

4MRV Working Group Meeting
February 6, 2018
7 - 10:00 PM

Staff gave a presentation on an upcoming effort to evaluate and reset parking requirements near Jennie Dean Park. Staff also discussed planned improvements, timing and funding for the Shirlington Road Bridge.

A working group member stated that employees of some of the businesses located south of Four Mile Run Drive park in residential areas to the north and that some businesses that work on cars park them to the north as well.

A member expressed concern that metered parking could have an impact on families utilizing the AFAC Food Bank.

A member expressed that there is a problem with parking designated close to the dog park, it is currently used by employees from businesses and not dog park users. It is signed for limited 2-hour parking for dog park and Jennie Dean Park.

A member stated that we don't want to take away small business owners and family heads who need to park their business trucks overnight.

A member stated that big trucks have trouble parking on narrow streets. They are also concerned about changes to the intersection of Four Mile Run Drive and Walter Reed Drive. There should not be parking too close to Walter Reed Drive.

The chair questions the consistency of no parking at night. Also expressed the need to maximize number of spaces on Four Mile Run drive

A member stated that there are immediate solutions that could take place. Possibly change signs to no parking after 10:00 pm instead of no parking 7-9 pm. Those short term solutions have been mentioned before but need to be given a chance.

A member stated that they thought project was bigger than this, enlarging bridge would take away from park property. Shirlington residents are concerned about safety thought this would make it safer for pedestrians south of stream.

A member asked if is this a joint project with Alexandria? *[No. Not off ramp area. Arlington is focused on Western side of the bridge.]*

A member stated that there are lots of recommendations for increasing or changing signage, but signage is too high for pedestrians and bikers

A member stated that it is difficult to get people to back into parking spaces.

A member stated that often transportation conflict between cars and bikers makes bikes go somewhere they don't want to go. This seems to be example of that

A member stated that there should be more spaces closer to dog park shorter term, further away longer term, need enforcement. Entice people that work there to park further away.

A member stated that the AFAC has a regular delivery by tractor trailer trucks every day and they have a difficult time getting through intersections and turns.

A member questioned if angle parking how many additional spaces than the parallel spaces and it may not be worth the trade-off.

A member stated that bike trails moving crosswalk north further away less attractive, has the idea of an underpass been discarded under Shirlington Road Bridge, likes road diet for pedestrian crossings because there are many barriers existing and all need improvement. Also need more of this on Arlington mill road, possible signaling there. Parking has an unlimited demand for free parking and there is a need to create incentive for real market long term users to use garages. Possible solution is metering or parking garages. Parking is too easy and cheap. Road diet is good.

A member stated that South Arlington Mill drive is not in the project area. From analysis of parking garages, no one has incentive to renegotiate parking agreements.

A member stated that narrowing at neck where Shirlington Road turns to Four mile run drive is difficult for large trucks. May never agree with rear in parking.

A member stated that back in parking slows down traffic in busy times.

A member questioned where are the 250 parking spaces on the street. Says it is important to have accessible parking near Jennie Dean Park for parents with children.

Staff gave a presentation of the Draft Policy Framework.

A member pointed out that p. 41 and p. 43 describe county owned property differently.

A member questioned p. 41 Figure 29 and asked how does that further the goal of encouraging an arts district. It involves public and private ownership.

A member questioned the figures on Allie Freed Park on south side of stream one location for water access. Also the promenade idea on north side of stream.

A member stated that the vision is not cohesive, wishy washy, disjointed, not concise document with vision running through it. Also an assessment of state of buildings that data has been asked for but not provided and would like data on building status. Also stated that the Arts and Industries district is lip service, not part of vision or recommendations from committee and has lost flavor of original discussion. Also stated that Jennie Dean Park as regarded by the Nauck community is a non- starter. They unanimously voted will not support this configuration, how it turns its back to the neighborhood, hides playground, does not connect to rest of neighborhood

A member stated that no one will walk to Jennie Dean Park with this plan.

A member stated that the current location of performing arts 3700 needs expansion, and signature theater, less dedicated arts space which should be enhanced, walking into park playground in front

A member stated that the arts district is an idea but without real estate it does not work, signature should be easy, they are ready to invest to maintain performing arts 3700 and the County Manager recently emphasized this as not having black box elsewhere.

A member stated that Jennie Dean Park doesn't have a balance between casual and planned active sports yet, Policy Framework should acknowledge debate for use of county owned properties.

A member stated that this new discussion is based on preferences by staff and doesn't like that, in a different place than they thought they were

A member stated that county acquisition of properties devalues business that is there, several business owners have voiced opposition don't see that here. Parks plan if not accomplishable, change in position not in agreement from the County Board.

A member stated that the County Board didn't want to tear down buildings, move parkland boundary to exclude businesses. Including businesses in that (planning) area reduces value of business and affects leases. Please adjust parkland boundary.

A member stated that acquisition of property is needed for parks, and this is a good job on Jennie Dean Park. Also likes to minimize fencing to be used by neighbors, joint use facility on bus parking.

A member stated that 3806 is not old signature, it is still current and active so do not want it destroyed.

A member stated that they had submitted written comments requesting clearer language on community space, and the lack of discussion on electrical distribution poles, or short electrical lines,

A member stated that staff didn't always get balance of active and passive recreation. Also there is a disconnect between calling out arts area and tearing down buildings. The report is disjointed but can be better with editing

A member stated that maybe the working group should have had this first and this seems more staff driven than what the community wants

Chair summarized issues:

- Not talking about dog park
- Jennie Dean Park
- 2 block area
- Road diet
- Parking numbers

A member stated that they had 2 issues of disagreement, thinks group is split 80/20 and should maybe vote.

A member stated that the working group is advisory to staff and to the board, staff will have a report and impact to that, working group can write down dissenting views

Public comment

Frank McCreary – owner 3800 s. four mile run drive –

- staff report versus committee report,
- tearing down of buildings and replacement, if you want arts district need nucleus of arts, need to keep building,
- serves greater community international tenants
- if shown in park boundary affects property value by millions
- current ownership could complement arts district
- this property be shaded blue and be in B area
- ask for help from staff
- parking garage needed for Jennie Dean Park if it is to be active
- vote needed on everything to move forward what is support

Christine Ng – Shirlington resident – likes current design of Jennie Dean Park, as good as it can get from constraints, a lot of community members that use this area like to walk accessible to pedestrians

Adriane Entry – Nauck resident – baseball field blocks view of park, also noises are loud, configuration has to be reworked, arts district lack of performing arts space this is a jewel

Transportation plan disappointing – Four mile run 2 road area, more trees don't see anywhere in Arlington where the trees lived. Wants them to live, on North side of four mile run drive

sidewalk rethink how that fits together, arts district needs more creative thinking, is there a way to keep them and acquire open space not innovative, need more ideas, 51 pages needs to be streamlined to 20