

Arlington Heights Civic Association Quarterly Meeting
Patrick Henry Elementary School
February 13, 2012

Attendees: Two members of Congregation Etz Hayim, Joe Adcocle, Judy Baltensperger, Dora Sue Black, Ted Black, Joy Bovernick, Rod Bovernick, Mike Braton, Michael Bromley, Diane Canova, Jose Ceballos, Chuck Colson, Donna Creese, Maureen Critchley, Mary Crosby, Pattie DeLoatche, Michael Ehrstein, Moley Evans, Nicholas Evans, Brian Foley, Grady Foster, Liz Fried, Bruce Hall, Noreen Hans, Rick Hans, Michael Harmon, David Henry, Paula Henstridge, Phil Hipley, Juliet Hiznay, Steve Hornstein, Eileen Janas, Teresa Jennings, David Jones, Peter Jones, Teresa Jones, Chuck Keyton, Doug Kim, Julie Kim, Greg Kissel, Mark Knight, Matthew Laskoski, Pamela Leon, Rebecca Mashaw, Gail Massot, Olivier Massot, Valynda Mayes, Dave McCarthy, Jacinta McCarthy, Phil Mackall, Jonathan Moore, John Morrill, Dan Morrissey, Chris Muldowney, Russ Munos, Melanie Myers, Craig Palmer, David Palnut, Dan Perch, Janet Presswood, Stef Pryor, Josh Robinson, Allison Rosenberg, Robert Rosholt, Ralph Ruedy, Tia Scales, Susan Scott, Jeff Sellers, Betty Siegel, Evelyn Smith, Rosa Smith, Doug Snow, Sara Snow, Mike Sobola, Herb Taylor, Amy Vennett, James M (Jay) Vennett, Jonathan Vu, Claudia Webb, Mike Webb, Marvin Whitehead, Stacey Whyte, Loren Wilee, Paul Wilee, and Scott Winn.

President Whyte started the meeting at 7:15 p.m. She began the meeting by speaking about the importance of Arlington Heights Civic Association (AHCA) membership, and she encouraged neighbors to join the association.

Ms. Whyte introduced the 2012 AHCA officers: First Vice President Jay Vennett, Second Vice President Allison Rosenberg, and Treasurer Sara Snow introduced themselves. The membership elected a Secretary to fill the open position, and Ms. Teresa Jennings was elected. The membership made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting from December 2010. While no minutes were available for the October 2010 meeting, the President said that these minutes would be available later.

The Treasurer's report detailed the finances of the association. The largest expense for the association has been the printing of the newsletter. While last year the association fundraised by selling water at the Blues Festival and the Arlington County Fair, this year the association plans to fundraise by conducting four P. Brennan's association nights, as these have been profitable in the past.

Mr. Josh Robinson, the owner of Twisted Vines, addressed the membership as a member of the Meet the Neighbors Series. Additionally, as part of the Series, the attendees met two members of the Ez Hayim Synagogue Congregation. The synagogue members described the recent upgrade of building's fire system and facilities. The synagogue members thanked the residents of the association, and particularly residents of South Fenwick Street, for their patience as the work on the building was completed. The members mentioned that the demographics of the congregation have changed, and that the pre-school now has an over-capacity attendance. They would like to have facilities for 75+ children built by using existing space within their facility. The synagogue would like the vote of support of AHCA when this project is brought before the Arlington County Board. The members answered a few questions from residents about parking and drop offs. A motion to support the synagogue using their existing space for pre-school facilities was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

Ms. Rosenberg spoke about the work she conducted to address the serious problem of the smell of natural gas emanating from storm sewers in the neighborhood. According to Ms. Rosenberg, the Washington Gas company and the fire department have been called out several times by neighbors reporting the smell of gas. She took the initiative to speak with crews on the street, and to ensure that a resolution of the problem was brought about. She mentioned that our area has a soil content that is heavy clay, so the gas and the odor were working through the ground. Ms. Rosenberg thanked those neighbors who took responsibility for the problem and its resolution. As it turned out, the August earthquake may have started this. In the future, neighbors suggested that the smell of gas is an emergency, and one should call 911, the Washington Gas emergency line, and the fire department (703-750-1400). Ms. Whyte reminded neighbors that these emergency numbers are also in the AHCA quarterly newsletter.

The membership turned to discussion of the Phase II project. The history of the project was discussed. At the Special Meeting of AHCA in December, the attendees discussed concerns focusing on South Hudson Street. Since the time of the December meeting, the response from the county was that the project has been in process and has moved forward. Ms. Chris Nixon is in charge of Neighborhood Conservation from the County. Ms. Nixon's assessment was that the project has been approved, and there is nothing that AHCA can do to make changes to the project now. Ms. Nixon stated that changing the Hudson Street design within the project would mean that the project does not go forward. Additionally, Ms. Nixon stated that any vote of AHCA at this meeting would be treated as information, and the county would not making changes at this point. If the AHCA residents would like changes at Hudson Street, the changes would rescind the entire project. Ms. Whyte stated that she feels the Association should move forward with the project. Other elements of the project, such as lights, drainage ditches, plantings, more space between bikes and pedestrians and the highway were important considerations. She mentioned that the rejection of the project would impact other projects desired by AHCA in the NCAC queue. Other proponents reiterated Ms. Whyte's views. Mr. Jay Moore explained that he had concerns with the process on the project as a whole. He stated his belief that, under the NCAC rules, this project should have been treated as a beautification with a street modification project, rather than as a beautification project.

A motion was made to rescind the prior approval of the Phase II beautification project. As the project had been voted on by AHCA before, Ms. Whyte mentioned that any vote modifying the project would need to have a two thirds vote of members in attendance. The motion failed with six yes votes, two abstentions and the rest no votes. A separate motion was made to give a donated Twisted Vines gift card to Ms. Rosenberg to thank her for her efforts in the gas leak issue. This motion received a unanimous vote.

Ms. Whyte called for adjournment at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Jennngs