

Beacon Hill Advisory Committee

6th Meeting

April 2, 2021

Roll Call taken by Christine Morin

1. Meeting minutes accepted as approved by Committee
 - a. Josh Delmonico introduced as a new Committee Member – President of the Spring Bank Community Association
2. Video Tour of Progress Place was presented
 - a. Silver Spring, Maryland
3. Video Tour of Station at Potomac Yards was presented
 - a. Lessons learned – Pavers don't allow snow plowing in the winter.
 - i. Coming out of the fire station, you must turn left or right. No straight access, so they struggle getting some of the longer apparatuses out of the building.
4. Community Meetings/Communications Approach
 - a. When the County purchased the site, it was specifically for the Fire Station. However, the County has increasingly been trying to co-locate sites to save money and pair services to provide better responses to community members.
 - b. Community meetings set for April 24 and April 26, 2021
 - c. Posting a sign board on the site that can be updated with information regularly
 - i. May/June meetings – we'll be discussing concepts
 1. Comments from Josh – may be helpful to clearly present what is open for discussion and what is settled
 2. Do people need to register to speak at the community meeting?

- Question: At what point do we discuss what services we want at this site?

Answer: Without this background of what a site could potentially look like, it is difficult to ask the committee to come up with what we want at this site. These tours are to make us more informed decision makers.

- In terms of people who stay at the shelter – Tom Barnett

Answer: It is intended for households with adults only. No children.

- Question/Comment: With the new model of emergency shelters, people have much less of a reason to loiter outside a shelter. There are activities and services provided within the shelter that discourage hanging out outside.
- Question: What is the plan to prevent people from panhandling and loitering outside of the building?

Answer: The shelter staff does outreach. Staff goes out and find folks who are not in the shelter and try to convince them to get services and shelter at the site. Also, the police are an option if individuals are breaking the law within the community. It relies on collaboration between homeless services, law enforcement, and neighborhoods within the community.

- Question – Can we have someone on County staff come to our community CA meeting?

Answer: Absolutely. Supervisor Storck would be happy to attend a meeting in the future.

- Question – House is outside a ¼ mile area – would you be able to expand the postcard sending radius?

Answer: We are also looking to use Nextdoor and social media sites. The flyers will not be the only form of invitation.

- Question – Schools – are we in touch with West Potomac and every other school in the area?

Answer: Yes, the school system is aware of this project. However, we are still in the early stages. We will be getting to them soon.

- Question: I want to hear what the safety issues are planning to be. I hear that we are not going to enforce basic safety issues unless they pose environmental issues. A lot of the folks at the Kennedy shelter have mental issues, substance abuse challenges, etc. I'd like a representative from the Police at the next meeting, if possible.

Answer: There will be a person from the Police at the community meetings.

Next meeting – Friday, May 7th. Same time – 9:30 am to 11 am.