

BRAC-133 Advisory Group

January 19, 2011 Meeting Summary Minutes

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM
2. Roll call. Present were: Jim Turkel, John Komoroske, Donna Fossum, Jerry Dawson, Geoffrey Goodale, Julie Edelson, Mark Benedict, Carol James, Dick Somers, Peter Carson, David Dexter, Nancy Jennings, Stephanie Landrum, Donald Buch, Gerry Chiaruttini, and Rick Tedesco. Elected officials present included Kerry Donley and Del Pepper. Representatives of elected officials present included Sharon Annear for Alicia Hughes and Chris Gaspar for Congressman Moran. City staff present included: Rich Baier, Abi Lerner, David Grover and John North.
3. Minutes from the November 17, 2010 meeting approved as submitted
4. Dave Dexter noted the reauthorization of the Advisory Group for an additional 12 months will be coming before City Council on February 8, 2011.
5. Abi Lerner provided a brief overview of the meeting he attended on 11/29/2010 held by Fairfax Supervisors Sharon Bulova and Penny Gross to form a Fairfax County BRAC-133 group. Regional coordination, traffic and parking issues are being considered. The first organizational meeting will be February 28, 2011. Subsequent meetings are planned for the last Monday of each month at the Mason District Offices. Mark Canale of Fairfax County staff was introduced. The Alexandria BRAC Coordinator will be attending as a liaison. Dick Somers commented that the same coordination effort should be made with Arlington County.
6. Chris Gaspar, of Congressman Moran's staff provided an update on the 2011 Defense Authorization Bill (DAB) status, discussing the 1,000 parking space limitation, and the Omnibus Spending Bill. He noted that the Inspector General's report is due out at the end of February, 2011. The parking cap is contained in the Defense Authorization Bill (DAB) and the Omnibus Budget Bill. DAB held up by Don't Ask Don't Tell debate. All controversial provisions pulled. DoD must do TMP by March 2011 showing no degradation. Dick Somers asked how Moran will track compliance with 2704. DoD is unlikely to break the law. This is a very high profile project and many are watching, including the Inspector General's office. Rich Baier stated that the City has a baseline for LOS at locations around the Mark Center. It will not be difficult to monitor the changes in LOS. Gaspar responded that the Army is obligated under the TMP to monitor and report. Turkel stated that he TMP requires regular reporting and adjustment. Don Buch once again raised the issue of the City's saying the BRAC project would have no adverse impact.
7. David Grover provided an update on efforts to identify and secure funding for the short and mid-term road improvements. He reviewed action to date, and stated requests for funding have been made to DoD for funding through the DAR program. Budget amendments have been proposed by members of the Virginia General Assembly for VDOT funds. Vice Mayor Donley has pursued inclusion of this project in the NVTB list of projects to be funded. Correspondence from the Virginia Congressional Delegation has been sent to Defense

Secretary Gates requesting funding. The Mayor sent letters to DoD on January 11, 2011 as well. The improvement in LOS with the short and mid-term road improvements in place is significant.

8. Abi Lerner continued the briefing on how the short and mid-term improvements were only a partial solution, and how a comprehensive package of improvements, including the long term, transit and multi-modal improvements, would best address the overall need for addressing traffic issues associated with BRAC-133. Alternative F provides a way to enhance the use of the HOV lanes and move people into van and car pools, and transit options. The ramp improves traffic flow not only on Seminary Road, but also on I-395. Dave Dexter asked how long to do the short term if funding were available today. Abi said 18 months for short and 3 years for mid. Environmental work is estimated at \$50K. Long term will take ten years. Dick Somers commented that given the time frames, we need to pursue transit options now. Abi Lerner noted that DoD will be providing shuttle service from at least four other locations throughout Northern Virginia. Alternative F involves a signal where the ramp intersects with Seminary to facilitate the left turn movement coming from I-395.
9. Donna Fossum asked if there is a timeline showing how all of the pieces fit together. Abi Lerner said staff would prepare a timeline for the BRAC-133 project from present to 9/15/2011.
10. Update on Dash enhanced transit by Abi Lerner was an overview of operations during AM and PM peak periods with headways of ten minutes running express service. This service is available for DoD and regular riders. Council has approved funds for rehabilitation of four surplus buses for the service. DoD will pay the capital cost and the operating cost. DoD personnel will ride free city-wide. Don Buch noted that the agreement includes a 90-day cancellation clause, and that means the City could lose \$600,000 if DoD backs out.
11. Dave Dexter commented that the Ad Hoc Committee primarily discussed funding options for improvements and GRIP. Rich Baier commented that the GRIP personnel would preferably be sworn officers, but there are other options.
12. Abi spoke about progress on Residential Parking Permit Districts, summarizing the meetings with the community and what has transpired to date. Community groups are to communicate their preferences to staff by February 1 and there will be an open public meeting 7:00 PM on February 10 at Beatley Library. Nancy Jennings inquired why we don't simply allow DoD to build a larger parking garage to accommodate all of their people.
13. Dick Somers stated that milestone dates need to be provided for items 10 and 11 on the Matrix.
14. Dave Dexter asked that an agenda time be included for the next meeting for the WHS/Army to provide a report on the shuttle service, other than DASH, they would be providing to the Mark Center. He also asked that the City's Environmental Services division provide an update on the \$400,000 in mitigation money received from DoD for intrusion into the RPA.
15. Mr. Buch commented that the citizens are long overdue a cost/benefit analysis from the City Administration providing justification for the City's support of the BRAC-133 project given the \pm \$150,000,000 it is now projected it will cost the City.
16. Donna Fossum asked for an update on the status of the open space compensation. Rich Baier noted that the City sent a letter requesting compensation in September.

17. Kerry Donley commented we are close to finalizing the DASH agreement and are waiting on DoD. The city has acted in good faith so it needs to be wrapped up. The City is pursuing any and all sources of funding for improvements. He has pushed inclusion by NVTC.
Councilwoman Pepper commented that she has been hearing more positive comments and solutions being discussed.
18. The next meeting is set for February 16, 2011.
19. Meeting ended at 9:00 PM.