

## **Minutes from Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) General Membership Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 7:30pm at Taylor Elementary School**

**Board Members Present:** President, Bill Richardson; First Vice President, Mike Green; Second Vice President, Deirdre Dessingue; Treasurer; Maxine Nagel; Director Charlie Henkin; Director Liz Lord

### **1. Welcome & Announcements (Bill Richardson)**

All meeting attendees welcomed; Agenda presented (attached).

- A Special DRCA meeting with Chairman Christian Dorsey is scheduled for March 6, 2019 to discuss the Amazon proposal.
- Kick-off meeting was held for the future of Lee Highway planning process and Bill Richardson was in attendance as DRCA's representative.

### **2. Review of Minutes from the October 17, 2018 DRCA Meeting**

One member noted that the minutes did not reflect his comment on the need for reform of the Zoning Ordinance; member ensured follow-up that his comment is reflected.

### **3. Reports from Board Members**

#### Lee Highway Expansion Project (Charlie Henkin)

- Rush hour traffic considerations are top priority in any recommendations put forth by the Lee Highway Alliance.
- Lee Highway separated into five (5) nodes, or areas of focus. Each node will be evaluated, notionally, via a "walk" during rush hour times.
- Dates and time of these upcoming walks will be announced; first walk is anticipated for March 8, 2019 from 8:30am-10:30am.

#### Water Runoff Problem Stemming from Washington Golf and Country Club (WGCC) Renovation into Donaldson Run (Mike Green)

- Photos of the runoff from the golf course through streams into DR were distributed.
- The county has informed us that a stop-work order has been issued on the project except work to mitigate the runoff.
- The manager at WGCC has not responded to a specific emailed request from DRCA for comments concerning the runoff.
- Videos and photos of the mud-filled runoff were sent to the County but the mud-filled runoff has continued unabated whenever there is a precipitation event. At this time it appears that no effective action has been taken to resolve the issue.
- Concerned neighbors should contact County Board members or the manager of WGCC to demand this issue get resolved. One member suggested calling the local newspaper, *Arlington Sun Gazette* with the photos.

#### **4. Election to Fill Vacant Secretary Position of DRCA**

Jean Fisher unanimously elected as DRCA Secretary.

#### **5. Update from Potomac Overlook Regional Park**

##### **Speaker #1: Doranne Pittz, Park Manager, Potomac Overlook Regional Park**

- A large Americans with Disabilities (ADA) renovation was completed this past year and the park is now accessible to **all**. This renovation was a direct result from community feedback.
- There are many new exhibits including two new birds of prey - a Red Shouldered Hawk and a Screech Owl.
- A new program was implemented to reduce invasive plants; park area was divided into thirty sections, working one by one to pull out invasive plants. So far has seen a 30-40% reduction in invasive plants.
- All donations to the park go directly to operations, including feeding the animals and school programs.
- A variety of summer camps are offered at the park, including nocturnal camps with camp fires and watching the animals wearing night goggles.
- Concerts are held at the park every second Saturday, from May through September.
- There are quarterly community clean-ups at the park.
- More information can be found at novaparks.org, Nextdoor app, Facebook, and Friends group.

#### **6. Discussion on 26<sup>th</sup> Street-Old Dominion Drive Task Force**

The principal purpose of this meeting is to provide DRCA's representative on the Task Force, Anne Wilson, who is also a DRCA Director, with a better understanding of what DRCA members would like to see (and not see) on this site.

##### **Speaker #2: Noah Simon, Chair of the 26th St N/Old Dominion Drive (26/OD) Site Master Planning Task Force**

- The goal of Arlington County is to improve service to the community.
- The Task Force will report to the County: 1.) what residents want, and 2.) where residents think the various elements should go (map out).
- The County charge states that the following stays on the entire property: 1.) salt storage, 2.) mulch pile/processing, 3.) trail head and 4. ) park, size of at least one acre.
- Various operational functions now under consideration include: shift change facility (approximately 3,400 sq. ft. rest area); parking for trucks and drivers; a chain shop (25 x 50 x 18' area) for equipment replacement such as putting new tire chains on the snow trucks; brine mixing and storage tanks; storage for materials staging.
- Another alternative that was mentioned includes a partially underground salt facility with the intent of saving and recapturing green space. The chain shop would not be seen and there would be a common egress/ingress for service vehicles and for neighbors.

- Environmental considerations are first and foremost, including storm water management and a sound budget plan.
- Additional meetings will be held every other Thursday at 7pm at Marymount with final vote on March 28, 2019 and final consensus by April 1, 2019.
- A survey (attached) was handed out to meeting attendees to rate and submit their *most* and *least* desirable park elements for the area. All park element ideas on the survey had been previously generated by the audience. (See note below on further survey distribution).

**Q & A with Noah Simon:**

**Q. What is the prospect of an Affordable Housing Development at the 26/OD Site?**

A. Affordable Housing Division confirmed no interest in the 26/OD Site; their current interest is in the Lee Highway expansion area.

**Q. Is there an option to “no build” on the 26/OD Site?**

A. Yes, “no build” is an option.

**Q. Could you please discuss more details about the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) facility proposed by Marymount University?**

A. Size would be a 110 x 74 yard soccer field (3 acres alone for the field); it will have lights with spectator seating and be for casual use. While the task force has not yet arrived at a position on this field proposal, some task force members have raised questions concerning it.

**Q. What is/can be done to address the very strong mulch odor near the 26/OD site?**

A. Due to inactivity, this odor is worse in the winter months. This issue will be researched.

**Q. Could you please discuss brine tanks?**

A. Brine is a good thing; it works to reduce the amount of salt. County has hired a consultant; each tank takes up half a parking space plus slightly more.

**A. How about Mission Hearst’s involvement for the site?**

Q. Mission Hearst does not want to participate in this process.

New Action- Online Distribution of the 26/OD Park Elements Survey (Liz Lord)

Survey will be put on a SurveyMonkey to post on DRCA Yahoo! Groups and Facebook page in order to reach and gather data from as many DRCA residents as possible.

**7. Adjournment**