

**Urban Forestry Commission
January 28, 2016
Meeting Summary**

Attendance

Nora Palmatier
Dean Amel
Karen Kumm Morris
Caroline Haynes
Phil Klingelhofer
Taylor Pool
Elisha Rubin
Paul Campanella
Alex Sanders
Ed Hilz

State and County Staff

Jamie Bartalon, DPR
Vincent Verweij, DPR
Rachel Jackson, DPR
Susan Finotti, DES
Matt Mattauszek, CPHD
Steven Bernheisel, APS
Jim McGlone, VDOF

Guests

David Orr
Brian Earle
Don Hoover
Matt Allman
Greg Green

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Columbia Pike Utility Undergrounding and Street Improvement Project (Segment F) – Susan Finotti, DES

Susan Finotti (DES) reviewed preliminary plans for “Segment F” of Columbia Pike’s Multi-Modal Street Improvement Project, which runs from South Oakland Street to South Wakefield Street. The project is one of many planning initiatives to make Columbia Pike a new “Main Street” for pedestrians, cyclists, transit and motorists. The “complete street” design includes wider sidewalks, reduced pedestrian crossing distances, easy access to transit, and public amenities (including street trees).

Ms. Finotti noted that there are currently a variety of lane configurations along the various segments of Columbia Pike. Existing conditions include non-ADA compliant curb cuts, signal poles within sidewalks, and other amenities in need of improvement. The current plan includes a five-lane street cross section, with medians or turn lanes. In addition to street improvements, the project will also relocate overhead utilities underground, and upgrade existing underground utilities.

Based upon current estimates of Limits of Disturbance (LOD), DPR urban forestry staff estimates that 102 trees would need to be removed due to project impacts. County tree replacement calculations would require 164 trees to be planted. If trees are planted on 30-foot centers, it is estimated that 118 trees could be planted in the project area (46 trees short of the required number of replacements). If trees are planted on 20-foot centers, an additional 32 trees could be accommodated on site (14 trees short of the required number of replacements). Designers are working to decrease LOD's for the project so that fewer trees would be impacted (and fewer replacements required). The goal of the design team is to accommodate all required tree replacements along, or adjacent to, Columbia Pike.

A final design for the project is anticipated to be completed in fall, 2016, with construction estimated to begin in early 2017. Karen Kumm Morris asked whether soil volume requirements for street trees have been determined. Vincent Verweij explained that most trees will be planted in 6-foot wide open planting strips along this segment of Columbia Pike, so there should be ample soil volume. No Urban Forestry Commission action on the project plan was requested or proposed at this time. DES capital project staff will continue to work with DPR urban forestry staff to reduce tree impacts and finalize a planting plan.

Village Center/Food Star Development – Matt Mattauszek, CPHD

Matt Mattauszek (CPHD) and members of the applicant's (Orr Partners) design team briefed the commission on the preliminary Form Based Code Use Permit for the Village Center mixed use development. The project is located at the northwest corner of Columbia Pike and South George Mason Drive (site of the current Food Star grocery store). As per Form based Code, the development will include a public square. In this case, the developer will design, build and maintain the square into the future.

Representatives from several commissions (including the UFC's, Scott Brinitzer) have participated in meetings and open houses for the Village Center development. A community meeting with three nearby civic associations is scheduled for February 3. The project will be heard by the County Board on February 20.

A significant (45 foot) grade change across the project site presents unique design challenges and opportunities. Ground floor retail, including a grocery store, is required by Form Based Code for this development. The applicant is currently working with Harris Teeter to occupy the grocery store. The public square will be located at the corner of Columbia Pike and South George Mason Drive. Underground parking will be located beneath the entire site, including the public square.

Soil depth beneath the square will vary from two to six feet. Some trees will be planted where soil is deepest, however, sight lines from the street to ground level retail are to remain relatively unobstructed. Street trees will be planted in bump-outs between parking spaces along Columbia Pike. Trees will also form an alley, defining the sidewalk, at a higher elevation than the street along South George Mason Drive. In addition to plantings and trees associated with public spaces (the square and streetscape), some private greenspace will also be located on residential roof decks.

The public square will be designed as a passive greenspace with a garden theme (rather than an active, event-oriented plaza as at Penrose Place). Boardwalks will cross the space, providing access to different garden areas. A passive water element is planned for the western edge of the square, separating public seating space from the garden.

The plant pallet for the garden/square is currently being developed. It will include a mixture of grasses, perennials and shrubs that are relatively low-growing, to provide for visibility of ground floor retail. Plantings will provide for pollinators, as well as winter appeal/interest.

Urban Forestry staff is providing input on tree species to be planted as part of the project. Large shade trees that will tolerate harsh conditions are desired for street trees. Trees to be planted within the square should be relatively narrow (or appropriate for being limbed up) to provide for visibility of ground floor retail. Some of the tree planting to meet canopy coverage requirements will be met through roof-top plantings.

Taylor Pool asked whether the applicant is considering the use of pervious surfaces on the project. It was explained that, since the entire site will be built on top of a parking structure, drainage would not have an opportunity to percolate into the ground. However, some water will be diverted into the garden area. Structural cells may also be used for planting trees in the square.

Karen Kumm Morris complemented the design team and applicant for including garden areas as a focus of the public square, to include plantings that support pollinators. She also encouraged the applicant and design team to include street trees along the edge of curb on South George Mason Drive (in addition to the allee of trees defining the sidewalk). Ms. Kumm Morris and other commission members also encouraged the incorporation of some shade trees near seating areas in the public square, as well as the use of more native species in garden areas and roof-top terraces.

Ms. Kumm Morris will circulate a draft UFC letter on the project to commission members for review and input. The final UFC letter will be submitted to the County Board prior to its February 20 meeting.

Approval of 2015 UFC Annual Report and 2016 UFC Work Plan

Commission members thanked Dean Amel for drafting the UFC's 2015 Annual Report. The report was approved and will be forwarded to the County Board by staff.

During discussions of the draft 2016 UFC Work Plan, Nora Palmatier noted that Tree Canopy Fund Grant Program planting will likely be delayed until spring, 2017, due to the limited amount of funding that is currently available. During the interim period, efforts will focus on program evaluation and possible improvements to tree planting practices. Ms. Palmatier recommended that the Tree Canopy Fund narrative in the draft 2016 UFC Work Plan should be changed to reflect that efforts in 2016 will focus on program evaluation. The 2016 UFC Work Plan was

approved with Ms. Palmatier's suggested edit. Staff will forward the approved Work Plan to the County Board.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the December 17, 2015 UFC meeting were approved.

Staff Reports

Jamie Bartalon provided the following updates:

- House Bill 734, sponsored by Delegate Patrick Hope, was unanimously approved (98-0) by the Virginia House, and will next go to the Senate Agriculture, Chesapeake Bay, and Natural Resource Committee. If passed, the Bill will change the definition of a Noxious Weed in State code, so that plants that are not widely disseminated in Virginia, but that are also not commercially viable for sale or propagation in Virginia, may be considered for designation as Noxious Weeds.
- County Board Vice Chairman, Jay Fiset, will continue to serve as the UFC's County Board liaison.
- DPR will hold a budget briefing for affiliated commissions in early March. Commission members were asked for preferences and availability to attend a briefing on March 1, March 3, or March 10. UFC members indicated a preference for March 10, followed by March 3, and March 1. Jamie Bartalon will inform DPR leadership of the UFC's meeting preferences.

Vincent Verweij provided the following updates:

- The last PFRC/BLGC meeting on Stratford School was cut short by the approaching snow storm. A final decision has not been reached regarding the "High Road/No Road" options for access through the site. Fire Department access must also be considered, and will impact some trees.
- Mr. Verweij reported that he has attempted to contact the owner of the building at Washington Boulevard and North Pershing Drive by mail to discuss trees in the County right-of-way that were severely damaged. Representatives from businesses that occupy the building have indicated that they have no knowledge of how the trees were damaged.
- The number of trees to be removed from the hillside between Abingdon Elementary School and the County Trades Center (due to construction impacts associated with school construction) has been reduced.
- Tree planting will be incorporated into the design of medians at the following locations:

- Intersection of Lee Highway, Old Dominion Drive, Military Road and North Quincy Street;
 - Intersection of Washington Boulevard, Wilson Boulevard and North Irving Street; and,
 - Intersection of Clarendon Boulevard, North Veitch Street, and 15th Street North.
- A Glencarlyn Park “Old Growth Forest Walk” will be held for residents in the spring. Caroline Haynes suggested that a similar walk should be conducted for County Board members.

Rachel Jackson provided the following updates:

- Some redesign of improvements associated with Bluemont diamond field #1 are needed in order to fall within the project’s budget. Design work continues.
- Improvements at Butler Holmes Park, to include a new tot playground, are progressing.
- Planning for Tyrol Hills Park, Phase 4, begins next week. Improvements to Tyrol Hills Park include a comfort station, picnic shelter, paved plaza, site furnishings, and landscaping.

Commission Member Reports

Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG) – The NRJAG did not meet in January. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 1, and will include a presentation by Rod Simmons, Natural Resource Specialist with the City of Alexandria, on the progress of the Alexandria lower Four Mile Run restoration project.

Park and Recreation Commission – Caroline Haynes’ Park and Recreation Commission report is attached.

Planning Activities – Karen Kumm Morris’ Planning Activities Report is attached. Caroline Haynes attended an SPRC meeting on “The Berkeley” this evening (January 28). This Site Plan is for two, five-story residential buildings, located south of South Glebe Road along Four Mile Run Stream. Ms. Haynes reported that the project is undergoing significant redesign. The inclusion of a fence between The Berkeley property and Four Mile Run stream is a significant issue. Ms. Kumm Morris noted that the proposed number of on-site trees and street trees is inadequate. She questioned why more trees are not planned for planting along South Glebe Road.

The project is scheduled to be heard by the Planning Commission in March. Ms. Kumm Morris and Ms. Haynes will discuss drafting a letter to the County Board.

Ms. Kumm Morris also noted that the applicant for the Rosslyn Plaza PDSP has eliminated references to the use of structural soil for tree planting. However, plans continue to show building extensions that are cantilevered over street trees and the plaza.

Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) – Ed Hilz’s PFRC report is attached.

Rosslyn Highlands Park+ - Steve Campbell’s Rosslyn Highlands Park+ report is attached.

Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (E2C2) – No report. The January E2C2 meeting was cancelled due to snow.

Tree Stewards – Nora Palmatier provided the attached 2015 Annual Report for Tree Stewards.

Tree Canopy Fund – Nora Palmatier’s Tree Canopy Fund report is attached.

Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable – Nora Palmatier’s Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable report is attached.

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) – Phil Klingelhofer’s NCAC report is attached.

Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) – Dean Amel encouraged commission members to participate in upcoming PSMP meetings and outreach efforts. Information on the meetings is attached.

Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) – Jim McGlone reported that Arlington County’s 2015 Tree City USA application has been approved.

Arlington Public Schools (APS) – Steven Bernheisel (APS) thanked DPR Urban Forester, Vincent Verweij, for his input regarding tree preservation associated with construction at Abingdon Elementary School. He also noted that an access road for Fire Department vehicles and equipment at Stratford School is an issue that will be further discussed.

Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) – No report.

New Business

Nora Palmatier announced that the 2016 Arlington Home Show will be held on Saturday, April 9, at Thomas Jefferson Community Center. She has reserved a booth for the UFC, and encouraged members to sign up for a time slot. The event is a great opportunity for UFC members to educate residents and contractors on the benefits that trees provide, the potential impacts of construction, and steps that can be taken to help preserve trees.

Attachments to January 28, 2016 Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Summary:

Park and Recreation Commission (PRC) – Caroline Haynes

- 1) Presentation on the Columbia Pike Village Center Square. A PRC member was involved in the process and the commission was impressed with the fact that the applicant has taken responsibility for innovative design and maintenance of the open space, plans to focus on native plantings and is including public art. We were pleased to see that the applicant understands the importance of dynamic open space and successful retail operations and is willing to stay involved to ensure the success of the design.
- 2) DPR Director Jane Rudolph presented "We Are DPR", the same presentation she provided to the County Board in the fall, on long range planning for DPR.
- 3) The attached PRC annual report to the Board was approved.
- 4) The attached letter on Rosslyn Plaza was approved.

Planning Activities – Karen Kumm Morris

Planning Initiatives

- Community Facilities Study –No new info. Nora Palmatier has been providing comments and tracking the Task Force meetings. Final report submitted to County Board and School Board on November 10, 2015. Both Boards voted to approve the recommendations. Going forward the County staff will provide their preliminary comments by Feb. 2016. Final staff recommendations and community comments expected by September 2016.
- Western Rosslyn Area Planning Study (WRAPS) - County Board heard the Staff's park design on Jan. 26. Steve Campbell will provide an update.
- Lee Highway Corridor – County will present the Design Charrette Report on Feb. 6, Saturday, at Yorktown High School, 10 am. Lee Highway's Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) advocates for a Task Force to develop major land use recommendations and principles for a new master plan.
- Columbia Pike and Crystal City Reassessment – County has announced a new "Premium" Bus Service for Columbia Pike. Not sure if there will be any revisiting of the master plan.
- PSMP – Public Spaces Master Plan, Staff holding a series of public meetings:

Public Meeting on Feb. 4, 7 – 9:30 pm.

Open House on Feb. 5 at Courthouse, 10 – 2 pm.

Chat with Parks Director on Feb. 5 at Courthouse, 10 -11 am.

Public Meeting on Feb 6 Arlington Mill Com. Ctr., 9:30 am – noon.

Major opportunity to address all open spaces natural areas as well as recreation parks and urban plazas. Dean Amel is on PSMP task force.

SPRC Site Plans (Approved)

1411 Key Boulevard, SP #439. Washington Vista – The 62 unit housing proposal is located just west of the Turnberry Tower in Rosslyn, considered part of Colonial Terrace community. Applicant is requesting an amendment to the GLUP to allow for a greater density project than currently allowed (base density would allow 42 units). Good layout and quantity of street trees. CB approved the request to advertise for GLUP Amendment in Oct, 2015.

SPRC Site Plans (Active)

FBC Use Permit – Village Center Preliminary Proposal - modifications.. alley design, Building Line, finished floor elevation. Previously approved commercial shopping center at the northeast corner of Columbia Pike and S. George Mason Drive. 6 story, town square, 365 residential units, underground parking garage. Scott Brintzer is engaged in town square design and tracking site plan.

The Berkeley – SP #431, located south of S. Glebe Road adjacent to Four Mile Run. Proposal for 2 5-story residential building, 287 units. Amount of tree plantings and Street trees is inadequate, bad precedent to have so few trees on a project of this size. Carolyn Haynes is attending SPRC. Will probably come before CB in February. **Should write a letter to CB.**

750 N. Glebe Road, Mazda Site, SP#440, Ballston – On going SPRC review.

A 12 story, brick residential development at the corner of Wilson and Glebe that steps down to 4/5 stories on the existing community side of the block. Currently developed with the Rosenthal Mazda Dealership and surface parking and Enterprise Rent-a-Car.

There are many issues related to building mass, street network, loss of existing service alley and open space raised by the community. Proposed tree planting plans are good, but additional canopy is possible at the corner of Vermont and Tazewell Street.

Opportunity to request increased soil volume and horticultural soils (not structural soils) for the street trees. Need to have UFC to request that all street trees be replaced and planted with a min. of 1,000 cf, of sandy loam (not structural soil). If the tree pits are to be used as SWM bioretention ponds, UFC should request that an alternative design be used to avoid restricting the species to only wet tolerant trees that can handle stormwater collection in the sunken tree pit.

Rosslyn Plaza, PDSP, SP#422, Rosslyn – Final SPRC concluded with no consensus on the project. UFC letter was finalized in January, 2016 recommending deleting use of structural soils, opposing building extensions over street trees and expressing concern over the location of the plaza.

Update: Applicant has eliminated references to using structural soils but continues to show building extensions over street trees and the plaza location. Will be scheduled for County Board probably in February.

Project description - Vernado's proposed multi building and multi phased complex on the east end of Rosslyn. Proposal calls for 1.8 million SF of office, 600- 700 residential units, and 83,500 SF of retail. Significant town square/open space is proposed along Kent Street connecting to the existing Freedom Park and Rosslyn's city center. Very controversial open space location, but new Sector Plan allows for alternative locations. All trees and urban open spaces are over structured garages.

(Not sure if these site plans have been approved by CB yet.)

1770 Crystal Drive, SP #90, Crystal Square – Will be scheduled before the County Board in December. This is a minor site plan amendment to the building's interior and façade. No significant changes are occurring to the setting. There are no street trees currently along Crystal Drive, and no space to provide for them given that the building's supporting columns are only 7 feet from the face of curb.

SP #46 4000 and 4040 Fairfax Drive (Web Building), Approved by Planning Commission in Nov. but scheduled for County Board review in December.

Developer – John Kusturiss, Penzance, CFO AV, Tad Lunger, attorney, Jason Ovalle with Hickok Cole Architects, Barbara Coulston with Parker Rodriguez.

330 units, 8,400 SF retail, in ex. Web Building 173,500 SF office, 11,700 SF retail.

Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) – Ed Hilz

On Jan 20, the PFRC continued its review of the issues regarding the renovation and expansion of the H-B Woodlawn/Stratford building which will house the new Stratford Middle School.

The following is a link to the PFRC website where you can access the Agenda and the Staff Report for the Jan 20 meeting: <http://commissions.arlingtonva.us/planning-commission/public-facilities-review-committee-pfrc/>. The changes in the redline version of the Staff Report are primarily short updates in historic and transportation. In addition, the following is a link to the APS website <http://www.apsva.us/Page/29586> where you can access the presentations made at the Jan 20 meeting: DES staff's presentation and the QEA presentation (APS consultant).

There was further discussion regarding the proposed road out to Old Dominion (“the high road”) and its impact on trees. The location of the road for construction access and fire department access was presented. The preliminary information indicated that the proposed road for construction and fire department access would be in the same area adjacent to the building as the “high road”. This road would not go out to Old Dominion so the trees near Old Dominion would

not be affected. However, the disturbance necessary to construct the road for construction/fire department access could have about the same impact on the trees adjacent to the playing field as construction of the "high road". The location of the road for construction/fire department access will be discussed further.

The issue of where the required replacement trees will be planted remains unresolved and will be discussed further.

The next meeting of the PFRC will be on Feb 16 but I will be out of town for that meeting. I will also be out of town for the Feb 25 UFC meeting.

Rosslyn Highlands Park + - Steve Campbell

The County Board received a brief update on RHP+ on February 26. The "RHP+ Coordinated Open Spaces Plan" will not be acted on by the Board until at least March.

Lida Aljabar provided the following information:

We will be providing the County Board with a brief update on the planning process and project outcomes (i.e. the [proposed concept plan](#) as shared at the 12/10/15 open house) tomorrow (1/26/16) during the County Manager's report, as an informational item. This report will be given between 3:00 and 6:30 pm (see [agenda](#)).

We will not be taking the item for action at the February County Board meeting. Staff will be sure to keep the project page updated and announce when the date of the hearing is confirmed.

Tree Stewards – Nora Palmatier

Nora Palmatier provided the following annual report on Tree Steward activities in 2015:



TreeStewards

ARLINGTON · ALEXANDRIA

www.TreeStewards.org

The Mission

The Tree Stewards of Arlington and Alexandria take the lead within our communities to enhance a sustainable urban forest through volunteer activities and public education program.

Our Goals are to:

- Increase public awareness of the intrinsic value and beauty of trees
- Learn and understand the needs of the community's public and private trees
- Help care for each community's urban forest and increase the canopy cover
- Educate other residents about urban forestry and the care of trees
- Involve additional community members as volunteers in caring for trees

2015 Annual Report

51 Tree Stewards reported over 3220 Volunteer Hours of Service

We educated 3750 people and cared for 4130 trees

<p>Tree care information was provided to residents at public events during 2015 through tree information tables at Farmers Markets at Arlington Courthouse, Westover and Alexandria Del Ray. Builders and homeowners received information on protecting trees during construction at the Arlington Home Improvement Show. Arlington County’s Notable, Champion, and Specimen Tree programs received assistance and advocacy for endangered Champion and notable trees occurred. TreeSteward members served on local Urban Forestry Commissions.</p> <p>17,500 visitors viewed our website; Instructions on how to remove ivy from trees had 10,000 viewers alone!</p> <p>Advanced Training: We improved our knowledge of tree care with sessions on root systems, diseases and pests, structured pruning, and participation in the Quarterly Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtables on protecting trees during construction and soil remediation. 22 graduated from the training class.</p> <p>Special thanks to our supporting partners who make our volunteer work possible: Trees Virginia, Arlington County Urban Forestry and Landscaping, Alexandria City Arborist, National Parks Service, Virginia Department of Forestry, Casey Trees, and Virginia Cooperative Extension.</p>	<p>TreeStewards coordinated the successful distribution of 540 tree whips in Arlington while providing personalized tree care information to 450 tree adopters. Members also conducted the second distribution of 105 native trees and education material to homeowners in Alexandria. Falls Church TreeSteward members assisted with planting and mulching of 30 trees. TreeStewards helped homeowners select the right trees to request from the Arlington Tree Canopy Fund and 90 trees were planted.</p> <p>Pruning and mulching workdays were held in Arlington County at Yorktown High, Oak Grove, BonAir, Bluemont and Lacey Woods Parks.</p> <p>120 native trees were planted and watered all summer in Alexandria’s Tarleton Park. Monthly workdays were held in Alexandria’s Timber Branch Park removing vines from trees.</p> <p>The Elm Nursery of the National Parks Service had TreeSteward volunteers weekly.</p> <p>The greens committees of Arlington Village, Auburn Village, Fairlington and at several faith locations had TreeSteward members ensuring the right tree care.</p>
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Tree Canopy Fund – Nora Palmatier

I met with ACE staff regarding the Tree Canopy Fund on January 15, to discuss ways to improve the program of planting trees on private property. We propose the following ideas, which there will not be time at this month’s meeting to discuss, but we can select a smaller subcommittee to flesh out the ideas (or others) that the entire UFC can consider in February. The discussion item at the meeting will be selecting a subcommittee to review ideas rather than a full group discussion. The group will meet by email/phone most likely.

1. Approve ACE soliciting spring trees next round in 2017 to allow both more funds available and to provide sufficient time to improve the process. Fall trees are still being planted that should have been completed by Dec. 2015, and for diversity of species, doing spring planting next will be better.
2. Solicit a new RFP from multiple contractors with higher standards for plant quality, planting and communication requirements between planter and ACE. Recent UF Roundtables

have provided templates and we've identified experts to assist in strengthening. UFC will need to compare the quality and costs of the vendors, and devise process for making the decision.

3. Change application to allow fee from each recipient approved to show tree is valued. Trees cost average of \$270 and fee could be between \$25 and \$50 with all funds going back into TCF and used for education materials provided with tree. The Board memorandum authorizing program mentions one of the factors influencing award of tree is "The applicant commits to providing additional "cost share" towards tree planting" – however, UFC will need to check process with staff and/or Board to ensure this is allowed.

Information items, no decision required.

4. Evaluate the healthy/dead tree percentages from all years of Tree Canopy Fund. ACE has a complete master list of addresses of where @ 1500 trees were planted going back to fall 2009. What is needed is a "citizen scientist volunteer" to determine procedure for sample, emailing, TS site visits, etc. and one has hopefully been identified.

5. ACE received the written report of the arborist consultant for this fall's plantings who reported both the planting stock and the work performed by Davey crew was adequate, with some critiques. Because they have many photos and run long, I'll only send to those who request and will bring print outs to the Feb. 26th meeting.

Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable – Nora Palmatier

The next Roundtable will continue looking into urban soils, specifically on soil amendments. I know I'll be going (early), so if anyone wants to carpool, let me know.

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) – Phil Klingelhofer

On January 14, the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) held its December NCAC Presentation of the Fall 2015 Funding Session for Neighborhood Conservation Projects.

- NCAC Executive Committee Elections. The following officers were elected by unanimous consent:
Sarah McKinley – Chair
Alexandra Bocian – Vice Chair
Rob Swennes – Second Vice Chair
- Fern Street (N531) Cost Overrun. We discussed the significant (33%) cost overrun for the S Fern Street project in Aurora Highlands. The overrun is the result of several factors, engineering design costs by contracting with an outside engineering firm, the final engineering design was more complex than could have been expected at the concept design phase, and Erosion & Sediment Control plans, and Landscape plans had to be developed to

meet additional regulatory requirements which were not previously required. See the attached document for details.

The NCAC voted to recommend to the County Board that the additional costs be approved so the project could be completed.

- NC Active Project Portfolio Update, Ramzi Awwad, DES Engineering Bureau Chief. Mr. Awwad provided an overview on the NC projects since 2000 and reviewed the current NC project portfolio. He showed the backlog in construction of the approved and funded projects which began in 2008 and now includes a significant portion of the portfolio. This backlog was largely caused by the inability of the engineering department to keep up with the project load and has resulted in substantial construction delays and cost overruns.

Mr. Awwad explained that he has implemented a two-team system which has proved to be more efficient and is expected to allow the output to match funding. This will prevent the backlog from continuing to grow. He reported that he has proposed a new strategy to reduce the project backlog, selectively using outside consultants under senior staff supervision, which will increase the departmental output and exceed current project funding. This approach should eliminate the backlog over a seven year period.

- Sample letters in support of NC funding. We were provided sample letters to the Arlington County Board requesting that NC funding be maintained at current levels in the next bond cycle. These can be modified for use by individuals. See attached.

Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) – Dean Amel

The Public Spaces Master Plan Advisory Group hasn't met since our December meeting. Jamie forwarded the information on the upcoming public outreach meetings to all of us (see below).

Help Arlington Set a Course for our Parks and Recreation Places and Spaces

Come to a [public meeting](#) to provide input on and ask questions about the changing needs for parks, recreation, and natural resources. Each meeting will feature interactive stations, brief presentations by the project consultants, and different opportunities for the public to provide input to help updated Arlington's [Public Spaces Master Plan](#).

- Public Meeting on **Feb. 4 @ [Langston Brown Community Center](#) 7-9:30 p.m.**
- Open House on **Feb. 5 @ [Courthouse Plaza](#) 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**
- Chat with Parks Director on **Feb. 5 @ [Courthouse Plaza](#) 10-11 a.m.**
- Happy Hour on **Feb. 5 @ [Whitlow's on Wilson](#) 5-7 p.m**
- Public Meeting on Feb. 6 @ **[Arlington Mill Community Center](#) 9:30 a.m. – noon**