

Minutes of Parkfairfax Transportation and Land Use Committee Meeting of 13 August 2020

The indefatigable Parkfairfax Transportation and Land Use Committee (TLUC) conducted its masked and distanced meeting on 13 August in the Party Room, with the Chair of the Landscape Committee, Ms. Robin Davis, as special guest.

Primary focus of this month's TLUC meeting was finalization of the Parkfairfax Drought Plan, a joint effort of the Landscape Committee and TLUC, which is to be presented for consideration at the 19 August Board meeting. The Plan includes actions to be taken during drought conditions, as well as long-term improvements to irrigation management. The TLUC appreciates the opportunity to participate in this important initiative.

A short discussion regarding the mitigation of excess rainfall ensued, prompted by the 23 July deluge that overwhelmed some of the undersized drains in the lower elevation portions of the community. As it is understood that Parkfairfax Management, along with the Parc East Condominium, is already engaged with the City on this matter, the TLUC will not be taking further action at this time.

Ms. Davis shared some background and insight into the evolution of the former Spruce Island. Once the true "focal point" of Parkfairfax with its majestic giant spruce surrounded by smaller trees, the triangle now sports six outward facing corner benches peering into seasonal plantings. The second replacement tree died of uncertain causes, and it is hoped that a soil analysis will be conducted before planting another short-lived arbor. While TLUC members recognize the occasional value of a wide-open space, many have opined that the lack of shade trees render Spruceless Island an uninviting venue.

VDOT's plans for landscaping sound walls F1 (north of Gunston Rd.) and F2 (along Quaker Lane) were just received prior to the 13 August meeting and distributed immediately to Management for review. The TLUC will arrange communication with the Landscape Committee, Management and VDOT's landscape architect very shortly to review arrangements prior to fall planting. Additionally, the TLUC continues to liaise with VDOT regarding perceived increases (and reductions) in highway noise by residents of Parkfairfax as a result of the walls. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Property-wide lighting upgrades continue to be a TLUC priority with uncertain support. It was suggested that the scope may need to be narrowed, focusing on unlit parking lots, walkways, steps, etc. rather than lighting the entire community like an amusement park. Streetlights and porchlights illuminate certain areas, but many dark spots remain. While improved lighting will require funding, the result will be a safer community for all residents. As the days grow shorter, the urgency increases.

The next TLUC meeting will be Thursday September 10th at 7PM. Details will be announced one week prior.

Best regards,
Bob Gronenberg
Transportation and Land Use Committee Chair