

Community Roundtable Meeting 2 March 2019

Notetaker: Sharmane B., Community Development

Vice Mayor Sheila Olem

Q1: Kmart Center

What is being developed there? When will it be accessible to the public? Cat café?

Q2: Budget

Real estate assessments in his neighborhood have gone down. How will this affect the budget?

Q3: Are you in favor of meals tax?

Q4: How will you promote restaurants?

Q5: What will the meals tax look like in numbers?

Q6: Do we foresee any new restaurants to replace those that have closed, i.e. The Ice House Café.

Public shared parking?

Q7: Do we know what kind of new developments are in Herndon's future?

Q8: "Pine Center" what are the plans for this location and/or the property owner?

Q9: "The Metro"

Will there be changes to the bus routes? (FC services for connector)

(*email requested of young lady)

Q10: "Code of Conduct" as meantime and during recent TC meeting

Q11: Was "Code of Conduct" as a result of something in the past?

Q12: What were the accusations? [in regards to Q11]

Q13: Discussion of non-partisan TC

Q14: Repeat question about VM's stance on meals tax.

Q15: What can be done to find out information on the meals tax? Making information about the meals tax to find online especially for new business owners.

Q16: Paying water bill or real estate taxes online. Making navigation easier online. What can be done to update the website to make accessing bill payments easier?

Councilmembers Cesar del Aguila & Pradip Dhakal

Q17: (Repeat) discussion about stance on meals tax and real estate & property tax assessments. Increasing revenue-how to?

Q18: How can we enhance revenue for the town?

Q19: Why do we need more revenue?

Q20: Police salary increases? Officer retention/staffing requirements?

Q21: How big is the police force currently? How big does it need to be?

Q22: Comprehensive audit procedure – meals tax – based on honor system. Are you going to hire a dedicated staff to audit the restaurants to ensure proper fees are being collected and dispersed through town properly?

Q23: Would a way to raise revenue be to bring more people to the town?

Q24: How Herndon will market itself to be a travel destination? How do we make Herndon more welcoming to newcomers? What makes someone want to come here and/or move here and/or spend money here?

Q25: What is Herndon's "brand"? Suggestion: #hipHerndon

Q26: How do we fill the empty retail spaces? Can Herndon provide any incentives to business owners/developers for building up these empty spaces?

Q27: Zoning enforcement/use power of zoning ordinance to "clean up" some of these locations. Suggestion i.e. Junction Square – number of "really nasty looking buildings in town"

Q28: Second story on Community Center?

Q29: Why do we need to expand the community center?

- Q30: Why was the Herndon “fair” relocated to Northwest Credit Union? [Festival]
- Q31: Parking and revenues downtown
- Q32: Is the work session (TC) open to the public?
- Q33: Identify two most surprising things encountered as being new TC members.

Councilmember Bill McKenna and Signe Friedrichs

- Q34: Affordable housing
What does “more” affordable housing mean?
- Q35: What is the basis for determining what affordable housing is?
- Q36: Why do we need more affordable housing units? Specifically for the town.
- Q37: Have the people who make the decisions gone around town to make an inventory of what we currently have as affordable housing units?
- Q38: Why did the elementary schools lose their reputation? Demographic change?
- Q39: Fillmore St & Dranesville Road – speeding/safety especially near school
- Q40: Trolley system/shuttle buses similar to Alexandria. Quick, easy transportation around town.
- Q41: How much is being invested into Chestnut Cemetery improvements? Paving?
- Q42: Haley Smith Park intersection. Drainage issues throughout the town. How are drainage issues being addressed?
- Q43: Golf Course – pending rate adjustment?
- Q44: Public hearing about meals tax? Budget? Changes?
- Q45: Sustainability – commercial composting?
- Q46: Energy audits for “big” buildings in the town?
- Q47: Is the downtown development on target? When will it be completed/started?
- Q48: What is keeping the development from happening between big developer and local developer?
Considering new developments. What’s going to keep Herndon’s small town feel? Incorporating small businesses into the development area?
- Q49: The stoops/Junction Square. Comstock?
- Q50: What happened to the town’s police presence regarding prevention/community policing?

Notetaker: Michael Wallick, Community Development

Councilmembers Bill McKenna and Signe Friedrichs

- John May (citizen)-Timing of road projects near Herndon Metro. Van Buren/Herndon Parkway. That project will open first. Then Spring Street improvements. Followed by East Elden Street improvements. Question to Town Manager.
- John May (citizen)-Question about Worldgate Drive extended. Properties are starting to submit development applications in HTOC.
- Bill McKenna-Many town projects in CIP and reflected in budget.
- Jay Donahue (citizen, BZA member)-Are community Center improvements included in budget?
 - Bill McKenna-It's in CIP
 - Signe Friedrichs-Project was delayed two years ago
- Signe Friedrichs-Comstock submitted 4th site plan recently
- Jay Donahue-Any updates to Pines Shopping Center development?
 - Discussion about a year ago but nothing recent
- Bill McKenna-Virginia is a Dillon Rule state
- Laura (citizen)-When will downtown redevelopment agreement be signed?
 - Signe Friedrichs-April. Any appeals go to Circuit Court.
- John May (citizen)-Status of Aslin downtown?
 - Signe Friedrichs-Many issues with site
 - Bill McKenna-Explained difference between tasting room and production brewery in regards to downtown site.

Vice Mayor Sheila Olem

- Tracy (citizen)-How will Fairfax Connector connect people from Metro to downtown?
 - Sheila Olem-Currently Fairfax County is reevaluating their bus routes.
- Laura (citizen)-What is timeline for new bus routes?
 - Olem-When Metro station opens
- Rosemary (citizen)-Herndon Metro Station signage is poor. Needs more visibility. Eye sore of Fairfax County Parkway overpass at Elden Street, just outside Town limits. Town should advocate for County to clean this up.
- What are your thoughts on short-term rentals?
 - Olem: Hurts hotel business because town collects hotel tax
 - Citizen: AirBnb is somewhat self regulating through reviews
 - Citizen: His AirBnb business pays taxes. County taxes as well.
 - Olem: Four unrelated adults allowed in a house per town ordinance
- Laura (citizen): When will Smart City infrastructure be put in place?
 - Olem: This calendar year. Town has advocated for better lighting that's more energy efficient.
- Sarah (citizen): If town has electric car charging stations town needs to monitor it and make sure gas cars aren't parking there.
- Laura (citizen): Elden Street lights need to be synced.
- Sarah (citizen): Any discussions about historic looking buildings in downtown? New downtown development should look historic.
 - Town has downtown master plan and architectural guidelines

Councilmembers Cesar del Aguila and Pradip Dhakal

- Sarah (citizen): Lots of trash in their neighborhood off Alabama Drive. All the way down Alabama Drive from Elden Street.
 - Cesar: Inspectors could beef up enforcement in that area.

- Rosemary (citizen): Town should regulate littering
- Cesar: Some parks are county and some are town.
- Pradip: More signs/more trash cans
- Cesar: How do we outreach to immigrant community? Herndon is a minority-majority.
- Rosemary (citizen): Two year grant out there called “Opportunity Neighborhood” that looks at education and college preparedness. County grant program.
- Laura (citizen): Question about Metro.
- Pradip: Fairfax Connector recently had meetings
- Cesar: How do people feel about trolleys?
- Laura: Great idea!
- Citizen: His AirBnb guests are often tourists, business people, some burying loved ones at Arlington National Cemetery.
- Cesar: Why do people come to Herndon?
- Group: Dynamic community, location, small town
- Sarah: Herndon Elementary School is a concern because it is not rated very high.
- Laura (citizen): How would a trolley bus operate in town? Main roads or local roads?
- John May (citizen): We often have problems where the public doesn’t know that the Town of Herndon is only north of the Dulles toll road.
- Daryl (citizen): Major concern with W&OD trail at Van Buren Street crossing.
 - Pradip: Some is education and some is enforcement
- Sarah (citizen): Raised median along South Elden could encourage dangerous jaywalking. Could a HAWK signal be proposed on South Elden Street?
- Cesar: Lights need to be synced.
- Rosemary (citizen): How do we better integrate Herndon’s wealthy with Herndon’s low income neighborhood?
- Cesar: This town can be expanded.
- Walter (citizen): First time he’s seen town reach out to citizens in his 40 years living in town.
- Jon May (citizen): Bring forum into community and have more sessions.
- Daryl (citizen): What is status of downtown development?
 - Going to the Town Council this month. Listen to the work session audio
- Pradip: We respect contrary views as a Council. We are working on a Code of Conduct. We are also working to be more transparent
- Laura (citizen): Does this include social media?
- Pradip & Cesar: Absolutely.
- Cesar: Town Council work sessions should be broadcasted and held in Council Chambers

Notetaker: Erika Orellana, Community Development

Councilmembers Pradip Dhakal & Cesar del Aguila

Citizens: Effie, Jack, John Law, Walter L., Mike Madigan, Dan

Introductions made, started with del Aguila

- John thanked the town. Blacksmith has been seen & Civil War & wants to see about Native Americans. For future, for kids to see more like historical displays & not just about garbage collections
- Mike Madigan: Depot has town history, farming history
- John: Do kids see enough of the history
- Walter: Are you a Native American?
- John: No
- Walter: Support Native Americans but asked if he (John Law) wants to support more than Native Americans, more of a diverse...
- Dan: What do people want out of the community? What's actually on the table? For development or not there's contradicting... High rise become like Reston Town Center. What's going to be affect next 3 years? Been in the area for 6 years. Amazon or not?
- Effie: What's Comstock?
 - Cesar: Comstock has been presented to Town Council. Next hearing on Tuesday. Process is on the way, Comstock development will happen.
- Dan: Wants everyone on same page
 - Cesar: Aggressive stands to...
 - Dan: How many staff, police, people can live in the town?
- Effie: What's affordable point range?
 - Cesar: \$160k, Herndon is family
- Pradip: NoVa has become IT. Population is going up, we have to develop. House range has to be figured out. We have people making \$35k a year can't live here? No. We need to figure out a model. What's income level? We have to develop, other places are developing, we have to develop too. Preserve the history, be ready with influx of people moving in.
- Dan: Do we want to be Falls Church? Like town's around US? With retail, bars, walkable places, is that a model we're looking for?
- Pradip: Herndon is already built so it's difficult to follow model of other town built.
- Dan: Not saying complete. Layout of the town it is like the Old Town area.
- Mike Madigan: Having structure like Eastern Market. Smaller stalls. Farmers' market is small. Have merchandise to draw people in town.
- Mike Madigan: Brought up Aslin process beer going for several years
- Kai: Introduced himself
- Walter: Comes to meetings, questions can be found on public hearing
- Cesar: Number of vacancies in the town (is that a good topic). Again why do you come to Herndon?
- Effie: Why do Herndon families spend money here? Five Guys out of business.
- Cesar: We have things with Heritage Preservation to say what to do with their home. Have issues with homes & can't invest in their home.
- Effie: I don't agree, demographic supports Five Guys.
- Cesar: Not at the location it's not a walking distance.
- Citizen: Jumped in, doesn't agree. Sunset Park people come.
- Cesar: You have a draw (business)
- Mike Petti: Sully's, town draws done & high rise & not a good place to put.
- Cesar: We're gathering info, thanks

Councilmembers Signe Friedrichs and Bill McKenna

Citizens: Kevin Taylor, Kai (Aslin), Danielle, Jack

- Signe: What are you interested in speaking about?
- Jack: Density, stop lights, toll roads, long lights. Mentioned he lives on Grace Street.
- Signe: In between processes, have to consider Fios lines, right now sensor can't be done.
- Kai: Will it be done before Sprouts Market is here?
- Signe: We don't want to change if we don't have to.
- Bill: Throws off things. We address the issues. Part of Spring Street & Elden Street is being time sensitive projects.
- Signe: Had to picture plan for each process for projects laying out. Vacated Army Corps of Engineers because Spring Street process moving. Process of traffic we are working on
- Effie: What's the timeline?
- Bill: CIP information states this. Metro being built 3-4 years possibly.
- Signe: CIP plan is looked at yearly to budget projects. We are thinking about stop lights.
- Mike Madigan: Proffers?
- Signe: 150 Proffer at Kmart.
- Bill: Doing business in the town can get tax credit. So you shouldn't be charged the whole percentage of taxes for living & doing business in town.
- Signe: Tax base is 45%, 50% property tax.
- Paul Mosner: Concern lack of yellow lines by fire hydrants, streets, white vans parked in front of fire hydrants and it's hazardous. Wants police to address license plates not being updated. It's interesting issues continued, because I got a violation for truck being parked in driveway.
- Jack: A lot of local areas solve this problem by putting/giving parking stickers to park at your residence?
- Paul: When issue is addressed to one department, it is bounced to other departments and I don't get help.
- Bill: How about zoned parking? (red tape tickets)
- Walter: Permit parking/red tape is too much
- Signe: This was done at Huntmar Park.
- Kai: Limited parking, unique business, will make people to leave before business is done
- Signe: Parking lot, business
- Jack: I agree with Kai, 2 hour parking should be 4 hours.
- Effie: Still need enforcements.
- Paul: Different regulations should be added in each zoning? Each district should have rules
- Danielle: Parking/economic is an issue. What is your vision for the town? What can the town do and not do?
- Signe: Opportunity cost here
- Danielle: What do you want for the town?
- Jack: Where is Junction Square?
- Danielle: On Elden/Monroe?
- Signe: Model for downtown to remain small and vibrant, parking, small town and peoples' business.
- Danielle: Tax breaks?
- Signe: Small business are being worked with. Be patient with us.
- Effie: There are pavilions in Pennsylvania for local business, invited people to go. It's part of heritage of Pennsylvania.

Vice Mayor Sheila Olem

Citizens: Dan, Jack, Effie, Mike Betti, Mike Madigan, Daniel, Kai, Kevin Taylor

- Dan: You do pick up the phone.
- Olem: Questions?
- Kevin: Long term plan for Stanley Park?
- Olem: Owned by the County
- Kevin: Not enough amenities.
- Olem: We can speak to John Foust and ask. John Dudinsky is sent to clean around parks, he's a great resource.
- Daniel: Any conversation about downtown transportation.
- Olem: Take surveys about county buses to get information about riding the bus. Metro gets here, school buses will take longer to settle down.
- Paul: Mass circular transportation spoken about to get people around town ?
- Olem: If we do that it will be an expense for the town. It has been talked about.
- Mike Betti: There's something like that already
- Olem: If you need bus survey, link can be provided
- Effie: It's not just downtown, but here to Worldgate too.
- Mike Betti: Need more businesses like Aslin to start running
- Effie: Town approving small business without parking like Junction Square is silly. Couldn't walk to get present-there's niche in the town.
- Mike Madigan: Pines shopping center?
- Olem: Owner of Pines passed, the hier took over.
- Kai: Why did he hate the town?
- Betti: He used property tax for write off
- Kai: Proposed a plan to redevelop and denied by the town, so he can see. Junction Square was approved, so...?
- Olem: Fortnightly-business with residence on top
- Jack: Harrison-in Leesburg-have town business with homes on top, has better stores
- Paul: Issues need to be addressed, economic development in town, should be better for economic views. Need staff to do a team effort to make changes.
- Kai: I agree with Paul. Junction Square, everyone is frustrated, is Comstock reproduction of that
- Olem: No one owned land and we wanted more money for property. We said as a town, this is what we want.
- Kai: But not same as it was done for other developments. Town changed zoning districts. Nothing is done for future residents.
- Paul: ArtCenter has changed multiple times, now it's a strip mall
- Effie: Sounds like a mistake, like Junction Square
- Paul: What would be best for the town?
- Olem: (to Paul) I agree with you. People go to Reston Town Center, but downtown kitchens closed, and makes less business.
- Betti: Comstock needs to make money from all plans.
- Paul: There's a lot of approaches
- Effie: How far is this in? (Comstock)
- Olem: Has been going on for years, tried several times, had two groups to bid and then chose Comstock
- Paul: I don't think you have to go through Comstock if you think we can do better. Adaptability helps us be successful.
- Daniel: Can they take it back?
- Olem: I think we should move forward with Comstock.

- Paul: Art, beer, music can be part of looking into it. Seen 27 thousand art center plans.
- Olem: Can have weddings at arts center.
- Daniel: Budget coming up?
- Dan: Fine with subsidizing this.
- Olem: Funding for redevelopment helps the town.
- Jack: Art Center fit in Aslin?
- Kai: Absolutely
- Dan: What is town able to do with private owner like Aslin? What's ability for city to impact? What council will do/vision have a plan for ArtSpace? Like a fun fitness area?
- Olem: TPI building-new shop, 15% occupancy windows, put in 85% occupancy.
- Effie: If windows done first you would have down turn?
- Olem: No, they wanted a bigger building.
- Jack: What does it matter if building here or here to put windows?
- Olem: Zoning code.