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Redevelopment Board Minutes 01-31-2000

Arlington Redevelopment Board Meeting
January 31, 2000

Present: John FitzMaurice
Barry Faulkner
Nora Mann
Ed Tsoi
Roland Chaput

Others Present: Kevin O'Brien, Asst. Dir. of Planning & Comm. Dev.
Alan McClennen, Jr., unable to attend because he was
asked to appear at Selectmen's meeting which was
occurring at the same time

John FitzMaurice called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. He introduced Charles Kalaskas of the BSC Group to report on traffic conditions on Mass. Ave., Pleasant St., Mystic St. intersection and also in the neighborhood area bounded by Mass. Ave., Mystic St., Summer St., and Court St. Mr. Kalaskas first projected a computer simulation of traffic conditions under the existing system and in three alternative systems designed to make improvements.

After discussion of the major intersection, there was discussion of the problems and solutions for traffic in the neighborhood.

John FitzMaurice encouraged the audience to suggest solutions. Two persons presented written suggestions. The following suggestions were offered for consideration.

- improve sidewalks on Water St., Court St., and Russell Terrace.
- post 20 MPH limit on Russell St.
- place 3-way stop sign at Russell Terrace and Russell St.
- place speed bumps on Russell Ter.
- place stop signs at Russell Terrace and Winslow St.
- place stop signs on Water St. at bikeway.
- raise pavement on Water St. at bikeway.
- make pedestrian opening in bikeway railing at end of Russell Ter.
- place pedestrian activated stop light on Mass. Ave. at Water St. (west side).
- make Water St. one way towards Court St. Place from Mass. Ave. to Court St. Place.
- place bump-outs on Mass. Ave. at Water St.
- place bump outs on Water St. at bikeway.
- make Court St. one way going towards Mass. Ave.
- move post office boxes off of Court St. (perhaps to Mass. Ave.)
- consider traffic calming measures on Russell St.
- post children playing signs throughout neighborhood.
- improve (create) sidewalks on Winslow St.
- redesign and define intersection at Russell Terrace and Winslow St.
- prevent Mirak Building vehicles from exiting onto Prescott St.
- prevent right turns onto Russell St. from Mystic St. during certain hours.
- install bump-outs on Water St. at Court St. Place.

Nora Mann cautioned the public in attendance that the Board has no control over traffic system improvements, parking or signage, but can only make recommendations to the Selectmen.

After much discussion, Ed Tsoi stated that he thought the experience of the neighborhood, the skill of the consultant, and the work of the Arlington Redevelopment Board have brought us 90% of the way to finding a solution. He suggested the following priorities among all the suggestions.

1. Improve the traffic flow at the Mass. Ave. intersection.
2. Maintain pedestrian safety at the Mass. Ave. intersection (exclusive pedestrian phase).
3. Look at neighborhood suggestions and do all that are reasonable.

Charles Kalaskas gave a brief reaction to some of the suggestions explaining which were governed by regulation and not able to be done without meeting certain requirements.

John FitzMaurice asked BSC to take all the suggestions and bring back a recommended plan to be discussed by the Board at its meeting of February 14.

Ed Tsoi asked that a landscape architect be involved in any roadway reconfiguration to assure that they were done in a pleasing manner.

Susan McCabe, 22 Russell Street, offered to act as contact with the Russell Street, Water St. neighborhood.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan McClennen, Jr.