

Minutes of the Fairfax County Trails & Sidewalks Committee

May 13, 2009

Members Present – Wade Smith, Chairman (Dranesville), Peter Christensen (Mount Vernon), Robert Michie (Lee), Douglas Pew, Vice Chairman (Hunter Mill), Roger Diedrich (Providence), Jan Reitman (Mason), Lisa Willey (Springfield), Jenny Pate (FCPA), Dan Iglhaut (NVRPA), Dennis Frew (WABA), Mary Flowers (Clifton Horse Society)

Staff Present – Sheng Leu (DPZ); Connie Maier (DPZ)

Review of Agenda – Wade Smith, Vice Chairman, convened the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Wade asked for any changes to the Agenda. Agenda remains as presented.

Review of Minutes of April 2009 Meeting – Minutes were corrected to state that action on the budget should follow one week later. Minutes approved as corrected.

Staff Reports. Sheng Leu introduced Constance Maier who will be working with him until he leaves. She will be doing trail requirements and waivers and will be attending the committee meetings. Sheng Leu provided update on Public Works items; only one since last month. He said the trend seems to be fewer; business is down. He also mentioned they are trying to fill the two vacancies on this committee – Braddock and At Large. They are working on it. Wade will contact Supervisor Bulova regarding these vacancies.

Old Business:

Update on Supervisor Gross' Concerns. Jan Reitman reported that he sent a letter to Supv Gross and is still waiting to hear back. He asked to be put on her calendar, as he would like a meeting. He recommends a large-scale study be done just to find out what major cost drivers are and what other jurisdictions are doing.

Meeting with Supervisors. The bicycle folks (Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling) would like to meet with each supervisor.

New Business:

Sidewalk & Trails Committee Web Site. Wade mentioned that the committee would review the current web site and then come up with future changes. The committee was able to look at the site “live” and discuss problems and concerns. **Bicycle Page:** Need a way to get to the Committee Page. Need to add a bike map link. **Pedestrian Page:** Need a link to Trails & Sidewalks Committee. It was very apparent that the old NMTC web pages were still lurking in there since they would sometimes appear as one navigates through the web site. Need to get them out of there but also need to take a look at them carefully and see if there is any information that can be used on the revised web site. **The Trails Plan Page:** Need to add text to clarify that it is a proposed plan, not actual trails. And it would be good if the Trails Plan could be shown by districts, but need to wait until after the next census in case there are changes. **Public Works Page:** It is missing the status of funded trails. Also the Committee News needs updating. Need to add an **Equestrian Page.** Information has been provided for this page. Regarding safety – need to talk to Chris and Charlie at the next meeting regarding adding safety issues to their

pages. One thing mentioned was that our committee needs more visibility on the Fairfax County Home Page. Also need to add a link to the Bike Page from the County Home Page.

Fair Weather Crossing Issues. Doug Pew presented a slide show that shows some fair weather crossings – good and not so good. Jenny talked about some of the constraints regarding some crossings. Some new stepping stones will be oval in shape to allow more stability when they are being used to cross a stream. Jenny also mentioned that Liz Cronauer who is the Trail Program Manager for the Park Authority, would be willing to talk to the committee in July regarding fairweather crossings, if requested. Doug mentioned that he would like to establish a cost per user and also do a census of the usage after a fair weather bridge is built.

VDOT Issue: Bob Airaghi mentioned that VDOT was contacted regarding Centreville Road (N-S) construction and how dangerous it is for pedestrians. Bob feels the Committee needs to require VDOT to do something for the pedestrians. VDOT said in they will have a trail/sidewalk July.

HOT Lane Construction: This item will be on next month's agenda as regards Braddock Road.

Motion to Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Flowers, Acting Secretary