

Fairfax Trails and Sidewalk Committee
March 11, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm.

Committee Members Present:

Peter Christensen – Chair (Mount Vernon); Ken Comer (At Large); Liz Cronauer (FCPA); Roger Wilson (Providence); Tom Kennedy (Braddock); Jean Voss (Clifton Horse Society); Alan Young (Springfield).

FCDOT Staff Present:

Chris Wells; Adam Lind.

Potomac Heritage Trail Association Present:

Bill Niedringhaus; Karen Jones.

Review and Approve Minutes:

The minutes of the February 11, 2015 meeting were reviewed and approved.

New Business:

Potomac Heritage Trail Association:

Provided a very thorough presentation regarding the proposed Cliffs of Occoquan Trail. The proposed trail, which provides the most scenic route compared to the alternative, runs along the Occoquan on Fairfax Water property.

Fairfax Water has proposed a “Northern Alternative” citing “security concerns” with having a trail between the current quarry/future reservoir and the river. While Fairfax Water has not been specific in detailing these concerns, PHTA has identified numerous other reservoirs (and similar infrastructure resources) where trails are permitted. And, PHTA noted that a publicly accessible trail would provide “eyes on the ground” regarding suspicious activity. It was noted that such a trail would include fences on both sides of the trail. The committee members agreed that two fences would not detract from the overall scenic beauty that trail users would experience.

The PHTA presented this trail as the completion of an 80-mile “Grand Loop.” The committee, however, pointed out that this may be misleading as the trail is suitable for walkers, horses and

adroit mountain bikers, but not for road and casual bikers. The committee recommended that the PHTA change the emphasis from the completion of a “Grand Loop.”

The PHTA mentioned that this would be brought before the Planning Commission on 19 March.

Lastly, Liz Cronauer (FCPA) thanked the PHTA for their work on this, as it’s unlikely that this more scenic route would even be under consideration without PHTA’s work.

The PHTA also presented a detailed analysis of how the CCT and City of Fairfax trails could be connected at the intersection of I-66 and 123, during the I-66 HOT/widening project. The committee felt that the already-drafted letter to the Board of Supervisors (see below) should remain at a high level, but took note of this specific plan as something to consider when the committee provides input on trail recommendations as part of the I-66 project.

Proposed Joint Meeting with Transportation Advisory Committee:

The committee discussed attending one of the TAC’s Work Sessions in April or May. (The Work Sessions are held the first Tuesday of every month.)

I-66 Letter:

The committee approved the letter to Chairman Bulova regarding the importance of completing the shared-use trail along I-66 outside the Beltway. The trail should be an integral part of VDOT’s I-66 project, as this is a unique opportunity to implement a large, important link in the countywide bike system.

Regarding the I-66 project, committee members received a copy of the letter that Chairman Bulova sent to the Secretary of Transportation. The letter included a section on Bike/Pedestrian Facilities, which had a similar theme as the committee’s letter to her.

Status of Zoning Application Notifications (Waivers):

FCDOT informed the committee that significant changes will be made in this process, so the committee should wait until these changes are implemented to determine if the committee needs additional notifications.

Fairfax County DOT Staff Reports:

Summer Repaving Projects – Adam Lind reported on the status of VDOT repaving of streets, noting the schedule of upcoming public meetings:

- 16 March – Tysons

- 25 March – Mason (Annandale/Evergreen)
- 8 April – Mount Vernon

A map of the paving improvements for the Tysons area was distributed.

Wikimapping Project - Adam Lind demonstrated a wikimapping project that will go live on 1 April. The project will ask residents to identify how they get to public transit (Metro and VRE) to determine possible trail/sidewalk improvements.

Budget for Trail Maintenance? – Chris Wells mentioned that there would be public hearings on 7-9 April. The committee agreed that our chairman should speak at the hearing.

Old Business

Web Page Development –Adam Lind highlighted the various links, documents and information on the bike page: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/bike

Waiver Requirements – Chris Wells will follow-up on this.

Trail Maintenance – Chris Wells will work with Tom Kennedy to set up a date to meet with Chris and others to discuss this.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at _____pm