

Arlington Neighborhood Advisory Committee (ArNAC)

(Formerly the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee)

October 13, 2022

Final - Meeting Notes

Meeting location: Virtual through MS Teams @ 7PM

1. Roll Call and Brief Neighborhood Reports

- a. No Neighborhood Reports

2. Officer and Staff Reports

- a. Tim McIntosh, ANP Section Supervisor – Thanks to everyone that attended last month’s ArNAC meeting so that we could adopt the electronic meeting policy. We are continuing to look for a location for the November meeting – TBD. We’ll still need a quorum of at least 15-16 people for the hybrid meetings. If the quorum isn’t met, we will have to cut off the people on the Teams call and no voting can take place.
- b. Kathy – Stated that at our last meeting we discussed about how staff will track attendance and associated information under the new electronic meeting policy. For the next meeting (hybrid), staff will be sending out the form prior to the meeting, which will be the Tuesday or Wednesday before the meeting. The form is basic, and it will state if you plan on attending or (not), as well as provide specific information.

3. Approval of September 2022 Minutes

- a. Bridget Obikoya noted that the correct information for gaggle is ArNAC@gaggle.email. David Litman verified from previous emails communication that it is correct, as noted by Bridget.
- b. Bernie Berne noted that “Ballston Wetland” and not “Ballston Wetland Park” was approved at the Sept. 2022 ArNAC meeting.
- c. Motion to approve with the suggested edits – Eileen Janas, Arlington Heights / 2nd, Bill Braswell, Tara Leeway Heights CA

Vote: All in favor / 0 objections / 0 abstentions

Discussion / Action Item:

d. By-Laws Change and Vote

Kathy stated as a reminder that we are looking into a variety of process changes as part of the implementation framework, and one of those might be to approach the Points Sub-Committee activities a little differently. In order to have some flexibility, we are recommending a change in the by-laws that will simply remove the words “at a minimum” and change “will” to “may”, so the Vice Chair “may” convene the open Points Sub-Committee once prior to each funding round.

Questions/Comments:

- Eileen Janas – it appears we didn't choose to put in that if we don't have a Points Sub-Committee meeting, we can do it at a full meeting. She stated that it may not be necessary but didn't read the by-laws. Kathy will take another look at it, but believes it is okay.
- David Haring – isn't comfortable with the change, as the Points Committee serves a very important role as a body that represents neighborhoods. Also, it helps us to validate our projects when they go to ArNAC and then to the County Board. Unless there is a valid reason not to do it, I think it is in our best interest to continue doing them.
- Bill Braswell – stand in support of what David Haring stated, above.
- Jackie Wilson – she can see both sides of the change but would like to have more information about the regulations under the new rules for meetings and how they are applied towards sub-committee meetings. Kathy stated that the information is in the documents that were sent out.
- Ginny Farris – she stated the change would be beneficial, as it will account for meeting policy in the event that we need to make adjustments to having a Points Committee meeting. Kathy agreed and stated that we will continue to have robust discussions; we can revert if it's not working.
- A motion was made by David Litman to support the change.
Vote: 21 in favor / 2 opposed / 0 abstention – the motion carried

e. ANP/ArNAC Plan for Racial and Social Equity Considerations – Kathy Reeder, ArNAC Chair

Questions/Comments:

- Jackie Wilson – kudos to everyone for the presentation and she shared that she worked on the 2020 Census and is glad to see that we are using it. Also, would like to see a presentation by someone who can tell me why we have Civic Associations, Citizen Associations, and neighborhoods, and they are not coinciding. She thinks it causes confusion among the various neighborhoods. It will be a good idea to have Arlington County Engagement Team to come to one of our meetings to talk about some of these areas of outreach and what they do.
- Tom Sitzler – a great presentation and great start; the HUD numbers don't recognize the historically black neighborhoods in Arlington County enough. Green Valley and Halls Hill were not on starting list, so we will have to be very careful. Regarding the list of projects, the cemetery park project for Calloway Church in Halls Hill was not on your list. Tim stated that the list he shared was "proposed projects" and that the Calloway Church project is an active project already funded by the County Board.

- Ginny Farris – will offer an observation based on her experience working with minority and low-income residents in schools – the most likely reason that people are not participating from these neighborhoods is because they are working two to three jobs to keep their heads above water. We may consider streamlining some of the processes to allow for these neighborhoods to participate. Tim agreed and shared that he worked with the Long Branch Creek NC Rep for quite some time in updating their plan, but the Rep moved out of the neighborhood, and we have tried to connect with them to no avail.
- Carter Echols – will we have access to these slides? Tim responded, yes, he will send them out to the Reps and post on our Commission site. Is the side column the number of projects? Kathy stated, yes, it is.
- Eileen Janas – some CA's don't participant because they lack the need for the improvements we offer. Pre-Covid, the County did an inventory of infrastructure needs, and you were going to invite someone to come and talk to us about those results. Tim stated that he hasn't forgotten about it; the issue is that the County has been somewhat hesitant to release that report and there has been a lot of vetting through management and leadership about how they want to share the information. DES is working through how they want to frame it with the community. Tim will do a check-in with DES/Management/Leadership.
- Bill Braswell – is this a cop-out (as noted above) on the part of other programs in the county and the Manager who can't get DES to come up with how to do equity projects, and so they are hoping that we may be able to come up with something? It will be so easy to go down to five or six projects and just get them done. DES is not doing what they are supposed to be doing. Tim responded that one of the things we are doing, and we will continue to do is coordinate with Vision Zero Team and they are also working with Neighborhood Complete Streets, and we are trying to partner with them. The difference between what they do and what we do is that we are a ground up approach and it is a different process.
- Sarah McKinley – responding to Bill Braswell that we all know why DES doesn't do what Bill is suggesting and it is politically impossible because the County Board members don't want to take the heat from people who don't want sidewalks.
- Gretchen Carter – do we have access to ages within neighborhoods? We have many CA's with apartments, a lot of children live in these areas, and I'm curious about green spaces and that the children have access to these spaces. Kathy will check to see what data is available. Gretchen will also check on some data.

4. Meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM