



NorthEast Civic Association

Meeting: Wednesday, 21 Feb '01

*Monroe Street Bridge Modifications
Mason Hall & Parking
And More....*

The NorthEast Civic Association will meet at:
Charles Houston Recreation Center 901 Wythe St.
- 7:30 PM Wednesday, February 21st, 2001 -

Old Colony:

Old business / updates

The proposed concept plan to redevelop the southern half of the Old Colony complex with 60 unit condos is being redesigned, again. There are two main features to this tweaking.

1. City staff insists on replacing the pool with more townhouses.
2. Washington Street Standards: The building design does not meet Washington Street Standards. These standards require architectural design elements to be consistent with historically significant buildings on Washington Street. Having fought hard for the new Washington Street Standards, we encourage the developers to bring the design into conformity. This should not be difficult. Conformity is important because this project will set precedence for future developments on the George Washington Memorial Parkway. This project is a low-density development but future developments on Washington Street will include higher density office spaces. Maintaining the historic integrity of the George Washington Memorial Parkway should not be sacrificed.

Neighborhood Watch/Police liaison:

Officer Carol Duncan will be available to answer questions about relevant concerns and will report on our last community walk. See our web site for more information.

Monroe Avenue Bridge:

Rich Baier, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services, will present the latest plans for the bridge. Two alternatives were accepted as part of the Conceptual Plan City Council approved for the Potomac Yard.

1. Bridge and US 1 remain as is but a new spine road to Potomac Yard connects to the east end of bridge at the Slaters and US 1 intersection. This eliminates the 'right on red' for traffic from Slaters to US 1 north which leads to a back up of rush hour traffic to GW Parkway and gridlock for the neighborhood.
2. Straightening Monroe Avenue Bridge. This would widen the bridge and instead of turning away from the neighborhood would be clearly visible from Slaters Lane and Powhatan Street.

The City has sought state funds to pay for the straightening of the bridge and is completing the design phase. The issue will deeply affect the future of our neighborhood. There are lots of important side aspects with either of these plan. Your participation now will offer you the best opportunity to have your needs addressed.



1. Spine Road Option



2. Straightened Bridge Option



Hybrid Option

[Editor note: I like a hybrid design which the city has yet to consider. It adds north bridge component for a straightened US 1, leaves the existing 'new' bridge there for east/west traffic to Monroe Street; allows for removal of existing US 1 road way north of Monroe street, so a larger recreation (or school) can be made as part of Simpson Field. This option offers better traffic flow for east and west transit and saves cost of removing existing 'new' bridge.]

Mason Hall

The issue of Mason Hall zoning violations, trash dumpster placement, parking and vacation of city land has not quite condensed into a workable plan. City staff will be present to articulate the City's position. We are hopeful, our land use committee will have a workable solution by the meeting. Hopefully, it will be something that does not short circuit 'due process' as was proposed by city at the last meeting. Check our web site late Wed for the latest information.

Remember the neighborhood (and property value) you save is your own.

For information on your Civic Association call Poul Hertel 684-5375 or Mariella Posey 549-5842
NECA Web page - For the latest & expanded info - http://www.his.com/tmw/alexandria_neca.html

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