

Fairfax County Trails and Sidewalks Committee  
Minutes of the January 9, 2008 Meeting

**Members Attending:** Deborah Leser (Sully District), Brent Reynolds, (Braddock District), Wade Smith (Dranesville District), Bruce Wright (Hunter Mill District), Robert Michie (Lee District), Peter Christensen (Mount Vernon District), Roger Diedrich (Providence District), Roy Brooks (Mason District), Gene Bartlow (Springfield District), Mary Flowers (Clifton Horse Society), Dennis Frew (WABA), Paul Johnson (NVBIA), and Jenny Pate (FCPA).

**Staff Attending:** Chris Wells and Jeffrey Hermann (FCDOT), Sheng-Jieh Leu (DPZ).

**Guests Attending:** Rob Airaghi (Sully District)

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by Brent Reynolds, Chairman.

**Minutes of the December Meeting:** A motion was made by Mary Flowers and seconded by Wade Smith to approve the minutes with no changes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Old Business:** Brent Reynolds asked for clarification on which of the issues approved last month was he approved to refer to the Board of Supervisors. The committee members agreed that he was to forward the recommendations on snow removal.

### **Waiver Process Discussion**

The committee members discussed Gene Bartlow's proposal for alterations to the waiver process. No significant alterations had been submitted to Gene Bartlow by January 1, 2008. The changed proposal was submitted to the committee for discussion. Several changes were discussed. No consensus was achieved on the proposed changes except that the document should be more concise.

The committee also discussed how the recommendations would be presented to the BOS. Several options were proposed including:

- Send them to the Chair.
- Send them to one member of the BOS for presentation to the entire BOS.
- Have the Chairman of the Trails and Sidewalks Committee present it to the entire BOS at a meeting. Committee members would attend also.

The committee members apologized to Gene Bartlow for their failure to present the new ideas during the previous month but agreed that the issue still needed further discussion and review. Committee members were asked to present their proposals for change during the next 10 calendar days. The Waiver Process proposal will be discussed again in February.

## **Discussion of Staff Presentation of October, 2007:**

The committee members discussed the information presented at that meeting. The consensus of the members present was:

- The number of waiver requests is declining (32 in 2006)
- Escrows continue to be inadequate to build the facilities they are intended for.
- Escrows are cheaper for the developer than building the structures, therefore it is in their interests to request them.
- The fee for a waiver request (\$500) is inadequate to cover the cost of analyzing the impact of the waiver.
- The committee members would like to see the BOS pursue state legislation that would make the current escrowed funds available for use.

## **Election of Officers**

Most of the committee members' terms will expire at the end of January. New members will be appointed on January 28<sup>th</sup>. The bylaws require that the chairman be elected in January. The Vice Chairman and the Secretary are appointed positions.

Wade Smith moved that Brent Reynolds be reelected chairman of the committee. Gene Bartlow seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously to elect Brent Reynolds Chairman.

The Chairman appointed Wade Smith Vice Chairman. In the absence of volunteers for the position of secretary the committee decided to rotate the taking of minutes. A schedule will be created so that members will know when they are to take minutes. Rob Airaghi, who will be the new Sully District representative, volunteered to take minutes in February.

**County Budget Discussion:** The committee members agreed to discuss in February the priorities for the next budget cycle.

## **Staff Report – Mr. Leu**

Mr. Leu asked the current committee members to discuss with the district supervisors about reappointment. Bruce Wright, Deborah Leser, and Roy Brooks will not be returning to the committee. Of these three, only Sully District has a proposed replacement.

Mr. Leu has emailed the lobbying guidelines and finance information to the current committee members.

The existing trails inventory is complete for the following districts: Hunter Mill, Dranesville, Mount Vernon, and half of Sully District. Committee members are encouraged to complete the remainder.

### **Staff Report – Chris Wells**

Mr. Wells asked the committee members to continue to submit requests for trails to his office.

The amended Pedestrian Safety Law package is not going to be part of either the Governors legislative package or the VDOT package. This bodes ill for passage of the proposed changes that will clarify the safety issues for pedestrians, especially in unmarked crosswalks. Representative Ticer of Alexandria may submit a proposal but it may not be the one that has been extensively reviewed by many state and local agencies.

The Street Smart Campaign will be biannual. The next campaign will be in march 2008. Studies show there is a high level of awareness on the part of the public of the need for pedestrian safety. Materials will be available in a variety of languages and an increased presence on the internet will be used to provide safe solutions to these problems.

### **Staff Report – Jeff Hermann**

Data collection is continuing for the bicycle route map. Public meetings are being held in the county for citizen input. The first will be in the south county on January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM and the second will be in the north county on January 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. He will email information to the committee members concerning precise locations.

### **Thanks to the Outgoing Members:**

Brent Reynolds thanked Bruce Wright, Roy Brooks, and Deborah Leser for their service on the committee. The committee members particularly noted the long and productive term of Bruce Wright. As Chairman he was instrumental in expanding the bicycle routes and increasing the public's awareness of the need for safe pedestrian and bicycle facilities. He has always been a calming and reasonable influence on the many difficult discussions that have taken place during his tenure and he will be sorely missed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:34 PM.

Submitted by Deborah Rimmer Leser, Secretary