

Greenway Downs Citizens Association Annual Meeting
Tuesday, May 8th, 2018
7 - 9 p.m.
Graham Road Elementary School

Lisa Welde and Jenny Girard opened the meeting by introducing the current GDCA Board Members:

Kara Klouisa	President
Jeff Evans	Vice-President
Jenny Girard	Treasurer
Todd Kamien	Secretary
Asha Beh	
Dana Diaz	
Kevin Swatt	
Lisa Welde	
Kurt West	

Guest Speakers

[Linda Smyth, Providence District Supervisor](#)

Highlights:

Zoning

Fairfax County is in the process of modernizing the Zoning Ordinances. This is more a reformatting process than a rewriting of the existing code but it will improve zoning information searchability on the website. The particulars of the “Zoning Ordinance Modernization Program Plan” can be found at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/zmod>.

Airbnbs

The State of Virginia recently gave localities the power to regulate short-term rentals, more commonly known as Airbnb. Fairfax County will have public hearing on this issue June 19th. Many issues still have to be resolved regarding parking, permits, safety regulations, enforcement, county taxes, etc.

Information about the Board of Supervisors public hearing and a list of the issues can be found at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/zoning/short-term-property-rentals>

Site Specific Plan Amendments (SSPA)

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/plan-amendments/sspa>

Linda spoke about two future projects of interest, the Fairview Park area and the Exxon Mobile property.

At some point, maybe next year, there will be an opportunity for community input on the particulars.

She also said property around the West Falls Church metro does not belong to Fairfax County. At some point there will be an opportunity for citizen input.

Questions from the Audience

Q. What kind of parking restrictions keep trucks and business vehicles from parking in our streets?

A. The long-term remedy is to apply for a Residential Parking Permit District zone. Otherwise, the street parking is public, and open to the public.

Q. Will it be a 60-90 day seasonal limit on the short-term residents rentals?

A. No, the decision has not yet been made, but the range under active consideration is 30-90 days.

Q. Are there any current plans to fix/develop our part of Route 29?

A. No, the existing commercial strips are narrow so the area is difficult to redesign and allow for parking.

Q. What about vehicles parked here that belong to other jurisdictions? They do not pay Fairfax County car taxes.

A. Residents can report such vehicles to the police.

Linda Smyth invited anyone with questions to contact her office. The link is <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/providence/>

Paul Stoddard, Director of Planning for the City of Falls Church

Most of this information is available on the Falls Church City website at <https://www.fallschurchva.gov/101/Projects>

Paul updated us on six projects in Falls Church.

301 South West Broad (Harris Teeter)
Broad & Washington
Lincoln at Tinner Hill (Target)
Tower Square Shopping Center (where an Aldie's is going in)
S. Washington Intermodal (triangle by the Taxi Company downtown)
S Washington & Maple (Route 29 and Cavalier by Italian Restaurant)

Of note for Greenway Downs are the following:

S. Washington and Cavalier Trail

Falls Church City's proposed changes to the S Washington & Maple St. (Cavalier Trail) intersection has gone back to the engineers to incorporate design changes to better accommodate the affected residents and businesses.

The revised plan will still include a traffic light and pedestrian crossing, but without any turn restrictions for residents coming into the intersection from Cavalier Trail. The Maple Avenue side will be re-aligned to allow for shorter pedestrian crossings.

The project is slated to go to VDOT at the end of this summer for review. They will conduct VDOT review and award contracts in the winter/summer of 2019. That would put construction around the summer of 2019.

South Washington Intermodal

This is the triangle with the Taxi company in the middle. The actual plans for this are on the Falls Church website. Currently conduits are being laid underground, hence the traffic disruptions. When that phase is complete, the utility companies can begin burying all the utility wires.

The current plan will change the configuration of the roads at this intersection. The design and VDOT review are expected by February, 2019 with award contract and completed construction by August, 2019.

The traffic lights on Route 29 along this corridor were recently retimed.

Greenway Downs Speaker Updates

Andrew Painter, Marshall St.

Andrew gave us additional information about some of the local projects Linda Smyth mentioned:

- 1) The Exxon Mobile site on Gallows was bought by Inova and will eventually become part of a healthplex.
- 2) The Graham Road Shopping Center has 2 sections. The first with the Giant will remain as is and the second part on the Furniture Store side is slated to become like a mini Mosaic district.
- 3) Fairview Park is aging and losing tenants. The redevelopment concept for this area will most likely be a Town Center with residential/retail.

Proposed Task Force to get the Fairfax County side of Route 29 fixed:

Andrew introduced Marybeth Connelly, Vice Mayor for Falls Church. She lives in the neighborhood across Route 29 that in times past was also Greenway Downs. Her neighborhood does not have Civic Association. Andrew and Mary Beth would like to begin a discussion about a citizen's task force that would include residents from both sides of Route 29.

The proposed joint task force would negotiate with VDOT about issues of mutual interest regarding the condition of Route 29 from Graham Rd. to Maple Avenue.

Lisa Welde, Summerfield Ave.

Lisa reported that Summerfield Ave. petitioned VDOT for traffic calming measures because of the volume and speed of traffic on the street.

VDOT will put a speed hump about 500 yards from the Route 29 intersection and another just over the top of the hill as you go down towards Chestnut.

Jennifer Rankin and Ashley Davis New co-chairs for the Greenway Downs Social Committee

The Social Committee will have its first planning meeting June 11th at Ashley's house on 2835 Cameron Road.

If you are interested in joining the committee, volunteering for a particular event, or have event suggestions please email either Jennifer at rankin.jennifer@gmail.com or Ashley at tistadt@yahoo.com.

The committee would like to continue the Downs traditions like the Block Party in September and the Caroling in December.

**Jeff Taylor,
Neighborhood Watch Program Coordinator**

Jeff Taylor has been the Greenway Downs Watch coordinator for the last three years. Jeff would like to step down this year so if you are interested in stepping up to the plate, or joining the program, contact Jeff at jeffreytaylor71@hotmail.com

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that involves neighbors working with police to keep the community safe. You do not have to be in the program to report to the police, but if you are on the list and the community is experiencing a particular problem area the coordinator can focus volunteers there.

The most common crime in Greenway Downs is theft from unlocked vehicles. Our neighborhood is not alone in this respect.

Jeff focused on three point of action:

- 1) call 911 if you see a crime in action
- 2) call Fairfax County Police non-emergency number 703-691-2131 to report suspicious behavior
- 3) Report broken streetlights to Virginia Dominion Power, 866-366-4357

Park and Creek

Q. What happened to the Basketball hoop in the park?

A. The Park Authority ordered a new one to replace the broken one and will install it as soon as it comes in.

Q. What about the tree blocking the creek at the bottom of Greenway and Custis?

A. This has been reported to the Parks and Mowing manager and she is checking to see if a job order had been issued to remove it. Sara Kelly is following up on this.

New Board of Directors Approved by Attendees

The last order of business was to thank the retiring Board Members for their dedication and service.

Retiring are Asha Beh, Todd Kamien, Kara Klousia, Lisa Welde and Kurt West.

Remaining are:

Jeff Evans (W. George Mason)
Dana Diaz (Greenway)
Kevin Swatt (Summerfield)
Jenny Girard (Lee Highway)

Incoming members were introduced:

Lisa French (Marshall)
Sara Kelly (W. George Mason)
Mary Anne Painter (Marshall)

Those attending the meeting seconded the motion and the new Board of Directors for 2018-2019 were approved.

Meeting Adjourned

(Minutes by Sara Kelly, May 15, 2018)