

# Cherrydale Citizens Association Meeting

September 26, 2017

CCA Officers: Jim Todd, Gillian Burgess, Danielle Schefer

Guest: Dulce Carrillo from APS, Bryna Helfer from Arlington County  
5 CCA neighbors

## Meeting Notes

Gillian provided a list of links and websites to access County and Arlington Public Schools (APS) resources. County Board Meetings/Work Sessions, APS Meetings/Work Sessions, and Transportation Meetings are live streamed (and archived).

Bryna from Arlington County Government and Dulce from APS are diving into how and why community engagement works here. They developed an Action Plan to take to their leadership with a framework for engineers/County staff on (1) who are the stakeholders in each community, (2) what is the level of engagement needed, etc. The last step is feedback after the project ends. Arlington is trying to give citizens information ahead of time.

Dulce stated they are looking to broaden engagement on APS. APS website landing page ([www.apsva.us/engage](http://www.apsva.us/engage)) has information all the major hot items (Middle School Boundaries changing due to Stratford Opening) as well as contact information. Each project has a summary of project, why it is occurring, reports/data, online feedback forms, FAQs, and a calendar of upcoming meetings (work sessions, hearings) to get involved. 80% of Arlington residents do not have children in APS but the schools are for everyone. APS is a huge part of the property values and it matters what happens with APS. Half of the County's budget goes to schools. Transportation to/from schools accounts for 25-30% of traffic. Joint Advisory Commission on Transportation is looking at the big picture. Dulce would love a Cherrydale newsletter page on APS engagement. Each school has a point of contact for Community Engagement. Middle School Boundary meetings 10/2 Yorktown, 10/4 Kenmore, 10/25 Yorktown, 10/26 at Wakefield.

County Engage page ([www.topics.arlingtonva.us/engage](http://www.topics.arlingtonva.us/engage)) has requests for feedback on projects such as Master Bike Plan and budget roundtables (discussions being held PRE-budget decisions so citizens can weigh in early (first time this is being done)). Sign up for regular updates on topics you care about. Lightbulb out? Pothole too big? Report A Problem function available on website for these items. You can sort projects by department and by status of project. Each project has a page which you can sign up for updates on as well as points of contact on each project so you can reach out directly to project leads. For example, there is a Five Points Intersection page to sign up for updates on that page. County plans a project, County puts out the project for bid, then the project starts – you need to get involved before the construction starts or it's too late. Bryna will find out what happens to the project pages when a project completes in order to give feedback on the completed project. You can apply for Committee positions if you want to get really engaged. Bryna was on the Aquatics Committee and got to plan all the local pools and facilities and it was great to see her work implemented and benefitting community.

Fiscal Year is July 1 – June 30. County Board gives info to County Manager. County staff works with County Manager. County Manager presents recommended Budget to Board. These roundtables are a step toward participatory budgeting with the community. What is essential? What is not essential? What would citizens be willing to pay more for?

Ombudsman is there to help residents who have tried to reach the County but have not gotten resolution on their issues. Try to work through County employees before going to County Board.

Jim suggested targeting information to neighborhoods not just all news to be county wide. Bryna says that the County is creating an online Google-Maps-like-tool that shows you all active projects in your vicinity (parks, transportation, water, etc.)!

Update on missing Quincy crosswalk at 18<sup>th</sup>. Good news! County stated they will shift the crosswalk so that it's ADA-compliant. It will be restriped within 4 weeks.

Concern about lights on bike trails: Many are the responsibility of Dominion (who does not fix them) but Dept. of Environmental Services (DES) is aware and trying to resolve it. Concrete ones seem to get fixed. Brown light poles are controlled by VDOT and will be removed by VDOT.

Five Points Intersection Project: the contractor is throwing waste concrete matter into the planting area making it impossible for trees and plantings to grow. What should we do? Contact the Project Manager or contact the Ombudsman – this is a good situation where the Ombudsman would get involved because we're already talked to the County at some levels.

Positivity helps in order to get things done. Assume the best when you talk to the County/APS – assume the person you are talking to does not have the history/backdrop of what has happened before (possibly what has been frustrating before) and assume this person wants to do the right thing.

Adopt a Stop program at bus stops (maintenance, cleanliness, snow shoveling) now exists. Bryna will see if it's a County initiative.

Sherry (lives on 15<sup>th</sup> near Stafford) is concerned that 15<sup>th</sup> has become a parking/living space for RVs and homeless people living in their cars. Cars get parked there (with out of state license plates), boats, charter buses too. Parking is used by W-L school children, W-L teachers, and commuters. The street has become more residential with homes now fronting 15<sup>th</sup>. Sherry spoke to zoning, district police, etc. who said to work through your civic association. Zoning of the parking is related to adjacent land. The north side of 15<sup>th</sup> is residential so that parking is restricted to residents; the south side is adjacent to 66, so it is unregulated. There is not a County prohibition on living in your car or running a generator. Sherry suggested that there be no overnight parking (1am-4am or 1am-5am) on the south side of 15<sup>th</sup> street. We need to get the confirmation from other neighbors. Sherry will draft a letter and CCA can send it to the County.