

Arlington Heights Civic Association
Minutes – Membership Meeting (Adopted October 12, 2010)
Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Attendees: Executive Committee: Stacey Whyte, President, Sara Snow, First Vice President, Kimberly Sumner, Second Vice President, Lisa Bongardt, Treasurer, Juliet Hiznay Secretary; Residents: David Shapiro, H.M. Worsham, Mirta Merlos, Gary Baker, Elizabeth Baker, Joy Bovernick, Dave McCarthy, Rodney Bovernick, Jay Moore, Teresa Jennings, Mike Jackson, Grady Foster, Dan Morrisey, Robert Rosholt, Claudia Webb, Britta Farahati, Mark Hicks, Jean Barbour, Sharon Barbour, Robert Burgesser, Jonathan Vu, Brian Vu, Eric Lanman, Santya Lanman, Jim Presswood, Janet Presswood, Diane Canova, John Morrill, Nicholas Evans, Erin Comer, Cary Comer; Arlington County Staff: Daniel Reinhard, Tim McIntosh, Edward Caccavari, Jeffrey Fasceski

Meeting called to order by President, Stacey Whyte.

General Announcements: Stacey Whyte announced that the annual Neighborhood Day events were a success and thanked all the volunteers. Stacey Whyte thanked all those that participated in the recent neighborhood softball game. The neighborhood team is named "The Fightin' Pineapples" and players of all ages and experience are welcome to play. Stacey Whyte thanked all those that engaged in the activities surrounding preserving The Columbia Pike Library, and especially to Santya Lanman and Juliet Hiznay.

Representatives from Girl Scout Cadet Troop 557 gave a presentation on their Silver Award project to build a community garden. The troop is primarily made up of 6th graders from Thomas Jefferson and the garden is located behind Thomas Jefferson Middle School. The garden is a community garden for the school and the representatives wanted to inform the local community of their project and to solicit any ideas or assistance from the local community. Their Facebook page is Thomas Jefferson Community Garden.

A motion was made by Grady Foster to approve the minutes from the previous meeting and the motion was seconded. The minutes were approved.

Lisa Bongardt gave the Treasurer's Report. AHCA currently has 64 family memberships (goal 100) and 3 business memberships (goal 10). The bank balance is \$4,483 which includes a \$2,500 park allocation. Other Revenues: Newsletter advertising revenue is on target with the 2010 budget. Expenses: Over budget on the annual Neighborhood Day (\$500 budget vs \$567 actual). Newsletter printing costs will exceed budget due to timing and the increased size of our newsletter. The Executive Committee is focusing on increasing newsletter advertising to offset the increased expense. All other budget categories are on target except for Miscellaneous, which is over-budget due to costs for library flyers and shirts and softball shirts.

Neighborhood Conservation Report

Juliet Hiznay gave the Neighborhood Conservation Report (excluding Irving St Phase 2 project to be discussed next). In December 2009 the Irving Street Phase 1 project was funded (intersection at Route 50 not included). The project is approximately \$700K and includes new curbing, sidewalks and gutters. It should be noted that the Civic Association has recently had three major projects funded. The consolidated streetlight project for Ivy, 9th and Highland is being petitioned now and the goal is to have it funded in December 2011 (assuming petitioning is successful).

Irving Street/Arlington Blvd. Phase II Neighborhood Conservation Project

Juliet Hiznay gave a presentation on Irving Street/Arlington Blvd Phase II Neighborhood Conservation Project which is up for a vote. The project has already been through the design process and an informational meeting with directly impacted residents. The project is a beautification project, not a sidewalk project. Juliet explained that as a beautification project, no residential petitions would be circulated, rather a civic association vote would be taken. The project envisioned would improve the frontage along the length of Arlington Blvd., improving the bicycling and pedestrian experience, improving landscaping where possible, and eliminating motorist hazards by closing the access roads between Irving and Hudson and Fillmore and Fenwick. Juliet explained that the several efforts had been made to address concerns raised by the executive committee about traffic flow at Irving and 50, as well as concerns of directly impacted neighbors regarding the impact of parking due to closure of the access roads.

Juliet also explained that there is a state grant to replace and improve the traffic light, and traffic flow, as well as all four corners of the intersection at Route 50. This project is not yet designed but the County hopes to perform this upgrade at the same time as the Irving/Arlington Blvd Phase II Project so that the work will be more efficient and the permitting from VDOT can be sought at the same time.

Juliet introduced Tim McIntosh, Dan Reinhard and the other project designers from Arlington County who worked on the project design. The County staff further explained the project elements to the membership. Juliet Hiznay then opened the discussion up for questions.

Jay Moore suggested an alternative center island design for the intersection of Hudson and Route 50 and suggested widening the access road between Irving and Hudson. The County staff said they would review the suggestion.

A resident at Route 50 & Irving (whose driveway would be relocated) requested to leave the access road "as is" but to beautify the area. A question was raised as to why the access road had to be closed and Juliet explained that the executive committee had raised this as a possible obstacle with the County. The County initially was prepared to leave open the access road between Irving and Hudson, but after residents at the corner of Irving objected to losing parking spaces, the County was now requiring the access road be closed as part of the project. The residents at

2 Fillmore St. stated that they did not want to lose their driveway access from the access road. The county presented the residents at 2 Fillmore Street with 2 alternative driveway designs for a driveway off of Fillmore St. but the residents still objected to relocating their driveway, stating they feel the proposed designs are unsafe.

An AHCA resident expressed concern that closing the access road would increase the traffic and parking on Fenwick Street.

An AHCA resident asked if there was a bike usage count for this area. The County staff did not have bike usage numbers. It was requested a count be completed. It was asked if there was an initiative within the County to increase bike paths.

An AHCA resident stated that she felt the design & approval process felt forced and requested a menu format design and approval process. Tim McIntosh advised that in his experience this format doesn't work, and presenting multiple options results in projects never getting approved.

An AHCA resident asked if the County has the authority to close access to a driveway without replacing it. The County representative said that in his experience, that yes, in the right of way, the County has the right to eliminate the driveway access and has no obligation to replace the driveway and stated that Eminent Domain is not in effect in this situation since it is not private property.

An AHCA resident expressed concern about the lack of evergreen trees in the plan. The County representative indicated that the plans in the design were not final and a landscape architect would work on the final design.

Diane Canova moved to vote on the project. The motion was seconded.

A paper ballot vote was carried out and the result was 33 against and 5 in favor.

8:55PM

A drawing was held for a \$15 gift certificate to P. Brennans. Diane Canova won the drawing.

9PM – Meeting adjourned.