

Dino Drudi's questions for the City Attorney:

- I** Is it legal to ride a...
- ① ... skateboard on the sidewalk?
 - ② ... skateboard on the city street?
 - ③ ... skateboard on the sidewalk in the 100-block of King Street?
 - ④ ... motorized or power-assist bicycle on the sidewalk?
 - ⑤ ... motorized or power-assist bicycle on the city street?
- II** Would an administrative or judicial interpretation that skateboards^(2nd), push-scooters, should be treated like bicycles because of having no non-arbitrary basis for doing otherwise? (Viz., a non-motorized longboard would be treated like a non-motorized bicycle; a motorized push-scooter would be treated like a motorized bicycle) be appropriate?
- III** Some "bicycles" have three wheels (technically tricycles). Are they legally^{treated} the same as bicycles?

Make way for electric bikes

As they gain popularity, area authorities consider easing rules on where they may be used

TRANSPORTATION

A surge in the use of electric bicycles throughout the United States is prompting cities to revise regulations that restrict their use, including bans against riding them on sidewalks and trails.

Morgan Lommele of the PeopleForBikes cycling advocacy group says that about half of U.S. states classify e-bikes as motor vehicles. They require licensing, registration and even insurance. Others put pedal-assist e-bikes with speeds up to 20 mph in the same category as regular bicycles.

D.C. and other Washington-area jurisdictions are among those taking steps to modernize and streamline policies advocates say are outdated.

In the District and some of its suburbs, e-bikes are not permitted on trails and sidewalks. The National Park Service, which operates major bike paths in the region, including the 18-mile Mount Vernon Trail, also bans the motorized bicycles. So do the park systems in Montgomery, Prince George's and Fairfax counties.

However, changes may be



JUMP has offered dockless e-bikes in the District since last fall.

coming as some jurisdictions move to allow e-bikes on trails as soon as this year and others explore the possibility. Transportation officials say they can't ignore the demand for e-bikes if they want to encourage bike commuting.

"We want to try to support the new interest in electric bikes and have one more way for people to get out on bikes," said Jim Sebastian, who oversees bicycle infrastructure at the D.C. Department of Transportation.

In the District, transportation officials say they are drafting

E-bike options in D.C.

JUMP, which brought its e-bikes to the city last fall, has become one of the most popular services, officials said. Each JUMP bike averages 3.5 trips daily, nearly twice that of dockless conventional bikes. LimeBike and Spin have introduced e-bikes in other markets and could bring them to the District. (TWP)

rules to allow the pedal-assist bikes on trails and possibly sidewalks outside the downtown area, where conventional bikes are allowed.

Montgomery adopted park rules last year that give the county discretion to open trails to e-bikes on a case-by-case basis.

Casey Anderson, chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board, said the county wants to take things gradually, "so we don't provoke a backlash against e-bikes and bicycles in general."

It's not just locally. In New York, Mayor Bill de Blasio, D, announced last week that the city will legalize the use of pedal-assist electric bikes, shifting its hard-line stance of the past few months.

LU1Z1A70 (THE WASHINGTON POST)

My name is Sally Ann Baynard. I don't represent anyone, but I've lived in Alexandria for 50 years. I want to talk about firefighters, though that's a misnomer. Here and nationwide, 70% of all calls for firefighters are medical, not fire. These are the people who come in the ambulance and save our lives.

We're proud we have been named one of the best places in the US to retire. But for older Americans (who, as you know vote in higher numbers than any other age group) one of the highest priorities is access to excellent health care. We do have a good hospital, but this is meaningless unless you get to the hospital in time.

There are other priorities in the budget in a tight year - the environment, sports and recreation, roads and streets - but when you're lying in a pool of blood, you don't call a sports instructor or tree inspector, you call the firefighters/paramedics.

It's not an easy job. EMS responders have higher rates of depression, suicide, cardiac death and cancer, danger from burning materials and violent patients. Work-related deaths and injuries among EMS responders were two and three times higher than the national average for all other occupations.

They are not doing this job for the money, but the fact that new recruits here can't even afford to live in this city on the salaries we pay them makes a significant difference. Why accept these risks and be paid less for it than in surrounding jurisdictions?

I know it is not easy to compare salary scales, but we cannot afford to get lost in dueling accounting memos. We all know the competition for talented new recruits is fierce, but it is one we cannot afford to lose. And as our older EMS responders retire, they take their experience with them.

I know our City Manager has declared no tax increase this year, but if you are lying on the floor struggling to breathe, will you still care about paying a few hundred dollars more in city taxes or will you want the fastest, most expert paramedics in the region racing to save you?

If Alexandria loses its reputation for fine emergency service, it will be hard to get it back and we won't be attractive for anyone to retire, or even for older residents to stay. The ramifications for our tax base and home prices are serious and obvious.

If you think firefighter/paramedic pay is something you can quibble about or put off, you'd be wrong, and let's hope you won't be dead wrong.

A statement by Bert Ely to the Alexandria City Council regarding the proposed consolidation of the two BARs

April 14, 2018

Madam Mayor and members of Council I am Bert Ely and I live at 200 South Pitt. Speaking only for myself, I wish to express serious reservations about the Vice Mayor's proposal to consolidate the two boards of architectural reviews. While this proposal may have an initial, superficial appeal, I urge Council to give serious consideration to the numerous reasons not to consolidate the two BARs.

The key reason not to consolidate is that the two districts differ significantly as to their architectural character and history. As the Vice Mayor's April 10 memorandum to Council states, the two BARs administer "distinctly different guidelines." Asking a single BAR to administer distinct different guidelines creates the likelihood that those different guidelines will soon meld, through a single BAR, into what will be, as a practical matter, a single set of guidelines that will serve neither district as well as the present distinct guidelines.

I fully appreciate the concern about the impact of a reduced workload on the Parker-Gray BAR, with shorter meetings and the occasional canceled meeting, but that circumstance can be addressed by scheduling Parker-Gray BAR meetings on an as-needed basis. Such scheduling would be comparable, as I understand it, to meetings of the Board of Zoning Appeals and possibly other city boards and commissions that conduct important city business yet do not have such heavy workloads that they must meet on a regular basis.

Contrary to the Parker-Gray situation, the BAR for the Old & Historic District does have a much heavier workload, dictated in part by the much larger area of the Old & Historic District, but also by the amount of redevelopment activity that has been taking place in the Old & Historic District relative to Parker Gray. That level of redevelopment activity is likely to continue for a number of years.

Given the heavier workload now borne by the members of the Old & Historic District BAR, it would not be fair to add to that workload by having it consider applications now addressed by the Parker-Gray BAR.

While the two BARs should not be merged, Council should consider changes in the make-up of the Old & Historic BAR in two regards. First, there is a concern that architects are overly represented on that BAR, with the consequence that there are frequent recusals by architect-members because of current or past associations with the architects bringing a proposed project to that BAR for approval.

A second concern – architect members are more likely to approve projects proposed by other architects that might not otherwise be approved by the BAR. BAR members trained as architectural historians or with substantial experience in historic preservation make more appropriate members of a BAR.

A third concern is that residents of the Old & Historic District are underrepresented on that BAR, with the consequence that decisions affecting the historic character of the district are made by non-resident BAR members who do not have the commitment to enhancing the historic character of the district that residents of the district are much more likely to have.

In closing, while I, and many others, believe the membership make-up of the BAR for the Old & Historic District should be changed, it would not be desirable to merge the two BARs.

Thank you for your time this morning – I welcome your questions.

Memorandum

Date: April 11, 2018

To: The Honorable Mayor & Members of City Council

From: Alexandria Housing Affordability Advisory Council (AHAAC)

Subject: FY 2019 funding and budget recommendations

Purpose: The deficit of affordable housing in Alexandria constitutes a **“deferred maintenance” infrastructure crisis** for our city’s families and overall socioeconomic health, resulting from inadequate past investment. In keeping with our mandate, AHAAC seeks to weigh in publicly with what we believe would comprise the handful of most decisive, impactful ways to **strengthen the city’s affordable housing ecology**. In doing so, we also seek to clarify the public discourse about housing affordability.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS: Sufficient, Consistent, Reliable, Annual

1. The city made a modest commitment to create or preserve 2,000 affordable units by 2025. A Dec. 19 memo from the city manager indicates a \$66 million shortfall. Closing the gap would require an **additional \$10 million per year** on average over the next 7 years, including FY 2019, **for new unit development and preservation**.
2. This invariably requires a **combination of means**: (1) supplemental dedicated revenue; (2) inclusion in the Capital Improvement Program; and (3) the study of potential opportunity costs. Of the 5 new revenue options presented to council on Feb. 25, we prefer, in this order, the meals tax, transient lodging tax, vehicle tax, and real estate tax. The voluntary “round up” proposal would not produce consistent, reliable, or sufficient revenue. The meals and lodging taxes appropriately focus on business sectors whose employees especially would benefit from affordable housing options.
3. The Housing Master Plan (HMP) states: **“Addressing the goals of this [HMP] can best be done with a consistent, reliable source of annual funding.”** Direct project funding, reasonably predictable several years in advance, remains the city’s highest impact tool to create and preserve units. While set-aside programs like bonus density are important and useful, they are secondary tools. Set-aside programs do not create enough units to be relied upon primarily to meet the HMP’s goals. We cannot escape the reality that this crisis requires more public resources.
4. **We urge all stakeholders to stay focused on our commonly desired end, and to rise above an intractable disagreement about preferred means.** Dedicated revenue and budget appropriation both have an affirmative role to play toward reaching our shared goal of a diverse housing stock; either method alone will likely not yield enough resources. The city’s objective urgently requires the give-and-take of aisle-crossing compromise. All methods have pros and cons. All are limited, in that council has the authority to revisit any prior decision about the budget, tax-and-fee structure, or specific mode of general obligation debt service at least once per year.

We request a fall work session with council to discuss these and potentially other recommendations.

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4-14-18

Alexandria Commission on Aging Testimony for April 14, 2018
Age Friendly Community Plan, by Bob Eiffert, Commission Chair

Dear Mayor Silberberg, Vice Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council: I am Bob Eiffert, Chair of the Alexandria Commission on Aging. I am here today to let you know about the Age Friendly Community Plan, which is now in draft form and being reviewed by City Staff.

As some of you may recall, the City agreed to hire a consultant in 2011 to prepare a plan for aging in Alexandria. The plan that resulted was adopted by City Council to cover the period 2012 to 2017. As we discussed a new plan in 2016, we learned about the World Health Organization's designation of communities around the world as "Age Friendly." AARP is the organization that handles applications and plans in the United States. We saw that the plans were similar to what we had in Alexandria, and decided to pursue a new plan that would be developed by the Commission on Aging at no cost to the City. We met or spoke with each of you in the spring of 2016 to get your support for an application to AARP to be designated an Age Friendly Community. You agreed, and we submitted an application signed by the Mayor. It was approved in June 2016, making Alexandria the first community in Virginia to be accepted into the Age-Friendly network. We then had two years to complete the plan and submit it to you for your approval, and then to AARP. AARP will review the soundness of the plan and its demonstrated understanding of the domains that it has chosen to prioritize.

The format of the plan is loosely proscribed by AARP. They identify 8 "domains," or areas of focus, that each community needs to address in some way. We chose to model our plan on one submitted by Boston. After the introductory sections of the plan, you will see the 6 domains we chose as our focus areas, combining some of the AARP domains. The domains cover such areas as housing, transportation, health, community engagement, diversity and workforce development.

We sought and received input from a number of sources. AARP conducted a survey of 500 Alexandrians in July 2016 that elicited some excellent input from area residents. AARP also conducted an analysis of Alexandria's progress in the 8 domain areas, based on data available from a variety of public sources. Both were very helpful in our process, and we can provide them to you if you wish. We conducted a series of listening sessions around the City to gain valuable input from a variety of communities. AARP sponsored a day-long workshop in November for community stakeholders to get their input. We used all these sources and more in our development of the plan.

City staff is now reviewing our draft and will get comments and suggestions back to us soon. We hope to have the draft to you for your review and input in May. We defer to you and the City Manager for the exact process you wish to use for plan review and approval, but we are at your disposal. We need to have the plan approved in June for submission to AARP before the end of June.

We look forward to working with you in the creation of a new plan for making Alexandria an even more age-friendly community in the future. Thank you!

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4-14-18

Submitted by Jerry Casagrande

817 Vicar Lane, Alexandria

703.717.3603

April 14, 2018

Greetings Mayor Silberberg, Vice Mayor Wilson, and Members of City Council,

My name is Jerry Casagrande. My wife Tara and I have been residents of Alexandria for 18 years. Our three kids have attended school in the city. My wife runs a vibrant small business in Del Ray--Ease Yoga & Cafe--and I have run small non-profits and businesses in the city as well--including a kids environmental ed program and an effort to reduce single-use plastics.

I was a member of the Environmental Policy Commission ten years ago when that group drafted the first Eco-City Action Plan and I am here today both as a private long-time resident and as a volunteer with the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 project--a program through which citizens can mobilize to urge their city officials to move quickly towards powering our cities with 100% renewable energy.

There are many reasons to put our great city on the path to electricity powered by 100% renewable energy by 2030.

First, you and your predecessors have said you would take serious action on Climate Change. When our current President pulled our country out of the Paris Climate Accord, you passed a resolution reaffirming our "full commitment to combat climate change." Our Mayor very responsibly signed the Mayors for 100% Clean Energy Commitment. And, in the Eco-City Charter, adopted a decade ago, we envisioned "a day when Alexandria relies solely on renewable energy sources," and made related commitments.

For those on the council who are Democrats, I should also note that the Alexandria Democratic Council recently resolved that you all should "set specific...policies and programs to transition the City to 100% renewable energy by 2030."

I am proud of the commitments made by you, our local leaders, and so too is everyone at Ready for 100. We enthusiastically support the work of our great EPC. We need to keep moving. And, specifically, we need to move our electrical system to be powered by 100% renewable energy asap, by 2030.

In this election year, I would also point out that polling data has shown that $\frac{3}{4}$ of Virginians support renewable energy by 2030. I imagine that fraction is even higher here in Northern Virginia.

Of course you all know climate change is real and happening now. And, you realize that we live just a few feet above sea level on a tidal river. We don't need more flooding in Alexandria than we already experience or than is baked into the inevitable climate change coming. Quick action now, by localities all around the country and world, can literally turn the tide. Given that our Federal government has abandoned all responsibility on this issue, it is incumbent upon localities to take up the mantle of action immediately.

It would be great to be the first locality in Virginia to commit to 100 percent renewable energy by 2030. But...too late for that. Who has already made the commitment? Our progressive Northern Virginia rival, Arlington? Nope. Charlottesville, home of the super educated at UVA? No. Richmond, with its progressive hipsters? Also, no. Mighty Floyd--population 462--passed a detailed resolution in December committing that village to 100% renewable energy. It was quickly followed by Blacksburg making the same commitment. In total, more than 70 localities across the country have made detailed commitments to 100% renewable energy. We need to do the same. (I am leaving a copy of the Floyd and Blacksburg resolutions with you.)

The technology is here. Prices for wind and solar are dropping precipitously and the economics of converting to renewable at last make sense. Plus, as I am sure you have heard, the job-creating power of renewable energy is an enormous benefit.

Finally, my three big reasons for caring about this are named Baker, Riley, and Tae, ages 19, 16 and 12. So, for my kids, your kids, our kids, I urge you to move our city forward towards 100% renewable energy asap. Please don't sit idle, leaving them the mess to clean up.

On a related note, I am very proud of my daughter Riley, in tenth grade at TC, who with other students has formed a group called Community United for Renewable Energy (or CURE) which will be asking the School Board to install solar panels on TC and/or other schools in the City as part of an effort to get us to 100 percent renewable energy. I urge you to support that effort as well.

Many thanks.

Jerry Casagrande

Attached:

Resolution by Floyd, VA

Resolution by Blacksburg, VA

Resolution by Alexandria Democratic Committee