

Upper King Street Neighborhood Association
June Monthly Meeting
June 20, 2005

Presentations:

- 1. Reducing Speed On Cameron Street:** Richard J. Baier, Director of the City's Transportation and Environmental Services (TE&S), discussed the City's recommendations to slow traffic speed on Cameron through the installation of a stop sign at Peyton and Cameron and additional traffic calming measures like speed tables along Cameron. This was the second presentation by the City to UKSNA (see May 2005 meeting minutes). At the May 2005 meeting, residents voted, by a 9 to 1 margin, to endorse the City's proposed traffic calming measures and authorize the UKSNA Executive Committee to write a letter of support to the City and to the Traffic and Parking Board which was scheduled to discuss the issue on May 23. Following the May UKSNA meeting, at least one Executive Board member requested that a letter of support from UKSNA not be sent at that time and additional time be granted to provide more information to residents. The issue has been moved to the June 27 Board meeting.

Mr. Baier explained that the City believes that the recently installed bulb outs had been successful in increasing pedestrian safety, but the City recognized that speed levels have not been reduced as a result. He explained that the City considers the following options to slow down traffic, in general: stop signs, signals, police enforcement, and permanent speed markers. Mr. Baier estimated that over the next 10 years, the traffic volume will increase dramatically on Cameron Street – going from 4,500 vehicles per day to 8,000. He also explained that the City is trying to make Alexandria streets more friendly to a variety of users, including pedestrians. He recommended that the stop sign at Cameron and N. Peyton and a speed cushion located by the fire hydrant before Harvard street would be appropriate measures to slow speed on Cameron. Additionally, he said, that following the termination of construction at the west end of Cameron, the City would consider additional traffic calming measures, if necessary.

Residents raised the following issues: 1) two stop signs instead of one – Mr. Baier said that technically one stop sign isn't warranted and 2 would be indefensible in court, 2) the impact of speed cushions on parking – Mr. Baier reported that there would be no loss of parking, 3) the impact of a stop sign on traffic metering, Mr. Baier said that traffic would be metered more, 4) request was made for additional measures further down the street – Mr. Baier said that additional measures would be considered once construction is completed. The construction will include the widening of sidewalks and the narrowing of the street which will in turn have an impact on reducing speeds, 5) alternative traffic calming measures such as fluorescent paint or other impediments should also be considered – Mr. Baier said that flashing lights will be installed at several of the

Alexandria schools including Jeff Houston in the near future. Additionally, the City is considering and has the authority to lower speed limits from 25 to 15 in school zones. The City is considering this option for Jeff Houston. 6) A stop sign should be contemplated for Payne and Cameron – Mr. Baier said that currently consideration is being given for the portion of Cameron that runs in front of the school, 7) additional signage is necessary to indicate that Cameron is a one-way street, Mr. Baier said the City is willing to consider this, 8) the City should consider adding signage with fines for speeding – Mr. Baier said the City would consider. 9) signs should be placed in the middle of the roadway – Mr. Baier said that signage in the middle of roadways has proved problematic and is impossible to maintain.

President Hanbury called for a motion, which was seconded, to vote on a series of resolutions concerning this issue. Resolution 1) UKSNA recognizes that speeding is a problem on Cameron St. – all ayes, 2) the City must take action to address the problem – all ayes, 3) the City must also consider traffic calming measures for further west on Cameron (ie Buchanan) – all ayes, 4) UKSNA will support the City's proposal to install a stop sign at N. Peyton and Cameron and a speed table east of Harvard on Cameron – 21 ayes and 10 nays. All resolutions adopted and a letter of support would be drafted on behalf of all UKSNA residents to the City and Traffic Board in support of all four resolutions.

Old Town Business Improvement District (BID): Lois Walker, President of the King Street Enterprise Team, spoke to UKSNA residents about a proposal to create an Old Town Business Improvement District (or BID) to help improve the business district in Old Town. The BID would include businesses located on King Street and one block on either side of the street from the metro to the Potomac and two blocks on either side of King Street at Washington Street. The BID would raise revenue from business to make the business district more attractive and to implement some of the recommendations in the King Street Retail Strategy. Ms. Walker outlined the benefits of the BID which include: increased cleanliness and security, parking management, extended shop hours, and no cost to residents. Revenue would be derived from a tax assessment on commercial properties. Ms. Walker asked for an UKSNA representative to attend weekly meetings which take place on Tuesdays from 2-4pm.

Carr Homes Development on Cameron and Henry Streets: Steve Ness, Carr Homes, updated UKSNA residents on the construction of the Cameron/Henry development of 64 condominium units. Mr. Ness stated that demolition has been completed and the time table for construction is as follows: August – formal site approval, September/October – excavation of garage, Winter 2005/Spring 2006/ - construction. Any problems should be addressed to Trey Hanbury who can contact the builder.

2. National Nite Out – August 2

3. Supper Under the Stars – June 29
4. Treasurer reported that UKSNA currently has 45 members
5. King Street Garden Park Foundation has been officially formed and it's looking for an UKSNA representative.

Attendees:

1. Trey Hanbury trey.hanbury@gmail.com
2. Alysia Wilson Alysia_Wilson@ita.doc.gov
3. Mark Higgins Mark_Higgins@verizon.net
4. Bob Lennox lennoxcg@netscape.net
5. Peter Spencer
6. Ashley Spencer
7. Jim Melton
8. Helen Morris helenm@speakeasy.net
9. Suzanna Kang
10. Carolyn Caldwell ccaldw530@aol.com
11. Sharon Crowell bwcrowell@comcast.net
12. Bea Porter bporter@cesengineers.com
13. Mary Longacrea
14. Sara Donahue scdonahue@comcast.net
15. Mary Gregerson
16. Erick Francis rolltide12@verizon.net
17. Alnoor Ebrohim
18. Jay Coulby
19. Pam Frost
20. Joyce Rawlings
21. Donna Scwartz
22. Marci Cornell
23. Veronica McCarthy
24. Paul Will
25. Barbara Will
26. Gerald Orlikowski
27. Barbara Harris
28. Mary Jetton
29. Peter Perrington
30. Chris Gregerson