

January 22, 2018 minutes

- Announcements
 - Heitham Ghariani, who was intending to come tonight, will instead be coming in February. He is running for John Vihstadt's seat on the county board.
- Updates to November 27 minutes
 - Concerns were raised regarding the recycling center. Nia has reached out to staff, who will pass on to DES.
 - Concerns were raised regarding Library Courts, which clarified that there is no proposed expansion or replacement planned, they are just requesting to retain the existing transformer vault and roll-up garage door that did not conform to the approved plan but have been in place for 15 years.
- Off. Levy is still deployed to Puerto Rico, but a written update was provided
- Bryna Helfer, Assistant County Manager
 - Also present, Roger Munter, public engagement
 - The county is seeking to expand on current public engagement initiatives and provide guidance to staff to determine how early and often public engagement is warranted for different types of county projects
 - Four part plan, available at <https://arlingtonva.s3.dualstack.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2017/12/DRAFT-Public-Engagement-Guide-for-Capital-Projects.pdf>
 - Clear and consistent engagement regarding capital projects
 - Make methods of engagement consistent across different types of projects, regardless of whether schools, parks, budget, JFAC, etc.
 - Capital Improvement Plan redone every 2 years
 - Talking about possibly mapping proposals so folks can see what is slated for their neighborhood
 - Some projects just require information (e.g., utility maintenance) versus others that require collaboration (e.g., those that change the use of a space in a fundamental way). There is a spectrum in between.

County is working to create guidelines for staff to determine how much engagement is appropriate for different types of projects.

- Possibly use a neutral corps of facilitators for meetings, and maybe a code of conduct
- Engagement “boot camp” for different types of community groups
- Strengthen communication and trust
 - Communicate early and often
 - Clickable maps of active county projects so can see what is coming and click in to learn more
 - Does not yet include CIP
 - Residents note that current version of this map could be more clear about scope of what information is included/not included
- Expand and diversify participation
- Evaluate and enhance policies
- The Insider = subscription news service for Arlington
 - Can find out about comment periods, etc, for public engagement there or via Engage Arlington website.
- Resident ideas/concerns
 - Need for CIP and annual budgeting processes to be better integrated and regularly updated to reflect budget realities
 - Information on project websites is often dated
 - Difficult to navigate website and to know where in the process can engage on particular issues
 - Would be helpful if could have bird’s eye view on main project website and then have options streamlined based on topic (“if you want to know more about X, click here”)
 - Residents are often hearing “this isn’t the time to discuss X”
 - Better information at the outset for residents about what to expect at each stage of the process, when can talk about what, and a need for continuity among county staff

so, when move from one stage to the next, resident concerns do not get lost/dismissed after getting pushed down the road (e.g., when moving from LRPC to SPRC)

- Would be great if HOAs could register with county to receive certain types of information
- Listservs are there but people often do not know about them.
 - Perhaps advertise more often in the Citizen
 - Reach out to multi-family buildings to advertise & require new multi-family buildings approved through SPRC to provide contact information for property managers so county can reach out more easily in future (and/or require SPRC applicants to include “new to Arlington” info along with TDM information)
 - HOAs have to register with state and have registered agent, so should be easy to pull that information
 - Fairfax County is good at this
 - Maybe include information in annual property tax mailings about ways to engage
- More representation for residents and earlier, so they don’t feel like they are just able to “tweak” projects already underway, rather than feeling able to impact the result
 - Resident roles not so restrictively defined (e.g., in JFAC, parameters for involvement didn’t include any cost information dissemination)
- Would be good to have further integration in terms of content on website and content in MyArlington app
 - Could report a problem be part of MyArlington app?
- More structured approach to ensuring diversity in collaborative processes and that any needed language services are available
- Visit PTA meetings? Other ways to reach out more to parents where not just about school-related info?

- Using postcards or hard-copy mailings sometimes can be useful, especially if affecting a clearly defined geographical area
 - Try to pull email addresses from CAPS
- 3901 Fairfax Drive
 - Request to use as temporary parking lot during construction at former Carpool site
 - No concerns
- Oakland Park
 - Has been submitted for environmental permit and hoping to move forward with bid during second quarter of 2018
- 11th and Vermont
 - Going to fourth meeting of SPRC
 - See agenda for future meeting dates for future phases
- 3804 Wilson Blvd (Staples site)
 - Another Special GLUP study – for 6 story hotel
 - Same developer as for Hyatt Place in Courthouse
 - Entirely contrary to what was anticipated in Ballston Sector Plan
 - Collier is representing BVSCA in this process
 - Residents have concerns regarding taper and parking issues/developer's plan to rent spaces at mall if underground parking is insufficient
 - Residents have concerns about losing neighborhood retail
- Use permit review for family home daycare
 - Just reviewing existing permit
 - Cherrydale
 - No concerns
- JFAC
 - Agenda still not posted for meeting on Wednesday
 - Nia mentioned to Bryna her concern that now going back internally to study/determine what use of the Buck site will be, asked that community be allowed to stay engaged
 - Buck site currently appears to be being used for temporary storage
- Stafford Place

- Plan for moving construction trucks in and out – entering on 9th via Randolph
 - If live nearby and want to view the full plan, let Nia know
- Metro is seeking public feedback regarding Fiscal Year 2019 budget and is going to be doing a temporary test where will add an additional fee for parkers using lots but not getting on the train
- BVSCA neighborhood signage
 - Ballston BID had suggested relocating our sign which they removed from Fairfax Dr near Utah, which we rejected
 - BVSCA wants its sign put back in place and will pursue issue through county if necessary
- See agenda for additional announcements of upcoming events, links, contact information
- NCAC
 - Rich Viola, environmental services, discussed updates to bicycle master plan
 - Visit county website if want to give feedback on this
 - Streetlight technology – plans to bring in vendors to demonstrate their versions of LED lighting and actually install them so can view and give feedback as to preferences among vendors and determine standards as to what types of lighting to use going forward.
 - Demo coming in about a month
 - More information forthcoming regarding locations
- CivFed
 - Criminal justice resolutions discussed at last meeting passed
 - Remainder of December meeting was discussion with Superintendent Patrick Murphy and County Manager Mark Schwartz
 - Highlights:
 - Mr. Schwartz notes that the county intends to look at parking in Metro corridors and change on-street parking policy to encourage greater turnover/availability for short-term parkers

- He further notes that the county does not intend to increase the tax rate this year, though assessments will still increase based on changes in property value
 - There was a 5% increase in the residential property market last year, while the commercial market is still flat
 - Finally, he notes the constraints that road infrastructure place on efforts to expand capacity at some APS sites, especially along Carlin Springs. No road improvements in Carlin Springs area are in the 10 year CIP. However, APS has hired a transportation planner to look at better coordination with ART buses and improving walkability.
 - Can view full video via CivFed website
- Neighborhood Conservation survey update – if anybody wants to help out with getting the survey out please let Nia know
- Other issues
 - Latitude art piece still an issue, Nia is working on it
 - Public space at Latitude still vacant and Nia is trying to find out what's happening, whether the planned collaboration with GMU is still underway
 - Human Rights Commission has an open seat. Residents can apply. The Commission especially encourages persons from the senior or transgender communities to apply. The Commission meets the second Thursday of month in the county building at Courthouse.