

**Minutes from the Seven Corners Transportation and Land Use Task Force
March 12, 2013**

Meeting called to order at 7:04 PM
Mason District Government Center

Attendance:

Task Force: John Thillmann, Evelyn Haught, Paul Byrtus, Devin Corini, Nathan Bath, Mark Silverwood, Vince Burke, Jim Edmondson, Martin Faga, Jan Reitman, Blake Smith and Pat Hoar.

Staff: Elizabeth Hagg (OCR), JoAnne Fiebe (OCR), Michael Garcia (DOT), Kris Morley-Nikar (DOT), Bernard Suchicital (DPZ), Jay Rauschenbach (FCPA), Michael Congleton (DCC), Elisa Lueck (NCS), and Aaron Frank representing Supervisor Gross

Presenters: Linda Sullivan, President and CEO of the Arts Council of Fairfax County and Leila Gordon, Executive Director of Reston Community Center and Chairman of the Fairfax County Master Arts Plan Task Force

The Minutes for the February 12, 2012 meeting were approved.

John Thillmann asked Elizabeth Hagg to provide details on the upcoming Seven Corners bus tour. Ms. Hagg said that the tour will be on May 18th and will begin at the Willston Center. It will last about 1.5-2 hours. Task Force and work group members who plan on attending should RSVP directly to her. John added that we will establish a cut-off date and then open the tour to the public to fill any remaining seats.

Mr. Thillmann explained to the Task Force that there will be three presentations tonight. The first presentation will be by Leila Gordon, Chair of the Fairfax County Master Arts Plan Task Force and Linda Sullivan, President and CEO of the Arts Council of Fairfax County. The next two presentations will be by the two Working Groups - Connectivity and Quality of Life - who will describe their findings which have resulted from their work over the past six months. Both Working Groups will produce a final written report with additional recommendations and specifics. The Connectivity Working Group is concluding their work while the Quality of Life Working Group expects to do further work on their recommendations in the coming months, but wanted to present the work they have done thus far. John then introduced the first presenter.

Leila Gordon began by explaining the role of the Master Arts Task Force in developing a Master Arts Plan for the county and how public art can be integrated into the goals of a plan developed by the Seven Corners Task Force. The Master Arts Plan Task Force is looking at existing conditions in Fairfax County, identifying arts venues in the greater region, assessing the county's demographics and coordinating their recommendations with the county's plan for land use, transportation, and investment. She said her next steps are to meet with each Supervisor to learn what their top concerns are, what type of art activities they are interested in and where to locate arts facilities. After that they will meet with community groups to gain a better understanding of their aspirations for the arts. She encouraged the Seven Corners Task Force to discuss the role of the arts in Seven Corners and look at ways to enhance or grow them in the area. Before

introducing Linda Sullivan, she emphasized to the Task Force that public art is much broader than just sculpture.

Ms. Sullivan defined public art as: "Art commissioned through a public process, for a public space, procured and maintained with public funds (generally)." However, public art can be privately funded for public spaces or provided through public-private partnerships. Currently, there is no funding in the County's general fund for public art.

There is a movement by municipalities to invest in public art. Public art can:

- Enhance the built environment (ex. Chicago)
- Create visual identity icons (ex. Bethesda)
- Be a quality of life indicator
- Be a catalyst for public engagement and dialog

In a Powerpoint presentation, Ms. Sullivan showed that it is important to consider the context for the public art and there are a number of contexts through which we view public art:

- Historical Monuments (aka horse and rider)
EX: Stuttgart, Germany, "Birkenkopf" World War II Memorial
EX: Freddy Rodriguez, "Flight 587 Memorial," New York City
\$9.2 million
- Environmental Art
EX: Matthew Dehaemers, "The Nereid Beckon," Illinois
\$12,000
- Art in Transportation
EX: Richard Duca, "Four Tree Guards and Four Bicycle Racks," Boston, MA
\$45,000
EX: Gordon Huether, "Gotta Go," Jacksonville, FL Airport
\$200,000
- Art in Infrastructure
EX: Nancy Ann Coyne, "Speaking of Home," Minneapolis, MN
\$550,000
EX: Sheila Klein, "Roosevennavelt: Colunseum," Seattle, WA
\$150,000 (Under highway art)
- Destination Art
EX: Janet Echelman, "Her Secret is Patience," Phoenix, AZ
\$2.4 million
EX: Gary Moore, "Pharaoh's Dance," Miami, FL
\$741,000
- Temporary Art
EX: Dan Carson, "Oscillating Field"
\$30,000
EX: Sabine Weissinger and Friedrich Forester, "Revamp Ft Brooke," Tampa, FL
\$134,000

There are many benefits to including public art in Seven Corners but it is important to develop objectives and understand opportunities. Public art can help solve quality of life issues, show people why they should care about their community, and work to bring the Seven Corners community together through a shared identity.

Kris Morley-Nikar began the Connectivity Work Group presentation by outlining the purpose of the Group. Then Rick Cheston and Ben Cooper, Work Group members described the Group's findings. Their report contained multiple categories of recommendations:

1. Intersections that require crosswalks or enhanced pedestrian crossings
2. Sidewalk and pedestrian ramp improvements
3. Bicycle parking locations
4. Bus connections including the important addition of a route from the Seven Corners Transit Center to the East Falls Church Metro
5. Conditions at Bus Stops. An inventory of bus stops revealed a total of 38 stops, of which only 8 have shelters
6. Route & missing sidewalk links

Other recommendations included wayfinding signage and a bike lane (sharrow) through Seven Corners that connects to the proposed bicycle route from Fairview. The Task Force asked several questions including ideas for Wilson Boulevard and what is next for the Connectivity Work Group.

The Quality of Life Work Group presented a draft executive summary that included both policy issues and strategies. Mike Cook began the presentation by explaining the poor conditions at the pedestrian bridge. He suggested improvements including lighting, maintenance, and security watch. He also described the need for maintenance at the Willston Multi-Cultural Center. He suggested that a special task force be established to evaluate short and long term solutions for the center/site.

Next, Nancy Vorona and Kay Cooper identified four key concerns:

1. Illegal signage
2. Litter
3. Panhandling
4. Loitering

Carol Turner added three areas of concern:

5. Improve landscape conditions and add public art at the pedestrian bridge
6. Additional bus shelters are needed at various locations throughout the area
7. Create urban design guidelines for the Seven Corners area similar to those developed for Annandale

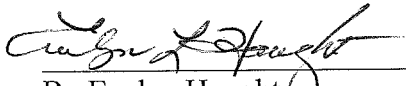
A comment was made by a Task Force member suggesting that the Quality of Life Work Group should consider a long term public education campaign to curb littering. John Thillmann stated that he was very impressed with the presentations and the quality of work both groups produced, and encouraged the Quality of Life Work Group to keep up the good work until they had a finished product.

Final Business

Elizabeth Hagg briefly updated the task force on the status of the Seven Corners Transportation Study. Phase I of the study will evaluate existing conditions and includes an origins and destinations component. It will feed into phase II of the study which will look at specific improvements to the interchange as well as evaluate land use scenarios. It is anticipated that the results of phase I will be presented at the July Task Force meeting. A question was asked if the study can include details on signal timing for intersections in the Seven Corners area and FCDOT staff replied that they would look into it.

John Thillmann explained the Task Force's next step will be to develop a set of planning principles prior to beginning work on land use scenarios. He stated that he would like to see a form-based plan result from the group's work similar to the plan developed for Annandale.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM. The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 2013.


By Evelyn Haught
Secretary


Date