

Updates on various projects – July 6, 2016

Johns Nevins Andrews: The building will be occupied as JNA until June 2017, when the school function will move and become part of the Takoma Academy Preparatory School at the Sligo Adventist School site on Carroll Avenue near University Boulevard. The Potomac Conference is still determining how it will move forward with disposition of the property.

Washington-McLaughlin school property: Outstanding property taxes are now approximately \$275,000. The County did not put it up for tax sale in June as it had been told that HUD would be paying the back taxes. That did not occur. The City Attorney's office, City staff and County staff will be discussing options for seeing that the outstanding taxes are paid so that we do not need to wait until June 2017 for the next tax sale.

City's property next to Washington-McLaughlin school property: City owns the property. The property remains subject to foreclosure action by Fairview Investment Fund (along with the school property) for outstanding liens related to a mortgage on the school property, but there has been no communication since January 2016. Some residents have advocated for renaming the property "Dorothy's woods." No plans have been developed for use of the property – whether kept as undeveloped land, partially developed recreational use, or other partial development. This matter will eventually need to come before the Council. In the meantime, the efforts of residents in removing invasives has been wonderful!

New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center studies: No special steps have been taken recently about the property, but staff will be meeting about it beginning in early August. MNCPPC staff continues to want to exchange the property for some City-owned land near Public Works, adjacent to MNCPPC-owned land. One issue is the extent to which the City will commit to provide recreation services to residents on the east side of the City.

Purple Line and Takoma Langley Transit Center: Construction of the Purple Line is to begin in late 2016, with service scheduled to start along the full length of the line in spring of 2022. Some ceremonial kick-off activities are expected, but we don't know the specifics of them yet. In the meantime, construction on the Takoma Langley (bus) Transit Center is essentially done and is being inspected by WMATA, which will run the facility. Operations are anticipated to start in September. Again, we are making inquiries about opening ceremonies, but do not have information to date.

Bus Rapid Transit: Montgomery County is trying to pursue bus rapid transit and wishes to see Route 29 to White Oak be the first line. Work on planning for the New Hampshire Avenue Bus Rapid Transit was pushed back by the County, despite the City expressing strong interest in moving the project along. The New Hampshire Avenue line is more complicated because it would go in and out of Montgomery County and Prince George's County, so Montgomery County doesn't want to take the lead, especially if that would slow the Route 29 project.