens Association
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Fairlington Community Center
3308 S Stafford St, Arlington, VA
May 13, 2015, as approved**

Board Members Present

President Guy Land
Vice President Kent Duffy
Secretary Carol Dabbs
Treasurer Ed Hilz
Director Gretchen Fallon
Director Mark Jones
Director Doug Penn
Director Chris Weathers

Members Absent

Director Joe Hartman

Special Presentation – Intergenerational Strategies Committee Report and Recommendations by
Carol Rosen and Margaret Windus

Call to Order

The Executive Board meeting was called to order at 8:07 p.m. President Land noted that a quorum was present.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Agenda

There was unanimous consent to approve the revised agenda distributed by President Land on May 12th, as there was to take items out of order.

Approval of Minutes

Secretary Dabbs circulated a draft of the April minutes on May 12th. These minutes were unanimously approved by the directors present, with exception that Secretary will seek Hartman approval of remarks attributed to him.

Officer Reports

President—

President Land announced that Director Penn has submitted his resignation, due to relocation out of the area by his family. We will miss him!

Vice President--

On the issue of people living in an RV parked on Quaker Lane, Fairlington Green left us a voicemail about it, which it noted is somewhat decrepit. It is being moved every 5 days. Definition of moved by the County is “off the block,” but it is not clear if this is enforced as such since the County Code is somewhat ambiguous. Ron Wishart on Fairlington Green board is concerned that RV owners will flock to Quaker Lane to live. However, this is not a change to rules that should attract an influx of RVs.

VP Duffy also contacted the Arlington County Cable Office about FIOS status, given that Verizon is seeking an easement for Fairlington Court.

Treasurer—

The monthly financial report was sent to the Executive Board by email on May 10th. It included the following items.

- Bank Accounts
- May AFB P&L
- Jan-April General Ledger (checks issued since April meeting on page 2)

Secretary

The notes from the Listening Session on Abingdon Elementary School on March 13, 2015, are appended to these minutes with thanks to Anne Wasowski, FCA’s other representative on the BLPC, for preparing them.

Voicemails this month concerned 5K road closures, rental of FVCC, a mis-directed ad check, RV parking on Quaker Lane, and the Fairlington House and Garden Tour, as well as a couple of wrong numbers. All were referred to appropriate resources.

Other Reports

Fairlington Farmers Market

Director Penn missed the grand opening, but reported that there’s another group meeting next week. No complaints that he’s aware of, overall. The biggest problem has been the need for complete clean-up at end of each session. The biggest concern is maintaining an adequate active volunteer corps. Field to Table has hired a new manager—Kelly xxx—and it looks like she will be good in this position. The committee is considering additional vendors to fit with existing ones. Vendors have paid to be at market through season, and so would lose money if they pull out at will.

Abingdon Elementary expansion and renovation

President Land predicts that we’ll have to spend a work session in the next few months on the conditions we’ll want to assure are in the Use Permit. Marco Rivera, Arlington County staffer working on this, has shared with President Land the use permits for the last couple of elementary schools which were approved. We also might want to hold another listening session

with North Fairlington and other nearby residents regarding what they want to be included in the Use Permit.

Replanting of Fairlington Commemorative Trees

Treasurer Hilz reported that the Arlington County Urban Forester met with him to identify where the 7 commemorative trees could be placed. Only 1 of the 5 initial trees could be moved; the others are too large. There are two potential locations: by the tot lot near the last ones planted, and/or on the edge of the parking lot. They may not necessarily be planted all together. We also need a new way of marking these trees as commemorative. The sign on a small post used in the past has fallen victim to the mowing process on school grounds.

Community Facilities Study

Director Fallon described the considerations being undertaken by this committee in relation to the four county facilities in Fairlington: Abingdon Elementary School, Fairlington Community Center, the Fire Station, and Utah St. park,

Fairlington 5K

President Land reported that there was about \$23k income, but that he's not sure how much is net for school and foundation. We'll have a report from Director Hartman next month.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

Intergenerational Strategies recommendations

As precedent, President Land mentioned that Fairlington Farmers' Market is not in control of the FCA, but instead we are only able to make suggestions. Vice President Duffy understands the rationale the recommendations made for FCA actions, but is not clear how we'd develop an experiment or sponsor a group of village members. Director Fallon mentioned that we can publicize existing services, and also the opportunity for smaller groups in Fairlington to develop their own initiatives, by using both the AFB and website. Carol Rosen pointed out that there is a danger in working on something that doesn't have robust community support. Secretary Dabbs mentioned the idea that the FCA could organize an initial meeting of ANV members as a one-off effort, and that we do have instruments for publicizing intergenerational issues and strategies. Perhaps a column could be written regularly (or irregularly) by someone outside the board. Vice President Duffy suggested such articles could be cross-posted on Facebook. President Land opined that it will be interesting to see what shows up once we do so. Carol Rosen volunteered provide content for this. Treasurer Hilz indicated that the most important thing we can do is call attention to ANV regularly. Heather Marshall indicated that — "service in the spotlight" could be the topic, which would be a light lift. President Land suggested that maybe such a column need not be appear monthly, but quarterly, or at some other regular interval. Phillip Rosen suggested such a column could publicize what a specific organization has done recently, eg. the Fairlington Meet Up group. Director Jones indicated that if we have the information that's fed to the AFB editors, it's easy enough to include it in the AFB and our other publications (website and Facebook). We could also add a table or booth from

Arlington Neighborhood Villages, the County Office of Senior Programs, Goodwin House at Home, etc, at All-Fairlington Day. President Land expressed concern about holding poorly-attended events, which creates a fizzle. Director Fallon pointed out that it may take several years to build a critical mass on this issue. President Land indicated that perhaps we could relate it to a program on unit renovations, one part of which could relate to aging in place. Carol Rosen indicated that she didn't think we're ready for an expo, but as we gather information can highlight somethings. There was consensus to proceed with an irregular column in the AFB, in concert with a social media presence of this information. (Phillip Rosen belongs to The Fairlington Appreciation Society, and therefore can post on Carol Rosen's behalf.)

Home improvements seminar/workshop—deferred due to the lateness of the hour.

Upcoming programs—deferred due to the lateness of the hour.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Dabbs, FCA Secretary

Appendix:

Notes from
Fairlington Citizens Association Listening Session on
Abingdon Elementary School Expansion/Renovation
April 13, 2015
Fairlington Villages Community Center, 3301 S Abingdon St

The session was introduced by Carol Dabbs, Secretary of Fairlington Citizens Association, who explained that the intent was to seek opinions and questions from residents living nearest Abingdon Elementary School (AES) on some items that have been discussed by the two committees providing advice to the School Board (the Building Level Planning Committee, or BLPC) and to the County Board (the Program and Facilities Review Committee, or PFRC). During this period, the APS staff and contractors have refined and updated plans considered by both committees. In addition to a variety of BLPC and PFRC members, there was one attendee from the community, who appeared to be comfortable with everything presented.

This proved to be a good forum for all these members to get updated together. Secretary Dabbs selected the 15 most relevant slides from the last BLPC presentation, and used them to review where we are at this point. A few good discussions ensued on the following topics:

1. Geotech – The APS staff presentation reviewed all borings taken. In every case, marine clay was not found close to the surface. Their conclusion is that they have no concern about the clay. Just to cover all their bases, they are still awaiting engineering studies from Courtbridge II, in order to thoroughly evaluate all previously conducted studies.
2. Staff Parking – AES staff had indicated that if they will have transportation subsidies, the parking lot size proposed would be acceptable, but that they wanted fuller information about what the situation would be. APS staff indicated that AES staff WILL have transportation subsidies after the renovation/expansion is complete, if they bike, carpool, walk, or take public transit. They explained the current amounts which would apply if they were in effect today. Of respondents to a staff survey, 40% were likely or very likely to take advantage of this. Vanpool and carpool were most popular options. Forty percent of respondents who would use transport options indicated that they would do so every day or two to three times per week.
3. Transportation Demand Management – Secretary Dabbs reviewed the onsite and offsite recommendations for transport changes. Onsite items will be handled as part of the renovation. Offsite items include two types of recommendations: those to be included in this project and recommendations to the county for future implementation.

Recommended as part of this project are:

- Move the 29th St. Crosswalk to align with the new Abingdon driveway. Include upgraded curb ramps to current "best" design standards;
- Upgrade all 4 curb ramps to the current 'best' design standards at the corner of 29th and Abingdon Streets; and
- Install pedestrian-scale lighting on the walking trail from 31st St. to the school.

Recommendations for the county for future implementation (so as not to delay this project):

-Address missing sidewalk on island across from FV office on Abingdon Street.

4. Approved site plan

-BLPC voted to approve the version which maximized green space on the field, rather than leaving more space across the street from Courtbridge II.

-New position of dumpster behind / beside new gym was proposed. This reduces daily heavy traffic behind 30th Rd residents. Trash will be transported outside the school to this area during good weather. In inclement weather, trash will travel through the school.

-Bio-retention placement was shown and explained more clearly.

5. Trees – The situation with the trees and replacements was reviewed. More trees will be replaced than removed, with a few larger trees transplanted. Ideas for relocations of FCA/FHS trees were discussed briefly. APS staff is consulting with FCA and FHS on this issue.

6. Floor plan – Secretary Dabbs reviewed these plans. Major features include:

- a) Ability to seal off rest of school from gym for after-hours use;
- b) BLPC has requested that equivalent plans be made for the second hallway accessible from the gym also;
- c) Storage, especially in the gym for PE equipment and all the chairs for large groups, was lacking;
- d) School staff have indicated that space for more storage throughout needs to be identified;
- e) Three steps up to the stage are proposed. BLPC has suggested that they not be permanent, but folding or sliding back like bleachers, although they noted that the space under the stage may be needed for chair storage; and
- f) Teachers were happy that the small group spaces which had been lacking have been worked into the plans, in the three story classroom addition.

At the listening session it was asked whether custodial storage is planned for, but no information was available.

7. Exterior – Current plans call for one color of brick—red—which the BLPC liked. The sandstone color inset around the gym window and elsewhere is intended to be reminiscent of the Fairlington accents seen on buildings, mostly south in Fairlington. The BPLC saw and held samples of this material, which is man-made, and reported to be moderately priced and easy to install, and requiring no maintenance. The translucent panels used above the clear glass windows are also no-maintenance, and the BLPC has been assured that they transmit a very nice, diffused light.

8. Parking – There has been discussion of what would happen if the FV parking agreement did not happen, or ever ended. The county would require that APS build on the school property and add what was needed, based on standards at that time. This information was well received by staff.

Prepared by Anne Wasowski, Fairlington Citizens Association representative, BLPC