

Report from Charrette Meeting #1

May 14, 2018

Walter Reed Community Center

The first Charrette meeting for reviewing and updating the Columbia Heights Civic Association (CHCA) Neighborhood Conservation Plan was held on Monday, May 14, 2018 at the Walter Reed Community Center on S. 16th Street and Walter Reed Drive.

Advertising for the meeting included flyers that advertised the meeting and the link to an RSVP form on the civic association web site. It also made a point to invite everyone who resides in the area, whether they were renters or owners, lived in a house or a high rise. It announced day care and pizza. The NCAC program printed 800 flyers, which we distributed door-to-door in the West end of the neighborhood. In addition, Ron Haddox made another 170 flyers that were distributed to the Commons of Arlington. In addition to the flyers, Arlington Village announced the meeting in its monthly newsletter and sent out two e-mail blasts to its members. CHCA also posted information about the meeting on its web site and sent several reminders to its list serve.

There were 33 preregistrations for this meeting, with eight children signed up for daycare. The weather was not auspicious for a community meeting, with a derecho-style thunderstorm coming in that had elicited community alerts. In spite of the bad weather, 28 neighbors came to the event, along with current members of the CHCA board (Sarah McKinley, Ron Haddox, Takis Karantonis, Josh Folb and Ed Miltenberger), three team members from the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee staff (Tim McIntosh, Katie Brown-Henry and Naudy Martinez) and two NCAC representatives from other civic associations who came to observe and help with the table-top exercise: Kathy Reeder from Glencarlyn and Eileen Janas from Arlington Heights Civic Association. In addition, Columbia Heights' representative in the House of Delegates Alfonso Lopez also came to give his support to the process.

Sarah McKinley and Josh Folb gave an overall presentation of the civic association, the NCAC process and some of the basic issues in the neighborhood. The group then engaged in three exercises:

- 1) Participants were seated 4-5 to a table and each table included a large map of the neighborhood with magic marker and were encouraged to mark any changes or areas of concern on the maps.
- 2) The main sections of the existing neighborhood conservation plan were posted on the walls around the room, listing the 65 recommendations that had been made in the first version. Participants were encouraged to add to the list on large pieces of paper.
- 3) Finally, participants were given colored adhesive dots to place on all the issues that they felt were important.

These exercises were designed to help neighbors identify infrastructure issues that needed to be addressed and to express their importance to give us a sense of the major concerns of the neighborhood. The following is a summary of the feedback we received from this meeting. First, we will list the issues for each topic in the report. The numbered items are carried over from the original report, followed by new items to be added. Asterisks (*) will indicate how many dots each item received.

Streets and Sidewalks

- 1) Install sidewalks where none now exist – DONE IN PART *****
- 2) Remove overhead utility poles in the middle of sidewalks and bury lines ***
- 3) Provide covered bus stops where practical, and provide trash removal *
- 4) Provide safe crossings at Walter Reed and the Community Center – DONE
- 5) Study pedestrian crossings on Columbia Pike and ensure safe crosswalks *****
- 6) Improve sidewalk pavement and remove seasonal debris
- 7) Widen walks to reflect pedestrian gateway; develop and enforce regulations for sidewalk activities, like cafes or art shows

Add traffic light at Cleveland Street and Columbia Pike *****

Traffic calming to cut down on cut-through traffic from Walter Reed people trying to avoid Columbia Pike & Walter Reed ***

Cut-through by Ride Aid *

Add stop sign by 16th & Barton

Stop signs – S. Edgewood and 11th and 13th Streets *****

Traffic calming on S. Cleveland **

Allow right turn on red at Walter Reed & Columbia Pike

Painted stop bars at all stop signs *

4-way stop at S. Edgewood & 11th Street with crosswalk markings ***

Consider making one-way streets on 12th & 13th Streets *

Request survey for traffic circles along S. Edgewood

Round-about Edgewood St. and 16th; Barton & 13th

Traffic

- 8) Traffic calming where appropriate **
- 9) Center/left turn lane for the entire Columbia Pike *
- 10) Slow speed on residential streets to allow for safe entry of nose-in parking and reduce speed where there are short sight distances or congestion *
- 11) Revise traffic plan around Walter Reed park to create safe pick-up and discharge points
- 12) Traffic calming strategies should be bicycle-friendly *****

- 13) Repave streets; identify streets that need repair and schedule work – DONE IN PART

Consider the effect of increasing numbers of students on current transportation options ****

Realize that Columbia Pike will still be used by bike commuters until a continuous ‘no turn’ alternative is built; more speed enforcement is necessary *
More frequent 45 and 77 buses **

Create through bike route on 11th/bike path to connect South of Columbia Pike **

Future planning/county comprehensive plan expect widening Columbia Pike for transit

Transportation

- 14) Extend Metrorail up the Pike (supported by 75% of residents – original survey)***
- 15) Frequent, faster bus service with shorter trip times and more convenient bus routes ***
- 16) Lower bus and rail fares and create easier access to bus schedules
- 17) List carpooling at apartments or in condo newsletters
- 18) Support street space that accommodates bicycles

Support of bicycle boulevards ***

Support of emergency access route under Rte. 395 – (handwritten note: Not our neighborhood not a priority)

Consider effect of increasing student numbers on parking options

Zone parking on Edgewood near Columbia Pike ****

Zone Parking on S. Cleveland, 11th Street S and 12th Street S. ****

Stop sign at Arlington Village Shopping Center parking lot onto S. Barton St. **

Parking

- 19) Support neighborhood parking permits ****
- 20) Require any new residential or high-rise developments for adequate underground or on-site parking for all new residents and guests ****
- 21) Improve parking and loading areas for businesses along Columbia Pike *
- 22) Upgrades in parking for Community Center to prevent evening “over-flow” parking on residential streets *
- 23) Mitigate parking concerns for new development *
- 24) Additional parking for bicycles (support guidance in the form-based code)
- 25) Creation of rear service entry for loading and unloading new commercial establishments *

Remove debris in stream behind Walter Reed Community Center to prevent standing water ***
Add street light on S. Edgewood between 12th and 13th Streets **
Restrict traffic at rush hour between Walter Reed & Cleveland on 12th & 13th Streets **
Add roundabouts where stops signs are (slows traffic, while keeping people moving) *

Public Safety

- 26) Support better street lighting ***
- 27) Support both active and passive street calming to reduce speeding ***
- 28) Fire inspections for all multi-family dwellings
- 29) Health and building code inspection of all single-family properties for properties that harbor rodents or collects water for mosquito breeding *
- 30) Support upgraded water and sewer management to reduce rodents **
- 31) Monitor streams and look for standing water to reduce mosquitos **
- 32) Deal with petty crime and vagrancy, particularly in Cleveland Park *****
- 33) Support an active, collaborative community-oriented police program
- 34) Support police and code officials to monitor current and proposed clubs/restaurants to discourage gangs, vagrants and noise issues

Connect “segmented” sidewalks ***

Bike Boulevard completion around Barkley condo along 12th to Scott Street and then 12th Street exit onto Army Navy Easement ***

Bike crossing from Towers Park to Rolfe Street

School bus accessible road Courthouse to 12th street exit on to Hoffman-Boston Elementary*****

Alternative bike boulevard path along 11th Street – connect to golf course area

Nature walk along the creek, through and around the Golf Course *

Parks and Recreation

- 35) Clean up Cleveland Park to revoke vagrants ***
- 36) Evaluate Towers Park and how that space may best serve residents in the Eastern portion of the neighborhood
- 37) Remove Walter Reed Community Center – DONE
- 38) Oversee new playground and landscaping at Walter Reed – DONE – Add slides or swings **
- 39) Assess trees and shrubs in Walter Reed for disease & infestation – DONE
- 40) New fencing at Walter Reed – DONE
- 41) County should “think outside the box” for new parkland

- 42) Acquire any abandoned or run-down property to be converted *
- 43) Site review processes must promote the preservation of open spaces
- 44) Work with condos to support green space
- 45) Assist the neighborhood with focused programs in the parks
- 46) Exhibit cases at Walter Reed for historic displays – DONE
- 47) Designate a staff member of Walter Reed to collect historic documents and mementos

Create new park on South Cleveland Street between 12th and 13th Streets
 Better trash collection around Ride Aid site, especially along S. Edgewood II
 Litter clean-up – organize community pick-up trash days. The areas around commercial sites are really bad ****
 Beautify the public library (inside lighten up interior “dingy”) **

Community Service

- 48) Improve trash collection
- 49) Inspect street signs, trees, fire hydrants, etc. and repair, replace or remove As appropriate

Developers should be responsible for streetscape improvements for major redevelopment ***

Developers need to provide adequate infrastructure when building, i.e. ample Parking for residents and customers (updated transportation plans) *

Requirement redevelopments to have green space *

Beautification

- 50) Bury overhead lines – DONE IN PART ***
- 51) Remedial action to “hide” electrical substation at Walter Reed & Columbia Pike – DONE
- 52) Landscaping between the Community Center and neighbors
- 53) New street lights – DONE IN PART
- 54) Remove inappropriate or badly damaged curbside trees and replace, if Requested – DONE
- 55) Flower beds and tree planting along Columbia Pike and Walter Reed – DONE *
- 56) Replace name signs and lights with historically appropriate, develop an Historic district sign for the area *
- 57) CHCA signs – DONE

Safe crossing on 12th across Walter Reed (especially considering ‘bike lane’ Across 12th) *****

Repair sidewalks damaged by roots, etc., especially on Cleveland between
 Columbia Pike and 11th, along SFH (?) side of Cleveland *****
 Add sidewalk on 16th across from Walter Reed Community Center *
 Align curb-cuts 13th & Edgewood ***
 Make pedestrian crossing signals at Columbia Pike change automatically with the
 Light *
 Add sidewalk to 13th Street (between Edgewood and Cleveland) and 12th Street
 Walter Reed Drive and Cleveland ***
 Need sidewalk on one side of every street **
 Need ramps on corner crossings at Columbia Pike & Walter Reed intersection **
 Pike at Cleveland pedestrian crossing ***
 Pike at S. Rolfe St – bicycle crossing *

Land Use and Zoning

- 58) Not exceed the existing population density
- 59) Any retail along Columbia Pike should take mitigative measures for rear lot noise, visual screening or congested traffic or parking noises
- 60) Preserve green space **
- 61) Adopt site review standards to minimize visual and sound impacts at the edges between residential and commercial areas

Clean up trash, landscaping & Rite Aid and in Farmers Market lot (along
 Edgewood & Walter Reed *****
 Continue to bury electrical/utility lines ***
 Street light on S. Edgewood between 12th & 13th Streets
 Protect mature trees ***
 New fence between 12th st and lot on 13th along Walter Reed

Columbia Pike Revitalization

- 62) Supports a Revitalization Plan that allows existing, historic businesses to remain in operation
- 63) Concerns about parking and traffic through side streets *
- 64) Add trash units to accommodate foot traffic **
- 65) Support of Metrorail to the Pike ****

New Park on Cleveland – houses need to come down ASAP, trees stay (save the
 Big tree) add playground *****
 Work with golf course toward SHARED access of grounds for neighborhood
 Residents; only green space in area of study*
 Extend Cleveland Park by purchasing two rental homes on 11th Street *****
 Support Career Center Working Group toward the addition of pool at new high

School and new library site on the pike ***
 Look into empty lot at corner of 13th street and Walter Reed for small park site **
 Clean up/family friendly Cleveland Street Park
 Green space on east side of neighborhood – 12th and S. Scott Scott, 12th and S. Cleveland
 Add a sports field for community use ***
 Level the Walter Reed Community Center green space to make useable for Sports, games, community blog, picnics, etc.
 Kid-sized blended lines (36' x 60') on community center tennis courts **

Connectivity

Create through-traffic for east and west sides of the neighborhood
 Create a 'bicycle' boulevard through the neighborhood that would allow bikes To bypass Columbia Pike, traveling from Walter Reed to Rte. 395 ***
 New pathways for cars and foot traffic to allow easy access to Hoffman-Boston Elementary School *
 An emergency access road with pedestrian path through the Army Navy Country Club to allow children and others to walk under Rte. 395, having Access to Gunston Middle School and other facilities **
 Note to this last: This will still not be accessible to Gunston by foot; not our Neighborhood, should not come out of our budget ****
 Better outreach to potential businesses that would benefit the neighborhoods (i.e, bakery, deli, ice cream shop, hardware store, playroom etc.)

 Parking for businesses *
 Incentivize businesses along Columbia Pike to do an exterior facelift *

Table Maps

The table maps also had information that would be useful to our report. These were numbered and gathered up after the meeting.

Map #1

- Indicated where crosswalks should align with sidewalk access in Arlington Village on Barton Street
- Noted trees that should be preserved between Cleveland and Barton between commercial sites and Arlington Village
- Suggested completing the sidewalk on 12th Street between Edgewood and Cleveland
- Noted the need for storm water improvements on Barton

- Noted the natural stream that runs behind Walter Reed Community Center through Arlington Village and beyond and the need to restore the natural channel
- Suggested a stop sign on 16th Street near Barton
- Suggested a sidewalk to 16th Street opposite the community center
- Suggested that every street should have a sidewalk on at least one side

Map #2

- Noted that any redevelopment of the commercial space near the Rappahanock coffee shop should have adequate parking
- Need for 4-way stop at Edgewood and 11th
- Make Cleveland Park child friendly
- Need to fix sidewalk near Cleveland Park on S. Cleveland St.
- Add Street light on S. Edgewood between 12th and 13th Streets
- Keep mature trees on potential new park on Cleveland between 12th and 13th
- Need for sidewalks on 13th St between Edgewood and Cleveland, with no loss of parking
- Remove debris from stream behind Walter Reed park to prevent standing water

Map #3

- Showed an extended 12th street from S. Courthouse to S. Scott, which should be accessible to buses and serve as a bike boulevard.
- Need for a stop sign exiting from the parking lot onto S. Barton behind commercial properties
- Need for a cross walk at 13th street and S. Cleveland
- Round-abouts at 13th and S. Barton and 16th St. & S. Edgewood
- Sidewalks needed on Cleveland Street and all down 13th Street
- Need for an update on the public library site
- Need for Bike crossing at S. Rolf Street and Columbia Pike

Map #4

- Need for crosswalks at the Pike and S. Edgewood and at S. Cleveland
- Possible cross-traffic using an extended 12th street from S. Barton all the way to S. Scott Street and then connecting S. Rolfe Street
- New park on Cleveland where the Willow Oak lives
- Stop signs on Edgewood and 12th and at 13th Streets.
- Note that we needed universally more sidewalks

Map #5

- Face lifts needed for commercial properties along Columbia Pike between Walter Reed and Cleveland, and on Walter Reed between the Pike and Patrick Henry School

- Street lights needed on Walter Reed at 12th Street
- Need to bury utility lines on Walter Reed between 12th and 13th Streets
- A new bike/pedestrian pathway following the stream behind Walter Reed, through and behind Arlington Village, then following behind high rises next to the country club all the way to the new roads being built on the east side.
- New bike paths between high rise buildings on the east side
- Potential green spaces on the east side—on the southeast side of S. Scott Streets; between high rises near Columbia Pike between Courthouse and Scott; a tri-corner area behind high rises off of 12th Street
- New fence between Walter Reed and properties near 12th Street
- Potential to level parking lot at Walter Reed for sports use

Map #6

- New traffic light on Columbia Pike at S. Cleveland

Map #7

- Extending existing Cleveland Park by incorporating two properties next to it
- Need for sidewalk on 11th Street
- Potential extension of 12th Street all the way to S. Cleveland
- Stop sign on S. Edgewood and 13th Street

The Next Steps in the Charrette

The CHCA will work to incorporate these suggestions into the materials for the next meeting of the Charrette, which will be organized on the east side of the neighborhood. Because a charrette is an iterative process, neighbors are welcome to attend all the meetings if they choose. They can also submit comments to these reports on our web site.