

COVENANTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2020

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE Present were:
Yvonne Zecca – Committee Chair
Kimberly Berona – Committee Vice Chair
Paula Martori – Committee Member
Mike Rothenberg – Committee Member
Eric Keber – Committee Member
Dan Courtney – Board Liaison
Dana Cross – Covenants Director

BOARD LIAISON REPORT: Board Liaison, Dan Courtney announced that hearing held for the existing plants at 3101 Martha Custis Drive was approved and the patio installation at 3442 Gunston Road remains a topic of discussion.

MINUTES: Committee Chair, Yvonne Zecca called for a motion of the February 11, 2020 covenant meeting minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed with the exception of Eric Keber and Mike Rothenberg who abstained (3-0-2).

VISITORS: Kay DeGrasse, Resident, Handicapped Parking Application

NEW BUSINESS

3264 Martha Custis Drive – Committee Chair, Yvonne Zecca called for a motion of the handicapped parking space application. A motion was made and seconded to acknowledge the application and recommend to the Board of Directors that once the resident moves from the residence, the handicapped sign is removed. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

1643 Fitzgerald Lane – Committee Chair, Yvonne Zecca called for a motion to install plantings. A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the plant application as the application is incomplete. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

1643 Fitzgerald Lane – Committee Chair, Yvonne Zecca called for a motion to replace the existing retaining wall. A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the retaining wall application as the application is incomplete. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

1643 Fitzgerald Lane – Committee Chair, Yvonne Zecca called for a motion to install a flagstone patio. A motion was made and seconded to disapprove the flagstone patio application as the application is incomplete. The motion passed unanimously (5-0-0).

VIOLATIONS: Discussed at 7:42 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The date for the next Covenants Committee Meeting is scheduled for April 14, 2020.

The indefatigable TLUC held its monthly meeting on 09 April 2020 via conference call. Key issues addressed included the following:

1. WMATA FY2021 budget: The TLUC Chair attended (via internet) the WMATA Board of Directors meeting on 02 April where the FY2021 budget was approved unanimously. Given the current circumstances, a caveat was added that the Board must revisit the budget in June, prior to the approved changes taking effect on 01 July. Significantly, about two-thirds of the proposed Metrobus route changes and eliminations were deleted from the final budget (service retained) solely as a result of public input. Approximately 12,000 survey inputs were received from throughout the metropolitan area and beyond with strong opposition to the proposed elimination of neighborhood bus services. Routes 22A/C/F alone drew 646 responses with 79 percent opposed to eliminating routes 22A and 22C. So, barring any changes at the aforementioned June event, route 22A will continue to provide off-peak service 7 days a week (after the pandemic) between Ballston, Shirlington, S. Fairlington, Parkfairfax, Pentagon City and Pentagon through 30 June 2021. Given the extremely low ridership, however, it is likely that this route will be on the chopping block once again a year from now, with uncertain fate.

There are interesting parallels between the Alexandria Transit Vision (ATV) Plan and the WMATA FY2021 budget. Both were focused on high-ridership trunk lines at the expense of neighborhood services. Neither scored points with the adversely affected ridership. After strong protest, DASH ultimately agreed to preserve AT3 and AT4 routes for Parkfairfax, and later agreed to provide a limited replacement for the AT2 on Seminary Rd. and Janneys Lane. WMATA ultimately agreed to maintain the 22A and dozens of other neighborhood routes, for the time being.

Recognizing the low off-peak ridership levels, the TLUC is partnering with the Fairlington Citizens Association to explore alternatives for a sustainable bus service for our communities. Discussions with DASH, ART and Metrobus will occur once conditions permit.

Meanwhile, TLUC members have offered innovative suggestions to boost ridership levels once life returns to normal.

- Work with the Activities Committee organize daytime or evening outings for Parkfairfax residents to visit restaurants, bars, shops, museums, and other venues via public transport. The goal would be to familiarize residents with the excellent network of buses that ply our streets day in and day out and create a greater “comfort level” for the Uber and Lyft addicted in our community. Partnering with Fairlington is also a possibility.
- Improve awareness of places that can easily be reached by public transport. This may involve a synoptic map (similar to London’s “spider maps”) showing bus route destinations, service frequencies and fares. It is believed that many in our community don’t realize they can travel in style to Shirlington, Ballston, Old Town, Pentagon City and other destinations via DASH and Metrobus so an education campaign may be in order.

2. Shirlington General Land Use Permit: As reported in the April 2020 All Fairlington Bulletin, the Fairlington Citizens Association has reminded Arlington County officials that further growth in Shirlington will have a direct impact on Parkfairfax, Green Valley, Fairlington, Park Shirlington and Parc East and has requested broader community involvement in the process. The TLUC Chair will draft a letter for consideration by the Parkfairfax Board endorsing the Fairlington position.

3. Shirlington Road Bridge Maintenance and Truss Bridge: The TLUC Chair attended a virtual open house on this project recently. Current plan is to perform necessary structural maintenance on existing bridge this summer, followed by construction of a truss bridge for pedestrians and bicyclists across Four Mile Run just north of the existing span.

4. The City has added the TLUC recommendation for high visibility “zebra” crosswalks at three intersection in Parkfairfax to the list of candidate “Complete Streets” projects for FY2021.

5. The longstanding concern about trucks traversing our neighborhood streets was discussed, with no updates to report.

The next TLUC meeting will be Thursday, May 14th at 7PM. As of now, it is expected that the meeting will again be via conference call, with phone number and PIN to be provided.

Stay safe, everyone!

Bob Gronenberg

Committee Chair

Parkfairfax Transportation and

Land Use Committee