

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Location: Remote Meeting via Cisco Webex Video Teleconferencing

Note Taker: Howard Albers

Committee Members in Attendance:

Bob Cosgriff (Braddock/ Vice-Chair), Wade H.B. Smith (Dranesville), Alex Rough (Hunter Mill), James Albright (Mason), Jim Klein (Mount Vernon), Karl Liebert (Springfield), Karen Ampeh (Sully District), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society), Jeff Anderson for Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling), Elizabeth Iannetta (Fairfax County Park Authority), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association),

Committee Members Absent: Ken Comer (At-Large / Chair), Dyami Pipkin (Lee), Deborah Cohen (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Mark Tipton (Fairfax Council of Community Associations), Michael de Pue (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority) Soledad Portillo (Northern Virginia Builders' Industry Association), *Vacant* (Providence)

Others in attendance: David Loss, Lauren Delmare, Phil Kemelor, 2LT Jason Long, Tom McFarland, Shella Dunheimer, Howard Payne, and a Boy Scout guest.

Call to Order: This remote meeting used Cisco Webex video conferencing and telephone audio conferencing. Mr. Cosgriff read the recitals required under Virginia Code § 15.2-1413, the uncodified Fairfax County Board of Supervisors emergency ordinance adopted on 14 April 2020, and the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Virginia Code §§ 2.2-3700 to -3714) pertaining to meetings that must be conducted remotely during a declared State of Emergency as being essential to the continuity of government. As required by the legal guidance, Mr. Cosgriff introduced a motion, which was seconded, that this meeting is required for conducting an essential governmental function and must be conducted remotely. He requested that the motion be approved by acclamation and hearing no objections, declared the motion approved. Mr. Cosgriff next conducted a roll call to determine which members, staff, and other participants were in attendance and that every member, staff, and other participants could hear every other attendee clearly. Following this roll call and determining that a quorum was reached, Mr. Cosgriff moved that the committee confirm that every participant could hear every other participant clearly. The motion was seconded; Mr. Cosgriff called for approval by acclamation and hearing no objections, declared the motion approved.

Approval of the Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to approve the committee minutes for the January to June 2021 meetings. The motion passed. The minutes from the July and September 2021 committee meetings will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Discussion: Pedestrian/Cyclist Safety

- **Fairfax Families for Safe Streets** Mr. Phil Kemelor explained the history and purpose of the Fairfax Families for Safe Streets, reviewed their web site, and explained their near miss database.

- Fairfax County Police Department 2Lt. Jason Long talked about traffic safety, crash reconstruction, truck safety, and the enforcement of traffic safety laws. The county police will be participating in the Council of Government street smart campaign that will begin with the ending of daylight savings time. No police reports are required to be written unless damage exceeds \$1,500 or injury results from the accident. Due to reductions in staffing, police do not conduct educational visits to elementary schools or participate in safety towns or traffic gardens. Lt. Long mentioned a recent traffic garden installed on Graham Road. While the police are no longer accepting aggressive driving reports, Lt. Long said the police would accept videos since they present more object evidence than verbal reports.
- Fairfax County Park Authority Trail Planning Beth Iannetta and Tom McFarland explained the process of allocating the \$4 million from the 2020 park bond. Each trail project is evaluated against 8 criteria. Currently there are 141 unfunded trails to be built. For the first time in many years, \$ 50,000 is being allocated to way finding signs. The park board will consider the funding allocation in an upcoming meeting.

Citizen comments/Q &A:

- Shella Dunheimer talked about environmental and safety concerns on trails near Hunter Mill Road and Vale Road. Concerns were expressed that some land is being developed without adequate attention being giving the soil and water conservation plans. There was some concern that the items being discussed were beyond the jurisdiction of the committee. Ms. Dunheimer agreed to send the presentation slides to Mr. Cosgriff so they could be distributed and further reviewed by the committee.

Discussion:

- **Joint Board Action “Safer Pedestrian and Bicyclist Facilities**
<https://files.constantcontact.com/edf0d7af701/d361df81-deef-4f69-a8ca-6139a6441f2a.pdf> Jim Klein mentioned the Board of Supervisors wants to devote \$100 million for safer bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Beth Iannetta commented that even though the park trails play a key role in the county’s transportation system the Board of Supervisors did not mention park trails in the \$ 100 million package. Supervisors need to identify projects by the next Transportation Committee meeting.
- **No FCDOT staff report due to the late hour.**

Announcements:

- Bob Cosgriff announced that topics for the November 10, 2021 Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee meeting should be sent to him before October 27, 2021.

Adjournment:

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.