

Urban Forestry Commission
October 22, 2015
Meeting Summary

Attendance

Dean Amel
Nora Palmatier
Steve Campbell
Paul Campanella
Karen Kumm Morris
Caroline Haynes
Mikaila Milton

State and County Staff

Jamie Bartalon, DPR
Rachel Jackson, DPR
Vincent Verweij, DPR
James Meikle, APS
Benjamin Burgin, APS

Guests

John Wingard
Taylor Pool
John Carey

Public Comment

John Wingard (Tree Steward and Notable Tree Program volunteer) urged commission members to nominate trees for the Notable Tree Program and encourage others to do so. Nomination forms are available on the County web site and can be submitted to Jamie Bartalon, DPR.

Mr. Wingard mentioned several types of trees that are under represented on the existing list of Notable Trees, including: black cherries, flowering dogwoods, red maples, lindens, and bitternut hickories. He invited commission members to contact him at jwinga41@yahoo.com, or at 703-524-3229 if they have questions.

Stafford School Update – Benjamin Burgin, APS

Benjamin Burgin (Assistant Director, Design and Construction, APS) provided an update on plans for an addition to the Stratford School building. The Arlington School Board approved a capital project in December, 2014, for a building addition and renovation to create a 1,000 seat neighborhood middle school, scheduled to open in 2019.

The concept design process began in April, 2015. The existing building is listed on state and national historic registers, and is being considered for state and local historic designation. Discussions on concept design have been held at 12 Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC) meetings and 6 Public Facility Review Committee (PFRC) meetings. Both committees have endorsed a preferred concept design (described below). The concept will be presented to the School Board as an informational item on November 5, and as an action item for approval of concept design on November 16.

Four massing concept options for the placement of the building's addition (Terrace, Link, East and West options) were shown to commission members and discussed. The West option is preferred and endorsed by the BLPC and PFRC. It calls for constructing the addition on the western side of the existing building, on top of a surface parking lot owned by DPR. The West option also satisfies concerns raised by the Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HALRB), which is opposed to any design that would obstruct the front façade of the building.

Mr. Burgin displayed a drawing that showed the location of trees on the APS site, rated by preservation priority 1 (the highest) through 4. John Wingard remarked that the wooded area on the west side of APS property has not been well maintained. It contains several dead trees and many invasive plants, but also includes some high quality trees. Caroline Haynes called attention to the Resource Protection Area (RPA) on the northeast border of the site. Mr. Burgin noted that APS is mindful of the RPA, which surrounds a small stream, some of which has been undergrounded and some day-lighted.

Depictions of the existing site approach to the school and three new approach options (Vacation Lane Drop-off, High Road Across Site, and Low Road Across Site) were discussed:

- The "Vacation Lane Drop-off" approach involves widening Vacation Lane and reconfiguring an existing surface parking lot to accommodate parent drop-offs. This option would impact the fewest number of trees.
- The "Low Road Across Site" approach includes a new one-way road, to be open only during drop-off and pick-up times, with an entrance off Vacation Lane and an exit onto Old Dominion Drive. This option locates the new road on the east side of the playing field, through a portion of a wooded area, and impacts the most trees.
- The "High Road Across Site" approach locates the new one-way road (open only during Drop-off and pick-up times) between Vacation Lane and Old Dominion Drive on the west side of the playing field (between the field and building). This is the option preferred by the BLPC and PFRC. It would impact fewer trees than the "Low Road" approach, but more than the "Vacation Lane Drop-off" approach.

Caroline Haynes noted that, as a "neighborhood school", the future Stratford Middle School may be expected to have fewer drop-offs than the current county-wide Stratford/HB Woodlawn School, which has a large number of buses and older students driving to the school. If that's the case, she questioned why a new drop-off road is needed.

Mr. Burgin noted that the school will be going from 700 seats to 1,000 seats. James Meikle (APS) added that some parents may also be reluctant to allow their children to cross Old Dominion Drive to walk to school (even with a pedestrian crossing light), potentially adding to the number of parent "drop-offs".

Karen Kumm Morris asked whether consideration was given to using the existing Vacation Lane loop to Military Road for drop-off. Mr. Burgin explained that, although the "High Road" option is preferred, APS was asked by Arlington County to also include an option that does not involve constructing a new road through the site in case VDOT does not support establishing a new exit onto Old Dominion Drive. The "Vacation Lane Drop-off" option exits onto Military Road (as

does the existing approach), however, some residents have raised concerns about its impact on neighborhood traffic.

Mr. Burgin displayed and reviewed a chart comparing open space and impervious coverage on APS and DPR property associated with existing conditions and the West Building/High Road Approach option. The % covered by fields on DPR property (31.8%) remains the same with this option (as with existing conditions). The % covered by roads/paving increases on APS property, and the % building coverage increases on DPR property with this option, which includes a new road between Vacation Lane and Old Dominion Drive on APS property, and places the new building on the site of a DPR surface parking lot. The increase in coverage by roads/paving on APS property (from 23.4% to 31.5%) also reflects additional surface parking on APS property to compensate for the loss of surface parking on DPR property to accommodate the new building.

Dean Amel commented that the topography of the site will require extensive fill and grading for construction of the High Road, which will impact additional trees. John Wingard added that members at the last PFRC meeting were divided in their support of the High Road option (6 to 4, with one abstention). Given the additional costs associated with the new road, he questioned whether this option would have been supported if some residents had not voiced opposition to the continued use of Vacation Lane for buses and parent drop-offs.

During discussions of VDOT review/approval of treatments for Old Dominion Drive, Ben Burgin noted that VDOT has indicated that they are supportive of a pedestrian crossing light. They have not yet indicated whether they would support a new roadway exit onto Old Dominion Drive.

Dean Amel suggested that it would be best for the UFC to submit comments for the project to the County Board between the November 5, School Board informational work session and their November 16, “action” meeting.

John Wingard noted that safety concerns raised by some residents on the continued use of the Vacation Lane/Military Road loop for drop-offs/pick-ups does not seem to be supported by accident data. Karen Kumm Morris commented that traffic impacts to Vacation Lane associated with Stratford School may be similar to impacts that the new Discovery School has on North Harrison Street. She questioned whether APS is giving more weight to opposition of potential impacts to Vacation Lane than they have for opposition to impacts associated with other school projects. Caroline Haynes noted that, according to Transportation staff, a new road is not necessary to address safety issues..

Caroline Haynes will draft a letter capturing the commission’s comments on Stratford School, and circulate it to UFC members for comments/approval. Vincent Verweij noted that it may be difficult to identify enough appropriate planting spaces on Stratford School property to accommodate the number of replacement trees that will be required for the High Road approach option. Karen Kumm Morris noted that placing the new building on DPR’s surface parking lot will not impact the original building’s historic façade. Dean Amel suggested that the commission’s letter should advocate for the Vacation Lane Drop-off approach option, which would impact the fewest number of trees (though the High Road approach option would impact

fewer trees than the Low Road option). An accurate assessment of tree impacts and replacement requirements will need to be provided as plans are further developed.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the September 24, 2015 UFC meeting were approved.

During discussion of the minutes, Karen Kumm Morris noted that, although she was not able to attend the September 24 meeting, she is very interested in engaging in further discussions about tree pit designs that capture stormwater. She noted that “wet” tree pits designed to capture stormwater will limit species diversity, since fewer species can thrive under those conditions.

Staff Reports

Jamie Bartalon provided the following updates:

- On October 15, DPR staff (Jamie Bartalon and Sarah Archer) met with Delegate Patrick Hope, representatives of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), stakeholders from the nursery industry, the Virginia Native Plant Society, and others to continue discussions on potential legislative changes to Virginia’s Noxious Weeds Law that could expand the regulation of invasive plants. Nursery industry representatives did not support a proposal to change the definition of “Noxious Weeds” in the state law, which would have allowed species that are widely disseminated in Virginia to be eligible for inclusion on VDACS’s Noxious Weeds List. The nursery industry representatives proposed changing the definition of Noxious Weeds to include a requirement that they must be of no commercial value in Virginia. Their proposal was not supported by advocates in favor of expanding VDACS’s Noxious Weeds List. A follow-up meeting to work towards consensus will be held on December 7. Caroline Haynes suggested that the effort may also be tied to the “Plant NoVA Natives” campaign, in working with growers and nurseries to supply more native plants.
- At the October 20, County Board meeting, the Old Growth Forest Network presented Arlington County with a certificate designating a 24 acre tract of Glencarlyn Park as an Old Growth Forest. This was only the fourth area designated as an Old Growth Forest in Virginia, and the first in northern Virginia.
- Arlington’s Tree Distribution Program will be held at the County nursery on Saturday, October 24. All 550 trees available for distribution were reserved by residents through an on-line registration process. The event will be supported by 12 Tree Steward volunteers, who will help residents select their trees and provide information on proper planting and maintenance.
- Jamie Bartalon was contacted by a representative of the Arlington Civic Federation, regarding their possible sponsorship of a tree planting or tree distribution event to help

celebrate the federation's 100th anniversary in April, 2016. Further discussion of options for the event will also involve Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment.

Rachel Jackson provided the following updates:

- Renovations to the courts and surrounding area at Virginia Highlands Park are wrapping up. Several oak trees adjacent to the courts are suffering from hypoxylon canker, unrelated to the renovation project. One of the infected oaks will need to be removed.
- Serviceberry trees adjacent to the Long Bridge Park playground project are well protected from construction impacts.
- DPR will be deconstructing two houses on recently acquired property: one adjacent to Benjamin Banneker Park, and one adjacent to the Community gardens near South Glebe Road and South Lang Street. A tree inventory, determination of any tree impacts, and tree preservation measures are included in both projects.

Vincent Verweij provided the following updates:

- Mr. Verweij is closely following planning efforts and potential tree impacts associated with Stratford School design options. He will also provide input on trees and tree planting options associated with the planning process for the Wilson School site.
- Presentations were given on fruit trees (for an Urban Agriculture conference) and on integrating urban forestry/green infrastructure into planning processes (for a conference at Virginia Tech's Arlington campus).
- Some residents have expressed concerns about tree removal and potential erosion associated with the Abingdon Elementary School project on a slope between the school and the County Trades Center. Mr. Verweij is working with APS on options to retain some of the trees.
- Four of ten American chestnuts planted over a year ago have survived.

Commission Member Reports

Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (NRJAG) – Caroline Haynes' NRJAG report is attached.

Park and Recreation Commission – Caroline Haynes reported that **she attended** a presentation by Vornado on the re-development of River Place, which encompasses 37 acres in Crystal City. She noted that it will be important to keep apprised of developments, as there is potential for adding park and open space on this site.

Planning Activities – Karen Kumm Morris’ Planning Activities report is attached. Ms. Kumm Morris also noted the following:

- Lee Highway corridor community charrettes will be held on November 6, 7 and 8. This is a major planning initiative. Ms. Kumm Morris is on the Lee Highway advisory group, and encourages UFC members to attend.
- Redevelopment of the area surrounding Ballston Mall will involve upgrades to street frontages. Existing street trees will be removed and replaced. The current proposal includes additional soil volume for trees. Dean Amel asked whether a comment letter from the UFC to the County Board is needed soon. Ms. Kumm Morris advised that a letter should be submitted in December. Mr. Amel suggested that the commission should discuss a letter at the November 19, UFC meeting.
- Ms. Kumm Morris noted that a Site Plan proposal for a development near Turnberry Towers maximizes the number of street trees by beginning plantings as close to intersections as appropriate.

Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) – Ed Hilz’s and Steve Campbell’s PFRC reports are attached.

Western Rosslyn Area Planning Study (WRAPS) – Steve Campbell’s WRAPS report is attached.

Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (E2C2) – Alex Sander’s E2C2 report is attached.

Community Facilities Study – Nora Palmatier’s Community Facilities Study report is attached.

Tree Stewards – Nora Palmatier’s Tree Stewards report is attached.

Tree Canopy Fund – Nora Palmatier’s Tree Canopy Fund report is attached.

Tree Distribution Program – Nora Palmatier’s report on the Tree Distribution Program is attached.

Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable – Nora Palmatier’s Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable report is attached.

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) – No report.

Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) – Dean Amel’s PSMP report is attached. Mr. Amel also reported that the PSMP Advisory Committee was informed that an update to the Urban Forestry Master Plan (UFMP) is not included as part of the planning process for the PSMP update. During discussions of the timeline for updating the UFMP, Jamie Bartalon noted that, since the

UFMP is a component of the PSMP, the planning process to update the UFMP will not kick off until the PSMP update is complete. He explained that the updated PSMP may include specific recommendations to address in the UFMP. Caroline Haynes noted that, at a recent NRJAG meeting, Parks and Natural Resources Division Chief, Kurt Louis, stated that sufficient staff resources were not available to support two simultaneous planning processes. However, Ms. Haynes expressed concern about further delaying efforts to update the UFMP. A discussion of the relationship between the PSMP and UFMP update processes may be included on the November or December UFC agenda.

Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) – No report.

Arlington Public Schools (APS) – Jim Meikle reported that APS may pursue allocating additional funding for landscape maintenance during the FY 2017 budget process. Details of the budget increase request have not been finalized, but could include funding for additional staff, additional contracted maintenance, and/or collaborations with DPR.

Caroline Haynes suggested that APS and Arlington County should also consider land swaps of forested/natural areas currently owned by APS, and portions of properties currently owned by Arlington County/DPR that are either used by APS or do not directly contribute to DPR's mission.

Dean Amel asked Mr. Meikle when input on APS's budget is needed, and was told that input would be helpful within the next one to two months. Nora Palmatier stated that Tree Stewards could likely write a letter to the School Board. Dean Amel will work on a draft letter to the County Board on behalf of the UFC, and circulate it for commission member review.

Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) – No report.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

Attachments to October 22, 2015 Urban Forestry Commission Meeting Summary:

Natural Resources Joint Advisory Committee – Caroline Haynes

We heard from Kurt Louis at the October meeting about the restructuring of PNR. We also talked about the need to update the Urban Forest Master Plan and Kurt's concerns about spreading staff too thin given all of the other planning processes underway.

Planning Activities – Karen Kumm Morris

Planning Initiatives

- Community Facilities Study – Wrapping up, Task Force has made draft recommendations that will go back to the Task Force committee on Oct. 28. Will be presented to the Planning Commission's LRPC Committee this month. Will be presented to the CB in November. Nora Palmatier has been attending the Task Force meetings and providing excellent comments.
- Western Rosslyn Area Planning Study (WRAPS) - Steve Campbell has been covering this study. Highland Park plan under review.
- Courthouse Square Sector Plan – Approved by County Board at the September CB meeting.
- Lee Highway Corridor – The Lee Highway Alliance and County are holding a community **charrette on Nov. 6, 7 and 8th at the Langston Brown Community Center** on Lee Highway to identify a community vision for the 4.5 mile corridor. Consultant will facilitate charrette and write up a report to the County Board. Next steps hopefully will be a Task Force to develop a master plan based on the charrette recommendations. Good opportunity to promote trees and streetscape.
- Columbia Pike and Crystal City Reassessment – No new information. Could staff please provide more update.
- PSMP – Public Spaces Master Plan underway. Dean and Caroline Haynes are appointed to the advisory committee. See Dean's email. Major opportunity to address all open spaces natural areas as well as recreation parks and urban plazas.
- Affordable Housing Study Framework – County Board approved the Affordable Housing Plan, September 2015.

Approved SPRC Site Plans

SP. #438 Clarendon West (Red Top Cab) Approved by County Board, Oct. 2015.

580 units in 3 residential buildings, realigns the street grid at Washington Blvd. and 13th Street North. Street trees are provided in accordance with County standards.

SP #437 - 672 Flats – 173 residential units along Glebe Road, across from Ballston Mall.
Approved by CB, Oct. 2015

PDSP Pentagon Centre, SP #297 This is the Costco site in Pentagon, a multi-phase project. Residential Phase 1 at corner of 1^{2th} Street and S. Hayes where the Metro is located. Costco corner is not planned for redevelopment for quite a while. CB approved in September, 2015.

SPRC Site Plans (active)

4301 Wilson Boulevard, SP#193, Ballston Quarter – This is the partial redevelopment of the Ballston Commons Mall. The proposal is to demolish the existing Macy’s Furniture Store, and the existing Mall, and renovate the office building over Macy’s Department Store. The County’s parking garage, and the corner office building, The Point located at Wilson and Glebe, are not part of the redevelopment scheme. The plan proposes to construct 406 residential units at the corner of Randolph and Wilson (Macy’s Furniture building), open up the face of the mall to Wilson Boulevard with an open courtyard toward Wilson, relocate the Metro pedestrian bridge and retain the existing cinemas. The ice skating rink over the garage will also remain.

The plan proposes to upgrade Wilson and Glebe Road with new sidewalks, lighting, street trees and street furnishings. The eastern end of Randolph will be upgraded to the same level but not the western end of the block.

This is an opportunity for UFC to request that all street trees be replaced and planted with a min. of 1,000 cf, of sandy loam (not structural soil). If the tree pits are to be used as SWM bioretention ponds, UFC should request that an alternative design be used to avoid restricting the species to only wet tolerant trees that can handle stormwater collection in the sunken tree pit.

1411 Key Boulevard, SP #439. Washington Vista – The 62 unit housing proposal is located just west of the Turnberry Tower in Rosslyn, considered part of Colonial Terrace community. Applicant is requesting an amendment to the GLUP to allow for a greater density project than currently allowed (base density would allow 42 units). Good layout and quantity of street trees. CB approved the request to advertise for GLUP Amendment in Oct, 2015. Estimated CB Site Plan hearing in Nov. or December.

1770 Crystal Drive, SP #90, Crystal Square – This is a minor site plan amendment to the building’s interior and façade. No significant changes are occurring to the setting. There are no street trees currently along Crystal Drive, and no space to provide for them given that the building’s supporting columns are only 7 feet from the face of curb.

SP #46 4000 and 4040 Fairfax Drive (Web Building), Eric Gutshall

Developer – John Kusturiss, Penzance, CFO AV, Tad Lunger, attorney, Jason Ovalle with Hickok Cole Architects, Barbara Coulston with Parker Rodriguez.
330 units, 8,400 SF retail, in ex. Web Building 173,500 SF office, 11,700 SF retail.
Street tree plan follows RB streetscape guidelines, but the Plan should be revised to start the first tree on N. Randolph closer to N. Fairfax Drive, matching the tree layout shown for N. Quincy Street unless utilities are a constraint.

UFC should request up to approx. 1,000 cubic feet per tree be achieved. If SWM is being proposed within the tree pit, UFC requests that the tree pits not be sunk below the sidewalk elevation. DES, DHCP and Natural Resources should work together to develop an alternative SWM for urban sidewalks. In addition to SWM green roofs, please consider providing edible gardens for residents use. Very popular and desired by many residents.

Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC) – Ed Hilz and Steve Campbell

Stratford Middle School (Ed Hilz)

On October 15, the PFRC discussed the renovation and expansion of the H-B Woodlawn/Stratford building which will house the new Stratford Middle School.

The following is a link to the PFRC website where you can access the Agenda for the October 15 meeting:

<http://commissions.arlingtonva.us/planning-commission/public-facilities-review-committee-pfrc/>

Also, the following is a link to the Oct 14 APS presentation made to the Building Level Planning Committee that provides an overview of the current project issues:

<http://www.apsva.us/cms/lib2/VA01000586/Centricity/Domain/105/2015-1013-BLPC%2012-APS%20reduced.pdf>

Attached is a schematic that shows the location of the "West Addition" (blue box) which the PFRC voted to recommend to the County Board. The addition will be built on one of the DPR parking lots which is used for the ball field, tennis courts and basketball courts. Slides 51-52 of the presentation highlight the benefits of this location.

Also shown on the attachment is the "high road" which will be an "exit only" road to Old Dominion Drive and "entrance only" road from Vacation Lane. The PFRC voted to support this road in its recommendation to the County Board. The road will reduce traffic on Vacation Lane which borders the Donaldson Run and Cherrydale neighborhoods. The "high road" option will have less of an impact on trees compared to other road options that were considered. Some trees will be removed near Old Dominion for the road connection and for the expanded parking lot adjacent to Vacation Lane.

Wilson School (Steve Campbell)

The Wilson School PFRC met on October 15. Since the group last met, a private consulting group determined the proposed project is \$20 million over budget. Therefore, the meeting centered on choices of how to reduce costs. Trees/ tree canopy were not part of the evening's discussion.

We were asked to consider a less expensive building design (the 'fanning bars' concept vs. a plain rectangular building); reduced parking on site, or no on-site parking; reductions in overall building square footage; reduction of the Stratford program at the Wilson site, etc.

The 'no on-site parking options' would be either to lease existing commercial garage space in the neighborhood, or to enter into an additional agreement with Penzance for them to construct a parking garage that would serve both the Wilson School and their own buildings (Penzance would build part of the garage under the school property, which would allow them to build a 3-level garage instead of 5-levels, thereby avoiding excavating bedrock, which is costly).

At the end of the meeting, PFRC committee voted to retain the fanning bars design and against APS building its own parking garage under the school playing field.

To view the slide presentation, the link is immediately below:

http://www.apsva.us/cms/lib2/VA01000586/Centricity/Domain/105/151014_BLPC-8_FINAL_WebsiteVersion.pdf

(This presentation includes slides for both the Wilson School and Stratford School projects (Ed Hilz))

The APS site dedicated to the Wilson project (PFRC and BLPC committees):

<http://www.apsva.us/site/Page/29273>

Western Rosslyn Area Planning Study (WRAPS) – Steve Campbell

Below is the link for the Rosslyn Highlands Park/WRAPS/Wilson School open space planning process:

<http://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/new-rosslyn-highlands-park/>

If you want to offer your view of what the open space should be like, you can do so at this site.

The following link accesses this past Tuesday's presentation (the 2nd of three meetings/ it offers concept designs based upon citizen, staff and design team input):

http://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2015/10/RHPP_Meeting2_web.pdf

Environment and Energy Conservation Commission – Alex Sanders

The Environment and Energy Conservation Commission met on Monday, September 28. Erik Beach (CPHD) gave a brief presentation on the Long Bridge Park Project- its history and development, current status, and budgetary pressures. The County is studying its options for an aquatic and fitness center at Long Bridge and is conducting outreach to community and civic groups to learn the public's preferences in the context of the current budgetary restrictions. The County has developed a game for residents to prioritize their preferred options while keeping the total cost at or under budget.

Parks and Recreation held a public meeting at the Wilson School to discuss the future of Rosslyn Highlands Park. Residents had the opportunity to comment on their desires for the park and offer suggestions. Canopy trees and passive space were popular requests.

Community Facilities Study – Nora Palmatier

Missed the last meeting but heard from several TS and MN they made comments on line. I mentioned at the Candidates forum of Oct.7 Candidates Forum the draft did not mention “trees” or green space but did playing fields and asked for them to insist trees be included. Good news is that all 4 couldn't say enough good about trees, and the Tree Distribution Program and Tree Canopy Fund (although AC was a little mixed up in the administrative details and thought TS, MN and MG got paid for their parks work...) There will be more drafts for public comment and I'll bird dog it.

Tree Stewards – Nora Palmatier

Very busy time and an activity every Saturday through Thanksgiving in Arlington, Alexandria or FC.

Next class starts Feb. 2.

Tree Canopy Fund – Nora Palmatier

ACE working with Davey Trees to set timeline for planting in Nov. & Dec. Technical Adviser to review planting stock and planting procedures is still open.

Tree Distribution Program – Nora Palmatier

Arlington's Tree Distribution Program is set for Saturday, Oct. 24, 8-3PM and all trees have been reserved. Over a dozen TS will be present to provide information and assist. Falls Church and Alexandria are using TS for tree planting activities this fall. Last year, over 100 trees went unclaimed so do spread the word that folks whose favorite tree wasn't available should show up at 3 PM. The 2nd Alexandria Tree Distribution on October 10 had 100% of the trees picked up –

a first. After the Arlington TD this coming Saturday we'll compare results and report back to UFC.

Northern Virginia Urban Forestry Roundtable – Nora Palmatier

Soils Conference to be held Nov. 5 at Algonquin Regional Park. Flyer attached. Several UFC members are already registered. Cost will be \$70. Register on line at www.TreesVirginia.org/events

Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) – Dean Amel

The PSMP Update Advisory Committee met last Wednesday. We were introduced to more consultants than you could shake a stick at, some of whom will conduct a statistically valid survey of County residents. Committee members shared what they thought were the major public spaces issues in Arlington. The need for a land acquisition policy was a popular issue.

One thing that was made clear is that an update to the Urban forest Master Plan will *not* be part of the PSMP update process, so we'll have to press the County for resources to complete that overdue update.