

Work Session for Walking Town Meeting of the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia, held in the Madison Manor area, Arlington, Virginia, thereof on Thursday, June 19, 2008, at 6:45 p.m.

PRESENT: J. WALTER TEJADA, Chairman
JAY FISETTE, Member
MARY HUGHES HYNES, Member
CHRISTOPHER ZIMMERMAN, Member

ABSENT: Barbara A. Favola, Vice Chairman

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WALKING TOWN MEETING IN MADISON MANOR CIVIC ASSOCIATION AREA.

The Board held a work session for a walking town meeting in the Madison Manor Civic Association area from 6:45 p.m. to 8:05 p.m.

Madison Manor Citizens Association President Varun Nikore called the meeting to order and Mr. Tejada made welcoming remarks and introduced Board members and staff. He explained that Ms. Favola was absent due to another commitment. Board members, neighbors, and staff toured the neighborhood, which included four stopping points.

1. Starting point: Intersection of McKinley Road and North Quantico Street – Issues:
 - Mr. Nikore thanked the Board for funding the Neighborhood Conservation project for this area, which was submitted in 2004 and completed this year. The project addressed pedestrian safety concerns and involved improvements such as crosswalks, nubs, lighting, landscaping, and hardscaping.
2. North Ohio Street (deadend) - Issues:
 - This area is adjacent to property that is zoned for light industrial use and is a potential location for a Car Max store. The neighbors have noted that during the winter months, there is no foliage to shade the neighborhood from the property. In addition, near neighbors are troubled by bright lights from the parking lot, fumes and the sounds of service vehicle motors idling. The citizens association received correspondence from an attorney representing Car Max, and a meeting has been set for July 2 to discuss plans for the site. Neighbors requested that County staff be available to attend the meeting. In response, Mr. Tejada advised that while he could not commit to having staff at the meeting, staff could determine if they could help in other ways.
 - Neighbors are concerned about the advanced age of the trees in this area, which also show evidence of invasive growth. Because the area borders Falls Church, they are interested in working with Falls Church officials to create a green buffer. Mr. Tejada noted that while the County has no jurisdiction over trees sited on private property, the County frequently communicates with Falls Church officials and could convey support and encouragement for landscaping of any publicly owned property. He asked that the citizens association copy the Board on any correspondence relating to the site. Staff noted that an invasive species specialist could provide advice and assistance involving any trees sited on public property.
3. Intersection of North Quintana Street and 11th Road North – Issues:
 - Neighborhood representatives advised that improvements to Rochester Street were scheduled for the next Neighborhood Conservation project. The project will include a sidewalk bump-out and lighting.
 - Neighbors thanked the Board for enacting revisions to the Arlington Code regarding poisonous snakes. They expressed interest in pursuing other restrictions related to dangerous snakes and noted that a County naturalist inspected neighbors' yards. The neighbors also expressed concern as to whether the County had a sufficient supply of anti-venom.
4. Madison Manor Park – Issues:
 - A neighborhood representative noted that residents were interested in improving the gravel connector path at the north end of the 1300 block of North Quintana Street. The path connects to a number of heavily used trails

- and to the Metro. A Parks and Recreation representative indicated that he recently discussed the path with staff and had suggested applying for a grant to obtain funding.
- Neighbors highlighted a number of improvements in the park, which include newly planted evergreen trees, new picnic tables and grills, two new benches along 12th Road, and the anticipated installation of additional playground equipment the following day.
 - Neighbors advised that the citizens association has applied for an all-season water fountain and electrical connections to provide power for speakers and other equipment that would be used for special events.
 - A neighbor noted that traffic from I-66 could be heard from the park and indicated that the neighborhood did not support the potential widening of this highway. Mr. Tejada advised that the County Board also did not support this proposal.
 - One neighbor expressed concern about an incident involving the overflow of a county sewer into the basement of his home on North Powhatan Street. Mr. Tejada acknowledged that this was a difficult issue, as the County was granted sovereign immunity in such instances.

Mr. Tejada thanked the members of the citizens association for their work. Mr. Zimmerman provided a brief update on transportation funding.

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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J. WALTER TEJADA, Chairman

ATTEST:

MARIA VOULTSIDES, Clerk
Approved: April 25, 2009