



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of March 14, 2006**

DATE: February 28, 2006

SUBJECT: Funding Request for Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Program Projects.

C. M. RECOMMENDATION

Approve the use of a total \$3,246,990 of Neighborhood Conservation bond funds, including \$2,452,000 for the priority neighborhood projects listed in Attachment A and projects requiring additional funding in Attachment B totaling \$794,990, as approved by the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) for fall 2005, and authorize the County Manager to proceed with implementation of these projects.

ISSUE: None.

SUMMARY: The Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) considered 22 first priority neighborhood projects from member neighborhoods at its December 8, 2005, meeting. Of these requests, seven are recommended for funding. Staff concurs with the NCAC, and recommends approval of the priority neighborhood projects listed in Attachment A.

BACKGROUND: The NCAC has historically allocated approximately 25 percent of a given bond issue per funding cycle. Even though this is the third funding session of the \$10,000,000 2004 bond, \$6,579,407 has already been approved for 26 projects plus the Missing Link and Sign Replacement initiative and \$1,950,000 has been reserved to fund anticipated project cost increases. The completion of this funding session will leave a remainder of only \$1,528,593.00 in the 2004 bond.

The NCAC continues to utilize a "Points Committee" and process. The Committee has responsibility for rating and ranking projects submitted for funding and reporting its recommendations to the NCAC as a whole. The points system used by the Committee is intended to provide guidance regarding project funding rather than strictly imposing limitations or setting up an inflexible ranking system. The points system assigns a numerical value to proposals based on the following criteria:

- Neighborhoods that have completed new plans or plan updates
- Projects ranked first in neighborhood priority
- Neighborhoods with historically lower funding participation

County Manager: _____

County Attorney: _____

Staff: Angela Courtney, Department of Community Planning, Housing & Development, NC Planner

- Projects with alternative funding sources to help share costs
- Projects in queue for more than four funding cycles
- Projects utilizing planning funds
- Small projects (< \$80,000)
- Projects (<\$150,000)
- Partial project deferral during funding round

After neighborhood presentations, the NCAC considered its recommendations regarding the distribution of Bond funds based on the following:

- The funding session information package
- Testimony and discussion
- The report of the Points Committee
- Consideration of other systematic methods of allocating money to projects.

The NCAC currently reviews only first priority neighborhood projects. All projects were chosen in priority ranking order and seven were selected. In addition, nine previously approved projects require additional funding (see Attachment B).

DISCUSSION: The combined value of all seven first-priority projects is within the acceptable limits defined by the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee, which requests full funding for these projects. The projects are listed in Attachment A, which shows the amount recommended to be allocated to the project from Neighborhood Conservation funds (NC Net Project Dollars), any alternate funding (from other County sources) that will be used, and the total estimated cost of the project. County funding for improvements at Mace Park is conditioned on successful execution of an easement for public access between the property owner and the County. Construction of the proposed improvements will not begin until after execution of the easement agreement. Staff concurs with this recommendation, and recommends that the County Board approve the seven first priority-projects at the amounts shown for Neighborhood Conservation funding. Regarding projects requiring additional funds, the NCAC reviewed and recommended that \$794,990 be allocated among nine projects. Staff concurs with these recommendations.

Since the fall 2005 funding session, NC staff evaluated the active project portfolio, re-estimating all budgets based upon current price agreement contracts, current bids received and cost of recently-completed projects. Due to significant cost increases experienced in the current market, the NC projects may require an additional \$1.5 million beyond the currently available bond and Pay-as-you go (PAYG) funds. This is over and above the funds reserved in the 2004 bond to cover cost increases and does not include additional projects that would be included in the final funding session for the 2004 bond scheduled for spring 2005. NCAC and staff continue to monitor cost increases, investigate ways to ameliorate their impact, and look for other resources to cover ancillary costs such as paving.

CONCLUSION: Staff recommends that the County Board approve the use of a total \$3,246,990 of Neighborhood Conservation bond funds, including \$2,452,000 for the priority neighborhood projects listed in Attachment A and projects requiring additional funding in Attachment B totaling \$794,990, as approved by NCAC for fall 2005 and authorize the County Manager to proceed with implementation of these projects.

FISCAL IMPACT: The \$3,246,990 for proposed and existing projects is recommended for allocation from the November 2004 voter-approved \$10,000,000 Community Conservation Bond and available PAYG funds. Funds are appropriated to the projects at the time the bonds are sold. Additional funds needed to cover higher-than-expected costs will need to come from future bond or PAYG funds, to be expended at the time that projects are implemented and costs incurred.

Attachment B: Projects Requiring Additional Funding

<u>Project</u>	<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Original Estimate</u>	<u>Additional Required</u>
Tyrol Hill Park	Columbia Heights West	\$194,000	\$ 278,300.00
N. Brookside Drive	Lyon Park	\$175,000	\$ 65,121.82
S. Chesterfield Road	Claremont	\$123,400	\$ 76,752.72
S. 21 st Street	Nauck	\$171,000	\$ 42,253.36
N. Greenbrier Street	Tara Leeway	\$196,000	\$ 15,684.32
S. Army Navy Drive	Arlington Ridge	\$270,000	\$ 5,095.44
S. Frederick Street	Columbia Forest	\$175,000	\$ 203,928.46
S. 20th Street	Aurora Highlands	\$140,000	\$ 65,386.63
N. Emerson Street	HighView Park .	\$ 90,000	\$ 10,981.99
N. 22 nd Street	Leeway	\$ 25,000	\$ 31,485.42
TOTAL		\$1,559,400	\$794,990.00