

Minutes for DRCA meeting on October 17, 2018 (at Taylor School)

Bill Richardson introduced Noah Simon who is the chair of 26th St-Old Dominion Master Planning Task Force.

Noah said that his is a volunteer position, and he wants members of the Task Force to come in with an open mind. The site in question is 7.6 acres but not all this area is buildable due to topography and part of the property is in the Chesapeake Bay RPA. Members of the Task Force will include many stakeholder groups including DRCA. The Task Force will recommend what should go on the parcel of land. The 3 things that must be included are:

- 1) The mulch pile
- 2) A permanent salt dome
- 3) A one acre park

It was also stipulated that the Donaldson Run trailhead will not be touched.

Marymount has expressed a desire for a soccer field, and the affordable housing advocates have expressed an interest in the property. APS would like space for storage. The salt facility needs to include a break facility and restrooms.

The task force will start meeting in November 1 and will finish their work by April. All meetings will allow time for public comment. County Board Member Eric Gutshall is the Board's liaison to the task force.

The following ideas/comments about the site were generated by the audience:

- Kids splash park
- Multi-generational park
- Underground changing station (for salt dome workers) with park above
- MU wants lacrosse field-public private partnership
- Missionhurst property could be used for fields
- What kind of soccerfield-kids or NCAA?
- Oak grove has a new park-might get ideas from that
- Concerns: watershed. At back of leaf storage area is stormwater management system.
- How to mitigate heat from surface. Does it have to be black top or could it be something more permeable?
- Community center with park on top.

Discussion about the "Pit" at 2513 N Vernon St:

Bill Richardson has been in close contact with the Commonwealth Attorney's office on this issue. There will be an arraignment for the builder (Ideal Development in McLean) on Oct 31, and a hearing date will be set at that time. There are 2 options for remediation: build the house or fill in the property. There is also an outstanding state occupational health and safety (VOSH) stop work order . DRCA will continue to follow this.

A neighbor who lives on 25th Place raised the issue of traffic speeds on Military Road near Nellie Custis. He said that traffic is bad and cars are going too fast. Bill said that county staff has been looking at this area. They hired an independent consultant do a study but were not satisfied with the results of the study. The County is in the process of hiring a 2nd consultant to look at the situation. Bill has requested a copy of the first report which the County is treating as a FOIA request.

Another resident said that the intersection of Military and 31st St is very bad during rush hour, and there should be a traffic signal there. Bill said that intersection did not meet the criteria for a traffic light.

Stream Restoration:

With the increased frequency of very heavy rains, DRCA met with county staff and questioned whether the plans for the Trib B stream restoration are adequate. Damage to Trib A was also noted. The county reviewed the plans for Trib B with their consultant and concluded that the current plans should remain in place. Due to the narrowness of the area, there is not much more that can be done without bringing in larger equipment that would result in more destruction in areas close to the construction area.

County staff said that repairs to Trib A could be done over time, and there was nothing that required immediate attention. Funding for storm water projects was cut significantly in the last CIP. If funding can be found, the County would like to raise the bridge that crosses the stream near Military Rd. Restoration work on Trib B is scheduled for next summer.

One neighbor noted that the asphalt on the path between the mulch pile and Vermont St was in bad shape.

Another neighbor who used to work for County expressed concern about large canopy trees being torn down to build large houses. He said that the County needed to take another look at lot coverage and there should be a stronger tree ordinance. Using historic district designation could help. Bill offered that there are other civic associations that probably feel same way.

Alisa Cowen, who is an at large member of the Old Dominion-26th St Task Force, said that Arlington is responsible to enact the Chesapeake Bay Act. It would be very costly for the county to change how they measure stream flows. Alisa noted that the new temporary salt dome will increase run off into Donaldson Run, and the County did not include any systems to remediate the run off.

Someone noted that 2 houses on 26th St were being torn down and is concerned that construction and equipment will impact traffic on the street. Bill asked her for addresses for houses to see if they have proper permits.

Future of Lee Hwy:

One member said that she did not want Lee Hwy to "be a canyon". There is an opportunity to do entrepreneurial development. The streetscape needs improvement and there is no architectural cohesion. The corridor needs better transportation.

One neighbor said that the amount of off-street parking should be tripled from what is required now. Another suggested the undergrounding of utilities.

Questions were raised about electric scooters that started showing up in Arlington during the summer. They are allowed in bike lanes and not on sidewalks. If one is found on private property, the property owner can call the scooter company and they have 2 hours to remove it. The County is conducting a 9 month study of the new scooters.