



**ARLANDRIA ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION
ACTION PLAN ADVISORY GROUP MEETING #8**

Tuesday, January 31, 2012
7:00PM

Cora Kelly Recreation Center, 25 W. Reed Avenue, Alexandria, VA

MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting notes are recorded by City staff to provide a written record of principal items of discussion, key comments, decisions of the Advisory Group and comments from the public. They are not intended to be a verbatim transcription of events at the meeting.

Welcome & Introductions

Brandi Collins, Urban Planner with the Department of Planning & Zoning (PZ) welcomed meeting attendees, encouraged meeting attendees to ask questions and comments throughout the meeting, and requested that those present introduce themselves to the group.

Updates

Four Mile Run Park Expansion & Community Building

Laura Durham, Open Space Coordination with the Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Activities (RPCA) provided an update on the Four Mile Run Park Expansion project and the renovations to the new Four Mile Run Park Community Building. Phase I of the Park Expansion project is underway with construction beginning in March and completed by the end of April 2012. Staff will be seeking will be continued community involvement as the public will be asked to provide plantings and additional site furnishings. The stage on the northern side of the building should be installed this month.

General Services has submitted a new CIP request for funding to install HVAC and replace the roof in the Four Mile Run Park Building. RPCA staff submitted a CIP request for Phase II of the park expansion. However, the City Manager Office's (CMO) budget is not finalized so staff is uncertain if the requests will be included in the budget that is submitted to City Council. The CMO budget will be presented to City Council on February 14.

Transportation and Pedestrian Enhancement Projects

Carrie Sanders, Principal Planner with the Transportation and Environmental Services Department shared the following project updates:

Mt. Vernon Avenue/W. Reed Avenue intersection improvements – ON-GOING PROJECT

Improvements to the intersection of Mt. Vernon/W. Reed are almost complete. The remaining items are street tree and bus shelter installation. Street trees will be planted in the spring and the bus shelter will be installed in the summer.

Commonwealth Avenue Pedestrian improvements – COMPLETED PROJECT

Improvements to the sidewalk and trail along Commonwealth Avenue (from W. Reed Avenue to Four Mile Run) are complete.

Commonwealth Avenue/W. Reed Avenue Safe Routes to School project - UPCOMING PROJECT

A consultant has been hired to manage the project. Improvements will include sidewalk and crossing upgrades.

Commonwealth Avenue/Mt. Vernon Avenue Bicycle improvements – UPCOMING PROJECT

Bicycle boxes will be upgraded to improve triggers and visual appearance (will be repainted a bright color). This will improve safety for bicyclists traveling along Commonwealth and Mt. Vernon Avenues.

Mt. Vernon Avenue Bike lanes and Sharrows – UPCOMING PROJECT

A consulting firm has been procured to design the bike lanes and sharrows (shared roadway lane pavement markings to identify spaces for bicycle travel and improve both driver and bicyclist awareness). The improvements will not impact the location of existing on-street parking. Bike lanes will only be provided when there is enough right-of-way. All other conditions will result in the location of sharrows. The construction activities will begin next fiscal year.

Retail Enhancement Efforts & Small Business Support

Rebeca Blanco and Sara Pierce with the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership (AEDP) provided an update on implementation efforts. Two façade grants have been processed and the improvements are complete (Pho Siam and Maid to Clean). AEDP is working with other businesses.

The Arlandria-Chirilagua Business Association (ACBA) had a successful start. They have 25 paid members, 9 board members, and 2 officers. Membership is open to anyone who supports their mission. ACBA has a website, twitter feed, and facebook page. They hosted 3 events last year – Alexandria Film Festival event, Educational Seminar, and a Kick Off Event. The organization submitted an application to the Marketing Fund for a \$27,000 marketing effort. Other businesses are invited to join the organization and participate in the framing of the marketing effort. Sharon Eddy, Vice President of ACBA, provided additional remarks. She informed the audience that she spoke on behalf of ACBA at the Alexandria Convention & Visitors Association, “ABC’s of Business in Alexandria” event on January 27.

Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)

Overview of City CIP Process

Steve Kaii-Ziegler, Division Chief with PZ, provided an overview of the City’s CIP process. The overview included the City’s current CIP budget (\$1.096 billion), general schedule of hearings and decision making, and opportunities for members of the public to influence the CIP.

The CIP budget is a 10-year budget but only Year 1 funding is committed. The focus of the CIP is the maintenance of existing infrastructure and funding large projects. This year’s CIP budget is constrained so it does not appear that there will be any new sources of revenue and therefore no new major projects. Staff will not know which Arlandria Neighborhood-related projects are included in the proposed CIP until the CMO budget is presented to City Council on February 14.

If a project is not funded in the Year 1 funding, it could be funded in out years or included in the priority ranking system. Of note, the major projects included in the current proposed CIP budget is Potomac Yard Metro Station, Jefferson Houston School, and Patrick Henry School. Opportunities for the public to influence the CIP is through commenting on the CIP webpage and attending public hearings [schedule of meetings were provided to meeting attendees].

Open Discussion Items

Community-Oriented Policing (COPs) Program Funding

Members of the AG Executive Committee discussed the COPS funding that was slated to be de-funded in the FY13 budget. Officer Ruggiero of the Alexandria Police Department informed the

audience that the CMO decided to keep the COPS funding in the FY13 budget. This news was well-received by meeting attendees.

Signalization at Mt. Vernon/S. Glebe/Arlington Ridge

Carrie Sanders informed meeting attendees that she spoke with Arlington County staff regarding the installation of a left turn signal at Mt. Vernon/S. Glebe/Arlington Ridge and was informed that it required the acquisition of right-of-way along S. Glebe Road. It is unlikely that this right-of-way could be acquired due to the lack of available land. Another option, Carrie stated, is to approach Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to learn if they can facilitate the installation of the left turn signal. VDOT maintains S. Glebe Road and Arlington Ridge Road.

Other AG Member/Community Updates

Melissa Russell announced that the Four Mile Run Farmers and Artisans Market would resume in the spring and asked that people patronize the vendors. The market is the only farmers market to accept SNAP funds and will be part of the INOVA health program again. In addition, the market was listed as one of the top farmers markets in Northern Virginia by Northern Virginia magazine.

Gabriel Rojo, Tenants and Workers United new Executive Director, introduced himself to the audience and shared his interest in working collaboratively with members of the Arlandria Neighborhood.

Update on Development Projects

Maya Contreras, Urban Planner with PZ provided the following update on development projects in the Arlandria Neighborhood.

Alexandria Sanitation Authority (ASA)

ASA has proposed an upgrade to the existing pump station near Four Mile Run Park at 3650 Commonwealth Avenue. The improvements will include a new pump station building that encloses most of the equipment associated with the facility into one building, as well as a new underground tank. In coordination with the City, ASA has agreed to install a new, unfenced artificial turf field (approximately 150 feet by 72 feet) over the underground tank and integrate new restroom facilities and a park office into the pump station building. A community meeting date has not been selected.

Mt. Vernon Village Center (MVCC)

On December 17, 2011, City Council voted 6-1 to approve a plan, consistent with the Arlandria Action Plan adopted in 2003, for redevelopment of the Mt. Vernon Village Center located on the 3800 block of Mt. Vernon Avenue. The developer has not applied for final site plan and is working on financing the project.

Arlandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc. (ANHSI)

ANHSI has not found a new location to consolidate its services. The organization has moved some of its office functions to space in Arlington County. They are still looking for space within or near the Arlandria community.

East Reed Townhomes Project

This project is located on two lots at the corner of E. Reed Ave and Evans Lane, within the RB (townhouse) zone. The site would be consolidated and redeveloped as five townhomes (each on their own lot) with individual detached garages which are accessed by the alley to the rear.

Project was discussed at the January 2012 meeting of Lynhaven Civic Association. The development applicants wish to present the project to the Planning Commission in April 2012 for a recommendation of approval. If approved by Planning Commission, it would be presented to City Council for consideration of approval.

Calvert

The developers have received demolition permits for the retail wings of the building. The project is estimated to be complete by fall 2013.

AHC Project

John Welsh made a presentation to the meeting attendees on the history, mission, development and property management projects, and accomplishments of AHC. He then answered questions related to both the organization and the development project that was proposed at the corner of W. Reed Avenue/Jefferson Davis Hwy (on hold pending resolution of outstanding issues including land acquisition, parking, and transportation). City Councilman Fannon also participated in the discussion and explained the reasoning behind Council's decision to defer action on declaring the City land at 3600 Jefferson Davis as surplus.

Meeting Handouts

Advisory Group Roster

FY13 – FY22 CIP Schedule

Implementation Tasks Matrix