

## BVSCA Meeting October 23, 2017

- Minutes approved, including Nia's update as to Front Page
- ACPD
  - Please see list of Halloween safety tips
  - Still having a lot of car break-ins for unlocked cars
  - There was a recent string of burglaries but ACPD identified the vehicle involved and that has alleviated the problem
  - Be cognizant when leaving windows open with the nice weather
  - If you see someone hanging around suspiciously or trying door handles, please alert ACPD right away
  - ACPD has been proactively patrolling around A-town; a perceived increase in police activity has been intentional to avoid having to be reactive to situations.
    - There was an incident of motorcycles parking on the sidewalk that has been addressed.
    - Officer Levy personally trained staff on TIPS training & gives periodic check-ins on that. Has seen improvement as a result.
  - Saturday, October 28 is DEA Drug Take-Back Day at station 8; bring your unwanted prescription drugs.
    - Member suggests these could be better advertised via newsletter or other media
- Arlington Public Schools Update – James Lander
  - Brings packet of APS information materials regarding ongoing projects
  - Mr. Lander is our liaison currently but is not running for re-election to the school board and his term will soon expire; the new board member will inherit us as his or her civic association, so might want to reach out to that person as the school budget process begins (in January)
  - Technology programs providing devices 1 to 1 to children as young as 4<sup>th</sup> grade is cutting edge; very few jurisdictions have that
    - APS also provides internet access at home to ensure that families with school-age children do not suffer a gap due lack of access.
  - 98% graduation rate

- Second chance program allows students who have had disciplinary issues to continue on to graduation
- Students who have children during high school are able to stay in their programs versus being segregated out, because APS provides daycare
- Students are offered technical education programs as well as college preparation, and these programs are focused on connections to careers rather than just low-wage jobs
  - E.g., veterinary program, entrepreneurship
- Spend \$19,000 per student, which is the highest in the metropolitan area. This is because of the variety of programs offered. 80% goes to operations and teacher salaries.
- Also serve adult learners and preschools, even though not required to, because we believe in its benefits
- Boundary discussions are coming up
- Capital Improvement Plan is adopted every other year on even years. \$400 million worth of projects; \$600 million in operating budget
  - BVSCA will have an opportunity to provide a representative to the building-level planning committee for the Ed Center
  - The instructional planning committee for the Ed Center is in process now
  - Career Center utilization plan is still uncertain
- Understands that placement of schools leaves some gaps in coverage for walkability for elementary schools, such as in Virginia Square
  - Resident notes that Science Focus is walkable, but it is not open for Virginia Square residents
  - Key elementary will be county-wide immersion program, as is Claremont
  - Again, elementary school boundaries will be discussed in the Spring
    - Goal will be to provide equity in access to schools across the county
    - Reed will come online as elementary school soon, preschool currently there will move

- Resident questions
  - Collier Cook: Has APS ever considered decoupling the programs from their physical locations or moving them to different locations? This could help alleviate the walkability problems.
    - Mr. Lander: Admissions policies were set when system was smaller. Recognizes the need to carefully plan change, balanced against any negative impact on families that have been placed under prior policies. Open to constructive solution suggestions.
      - Currently 6 criteria for admissions. One of these is diversity, but that means different things to different people. Main goal again is equity and quality regardless of which school you attend; moving away from trying to intentionally mix based on race, which used to do.
  - Dana Hofferber: Has there been consideration to allowing parents to opt-out of taxpayer funded take-home devices? Many folks don't need this subsidization and/or disagree with the policy of having young children taking devices home.
    - Mr. Lander: Consideration was given, but rejected. It can create differentiation in learning and/or lost classroom time if students opt-out. There will be consistency across schools in terms of apps used, and take-home policies.
      - Consideration is being given to not having the devices go home until middle school, and only when there are assignments.
      - Students getting around controls is an issue. Setting guidelines so parents can know what kids should be working on and can provide own monitoring.
      - Partnership with Apple is on 3 year cycle, which includes a buy-back program, so cost will go down over time.

- Cara Troup: Should there be an option for an elementary that does not include 1:1 technology, so that if parents disagree with this curriculum they have the opportunity to make a different choice?
- Cara: Are you tracking where new housing developments are being discussed in order to foresee future trends for incoming students? Have you considered the Long Bridge property as a potential high school?
  - Rosemary Ciotti: Yes, they are tracking multi-family developments and projected student input.
  - Mr. Lander: Greater growth is coming from turnover of single-family homes to new families. Hard to predict because don't know when a given family is going to sell. Also tracking births at regional hospitals.
  - Mr. Lander: As to Long Bridge, it is located near the airport and it is not walkable to any neighborhoods, so all students would need to be bussed. Time and money for that project – which would mean acquisition and building from scratch – would take away from projects already planned.
    - Cara: Have you done a cost analysis? Planned for that site is an aquatic center, which might not really be necessary when schools already have pool facilities, and is projected to cost taxpayers \$1 million per year to run.
      - Mr. Lander: Yes, we did do a cost analysis. The data tells us that this community wants neighborhood schools.
      - Mr. Lander: we may need to change expectations as to what schools should look like. For example, new high school might not include a pool; it might instead need to share facilities in order to use resources more efficiently.

- Steven Leutner: Update on ideas on how to address capacity issue at Science Focus?
    - Mr. Lander: When elementary boundaries are changed, there will be a walk zone. Nobody at the school will be kicked out, but incoming kindergarten class will be subject to a walk zone. Boundary changes for Key may also provide relief for capacity problem at Science Focus, as will the opening of Reed.
      - Small boundary revision in the fall, another one when Reed comes online in 2-3 years.
  - Nia: Attended the October 18 meeting regarding instructional programs for Ed Center. Specialty stand-alone programs are interesting, but expansion of IB would likely be the least impact in terms of increasing traffic in that neighborhood.
    - Mr. Lander: My preference is to expand IB and have the program somehow connected to Washington-Lee. Perhaps a 9<sup>th</sup> grade academy. Provides flexibility and also does not require high facility costs to create. But that is only my opinion; I will be weighing in before end of my term. If BVSCA has a consensus, please share that with me so I can share it with the APS board.
- Neighborhood Updates
  - October 21 county board meeting update
    - Washington Blvd/Kirkwood Road Special GLUP study RTA passed. Neighborhood concerns were well heard and well documented. However, came away from GLUP believing had somewhat of a plan, but what was presented differed from that.
      - Staff report did at least cap the heights.
      - Near neighbors are working together on own advocacy, which is appropriate. BVSCA will also be working hard to spell out neighbor concerns.
      - It will be critical going into the Planning Commission meeting, expected either November 6 or 8, to seek

protections that can then hope the county board will agree to on November 18.

- Eric Gutshall suggests pushing for community benefits to preserve trees.
- Nia believes that trees are already protected by law. Would suggest community think about what else it wants.
- Dawn Cooper notes that BVSC A did a great job at the county board meeting & that the neighbors made a good showing. There will be one more open house with the neighborhood prior to the county board meeting, scheduling TBD.
  - Look to Anthony Fusarelli as likely planner for this open house.
  - Cara suggests that neighbors get together and propose a date.
  - Nia will ask whether he already has a tentative date in mind.
- Cara notes that Linbrook neighbors showed up at county board meeting and that need to get them to continue to show up so that getting new faces before the board.
  - Further notes that, while nonprofits are the ones proposing these changes and so the board is sympathetic, the changes made will set precedent for all future owners of the affected land.
  - Proposed changes create parking problems (especially in light of moratorium on RPPs), additional students for schools, etc.
- Residential Parking Working Group RTA
  - Nia raised concerns regarding loss of flexibility by establishing minimums
  - Christian Dorsey was sympathetic to concern Nia raised regarding loss of visitor parking, especially for large population in BVSCA that is 55 plus

- RTA did pass; upcoming meetings on November 1, 6, and 18.
- Open door Monday October 16 with Katie Cristol
  - Talked about neighbor concerns regarding Washington Blvd Special GLUP + Residential Parking Working Group
  - Suggest neighbors organize to be attending these open door sessions
- First SPRC meeting for 11<sup>th</sup> and Vermont
  - Staff report from LRPC was very helpful moving into that process
  - Included closest HOAs at the table in addition to BVSCA
  - Dana: What is end-state of SPRC process; is there an up/down vote?
    - Nia and Rosemary explain that SPRC is a negotiation process and may yield changes from developer, but if neighbors still unhappy they can take their case to Planning Commission and ultimately to County Board
- Site plan amendment to Metro level use at 3100 Clarendon Blvd (Mister Day's building)
  - Seeking waiver of retail development requirement to be flexible use (retail, office, accessory use)
  - Cara: bad precedent if start granting these waivers and might be disincentive to trying very hard to get tenants
    - Dawn agrees
    - Collier cites Dittmar building as a good example of a place where developer resists retail but then is successful in filling it with some smaller businesses
  - Other residents note that this is a subterranean level, not a large pedestrian area
- NCAC: New cycle of improvements begins every 6 months. However, projects in queue have been coming in over-budget due to increases in construction costs, which slows up other projects in the pipeline. Oakland Park project is still happening.

- Will need to band together to ensure bond funding continues at current levels (bonds approved on 2 year cycle)
- Jessica Briatico notes issues with the “wind structure” at Latitude building. It was supposed to be silent. Rosemary notes that may be problem with the bearings.
  - Nia will check on who need to contact about this
- Dana notes budget closeout meeting on county board recessed agenda for tomorrow (October 24), see Civic Federation video on its website for discussion of how this process works and how funds are typically allocated
- See announcements of other upcoming events in the agenda for this evening