

Work Session for Walking Town Meeting of the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia, held in the Donaldson Run Civic Association area, Arlington, Virginia, thereof on Tuesday, June 23, 2009, at 6:41 p.m.

- PRESENT: BARBARA A. FAVOLA, Chairman
 MARY HUGHES HYNES, Member
 J. WALTER TEJADA, Member
 CHRISTOPHER ZIMMERMAN, Member
- ABSENT: JAY FISETTE, Vice Chairman

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WALKING TOWN MEETING IN DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION AREA.

The Board held a work session for a walking town meeting in the Donaldson Run Civic Association area from 6:41 p.m. to 8:20 p.m., which included, but was not limited to discussion on the following matters:

Walking Tour Stop	Neighborhood Topics/Issues
<p>1. <u>Marymount Construction Project and Traffic Impacts on the Neighborhood</u></p>	<p>Residents will discuss the frustration they have experienced with the Marymount Construction project and the impact of a large construction project has had on a residential area. Neighbors would like to see staff take a more proactive role in working with them when documents are submitted to the County for approval. The Neighborhood Relations Committee that was formed to help with project communication has had limited success because some members have not brought issues to the committee for discussion before taking action. The relocation of a transformer and construction worker parking at sites in the</p> <p>Residents will reiterate their desire to be part of any planned uses of the mulch pile site and in master planning activity for this area. Recent activities there—the demolition of the Smith and Harlan properties and the storage of recycling carts at the mulch pile—have caused frustration and negative traffic impacts.</p> <p>Residents will highlight how communication could be improved. Residents will point out that a traffic signal at 26th Street and Old Dominion—approved by the County in 2005—has not been installed because of easements and other issues. Federal funding has now been approved and residents would like the County to help move this project forward as quickly as possible.</p> <p><u>Additional Follow Up Items:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Construction Worker Alternative Parking Plan</u>: Residents would like to be informed about the alternative parking plan for construction workers? 2. <u>Managing Truck Traffic</u>: Residents would like the County to address the question of keeping streets open and accessible with the increased amount of truck traffic generated by the Marymount construction project.
<p>2. <u>Intersection of 26th & Wakefield Streets: Traffic Concerns</u></p>	<p>Residents will highlight a stop sign installed at this intersection five years ago and will express appreciation for speed enforcement that occurs throughout the neighborhood by both the Police and Sheriff Offices. Many drivers regularly ignore the Wakefield Street stop sign; residents would like to see as much enforcement as possible at this intersection. Residents will point out the speeding problem on smaller residential streets, several of which have met the criteria for the Neighborhood</p>

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	<p>Traffic Calming (NTC). Residents will express concern that elimination of program funding will mean that these problems will not be addressed in the near future.</p> <p>The new county-installed sidewalk along this stretch of 26th Street will be highlighted. Residents will note that a section of the sidewalk—near the service entrance to the country club—has significant broken concrete. This area of sidewalk has already been replaced once, and was damaged again. Residents ask that the County work with the country club to fix this problem.</p>
<p>3. <u>Intersection of 26th St. & N Vermont: Street Improvements and Traffic Concerns</u></p>	<p>Residents will highlight a County-installed curb, gutter, sidewalk project, street narrowing, and new drains, which have corrected a number of issues at this intersection (and addressed flooding problems for several homeowners). The improvements slowed traffic here, but residents remain concerned that drivers still travel too fast given the terrain. Even though speeds might not reach the 35 mph level that triggers enforcement, residents would like to see enforcement at levels below 35 mph.</p> <p>Additional Follow Up Item: <u>Speeding Enforcement:</u> What is the time frame for monitoring the intersection? Can the police department work with the civic association to increase awareness regarding adhering to speed limits along this strip? Are sign boards an option to help decrease speeds?</p>
<p>4. <u>Intersection of North Vernon and North Vermont Streets: Pedestrian Safety, Park Improvements and Tree Preservation</u></p>	<p>Residents want to highlight recent curb/gutter/sidewalk/street narrowing improvements made by the County to enhance pedestrian and vehicular safety. Residents also want to highlight the County-installed kiosks and the new way finder maps made possible by a Park Enhancement Grant.</p> <p>Residents want to find ways to preserve mature trees in construction projects. This area also provides several examples of the problem of invasive plants in both yards and parkland. With respect to yard invasives, residents would like to see a more effective outreach/education program. On parkland invasives, residents will make the point that managing park invasives is a major challenge and one that justifies the continuation of the County’s invasive removal program at its current level (and expansion when funds are available).</p> <p>Additional Follow Up Item: A Resource Conservation Area designation establishes a 100 foot buffer that delineates the protected area. Is this intended to keep people from cutting down mature trees and if so, is it effective?</p>
<p>5. <u>Reforestation Project</u></p>	<p>Residents want to highlight that several years ago; a Park Enhancement Grant was used to replant a small area of the park. Volunteers cleared kudzu and planted trees, which are doing well (though the kudzu is making a comeback, illustrating again the importance of invasive control).</p> <p>Residents want to express concern about an area above the reforestation project where homeowners have dumped leaves. Residents will express support for continued curbside pickup of grass cuttings and for outreach/education efforts, both of which could help dissuade residents from dumping yard waste into parks.</p> <p>Additional Follow Up Item: Is there an ordinance prohibiting dumping of leaves and yard waste?</p>
<p>6. <u>Erosion along Tributary B of Donaldson Run Stream</u></p>	<p>Residents want to point out Tributary B’s erosion problems, which have degraded water quality in the stream and have resulted in large amounts of soil being carried into the Potomac. Tributary B will be restored soon</p>

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	<p>with County funding; residents want to highlight this project and express their appreciation.</p> <p>Residents also will make the point that many trees bordering the park are actually on private property. Many homeowners have chosen to keep their trees, but one nearby yard (just beyond the Resource Protection Area) was recently cleared. Residents would like to explore ways to protect mature trees not covered by existing ordinances.</p>
<p>6a. <u>Wooden Bridge</u></p>	<p>Residents want to highlight and express appreciation for the wooden bridge rebuilding project. County staff accommodated the wishes of residents that the bridge be rebuilt on site to avoid tree damage.</p>
<p>7. <u>Stream Restoration Project</u></p>	<p>Residents want to highlight the stream restoration project. The neighborhood took the initiative by asking for this project, and implementation included close cooperation between County staff and residents over an extended period. This included outreach to the neighborhood to explain why stream restoration was needed. Residents will point out some of the 400 trees (which are doing well) that were planted to reforest the area along the restored stream.</p> <p>Residents also want to point out two new memorial benches which were paid for by the families of the late Sherwin Landfield and the late Kathleen Barry.</p>
<p>8. <u>Backyard at 2504 North Upland Street</u></p>	<p>This wooded property, which borders Zachary Taylor Park, is protected by a conservation easement with the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT). Residents want to express appreciation to the County for its support of NVCT efforts to preserve natural areas. Residents want to point out that the homeowner has removed a large stand of bamboo from this property.</p> <p>The homeowner also has planted Neighborhood Day trees for the past several years, and some are visible from the trail. Residents appreciate the tree distribution program, which results in the planting of a significant number of trees in the neighborhood each year.</p> <p><u>Additional Follow Up Item:</u> Provide the contact information for residents who would like to pursue obtaining a conservation easement with the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust. (NVCT)</p>
<p>9. <u>Military Road Park Entrance Area, Pedestrian Safety</u></p>	<p>Residents want to highlight recently installed traffic calming measures (rubber curbing, asphalt medians) to decrease speed along Military Road. Residents will point that the process was not always a smooth one; neighbors strongly supported a pedestrian-activated light near Taylor School that had been proposed by County consultants, but staff withdrew the option, deeming it confusing because it was near a flashing school zone light. Residents were disappointed with this decision and an alternative solution—a new crosswalk—took 9 months to develop.</p> <p>Despite considerable neighborhood input, the nubs installed at 26th Street met strong resistance and were eventually removed after a number of calls to the County and a neighborhood petition. Residents will point out that effective solutions have been reached when County staff has shown a willingness to listen to concerns and to be flexible in resolving problems.</p> <p>Residents want to express appreciation for the new bridge allowing</p>

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	<p>Donaldson Run to pass under Military Road, which has eliminated flooding problems on the road. Residents will express concern that the bridge design does not permit passage of aquatic and wildlife under the road and suggest consultation with naturalists in future stream and natural area projects. Residents also will express concern about the use of the park entrance as a staging area for bridge construction and the stream restoration projects, which resulted in the loss of several large trees and in the compacting of soil that will make reforestation efforts here difficult. Residents will urge the County to avoid using parkland for construction activities.</p>
<p>10. Beechwood Circle: Conservation Easements (optional)</p>	<p>Residents will point out the impressive tree canopy in this area, and the lack of trees on the property of a home built here several years ago. Residents will highlight two examples of land preservation here. The Northern Virginia Preservation Trust has purchased land within the Circle to prevent future development. In addition, a nearby property was recently put under an NVCT conservation easement. Residents appreciate the County's support of efforts to preserve natural areas on private property.</p>

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ADJOURNMENT.

Without objection, at 8:20 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

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BARBARA A. FAVOLA, Chairman

ATTEST:

HOPE L. HALLECK, Clerk
 Approved: March 12, 2011