

Minutes of Meeting on Wednesday, July 18, 2018

**Next Meeting: Thursday, September 20, 2018, 8:00 p.m. at
Little House, Westmoreland Citizens Assn., 5315 Elliott Rd, Bethesda, MD 20816**

Attendees

Brookdale: Bob Cope
Chevy Chase Village:
Chevy Chase West:
Drummond:
Friendship Heights: Mike Dorsey, Melanie White
Glen Echo Heights: Harry Pfohl
Kenwood (the subdivision): Jenny Sue Dunner, Pat Johnson
Kenwood Condominium: Sue Schumacher
Kenwood House Coop: Jean Iker, Judy Throckmorton
Kenwood Place Condominium: Pauline McGuire, Max Wilton
Town of Somerset: Jack Frink, Susannah Goodman, Marnie Shaul,
Steve Sorko
Somerset House:
Springfield: Phyllis Edelman, Cynthia Green, Pete Salinger
Sumner Village Condo:
Westmoreland Citizens Assoc: David Forman, Susan Spock
Westbard Mews: Lynne Battle
Westwood Mews:
Wood Acres: Doug McManus

Guest: Andrew Tsai, P.E., Project Manager,
Capital Crescent Trail at Little Falls Parkway

Administrative:

- The meeting was called to order by Harry Pfohl at 8:00 p.m. Attendees introduced themselves.
- A motion was made and seconded and the minutes of the June 20, 2018 meeting were approved.
- The agenda was approved with the following changes: There is no MCCF report because there is no meeting in July. Neither Norman Knopf nor Julie Davis would be at the meeting to give the 4th episode of the CCCFH history.

Treasurer's Report –Sue Schumacher gave her report. She noted that from June 20-July 18, 2018 Westbard Mews and Kenwood Condominium have paid their dues. Previously, 10 other communities had paid their dues. There were no expenses this month.

Reports/Discussions:

- **Presentation/Discussion of Capital Crescent Trail Alternatives.** Andrew Tsai, project manager of the Capital Crescent Trail at Little Falls Parkway reviewed the 12 alternatives for improving the safety of the Capital Crescent Trail crossing at Little Falls Parkway. The 12 alternatives can be found at the Parks Department [website](#).

Of the 12 alternatives presented, Mr. Tsai said that the most popular among the public are:

1. (#1 Alternative) Divert trail to existing signal at Arlington Road.
2. (#2 Alternative) Divert trail to existing signal at Hillandale Road.
3. (#7 Alternative) Build a bridge over Little Falls Parkway.

The three least popular alternatives are:

1. (#4 Alternative) Pedestrian initiated (HAWK) signal at the trail crossing.
2. (#10 Alternative) Dynamic Lane Use, Speed Table
3. (#8 Alternative) Little Falls Parkway closure between Arlington and Hillandale Roads.

Following the presentation, Mr. Tsai responded to questions including what effect a bridge or tunnel across Little Falls Parkway would have on the stream bed? His response was that either alternative would be concerned with bicyclist safety and minimizing environmental impacts.

- **CCT crossing at Little Falls Parkway** (comments—Bob Cope & Jenny Sue Dunner)
Cope noted that no matter what alternative is selected, getting bicyclists to stop is always an issue. Dunner pointed out that the Parks Dept. alternatives emphasize the safety for bikers, but that there are more walkers on the trail than cyclists. The Coalition for the Capital Crescent Trail supports the trail going to the light at Arlington Road as a short-term solution, and a bridge across Arlington Road as a long-term solution. The CCCT has mailed a letter to the planners supporting these alternatives.

The problem, as Cope and Dunner pointed out is that the Parks Dept. looks at Little Falls Parkway like it's a nice place for a pleasant Sunday drive in the park as opposed to being a route to get to downtown Bethesda from River Road. In addition, with Casey Anderson, an avid bicyclist as the Planning Board chair, and with many members of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) in the area, there is a very strong bicyclist lobby.

As a point of information, Westmoreland did an online poll regarding which alternative would most appeal to its community members. Of those who answered, 84% preferred Alternative #1, divert the trail to the Arlington Road light as a short-term solution with a bridge over Little Falls Parkway (Alternative #7) as a long-term solution. That, of course is dependent upon funding.

Moving forward, during the summer the Parks Dept. will probably narrow down the 12 choices to three and at the end of September/beginning of October there may be a chance for the public to see the final three selections.

The Planning Board, sitting as the Parks Dept., probably in December 2018 will probably approve one of the choices.

- **Regency Plan – DRC letter** (Harry Pfohl)

The DRC meeting on Tuesday, July 17 was over in 5 minutes. Although the public can't speak at these meetings, evidently, the developers no longer feel the need to air anything in public. The developer and its representatives were asked if they had any questions to ask the DRC re: planner comments sent back to Regency regarding the Preliminary and Site Plans. Regency said, "no" and the meeting was over.

Evidently, this may be a strategy by the developer so that they can privately discuss with the planners the issues the DRC brought up in their review. This way the public doesn't get the opportunity to hear the thought processes of the developer.

Chair Pfohl has arranged a meeting with members of the DRC at the Planning Board offices on Tuesday, July 24, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. so that the CCCFH can air its most important issues sent in the letter to the DRC (link to CCCFH website) face-to-face. Prior to that meeting, Pfohl asks that interested CCCFH members meet on Monday, July 23, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. at a prep meeting at the Waldorf School on Sangamore Road. In addition, he asked all members to send him the top 4 issues they think should be discussed based on the letter sent to the DRC. He will review them before the Monday meeting.

New Business

Should the CCCFH meet in August? It was determined that an August meeting was not needed (as is traditional).

Adjournment

A motion was made and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Edelman
CCCFH Recording Secretary