

DRAFT

Route 9 Monitoring Committee Meeting Minutes

11/20/2018

An audio recording of this meeting is available at <http://www.wilmapco.org/route9/>.

Attendees

- Frank Cooke, Representative-elect
- Carlos Dipres, First State Community Action Agency
- Mike Hahn, DelDOT Planning
- Lee Jarmon, Overview Gardens/Garfield Park Civic Association
- Randi Novakoff, WILMAPCO
- Steve Ottinger, DTC
- Sandra Smithers, New Castle Prevention Coalition
- Jaywonn Saunders, Simonds Gardens Civic Association
- Jeanette Swain, Collins Park Civic Association
- Bill Swiatek, WILMAPCO
- Jake Thompson, WILMAPCO

Minutes

- **[0:00:40 in recording] Previous Meeting Notes:** The committee reviewed the previous meeting minutes.
 - Mike Hahn made a clarification on page 4 of the meeting packet regarding the statement about the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). He said that if anyone asks for any information and makes a FOIA request, then DelDOT immediately has to provide that information.
 - Bill Swiatek said that Dr. Perez made a correction on page 5 of the meeting packet. His correction is shown on that page.
 - Randi Novakoff suggested including the agenda item in each bullet.
 - Jeanette Swain corrected that she is from Collins Park, not Rose Hill.
- **[0:03:15 in recording] Review of Mission and Vision Statements:** Bill Swiatek reviewed the mission and vision statements. There was no discussion.
- **[0:04:10 in recording] Outreach and Collaboration Discussion:** Bill Swiatek went over page 7 in the meeting packet. He discussed the differences between the concepts of cooperation, coordination, and collaboration in group dynamics. He shared a concern about some comments James Parker made during the all civics meeting. He said that James Parker was critical of the Master Plan, including the public process it underwent to develop recommendations. He said this weakens the integrity of our Monitoring Committee publicly, and that everyone should be on the same team and moving in the same direction. That's what the mission and vision statements are all about, and keeping to them.

- Jaywonn Saunders said that he knows James Parker, and he said that he knows that he has a grasp of what we are doing here, but he is very defensive of the community.
- Bill Swiatek said that James Parker said after the meeting not to take what he said seriously, and that he is still on board.
- Lee Jarmon said that sometimes people make inappropriate comments during meetings, and sometimes people sitting around the table do not correct them. He said that it is important to make corrections, in a kind way, if someone does go astray, as he did at the All Civics meeting
- Randi Novakoff asked if it would be worth meeting with him separately to try to address his concerns personally.
- Bill Swiatek said that is a good idea and asked if someone would be willing to meet with him.
- Lee Jarmon said that we have to maintain order and control. If someone says something inappropriate or wrong, we as a community need to address it. Lee suggested it may be better that the civic leaders handle this concern internally.
- Carlos Dipres said that the consistence of people coming to these meetings is important. If someone misses a meeting, they may fall behind on our discussions.
- Lee Jarmon said that it is a good thing that everything is documented and transparent.
- Sandra Smithers said that it is best to be as transparent as possible and refer back to the minutes if needed.
- Carlos Dipres suggested giving out the Monitoring Committee meeting packets at civic association meetings.
- Jaywonn Saunders said he thinks that James Parker's main concern is about how the plans are going to affect the community, and we all have that same concern.
- Sandra Smithers said that we all have to learn to see the bigger picture rather than little things. She said it takes a while to educate everyone and get everyone on the same page. There will always be someone with a different perspective.
- Lee Jarmon said that for the Master Plan for Concord Pike, they are talking about the same kind of things, yet there people are also resisting change.
- Sandra Smithers said that it is human nature to resist change, and we have to factor that into everything we do. We need to be transparent so that anyone who asks a question will be able to have that question addressed.
- Bill Swiatek said that it shows that we still need to do more work with outreach. A lot of people still don't know what the plan is. Having a simple video to explain it would be helpful.
- Lee Jarmon said that he got a call from a woman from the community who said that she wouldn't be able to get out of her driveway if the Memorial Drive road diet is implemented. He spoke to her for a while and she softened her stance.
- Carlos Dipres said that it is difficult to reach everyone because people have different schedules, different mindsets, and different ideas about what has to be done.
- Sandra Smithers said that 50% of this community is 55 years of age or older, and they do not have access to the internet. That makes it harder to reach that demographic.
- Carlos Dipres suggested stationing people at each entrance of Dunleith to try to give flyers to people as they drive in.
- Bill Swiatek suggested to Randi Novakoff that she send out an email to try to arrange another meeting of the outreach subcommittee.
- Sandra Smithers said it might be more cost effective to print out large signs and post them at entrances to the neighborhoods.

- Bill Swiatek said he still thinks a video would be a good idea. He said that even though there is a high senior population, their grandkids could play the video for them or they could be brought to a meeting space to watch the video.
- Bill Swiatek said that we will keep this as an open discussion, and we need to do more outreach on this plan.
- **[0:31:25 in recording] Memorial Drive Open House Discussion:** Bill Swiatek began a discussion about the Memorial Drive Road Diet Open House. He said, from his perspective, that there was a lot of opposition from the group of people who attended who live along Memorial Drive. There were concerns about maintaining flow, whether a bike lane is needed, gentrification, and getting out of driveways. For people who did not live on Memorial Drive, responses were mixed. They agreed it would cut down on crashes, improve traffic flow, and make it safer to bike and cross the street. He said that we should have done a better job explaining how the traffic flow will work without one of the lanes. It was simply stated that it would work, but not really explained in a simple way (through animation perhaps) as the monitoring committee had suggested. He said we also need to do a better job explaining where the concept came from – how Memorial Drive is a wall that separates neighborhoods and that kids need a safe way to cross. About half of the people who were against the project were resolute and refused to engage in conversations with staff.
 - Lee Jarmon said that more than one person called him the next day. He heard from one vocal attendee who wouldn't let him get off the phone. He explained to her the advantages of the plan. After about 20 minutes, she understood and said that she was glad she had a chance to talk. He said another woman had a concern about getting out of her driveway. He said that others were concerned about crossing Memorial Drive at the north end near the Wawa. He said some kids ride bicycles on Karlyn Drive.
 - Jaywonn Saunders said he guarantees that if that bike lane is built, a lot more people will be biking.
 - Lee Jarmon said that when he was at the meeting at the PAL Center, one attendee said he understood the value of biking and walking. The person said that people aren't walking because they are scared of getting run over. Lee Jarmon said that with the buffer and the bike lane, it will make it safer to bike and encourage more people to bike.
 - Bill Swiatek said that even if people don't bike, just the fact that the bike lane is there makes the road safer.
 - Sandra Smithers said that people are not imaginative, so pictures are not enough to paint a picture. She said that if you can show an animation, that usually has a far better impact.
 - Lee Jarmon said he had to explain to people that people won't be allowed to park in the bike lane.
 - Sandra Smithers said that the culture is to park everywhere even if it is illegal.
 - Jeanette Swain asked what time of day the work will take place.
 - Mike Hahn said that he does not know that. He said DelDOT will need to set times, and we will have to follow the local ordinances.
 - Carlos Dipres said he didn't know that the new project will have 4 lanes at the beginning and also at the end by Wawa. He took the time to speak with a DelDOT engineer and now understands the project better, and supports it.
 - Mike Hahn said that there will still be turn lanes at the major intersections at each end.
 - Sandra Smithers said that another question that came up was where this has been done with the same volume of traffic.
 - Mike Hahn said Philadelphia Pike.

- Steve Ottinger said Union Street.
 - Bill Swiatek said that he brought a report showing before and after on Union Street. Speeds dropped by 5 miles per hour, and crashes dropped by 30%.
- Jeanette Swain said that she thinks it will take a while for people to get used to it, but after they do, they will like it.
- Bill Swiatek said that there were concerns about why we are doing the project here when there are problems on Route 9 and elsewhere in the neighborhood. He explained that this is something that can be done sooner, and paint is relatively cheap.
- Sandra Smithers said that people don't understand how government works. People think there's just one pot of money that you pay into and everything comes out of that. It doesn't work like that.
- Frank Cooke joined the meeting and asked what the solution is about getting the information out to people in the Route 9 corridor area.
 - Sandra Smithers said that the committee discussed some solutions, such as large signs at entrances to communities. She said people may not pay attention to a flyer, but if people see a poster they will remember it.
 - Frank Cooke said that leaders of the community are tired and burnt out. He said that we need to try to establish block captains. They can make sure each person on that block knows what is going on. He said that people often complain at meetings, but that has to stop. He said that people only come out to something if it affects them.
- Frank Cooke said that Lee Jarmon knows what the Overview Gardens/Garfield Park community wants. He asked Lee Jarmon if he supports the Memorial Drive project.
 - Lee Jarmon said that he supports the Memorial Drive project.
- Mike Hahn said that the next step is DeIDOT is reviewing the comments and will be moving forward with the plan. He said that DeIDOT will need to provide a better visualization of what the road diet will look like. He said that it is a small improvement, we have greater things to work on, but it is a step in the right direction.
- Sandra Smithers asked if anyone has heard about a Burger King that will be built near the stadium.
 - Steve Ottinger said that there will be a Royal Farms, a bank, and a Burger King going in at the peninsula between Market and Walnut, south of the ShopRite.
- Sandra Smithers asked what the first step is if an entity wants to come into the community.
 - Frank Cooke said that they go to zoning to see what it is, then they ask for a variance if the zoning is not right for what they want to build. Once it is approved by the council, it is a go.
 - Carlos Dipres said that between planning and zoning there has to be a public hearing. Bill Swiatek said that is not the case for everything.
 - Sandra Smithers said that as a community we need to know at what point we need to inject ourselves and be at the meetings.
 - Bill Swiatek said that if the hometown overlay is in, that will put you as part of the process.
 - Sandra Smithers said that a CBA coalition is forming now. That will provide a mechanism if there is no hometown overlay.
- Mike Hahn said that as information comes within DeIDOT, the monitoring committee will be updated.
- Carlos Dipres asked if it is possible to have the same display that was at the workshop at the civic association meetings. At the next civic meeting, we could invite them to the

next monitoring committee meeting where they could share any concerns they might have.

- Sandra Smithers said that we should see if an animation can be developed.
 - Carlos Dipres said that he would like to see the community keep talking about the vision.
 - Bill Swiatek said that it would be good if a representative from each civic association could become a part of the monitoring committee.
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- **[1:02:55 in recording] Brief Updates:** Bill Swiatek shared some brief updates. He said that the on-the-job training work is still on the desk of Marcus Henry at Community Services to fund the project Ky Robinson had come up with. Jea Street also said he would contribute what he could to it. The county has to figure out which direction they want to go with that.
 - Sandra Smithers said that the community services subcommittee of the New Castle County Council will be meeting, and that might be a good time to find out more about this.
 - Regarding the hometown overlay, Sandra Smithers said it might be worthwhile to see what is happening with the community benefits agreement coalition. If that works, it might not be necessary to have a hometown overlay. That meeting is happening next week, and it seems to be moving along. Ms. Swain offered her support of this initiative and Ms. Smithers accepted.
 - Bill Swiatek said that the County gave a presentation to the Eden Park/Hamilton Park community about the survey results. There was representation from about half of those communities in the final survey. There should be an update at a future meeting.
 - He said he has been in contact with Tamarra Morris and New Castle County Land Use. Both do want to come and talk about how they want to incorporate the recommendations from the Master Plan and economic development initiatives – perhaps in January.
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- The next Monitoring Committee meeting will be held on January 15, 2019 at 4:30 pm in the Scriptorium of the Route 9 Library.