

Arlington Pedestrian Advisory Committee – Courthouse Plaza, Azalea Room – 2100 Clarendon Boulevard

Wednesday, March 11, 2015 7-9 PM minutes (approved April 8, 2015)

Attending: Dennis Jaffe, Chair; Ellen Armbruster; John Armstrong; Jim Feaster; David Goodman; Eric Goodman; Lauren Hassel; Tom Korn; Pamela Van Hine

Guests: Thomas Bruccoleri, Arlington County

Minutes from December 2014 and January and February 2015 meetings will be presented at April 8th meeting.

Public Comment: Dr. Dan Foster, physician at Virginia Hospital Center; Collin Weber

Dr. Foster returned to his second PAC meeting to request assistance in planning and implementing improved bike/ped access to the Virginia Hospital Center environs. After listening to his description of the current situation, PAC members gave him several suggestions, including tying into Mayo Clinic guidelines, working with other organizations that use the hospital for meetings, working with the neighborhood associations, emphasizing that better bike/ped access to the complex could be a marketing tool to draw in new patients, using existing Arlington bike/ped resources, performing a site survey to gather data and identify specific problems. D. Goodman promised to check on any police crash data and the status of the planned Capital Bikeshare site. D. Goodman also indicated that he and L. Hassel would contact Cornelia Lesh, Manager of Community Health, Virginia Hospital Center, about solutions. Both D. Jaffe and D. Goodman exchanged cards and contact information with Dr. Foster and encouraged him to speak with the PAC again.

C. Weber noted that he was interested in working on pedestrian issues with the PAC, and he was encouraged to attend future PAC meetings.

Guest Speaker: Thomas Bruccoleri, Arlington County Transportation Planning Bureau Chief

T. Bruccoleri attended tonight's PAC meeting to discuss the proposed 2015 budget and the meeting he had with Barbara Donnellan, County Manager, in response to D. Jaffe's March 10 letter to her about [proposed contingency cuts](#). He noted that the proposed budget was a balanced budget and that the bike/ped programs were spared in the proposed budget. As directed by the Arlington County Board, Ms. Donnellan submitted for its consideration proposed contingency cuts of \$2.4 million. That proposal includes eliminating one of two bike/ped positions (\$125,000) and diverting to the general fund \$812,121 generated by the Vehicle Decal Fee, which otherwise would be intended to fund up to 13 bike/ped capital improvement projects that are planned for neighborhoods throughout Arlington. Some of the bike/ped programs funded by the decal fee include Bike Share, Complete Streets, the automated counter program, bike and pedestrian wayfinding signage and pedestrian crossing safety improvements. He also noted that approximately \$400,000 was diverted from the decal fee program in 2014, primarily for snow removal.

T. Bruccoleri extended an apology from Ms. Donnellan for not meeting with the PAC and other relevant committees prior to proposing the contingency plans and he conveyed her promise to include these committees in the budget planning process in the future. He also passed on Ms. Donnellan's suggestion that individual PAC members could make presentations to individual County Board members, as well as at the Board's March 18th and March 24th meetings.

The PAC Chair led a discussion of next steps, noting the PAC needs to know the specific programmatic impacts of the proposed cuts and the discernible impacts on the public. D. Goodman differentiated the effects of losing half the staff versus losing program funding and promised to provide the PAC with a list of specific programs and activities that might be impacted. D. Jaffe informed the PAC of a new website he set up, [ArlingtonBikesandWalks.org](#), to engage the public in opposing the cuts. PAC members noted that future presentations to the Board need to emphasize the bike-ped program's positive value for individuals, commercial venues and the Arlington community. L. Hassel promised to include information on [WalkArlington.com](#). Other PAC members will reach out to their own specific communities.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.

The next PAC meeting will be Wednesday, April 8, 2015.