

**Fairlington Citizens Association  
Executive Board Meeting Minutes  
Fairlington Community Center  
3308 S Stafford St  
June 14, 2017, as approved**

**Board Members Present**

President Guy Land  
Vice President Jonathan Ansley  
Treasurer Ed Hilz  
Secretary Lindsay Willmann  
Director Jen Davies  
Director Kent Duffy  
Director Chris Weathers

**Board Members Absent**

Director Hugh Baumgardner  
Director Evan Harvey

**Call to Order**

The Executive Board meeting was called to order at 8:28 pm. President Land presided and noted the presence of a quorum.

**Approval of Agenda**

There was unanimous consent to approve the agenda distributed by President Land by email and hard copy.

**Approval of Minutes**

There was unanimous consent to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 11, distributed by email June 12. Director Duffy recommended one edit but made no objection to their adoption.

**Officer Reports**

*President*

Defer

*Vice President*

Defer

*Treasurer*

Defer

*Secretary*

Defer

## **Unfinished Business**

### *34<sup>th</sup> St. Bus Stop*

Treasurer Hilz would like the Board to put in writing to the County the recommended action on the 34<sup>th</sup> street bench and enlarged concrete slab, as discussed at the May FCA meeting. Director Duffy noted that he thinks the matter has been handled since the County representative agreed to move the bench and leave the concrete slab pending a future decision on whether a bus stop is sited there with potential amended bus routes. Discussion about if and how to document a request to remove the concrete slab ensued. Director Duffy recommended that FCA take care to track the issue over the next year or so, and not recontact the County on this issue again until we're sure it's necessary. Most members agreed we would like something on the record in case the bench is not removed as promised. President Land agreed to draft an email regarding the removal of the bench for the Board's review and subsequent transmittal to the County.

## **New Business**

### *Fourth of July Parade*

President Land spoke with Fairlington Villages about the dedication of funds to a hot dog food truck, and there is a lot of hesitation about how this is going to go. They agreed to see how it goes this year, and decide whether or not changes should be made for the next year.

### *Megaphone Purchase*

President Land recommended the purchase of a megaphone for events, namely the Parade, to make it easier for residents to hear instructions for large crowds. The one he proposed is \$14.95, and he is willing to purchase it himself if needed. Director Duffy asked about the reviews, and is willing to spend more to get a higher quality product if needed. The Board decided to table the issue until there is more time to review the product, and an email vote can be held. An electronic vote was held on June 15 and passed with 7 votes (2 abstained).

### *"Movie Night"*

Secretary Willmann presented an overview of the costs of movie night (ranging from \$950-1500) and noted that she is still working on figuring out whether or not a one-time insurance policy will be required for the event. Several Board members posed questions, including:

- Could we get food trucks? If so, would it cost anything? If not, would we want to make pre-packaged refreshments (i.e. use the popcorn machine)?
- Would we be able to pick up County trash/recycling receptacles like the 5K?
- Can we confirm whether or not a power source is included from the equipment vendor? Would the building manager give access for power if not?
- What will our advertising criteria be and what are our movie choices (PG or Pg-13)? How much advanced notice would we need?
- Will bathrooms outside be open?
- Do we get a rain date with our package from related companies?

The Board agreed that a late August date is preferable. President Land noted that there is a general consensus to move forward with movie night at the price quoted.

### *Wakefield and King Intersection*

President Land's goal is to follow up with the County tomorrow about squaring off the lane and trimming back the shrubbery.

**Adjourn**

President Land motioned to adjourn, which was seconded by Director Duffy and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lindsay Willmann, Secretary

**Appendix I to 06/14/17 FCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Notes**  
**Fairlington Citizens' Association Presentation by**  
**Kate Thomas, Senior Planner, Arlington County Parks and Recreation**  
**Richard Tucker, Senior Planner, Arlington County Community Housing and Development**  
**06/14/17**  
**Fairlington Community Center 3308 S Stafford St**

President Land began by flagging a few key events in and around the neighborhood, most notably the upcoming Fourth of July Parade. He then introduced Kate Thomas, Senior Planner from Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation, and Richard Tucker, Senior Planner from Arlington County Community Housing and Development.

Mr. Tucker began the presentation with an overview of the land use plan for Four Mile Run Valley. He noted they are exactly one year into the planning process, which began last June. Upcoming milestones include an open house in July followed by a County Board review of the policy framework in December and the adoption of an Area Plan and Park Master Plan in June 2018. Last month, they held a work session to address some of the larger policy issues and can now move forward with guidance received from the County Board.

He then shared about their outreach process, most importantly working group meetings the first Tuesday and third Wednesday of every month and the email contact list which currently has 1,200 subscribers. They have held multiple forums over the last year to gather feedback and will hold a Community Visioning Workshop in July of this year.

A study area map showed the area in question, which includes the industrial area and all properties adjacent to 395. This includes Jennie Dean Park, Shirlington Park, and Shirlington Dog Park. Currently, a majority of the property is dedicated to industrial development, though some is dedicated to public and residential use. One of the most important considerations in their discussions is the flood plain (100 feet from the edge of the bank) and resource protection area. In addition to this, he shared some of the “big ideas” that guide their planning, including maintaining industrial zoning, flexible building form (that can be converted for multiple uses), aesthetic improvements, connectivity, parking and an “arts hub.” The arts hub model is still being developed, but the idea has been prevalent in their discussion.

Some of the areas in their study area will be maintained for their existing uses. Most notably, the industrial service areas that encompass car mechanics, doggie daycare, and other business. Other ideas they are considering are dedicated arts associated use areas (that include coffee houses, arts-related businesses, etc.) and zoning for greater scale and broader use areas (office and/or residential facilities).

Plans specific to sub-areas of the Valley include:

Sub-area A: west of Walter Reed Drive (preserve existing uses - most industrial)

Sub-area B: adjacent to Nelson Street Bridge and Shirlington (incorporating an arts uses area)

Sub-area C/D: 395 corridor (preserve existing uses)

Sub-area D: broader development where current hotel exists or throughout the entire sub-area

The ART bus parking site, currently under a seven year County lease, is another area of interest. Mr. Tucker explained that the Community Facilities Study recommends the County seek to co-locate uses due to scarcity of County-owned land and planning for specific future uses for the current bus parking site.

Another major focus in County planning is parking, as much of the feedback has included requests for additional parking space. There is currently a shortage of parking, frequent storage of large commercial vehicles, irregular regulation of parking, and incomplete sidewalks. To address this, one of the proposals is a reduction from a four to three lane roadway to increase parking and sidewalk areas. The County has conducted a traffic study, and believe this solution would address the larger issue of parking while not negatively impacting traffic flow. Public parking garages are also part of the conversation, though there are several questions surrounding this.

A resident asked who is paying for the execution of County plans. Mr. Tucker explained that once planning is complete, there will be a mix of public and private investment opportunities. Another resident mentioned the plan to increase the ART bus force and the impact that would have on the current parking site. Mr. Tucker explained that the bus fleet is expanding from 60 to 90 by 2020 or 2021. Parking for this increase in fleet size will have to be addressed, and is one of the main questions being considered by JFAC (Joint Facilities Advisory Committee). Treasurer Hilz asked what “co-locating” bus sites means. Mr. Tucker explained this is using single sites (like the bus lot) for multiple purposes.

Ms. Thomas then began her segment of the presentation, and explained the Park Master Plan area. Currently, it’s divided into three major areas: Jennie Dean Park, Shirlington Park, and Shirlington Dog Park. She gave an overview of recent acquisitions include several parcels surrounding Jennie Dean Park (the former Motorola building, the LaPort site, the police warehouses, and the former Signature Theatre site). Over the past few months, they have refined the plan into three major options.

She presented several options for the future of each park area, including the possibility of acquiring neighboring properties for park expansion, the realignment of park features (i.e. ball fields), enhanced pedestrian access, improved landscaping, and new amenities (i.e. the addition of an “arts hub”).

An area of particular interest to Fairlington residents lately is the Shirlington Dog Park. The Four Mile Run Valley Working Group has gathered feedback from residents and the County Board, and have concluded that the dog park is a well-loved, heavily used site in the County. One of the major concerns about stormwater management, and has a number of ideas of how to manage runoff. The Working Group is currently discussing the creation of a sub-committee to develop ideas for planning for the future of the Dog Park and the possible development of an “arts hub” in Jennie Dean Park (east of South Nelson Street). If formed, the sub-committee is tentatively scheduled to present their suggestions to the Working Group at their September 20th meeting.

On June 21st, the Working Group will meet to continue their discussions. The County is also holding an Open House on July 19th. Both meetings will be held at the Parks Operations Building (2700 S. Taylor Street) at 7:00 pm. They encourage all interested residents to attend. Regular updates can be obtained from 4mrv.com.

#### Q&A

Q: Would an “arts hub” be zoned for coffee, ice cream shops, etc.?

A: They will look closely at a flexible zoning model, and note that zoning areas can be changed. Right now, this is not part of the plan but is a possibility in the future. One of the challenges for a restaurant is the lack of parking in those areas, which can limit the ability to have a retail operation. Perhaps a smaller model (like a coffee shop) would be possible.

Q: When you discuss the possible acquisition of WETA, is that optimistic or realistic?

A: Ms. Thomas’ understanding is that the County has been in negotiations with WETA for a long time, which includes the possibility of being given the first offer if they do decide to sell. There is a desire at WETA to move as the current facility is not in-line with their current needs. Funding is a consideration for them, and will determine their ability to move. WETA is on the Working Group and are on hold until they see what happens with government funding of public broadcasting.

Q: Has the Nauck neighborhood addressed the issue of commercial vehicle parking along Four Mile Run Drive?

A: There have been mixed reviews. Some would like to see that go away, others may be owners of said vehicles, so the County hopes to strike a balance between parking for private and business use.

Q: What is the issues with 2500 sq. ft. for the dog park?

A: If the County is going to do larger scale renovations (i.e. reconfiguration of the park), land disturbance of an area larger than 2500 sq. ft. it kicks in a larger scale set of land use regulations (i.e. environmental requirements, resource protection area requirements, etc.).

Q: How do you balance the desires of residents and the Board for the future of Shirlington Dog Park?

A: It’s going to be a difficult set of suggestions to reconcile. Their primary concern is controlling stormwater, and there are multiple ideas for handling pollutants and runoff. Considerations include a man-made filtration system and a strip of vegetation to absorb excess water.

Q: On the other side of the creek, do they have enough vegetation to handle stormwater concerns?

A: Because of the natural flow of the river, the Dog Park side experiences most of the stress/gouging. The banks are currently eroding, but not as quickly as in other areas and are not currently at a critical level.