

Arlington Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PAC)  
Wednesday, July 12, 2017  
Courthouse Plaza, Dogwood & Cherry Rooms  
2100 Clarendon Boulevard  
Minutes (approved without change August 9, 2017)

Present: Pamela Van Hine, Chair; Eric Goldstein, Vice Chair; Ellen Armbruster; Eric Goodman; Tom Korn; Christine Ng; David Patton; David Goodman  
Guests: Chris Yarie

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

#### **Items of Interest and Public Comment:**

P. Van Hine reviewed with the PAC the notes distributed on the listserve from the WalkArlington staff. She also reminded the PAC of the Plan for Our Public Spaces (POPS) report that the county is currently soliciting feedback on. POPS staff will be attending the PAC's August meeting. Finally, P. Van Hine mentioned the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's survey for which E. Armbruster had distributed a link on the listserve. All are encouraged to respond.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

- C. Ng moved to approve the minutes of the March meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously, with amendment.
- E. Armbruster moved to approve the minutes of the May PAC meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously, without amendment.
- C. Ng moved to approve the minutes of the June PAC meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously, with the comment that staff will attempt to append the notes that were distributed at the meeting to the minutes.

#### **Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) and Right-of-Way (ROW) Permits**

D. Goodman lead a discussion about the need to improve the way MOT and ROW permits are issued and enforced. He indicated that every project has an MOT permit that should be reviewed by the Transportation Engineering Operations (TE&O) bureau prior to a ROW permit being issued. An ROW permit is required before work can be done in the county right of way (including the sidewalks and street). He identified several issues that can cause the sidewalks to be closed in a way with which the PAC might disagree.

D. Goodman's first point is that the approved MOT plans may not be appropriate. Is the right balance being struck between the needs of the public to travel through the site and the needs of construction and maintenance personnel to work effectively? TE&O and Transportation Planning staff are working to review the standards. Some members of the PAC indicated that requiring MOT plans to be posted and providing more clear information on the County's website may help in allowing the public to know which closures are as a result of an approved plan and which are not.

The second potential issue is that sometimes ROW permits are issued when there is no approved MOT in place. This problem will require better coordination with staff to minimize its occurrence.

The final area where problems occur is in compliance with the approved MOT plans. There are very few inspectors checking for compliance with MOT plans. Additionally, the enforcement mechanism for non-compliance is underwhelming, as violation is a class 4 misdemeanor which results in fines only. Violations cannot result in revocation of construction permits, and revocation of ROW permits is generally ineffective in gaining compliance. There is the potential to get the County Code changed. Language that was adopted years ago for environmental concerns could be adapted to meet this need.

The PAC generally agreed that TROW and MOT are important issues for PAC involvement. D. Goodman indicated that finding solutions for transportation access around construction sites is an ongoing issue for county staff. The PAC agreed to invite Luis Araya to the next PAC meeting.

### **Membership and Recruitment**

P. Van Hine updated the PAC on membership and recruitment issues. The PAC now has eight members. Dennis Jaffe, Rosemary Ciotti and Collin Weber are no longer members of the PAC. The chair stated the PAC's appreciation for their service, and hoped that they would join us at meetings as they are able.

The chair reviewed with the PAC areas where we need additional members, including liaison members generally and specifically to the disability community and Transportation Commission. It was suggested that we could use the County Fair and Parking Day as recruitment events.

### **Other Topics**

- D. Patton briefed the PAC on plans that will close a segment of the Custis Trail for repairs. He reviewed with the PAC the draft plans for detours and detour signage. The PAC provided staff with suggestions for improving the plan.
- E. Goldstein updated the PAC on the work of the Street Light Management Plan Advisory Panel. The county hopes to conduct a demonstration of new street light technology in the fall.
- P. Van Hine provided an update on the National Foreign Affairs Training Center Master Plan. The plan was approved although the need for the federal government to work with the county to address concerns was noted. There does not seem to be enough community support to move forward with plans for trails at this time, although the county is still exploring all options.
- P. Van Hine provided an update on the PAC's response regarding the Rosslyn Streetscape and the County Board's approval of the plan.
- E. Goodman provided an update on the Neighborhood Complete Streets Commission activities. The window for submitting projects is now closed. Staff is reviewing projects and will present submissions to the Commission at an upcoming NCSC meeting.

The chair adjourned the meeting at 9:08 P.M. The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 09, 2017 at 7:00 PM in Courthouse Plaza, Dogwood & Cherry Rooms

