

APRIL 19, 2004, 7:30 P.M.
MEETING MINUTES
OF THE UPPER KING STREET
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Cameron Street Bulb-Out Project Update

Paul DeMaio, a Transit Specialist from the City of Alexandria discussed the status and design of the traffic calming measures (i.e., bulb outs) planned for Cameron Street. He said that bulb outs at four intersections along Cameron were planned (West St, Peyton (both on the North and South sides, school entrance, and Harvard Street). The school crosswalk will have white reflective paint in a ladder pattern while the other cross walks will be made of a “brick patterned” asphalt. At the Peyton St./Cameron intersection on the North side there will be a 40 by 6 foot grassy area that Jeff Houston School will maintain. Construction will begin late June.

Residents raised concerns about the ability of the school to maintain the grassy area. Also, several residents raised the need for a stop sign at the corner of Peyton and Cameron Streets. Mr. DeMaio reported that the City of Alexandria follows national guidelines for placement of stop signs and other traffic signals. He reported that given the fact that Cameron St. is one and Peyton is perpendicular to that, these guidelines do not recommend a stop sign in that instance. Several residents also raised the need for another crosswalk or traffic calming device West of the school’s entrance along Cameron Street. Mr. DeMaio explained that the traffic calming program for Cameron St. was designed for the school, but that residents could apply through Alexandria’s traffic calming program for additional measures. For more information on application process and petition see alextrafficalming.org. Also, contact paul.demaio@ci.alexandria.va.us (703) 519-3400ext. 217 or Bob Garback, Traffic Division Chief, (703) 838-4411.

Mirant Power Plant

Roger Waud representing NOTICE (the civic association surrounding the Mirant Power plant) discussed how the plan negatively impacts the health of Alexandria residents and urged UKSNA members to sign a petition (so far they have over 300 signatures) expressing concern about the plant’s impact on the environment and resident’s health. Below is a summary of some of Mr.Waud’s main points, for more information contact Roger Waud 703-838-7603 or rwaud@vt.edu.

Mirant Plant, built in 1949, is not required to meet the Clean Air Act standards. During the last ozone season (May-Sept) Mirant has exceeded its air permit by over 1,000 tons of nitrous oxide since May 2003, which is more than double the amount allowed during the ozone season. However, Mirant is eligible, under its existing permit, to buy excess credits from clean plants, allowing it to exceed its permit amount. The VA Department of Environmental Quality is trying to amend Mirant’s permit to prevent it from buying excess credits. However, the matter is currently in litigation.

Local Business Rep- Gloria Blalock discussed plans for opening a new furniture store located on 1212 King Street (formerly Temple Shoes). The store will cater to local residents and will have a garden section. Grand opening is planned for May 8.

UKSNA Website – Residents briefly discussed the idea of having a website for UKSNA. Most of the conversation focused on cost (\$8-15 per month, design – pro-bono?). Given the interest and outstanding questions, we will explore this issue further at the next meeting.

Harris Teeter – decided to pull out of its proposed development due to opposition received from residents.

Planter Project Update – A sample planter was brought to the meeting and participants talked about plans to plant, place and maintain the planters. There will be a total of 6 planters at a total cost of \$200 each. Planting and placement will likely occur the weekend of May 23; however this will be discussed more thoroughly at the next UKSNA meeting. In the meantime, volunteers to maintain the planters are being sought.

National Night Out – will take place in August 3, 2004. UKSNA may provide some funding perhaps to rent a moon bounce and bubble machine for children.
<http://www.nationaltownwatch.org/nno/>

Morris Katz Site – (S. Peyton and Prince) will be temporarily converted into an office for a design firm.