Cherrydale Citizens Association Meeting Minutes

November 28, 2012

Members/Neighbors in Attendance:

30 CCA members / other interested people, not including guests

Speakers in Attendance:

* Paul DeMaio, DES Transportation Division, Arlington County
* Reverend David Hanke of Restoration Anglican Church on Quincy St. and Erin Bair, associate Pastor of Restoration Church
* Art Lohsen from Frank & Lohsen Architects, the new firm designing the new church
* Debby Cook

CCA Officers in Attendance:

Maureen Ross, President

Andy Claster, Vice President

Meg Miller Rydzewski, Secretary

Katherine Christensen, Treasurer

CCA President Maureen Ross opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. She reiterated the discussion agenda for the evening:

1. CCA Officers nominations and vote
2. Capital Bikeshare
3. Restoration Church Renovation Update (<http://restorationarlington.org/>)
4. Neighborhood Conservation Plan
5. Multimodal Transportation and Student Safety Special Committee

**CCA Officers nominations and vote**

Maureen Ross, President (Meg Miller Rydzewski nominated Maureen)

Andy Claster, Vice President

Meg Miller Rydzewski, Secretary

Katherine Christensen, Treasurer

Unanimous aye – verbal and by show of hands

No nays

**Capital Bikeshare**

Paul DeMaio - DES Transportation Division, Arlington County

What is it?

Capital Bikeshare is a bike sharing or bike transit service. Gets you from point a to point b. You can join anywhere from a day or three days to up to a year. Swipe a credit card and you’ve got access to a bike. Check one or two out at a time. Service is limited to those 18 or older, but a minor of 16 or 17 can use one with you if you vouch for them. We now have 45 stations throughout the county. All of them are along the metro corridors. Funding from the Feds. Putting in another 33 stations. This expansion brings us to 78 stations. Allows Cherrydale, Columbia Pike, Rt 50, Shirlington and Fairlington. Almost county-wide. Still working on Lyon Village shopping center (been working on that area for a year and a half).

If you join for a 1 day or 3 day member, you can use your credit card. 1 month or 1 year, can join online or over the phone. They send you a keyfob. When you use the bike, as a keyholding member, just walk up to one of the docks (11-15-19 docks in the rack, depending on the location), a light on the dock will turn green as it recognizes you. Pull the bike out, ride it to your destination (another station – DC, monuments, Ballston, Central Library). 1 yr membership $75. Day membership $7. Usage fee for a trip longer than 30 minutes. Under 30 min, every trip is free. Compare it to any mode of transport, it’s a good deal. More than 30 min, $1.50. If you’re a casual user, a bit more. For each additional 30 min segment, it goes up. *They want you to use it for short trips*.

There is a free app called spot cycle - a Google map – to help you locate a free bike or an open dock, so you don’t make a wasted trip. Click on any station before you leave your home station and it’ll tell you how many docks are available at your destination. Or, you can check at the home station to see if there are bikes available. If it’s full, they give you 15 minutes to get to another station. In most cases, another station is just a few blocks away. Use your keyfob at the destination station and it knows the station is full, so you select the free 15 min and it tells you where the nearest station is, and how many free docks there are.

This service is County owned. The private operator services the bikes and rebalances supply across stations. So far, they’ve done a great job.

How do they choose locations?

There is a list of criteria (30-40 items) in order to locate a station. Among that list: 4 hrs of sun (it’s solar), not being able to have a power line above because there’s a boom station that comes along to take a whole module in and out (also, power lines mess with their cellular tower), can’t be a snow emergency route, must be good site distance for all street users, must make sure that map frame does not block driver or cyclist views. Need 32 feet wide, which is the width of the station, and 6 feet deep, plus access space to pull the bike out (can be sidewalk). So if it goes on the street, they need another six feet. So, 32 x 12.

Cherrydale is difficult because it’s an older neighborhood. There are fewer suitable locations. Starting to work with private property owners, which adds about a year to the process.

Paul mentioned that they’ve conducted a survey to businesses near a rack, and they’ve reported more foot traffic and more revenue.

Quincy Street is not possible because it’s a snow emergency route.

The location they’re considering most seriously in Cherrydale is the Safeway parking lot. ***In fact, since our CCA meeting, Safeway management has agreed to allow it,*** pending approval of a precise location within the parking lot. Safeway real estate representative Denise Poulin sent the following email to Maureen on Nov 30:

”I presented this proposal to Division Management and they are agreeable to the bike rack; however, the location will need to be approved prior to installation.  I will be in contact with you next week to coordinate a meeting with you and one of the members from our Design team to meet on site to come up with a mutually agreeable location.”

(you can read more about the Arlington Bikeshare Transit Development Plan here: [http://www.bikearlington.com/pages/bikesharing/arlington-bikeshare-transit-development-plan/](http://www.bikearlington.com/pages/bikesharing/arlington-bikeshare-transit-development-plan/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank))

Katherine Christensen (Treasurer) – Cherrydale’s Capital Bikeshare Survey

* 87 answers on the survey we did.
* 92% want it.
* More than 80% felt it would be used by neighbors.
* 68% think it should be on Lee Hwy.
* ***The top suggestion was: Safeway! (33% suggested it)***
* Most of the other suggestions were still along Lee Hwy.
* The full summary is posted to Capital Bikeshare link on our website.

Other Discussion Points

* *Maureen* has someone measuring solar power on Lee.
* She also mentioned Safeway overcharging when she called to inquire about whether they’d be open to having Capital Bikeshare in the parking lot there.
* She also mentioned that Pasha Café would be interested in having it right near there, near the entrance to the park there. Paul said he’d check it out again. As that’s County property, it would make it easier than dealing with a third party. Bill Novak seconded Maureen’s suggestion of Pasha Café’s location.
* Gillian Burgess mentioned that the gearing on the bikes is very easy, customer service is very helpful, and when she lived in Lyon Park, she didn’t notice any people parking in neighborhoods to rent a bike.

***Conclusion:***

***In general, we want a Capital Bikeshare.***

***We’re fine with Safeway, and we’ve offered up a few other suggestions to investigate.***

**Restoration Church**

Reverend David Hanke of Restoration Anglican Church

A new firm has been selected to redesign the church.

Art Lohsen

* The new design is slightly smaller than the previous design. To do this, they gave up a 200-person fellowship hall. As planned right now, it seats 400 in the sanctuary, and it’ll be tight at that. 200-250 at a time is what they’re expecting.
* Anticipating large evergreen trees on both north and southern sides. Will give privacy to homes around it.
* The new design is a rectangle. More traditional looking. Parking on the side, as it is now. A single driveway cut in the front, as it is now.
* 5 ft higher than the current building. This one will be 46 ft at it’s highest. Previous design was over 50 ft. Average 35 ft, which is zone limit. Materials are all brick with molding. Roof is asphalt. 2 stories. 13 parking spaces, same as before.
* Timeline if everything goes smoothly: summer at the earliest to break ground. Move out late spring. Might be late summer, early fall before they start. 10 months to a year to build.
* Budget is $4.5million, including new pews.

**Neighborhood Conservation Plan**

Maureen

In preparation for compiling our Neighborhood Conservation plan (so we can earn our 30 points toward neighborhood projects), the CCA will post surveys on the listserv on noise, traffic, building height, etc. Look for those in the coming weeks and months!

**Multimodal Transportation and Student Safety Special Committee**

Debby Cook

2 weeks prior to starting school, many families received letters saying bus service was removed for kids who live under 1 mile from school. Some parents lost jobs because they now have to walk their kids.

If you care about this issue – whether or not you have kids in APS – you can join a committee being formed to address the issue of public school transportation. They are looking for two members. Read more here (<http://www.apsva.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=20239>) or contact Debby at dzcook@verizon.net. She’ll post something on the listerve about it, too.