



ARLANDRIA ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY GROUP MEETING #4

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

7:00PM

St. Rita Parish Center, 3825 Russell Road

MEETING SUMMARY

7:00PM Welcome & Introductions

Brandi Collins, Planning & Zoning, welcomed the meeting attendees and outlined the meeting agenda and purpose. The meeting was called at the request of several members of the Advisory Group (AG) in order to make a formal recommendation to use existing Arlandria CIP funds (\$200,000) for the Four Mile Run Park Expansion project. Planning staff would also like to discuss AG governance.

7:05PM Arlandria CIP Funds

Melissa Russell (AG) provided background on the decision to support the use of the funds for the Four Mile Run Park Expansion project. Such reasons included: 1) the City has invested \$4 million to acquire and clear the site, 2) the Duron building is approved for renovation into a community building, 3) the Four Mile Run Farmers & Artisans Market is a community benefit and uses the site, and 4) an improved park can serve as a nice gateway feature into Arlandria from Arlington County.

Judy Noritake (AG) added that construction drawings for the Duron building are ready for bid and construction can be completed in less than 1 month. Donations will be sought from private companies to provide materials and pro-bono work to improve the Duron building. She said these donations and pro-bono work could be expanded to the park site. She also informed meeting attendees that the Office of the Arts is seeking a grant to fund the proposed stage for the building. Judy also stated that the Concept Plan for the Four Mile Run Park Expansion project would be discussed at the Park and Recreation Commission hearing the following evening. The Commission will consider approval of the Concept Plan.

Laura Durham (RPCA) added that RPCA would submit the site as candidate for a Spring for Alexandria project. Spring for Alexandria is a program that hosts City of Alexandria employees at sites across the city for a one-day volunteer event. Teams of volunteers are sent to city sites to make necessary improvements.

Advisory Group feedback:

- How quickly will the community see improvements to Four Mile Run Park Expansion if CIP funds are allocated now?
 - Laura responded that by this summer hard surfaces would be laid down and trees would be planted.

- Judy added that if the funds were allocated, Phase I construction could be completed by June/July 2011. Construction can be coordinated with activities of the Farmers Market and any other community events.
- AG reached a consensus with 8 members present, recommending using existing Arlandria CIP funds for the project, with 1 present member abstaining.

7:30PM Governance

Steve Kaii-Ziegler, Planning & Zoning, lead a discussion on AG governance and why such a structure would be beneficial for both the AG and staff. There are currently less than 30 appointees but consistently fewer than 15 appointees regularly attend meetings. Identifying leadership in the group will assist staff in communication and identifying issues. The role of the AG leadership would be to provide consistent feedback and input to staff and assistance in developing agendas. Three structural options to consider: 1) chairman/group, 2) chairman/vice chairman/group, and 3) executive committee/group.

Advisory Group feedback:

- Why are so many groups/persons appointed to the group? The regular attendees are currently serving as an executive committee if it represents only a portion of the larger group.
- AG seems to be developing greater autonomy and defining leadership is a good idea. The leadership can serve as the spokesperson for the entire group as there are many potential projects in discussion (Georgetown practice fields, Cora Kelly renovations/expansion, possible sewer expansion, etc). The AG needs leadership and a singular voice to serve as a sounding board and weigh in on these potential issues.
- A chair can assist in encouraging AG members to attend meetings.

An AG member asked the group if anyone wished to serve in a leadership role. Three members volunteered: Kevin Beekman, Melissa Russell, and Kristin Langlykke.

Staff recommendations:

- Meeting quarterly
- AG makes recommendations to FY12 capital budget
- TES present to AG on add-on tax