

Minutes of Parkfairfax Transportation and Land Use Committee Meeting of 14 March 2019

With pent-up enthusiasm owing to cancellation of the February meeting, the Parkfairfax Transportation and Land Use Committee (TLUC) convened on March 14th with a wide range of subject to cover.

1. TLUC congratulated member Beth Koprowski for her victory at the recent Parkfairfax Chili Cook-Off event. Ms. Koprowski was singled out for her honesty and integrity in offering a vegan chili without fake meat!
2. Some relevant highlights follow from the most recent Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations (AFCA) meeting where the FY20 budget was briefed:
 - a. Alexandria is replacing its user-unfriendly Call-Click-Connect apparatus with a 3-1-1 number for non-emergency services
 - b. All streetlights in the city will be converted to LED within two years
 - c. DASH fares will increase to \$2.00 (same as ART, Metrobus, Fairfax Connector). Senior fares will remain \$1.00 and remain off-peak only, at least for now.
 - d. City decals for vehicles will be eliminated, consistent with 76% of other Virginia jurisdictions. Police will use license plate scanners to enforce property tax collection. Decal fees will continue to be collected as part of the property tax bill.
3. Exterior lighting (porch lights) was discussed and it was noted that the current specifications, drafted by Thomas A. Edison, pre-date halogen, CFL and LED technology. The enlightened TLUC was treated to an illuminating demonstration of LED bulb characteristics including wattage, lumens and Kelvin temperature. It was generally agreed that a temperature of roughly 2700K (soft white) is appropriate for exterior lighting. It was reported that Management would be updating the specification accordingly.
4. Members reprised the discussion of parking permits for Parkfairfax-controlled areas, including lots, lanes and the 3100 block of Ravensworth Place. While City decals aren't a confirmation of Parkfairfax residency, their upcoming elimination removes one checkpoint for ensuring our parking areas are being used for resident parking. The Chair will draft a proposal for a simplified permit system wherein residents could obtain serialized decals or hangtags for their properly registered vehicles. The system would be voluntary, as residents who park on City streets would not need to obtain a permit.
5. Electric vehicle charging stations were again discussed, albeit inconclusively. It remains unclear as to the extent of interest among Parkfairfax residents. Additionally, advances in battery technology (quick charge and liquid fill) may render fixed location long duration charging community stations obsolete.
6. A major discussion of the worrisome Alexandria Transit Vision (ATV) Plan ensued. The City has engaged an outside consultant to propose a completely new bus network for Alexandria by implementing either a "ridership" or "coverage" based concept. In either case, the preliminary results, which could be implemented as early as July 2020, do not bode well for Parkfairfax. Many, if not most, Parkfairfax commuters will lose direct bus service to the Pentagon and would be required to change buses at Shirlington. Those whose stops would be served by a Pentagon bus would still have a longer trip as those buses would first stop at Shirlington. The Plan likewise decimates midday, evening and weekend services. The TLUC Chair, as a hand-picked "stakeholder," has strongly criticized the ATV Plan at multiple levels and will continue to do so. An article to engage the community has been submitted for the April newsletter, further discussion will be included in the TLUC presentation at the Annual

- Meeting. The City's Director of Transportation and Environmental Services, Mr. Yon Lambert, will be the guest of the AFCA in late May and will undoubtedly field additional questions. Many chose their homes here in Parkfairfax based on proximity to good public transportation, and having to take two buses or tackle steep hills just to travel 3.5 miles to the Pentagon Metro cannot have a positive impact on our property values.
7. A recap of sound walls F1 and F2 was provided. It has subsequently been reconfirmed that the community facing side of these walls will be of a soft earth tone color. VDOT has committed to meeting with the community this summer to discuss landscaping options to improve the walls' aesthetics. Additionally it should be noted that Parkfairfax was awarded a small grant from Transurban to support landscaping in the vicinity of the sound walls.
 8. A policy for the placement of Personal On-Demands Storage units was initiated by the TLUC over six months ago and subsequently finalized by the Covenants Committee. The current status of said policy remains unclear, however.

The next regular meeting of the TLUC is scheduled for Thursday, April 11th at 7PM in the Party Room and we are looking forward to continuing many important discussions.