

## Minutes of Parkfairfax Transportation and Land Use Committee (TLUC) meeting of 09 June 2022

The June monthly meeting of the Parkfairfax TLUC was convened in the Community Room (former Party Room) on June 9<sup>th</sup> with a small but enthusiastic turnout.

A surprise TLUC celebration was staged by members including a commemorative cake, chocolates, rare vintage wines, gift plants and other tokens of appreciation. The TLUC is one of the longest continuously operating committees in Parkfairfax and continues to address important issues both within and outside the campus boundaries.

There was a brief discussion of the Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations (AFCA) of which Parkfairfax has been a longstanding member and I have served as a delegate and chair of the delegation for the past five years. I invited Director Johnson to attend the May AFCA meeting (virtual) and she intends to attend the final meeting of this membership year on June 29<sup>th</sup> as well. In July, the Parkfairfax Board will need to firm up the roster for the new membership year, including designating up to three delegates (the Board President is delegate #1 by definition) and the chair of the delegation when submitting an application for the 2022-2023 membership year. I will be glad to assist in that process. The first meeting of the new membership year will be the last Wednesday of September 2022.

Having attended the Fairlington Citizens Association meeting the previous night, where two representatives of the Arlington County Police Department were guest speakers, I reported the discussion about various crimes that occurred in Fairlington, and are equally probably in Parkfairfax, including the theft of catalytic converters from parked vehicles, including mine. Airbags are also high up on the list of stolen components these days.

It was announced that yet another public hearing of the VDOT Route 1 Multimodal Improvements Feasibility Study is scheduled for Tuesday June 21 at 6:30PM. Despite public opinion, this project to lower route 1 to grade level through Crystal City appears to be unstoppable. More information is at [www.virginiadot.org/route1multimodalstudy](http://www.virginiadot.org/route1multimodalstudy).

As a direct result of TLUC advocacy, high visibility (zebra) crossings were installed at Valley and Gunston/Martha Custis in 2021, and at Preston and Martha Custis in 2022. The remaining crosswalk is at Martha Custis and Gunston (near the Shirlington Circle) and here's an update from the City: *"Good to hear from you. Yes, unfortunately our previous pavement marking contractor was not able to complete all of the new crosswalk locations before their contract expired. We have a new pavement marking contract, and the crosswalks at Martha Custis/Gunston will be on their initial task order. We have not forgotten you all!"*

Speaking of not being forgotten, a TLUC member, I and an electrician met with the General Manager on June 10<sup>th</sup> to help formulate recommendations for establishing two dual Level 2 EV charging stations in Parkfairfax. Based on a better understanding of the power requirements, the originally suggested Lyons Lane location is no longer under consideration and proposed locations will be in areas where parking is readily available. There is further work on the technical and financial aspect which should culminate in a presentation to the Board in July.

The Capital Bikeshare agreement was signed by Parkfairfax on May 19<sup>th</sup> and is awaiting acceptance by the City. I have initiated an inquiry as to when to expect that and await a response shortly. The location, at the entrance roadway leading to the gym, was chosen with input from three Board members including the Ward 1 Director, documented in the Parkfairfax Forum, and is considered "settled law." The actual date for installation of the station remains uncertain and not imminent.

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Members concurred that there has been an increase population of CROWS in Parkfairfax recently. At the end of March, Federal Realty Investment Trust, who owns most of the commercial property on Campbell Ave. in Shirlington conducted a non-lethal “bird relocation treatment” (see photo) spraying program to appease restaurant owners who that feel usurping the sidewalk just isn’t enough, and al-fresco diners need to be further protected from nature. Obviously, we’re less than a half a mile from Shirlington as the crow flies, so it’s no surprise that the crows have” relocated” to Parkfairfax. Fairlington has not reported an increase, at least not yet.

The long-discussed lighting assessment was again discussed after it was recognized that a nighttime assessment of all 300 buildings and surrounding areas cannot realistically be accomplished by a handful of volunteers. A new and more targeted approach is being considered. Discussions the following day with management and the electrician confirm that there are probably as many opinions about lighting as there are residents in our community. Reportedly some lights have been decommissioned due to resident complaints about light penetrating through their uncovered windows, while others complain it’s too dark.

An assessment of safety will be organized and executed this fall focusing on the lack of stairway railings and other hazardous conditions. This will be a daytime effort.

The next meeting of the TLUC will be on Bastille Day, July 14<sup>th</sup> 2022 with appropriate fanfare. While the celebratory festivities at the June meeting were sincerely appreciated, it is hope the aptly-timed July meeting will attract an even larger turnout. Merci beaucoup!

Best regards,

Bob Gronenberg  
Transportation & Land Use Committee Chair

