

Arlington Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC)

Wednesday, June 8 2016

Courthouse Plaza, Dogwood & Cherry
2100 Clarendon Boulevard

Minutes, approved with edit, July 13, 2016

Present: Dennis Jaffe, Chair; Pamela Van Hine, Vice Chair; Ellen Armbruster; John Armstrong; Eric Goldstein; Eric Goodman; Tom Korn; Christine Ng; David Patton; Collin Weber

Invited guests: Nia Bagley and Irena Lazic

Announcement: Mr. Dennis Leach, Arlington Director of Transportation, an invited guest speaker, had to postpone his presentation. He will speak about the transportation programs in the proposed FY17-2016 CIP at a joint BAC-PAC meeting on Monday, June 13, at 7 P.M.

Public speaker: Nia Bagley, President, Ballston-Virginia Square Civic Association

Ms. Bagley came to the PAC meeting to discuss pedestrian safety issues along Washington Boulevard between Glebe and Kirkwood. She is especially concerned about pedestrians crossing at North Nelson (Quincy Park North) and the streets between Stafford and Glebe. She seeks pedestrian safety improvements in both areas, including better street lighting, pedestrian lights, and signage. She also noted that a pedestrian light was requested for the intersection of Quincy and Washington Boulevard three years ago, although she recently was informed about an ongoing traffic study for this intersection. She noted that many drivers speed through this area, and during a recent 90-minute police enforcement project, the police issued more than 20 citations. She would like drivers to drive within the speed limit and watch out for pedestrians. She is also concerned that an increasing number of drivers will use Washington Boulevard as an alternative to I-66. She did meet with Dennis Leach at some point.

PAC members and staff had several comments and suggestions for her. T. Korn noted similarities with Lee Highway issues and encouraged her to attend Lee Highway meetings. The Chair mentioned that the PAC should help Ms. Bagley identify the most appropriate staff and best informational resources to address pedestrian safety on Washington Boulevard. E. Goldstein suggested that the Ballston BID and Safe Routes to Schools might be a useful allies. We will send Ms. Bagley Tom Norton's contact information.

Invited Speaker: Irena Lazic, Department of Parks and Recreation, the [Public Spaces Master Plan process](#)

Ms. Lazic presented an overview of the [POPS: A Plan for Our Places and Spaces](#), an update of the Public Spaces Master Plan: planning process, public engagement activities, and [survey results](#). The survey had 7 pages, and 1400 responses (800 was sufficient for statistical validity). The draft plan should be finished by late fall or early winter.

PAC members had several comments and questions for her. The plan lacks specificity for trail plans, but does identify gaps that need to be addressed. Connecting to federal land is a key issue. The survey did not specifically address children per se, but data from focus groups coming soon may bridge this gap. E. Armbruster asked about attitudes towards costs, which were not included on the survey. However, the implementation plan will have cost analysis included. The survey also did not differentiate between services that the market could provide versus what the county has to provide because the market cannot.

C. Ng wondered if responders knew what park facilities and services already existed for them. Improving communication and outreach to the local communities is important. Acquiring property for parks as a general standard is in the plan, but specific details cannot be included. Public spaces and easements, e.g. MetroPark parks for public use, are important, and Parks & Recreation is involved in their development. Place making, such as Mosaic Park in Ballston, is in the plans.

Approval of minutes from [April 13](#) and [May 11](#) PAC meetings

E. Goldstein moved, and C. Weber seconded approval of the draft April PAC minutes. C. Ng submitted an amended paragraph, and the PAC approved the revised minutes unanimously. C. Weber moved, and C. Ng seconded approval of the May PAC minutes, and the PAC approved them unanimously.

PAC Membership and Officers for FY17/18

All current members, except for Dr. Dan Foster, plan to continue to serve on the PAC for 2016-2017. Pamela Van Hine was nominated as incoming Chair; and Eric Goldstein was nominated as incoming Vice Chair. After a brief private discussion without the two candidates, the PAC voted unanimously to elect Ms. Van Hine and Mr. Goldstein to serve in these roles for one year starting July 1, 2016.

Prioritizing PAC topics for FY16/17

The Vice Chair asked the PAC to consider what topics they want to prioritize in the coming months and year. The PAC agreed that their first topic should be signaling, and staff will contact DES for the most appropriate speaker. Other topics of high interest were a pedestrian “boot camp” on safety awareness, suggested by C. Ng., and inviting a VDOT speaker, as so many problematic streets are Virginia highways and roads. The Vice Chair encouraged members to develop questions prior to the meeting so that they could be submitted to the speaker. She also encouraged members to continue to prioritize topics; the [Draft PAC wish list](#) is one source for ideas.

Before departing, the Vice Chair mentioned offering a “Walking the Walk” with Charlie Clark, and most of the PAC present indicated that they would want to participate. The Vice Chair also mentioned WALKArlington participation in the Active Street Festival, part of the Clarendon Classic bike race, on June 11. T. Korn’s “Stop, Look, Wave” program will be demonstrated. All PAC members are welcome to come assist!

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 P.M. The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 13, at 7 P.M. in the Dogwood & Cherry Rooms.