

Arlington Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC)

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

Courthouse Plaza, Dogwood & Cherry Rooms
2100 Clarendon Boulevard

Minutes (Approved July 12, 2017)

Present: Pamela Van Hine, Chair; John Armstrong; David Goodman; Alli Henry; Jim Feaster; Tom Korns; Christine Ng; David Patton

Guests and Invited Speakers: Salwa Ismail; Chris Yarie; Michelle Stafford; Brett Wallace; Doug Plowman; Sgt. Matt Owens

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:05 PM.

No items of interest were discussed because of the tight meeting schedule. No minutes were approved because the meeting lacked a quorum of members.

Public Comment:

S. Ismail, a Crystal City resident, reviewed her efforts with County staff to make the crosswalk at 15th St. South and South Bell safe for pedestrians and cyclists. This crosswalk currently has many safety features, including 4 pedestrian diagonal signs, a wide zebra crosswalk, a large median area, and 4 yield to pedestrians signs, with rows of yield markings. However, the crosswalk is not signalized, tree branches often obstruct drivers' views of the signage, and the 5 lanes of westbound traffic and 2 lanes of eastbound traffic routinely do not yield. PAC members and attending staff had many suggestions for her, including using Report a Problem, working with the Crystal City Civic Association and BID, and specific County staff.

Invited Guest Speaker Michelle Stafford, Manager, Neighborhood Complete Streets Program:

M. Stafford updated the PAC on the Neighborhood Complete Streets Program (NCSP). The NCSP, which has approximately \$2 million to spend on projects, is [actively recruiting applications](#) for local NCS projects. The application, scoring criteria, and background information are on the [NCS website](#); the deadline for submitting applications is **June 16**. This [chart](#) differentiates the NCSP from other County programs for complete streets. Anyone who lives or works in the County may submit an application; approval of the relevant civic association or impacted neighbors is not required. Applicants do not need to know the scoring data for their proposed project, such as mileage from a bus stop or number of crashes. Guidelines forbid vertical traffic calming elements, such as speed bumps; and failed Neighborhood Conservation applications can not be submitted as a NCS for 4 years after the submission was rejected. <Note: The approved FY 2018 budget includes 2 new NCS positions – a Traffic Engineer in TE&O and a Design Engineer in the Engineering Bureau. Both are funded to start mid-year FY 2018.>

Invited Guest Speakers Brett Wallace, Landscape Architect, Senior Urban Designer, Arlington County CPHD; and Doug Plowman, Urban Planner, Rosslyn BID, Update on Rosslyn Streetscape Elements Master Plan:

B. Wallace and D. Plowman collaboratively presented an overview of and update to the Rosslyn Streetscape Elements Master Plan. They quickly reviewed the history of the project, including inventory of existing street elements, development of new element prototypes, and presentation of sample prototypes and public engagement through meetings, prototype displays, and public surveys. They showed how the plan is tied into, and supported through, the [Rosslyn Sector Plan](#) and reviewed the overall goals of the program and design elements. The proposed implementation process and schedule for approval by various County groups was explained. Two documents supporting their presentation were posted on the PAC webpage prior to the meeting: the [RTA Report](#) and the Rosslyn Streetscape Elements [Plan](#) PAC.

The presentation included a description and visual for the draft parklet prototype, and PAC members had several comments and questions about this prototype. Questions included exact dimensions, safety of the walls, how close passing traffic would be, how it would be maintained, and how its use would be evaluated. Committee members also offered suggestions on how to better activate this valuable and unique space.

The presenters requested PAC endorsement of the plan, which was not possible during the meeting because a quorum of members was not present to vote and because insufficient time was available during the meeting for members to adequately discuss the full proposal. The Chair will follow up with a message that summarizes the opinions of PAC members about the proposal.

Invited Guest Speaker Sgt. Matt Owens, Special Operations Section, Arlington County Police Department, Update on Pedestrian Safety:

Sgt. Owens distributed and reviewed a quarterly (1/1/2017-3/31/2017) update to the Traffic Accident Reduction Program (TARP) Analysis. The committee noted that the number of pedestrian collisions, 34, was higher than the first quarter of 2016 (21), and if sustained through 2017 will lead to more than 2 collisions/week – a disturbing and unacceptable increase.

Sgt. Owens also described some of the current policy enforcement of traffic violations in the county programs, including a “black box” that can record specific speeding information. He also described the recent StreetSmart campaign on Columbia Pike which included Spanish-speaking officers. He also noted the challenges to encouraging pedestrian compliance with traffic laws - an issue of concern for the Committee as well and a future topic to explore jointly with police staff. Finally, he directly addressed the concerns of Ms. Ismail and encouraged her to work with the Police Department officers on enforcement of traffic at the crosswalk at 18th & South Bell in Crystal City.

Alli Henry, WalkArlington Update: A. Henry quickly updated the committee on recent WalkArlington activities, as described in her handout. She promoted the Signature Rosslyn Food Tour, co-sponsored by the Rosslyn Bid and Discover Arlington, on May 13 and the upcoming County Wandering Arts Walk Tour on Columbia Pike on May 21, co-sponsored by Arlington Arts. She also briefly described WalkArlington to the public visitors attending the meeting. More information on WalkArlington and its many activities is on the [WalkArlington website](#).

Next PAC meeting – the Bus Tour! The Chair announced that the next PAC meeting will be a joint meeting with the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) held on our regular meeting date, Wednesday, June 14. Both committees, staff, and invited guests will go on a bus tour of selected transit sites in south Arlington. The chair will contact members directly to get a head count and to provide more details on this exciting event.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:10 PM.