

Tara-Leeway Heights Civic Association
Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2008

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Lee Center, 2nd floor

Attendees:

- Bill Braswell
- Bridget Collins (honorary)
- Alyssa Cowden
- Paulette Cross
- Dru Fearing
- Roberta Fox
- Cindy Shea
- Dave Shepherd
- Pam Silberstein
- Ted Stump (President)

Topics: Board business and to discuss the schedule and topics for next year's TLH Board meetings.

Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) project at 15/I (Bridget Collins)

Bridget Collins spoke about the NCAC project at the corner of 15th St and Inglewood St: a traffic calming measure and sidewalk extension changes. Earlier this year the County Board approved a NCAC project which included sidewalks along 15th St. At the 50% design meeting some 15th St residents voiced opposition to the 15th St sidewalks. NC staff proposed that should 60% of the original affected area vote to not have sidewalks on 15th St. and such a change was approved by the civic association, the proposed 15th St sidewalks would not be constructed. Bridget Collins who is the block captain for this effort will administer the petition effort and bring the results to the civic association board. If 60% is not achieved, the project would proceed as approved by the County Board.

Big Walnut park project (Bill Braswell)

Bill reported on the outcome of the NCAC meeting held June 12, which was held to discuss and select projects to be funded by the county in this cycle. Only 13 projects were selected for funding in this cycle; the Big Walnut project was the next (14th) project scheduled for funding but alas came in above the \$3M ceiling the NCAC Executive Committee set for funding in this cycle. Dave Shepherd, who also attended the June 12 meeting, contributed that he felt that this meeting was little more than a formality to ratify the project prioritization previously proposed by the NCAC Executive Committee.

Bill also reported that Big Walnut is not likely to be funded for at least another year. Many new projects are on the docket to be funded next year, and the point system used to prioritize potential projects is changing, further lowering the likelihood that Big Walnut will be funded in the immediate future.

There are no actions the Board needs to take at this time.

Next year's Board meetings (Ted Stump)

The board will not meet during the summertime. Beginning with September and ending in April (no December meeting), meeting will be held on the 3rd Monday of the month. The Board will have an open-invitation annual meeting in May.

Possible guest speakers for next year's meetings:

New police officer for the neighborhood

Signage – road signs and election signs, e.g.

Lee Highway commercialization projects – Walter Tejada, Chair, Arlington County Board, has this as one of his 2008 initiatives

City manager Ron Carlee [sp?] to discuss civic association matters

Walter Reed school status update

Environment and recycling

Widening of Route 66 and impact on bike trails

Accessory Dwellings (Ted Stump)

Following the survey returned by approximately 60 TLH residents, a letter from TLH has been sent to the County Housing Commission stating objections to the construction of Accessory Dwellings. The Commission modified its standing on accessory dwellings significantly to accommodate the conditions we asked for. In July, the County Board will vote to approve or disapprove the Commission's findings.

The question before TLH is what we should do now. With one abstention/objection (from Bill Braswell, who voiced his impassioned objection that the County Board should vote now and approve the measure), the TLH board agrees to write a letter to the County asking that the decision be deferred until more information can be gathered. Many residents expressed worry over how rapidly the Accessory Dwellings issue has moved through the county system. Perhaps this decision is being made too hastily, before all angles and eventualities can be understood? Ted Stump agrees to compose the letter and send it to the TLH Board for its advice and consent.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35.