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Redevelopment Board Minutes 04/19/2005

Arlington Redevelopment Board
Minutes of April 19, 2005

Members Present: Ed Tsoi
Barry Faulkner
Lynne Lowenstein
Roly Chaput

Also Attending: Joey Gushko, Planner

The Arlington Redevelopment Board convened at 8 AM in the 2nd floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex on Tuesday, April 19, 2005; present were Ed Tsoi, Barry Faulkner, Roly Chaput, Lynne Lowenstein, John Maher, Jake Upton, Lee Ellis, and John Cole. Joey Gushko represented Kevin O'Brien.

The Board discussed the access agreement that would allow Symmes Redevelopment Associates (SRA) access to a portion of the Symmes site to perform abatement work on the former nurses residence building. The neighborhood has expressed some concern over tree trimming at the site. Ed Tsoi reflected Board comments on understanding the removal of smaller trees and opportunistic growth as well as removal of brush so that work could be done to stabilize the building and be able to show it better. Consensus was that removal of trees less than 4" in diameter and the brush was acceptable; four, yellow-tagged, larger desirable tree specimens should be kept if possible, or their removal at least delayed until it was certain that they would have to be removed. Jake Upton (SRA) spoke of the need to clear areas for placement of dumpsters to proceed with removal of both internal and external construction debris. If unable to place the dumpsters, SRA would delay this work; there was a sense that this work would be delayed until some further exchange with the SNAC would occur.

Out of the discussion emerged the issue of responsiveness to the Neighborhood Protection Plan from both the SRA, as well as the neighborhood. SRA commented that they had tried to meet with SNAC prior to any tree and brush removal, but such a meeting was not available until the week of 4/25. Lynne Lowenstein highlighted this "holdup" as an issue that should be addressed promptly - in a manner that keeps the neighborhood aware of activities related to work going on, but does not impede the timely activity of the developer. It was felt that this should be addressed at the next ARB meeting.

John Cole presented color samples for the exterior of the development at 264 Mass. Ave. ARB members were asked to review the sample colors on site, over the past few days. After brief discussion, Barry Faulkner moved for approval of the colors; Roly Chaput seconded the motion; the motion passed, 3-0; Lynne Lowenstein abstained.

The meeting adjourned promptly at 8:30 AM.
Respectfully submitted,
Kevin O'Brien