

The Parkfairfax Transportation and Land Use Committee (TLUC) convened its July meeting in-person, with strict social distancing guidelines, on 09 July 2020.

Topics addressed included:

Parking – On 20 July, the City of Alexandria will reinstate parking regulations suspended at the start of the pandemic. Of particular interest to Parkfairfax residents is restoration of the 72-hour limit (excluding weekends) for parking on City streets. The City website includes an application for a needs-based extension to two weeks, not to exceed five times per year.

Electric vehicle charging stations have been under discussion for some time. Many issues remain, including:

- Determining demand for charging electric vehicles on-site
- Location(s) for installation / distance from prospective users
- Removal of regular parking spaces to accommodate
- Regulation of use, including enforcing requirement to move vehicles when not actively charging
- Installation and maintenance cost
- User fees per kw/h
- Type of charging station – Level 1,2,3?
- Survey for charging stations on City streets, due 24 July <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/66cdd7612600454eb47e95c2d74e4833>
- Future technology improvements may allow an electric car battery to charge in roughly the same time as it takes to fill a conventional car's fuel tank at a service station. Such innovation would render dedicated electric car charging stations on condominium property obsolete.

Crosswalks – The chair noted the City adopted the suggestion of a TLUC member to incorporate high visibility “zebra crosswalks” as part of restriping the recently repaved south intersection of Valley Dr., Gunston Rd., Martha Custis Drive. The City has accepted two remaining 4-way stop intersections in Parkfairfax as candidates for zebra crosswalks this fiscal year, namely Gunston and Martha Custis (near Shirlington Circle), and Preston and Martha Custis.

Shirlington Special General Land Use Plan (GLUP) study and WETA expansion. The Chair participated in a 3.5 hours virtual meeting of the Arlington County Planning Commission on 06 July where a plan to add height (with stepbacks) to certain building along Campbell Ave., and to construct additional buildings on the surface parking lot facing S. Arlington Mill Dr. was approved. Additional amendments proffered by the developer to further increase height and density beyond the GLUP were voted down by the Commission. A proposal to construct a 4-story building between the existing WETA location and parking garage (currently an open courtyard space) was easily approved. Consolidating WETA at this location will allow removal of the broadcast facility off S. Four Mile Run Dr. and free up space to expand Jennie

Dean Park. Both the GLUP and WETA recommendations must now be presented to the Arlington County Board later this month. Details can be found on the project website, which also includes a copy of the joint Parkfairfax/Parc East letter of 01 May 2020. <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/plans-studies/general-land-use-plan/special-study-shirlington-village/>

Lighting – Property wide lighting upgrades have been discussed multiple times by TLUC members, other committees and the Board. Improved lighting was submitted by the TLUC as a “capital improvement” candidate. Inadequate lighting has been reported in common element areas including steps, parking lots, walkways and laundry room access. Our on-site police liaison officer has been posting nighttime Facebook reminders for residents to keep their porch lights on. Unfortunately, even with better compliance, there would still be numerous areas that remain dark and dangerous. The lighting won’t be improved by endless TLUC discussions. (Opinion) The Board and Management need to commit to addressing the issue and develop a strategy and timeline for resolution.

Bicycle Rental – Some time ago, a TLUC member suggested in the Parkfairfax Forum newsletter that residents interested in establishing a bikeshare station in Parkfairfax note their interest via a web form. While some interest was reported, apparently it was not sufficient to warrant a bike rental station here, although the City recently announced several new stations being installed in other locations. The campaign will be revived with a future newsletter article to reassess interest in such a facility. It should be noted that a nearby bike rental station at the Fairlington Community Center was removed last year due to low usage.

Maintenance Yard – A TLUC member recently observed flagrant abuse of the trash disposal facility involving commercial dumping of a large number of used mattresses. Despite the gate and swing-arm controls, residents, their contractors and others have found devious workarounds to enter the yard. Management has stated that there is comprehensive video surveillance, yet it is not clear if the video is able to reveal the identity of the miscreants. A TLUC member suggested **upgrading the software** such that cards used to open the gate be recorded and traced to the unit owner/resident to whom the card was issued. Having each facility pass carry a unique electronic code might cause some residents to think twice before entering the yard for nefarious purposes, or before lending their traceable card to others.

Those were some of the highlights of the recent TLUC meeting. Assuming conditions permit, the next TLUC meeting will be August 13th at 7PM in the Party Room.

Take care and stay safe.

Bob Gronenberg, Chair

Parkfairfax Transportation and Land Use Committee