

## Arlington Heights Civic Association's February 9, 2016 APPROVED Quarterly Meeting Minutes

**Call to Order** - Vice President Jay Moore called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM in the library of Patrick Henry Elementary School. Papa John's Pizza (3233A Columbia Pike, 703-271-8000) again provided pizzas for all to enjoy.

**Attendees** - The following neighbors attended the meeting: Scott Winn, Jay Moore, Molly Calkins, Mahender Dudani, Susannah Keefe, Lisa Turcios, Carrie Johnson, Melissa & Thomas Rainer, John & Christina Kozyn, Evan Farley, Emilie Bruchon, Betty Siegel, Harold Burch, Patricia Bullington-McGuire, Marcus Cox.

**Guest Speakers** – There were 3 guest speakers from the Division of Transportation (part of Arlington's Department of Environmental Services):

- Bonnie A. Parker, Community Strategy Consultant
- Claudia Russell, PE, Capital Projects Manager
- Alireza Khavari, PE, Design Engineer

Bonnie Parker introduced herself as the main liaison between neighborhood associations and the Transportation engineers like Claudia and Alireza. Bonnie indicated it is her job to engage with the community, and she has received the spreadsheet (compiled by Lisa Turcios) that listed several traffic concerns we have in our neighborhood. Bonnie promised to review the spreadsheet in depth with her team and get back to us with answers to every concern in a timely manner.

Additionally, Bonnie and her team gave a presentation on the 2 major traffic projects slated to begin construction this summer in our neighborhood (dates TBA):

- 1) **The intersection of Route 50 and Irving Street** - Claudia explained this project will be done with money from the Highway Safety Improvement Funds (from the state). With slides, she showed us the intersection's deficiencies and said the intersection presently is not up to code. Improvements will include better streetlights, signals and striping. Construction is expected to take about 120 days. No full detours/street closings expected.
- 2) **S. Fillmore Street from Route 50 to 5<sup>th</sup> Street South** - Again, the Transportation team stated that this is a state project, and it should take about 6 weeks to complete. A goal is the widening of the sidewalk, specifically, on west side of S. Fillmore, sidewalks will change from the existing 4.5 feet wide to being 7 feet wide (will result in street being more narrow). The team explained that nothing is being done on S 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in that area because there are too many utilities there.

The discussion then turned to broader concerns about traffic flow in the neighborhood. Alireza, who is in charge of street signs, emphasized that the best way to decrease red-light running is enforcement from the police.

In response to questioning about how to slow down traffic on S 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, especially because of the new elementary school, Alireza stated that S 2<sup>nd</sup> Street is a “main artery” and therefore NO traffic calming measures can be employed. Instead, improvements can be made with signs, pavement markings and enforcement. Alireza also explained that speed studies are done every 3 or 4 years. If the speed of cars is 7 mph or more over the speed limit, said Alireza, then the Division of Transportation takes appropriate action. Neighbor Susannah Keefe stated that past-President of AHCA Stephen Hughes has indicated that the average speed on S 2<sup>nd</sup> Street was clocked at being 34 mph, and the speed limit is posted as 25 mph, so 9 mph over the limit, we need appropriate action.

Bonnie then announced that neighborhood “Complete Streets” was just approved by the County Board. She stated she is building a website that ranks which streets will get improved and when (about 3 projects per year, and there will be no speed bumps installed anywhere for the next 3 years).

**Treasurer’s Report** - Scott Winn reported the AHCA bank account has a balance of approximately \$1,000 (approximate because 20 members have paid dues this evening). He stated the balance at this time of year is usually around \$1,500. The difference is due to the fact that the bill recently was paid for the AHCA newsletter.

**Other Items on Agenda** - Mahender Dudani, AHCA Representative for the South Arlington Working Group (SAWG), expressed his discontent with the process in voting for the new elementary school south of Route 50 to be located on the Thomas Jefferson site. He urged neighbors to speak up as things move forward with the new school. Lisa Turcios reminded neighbors of the upcoming meetings at Henry and TJ regarding next steps in the plan to move Montessori from Drew to the existing Patrick Henry building and Patrick Henry students to the new school at TJ.

Scott Winn called for nominations for the position of President of AHCA. Molly Calkins nominated herself, declaring she will speak up about County matters and make sure our neighborhood’s voice is heard. Scott Winn made a motion to vote for Molly as President. Jay Moore seconded the motion. The vote to make Molly AHCA President was unanimous.

Betty Siegel, AHCA’s Form Base Code Working Group representative, reported that the Food Star site (at intersection of George Mason and Columbia Pike) is being redeveloped for mixed use, including a Harris Teeter and a park.

**Approval of Minutes** - Draft copies of the Minutes from the AHCA’s November 10, 2015 Quarterly Membership Meeting were distributed. A motion was made by Lisa Turcios to approve the Minutes, and Scott Winn seconded the motion. The vote to accept the Minutes was unanimous.

**Adjournment** - Scott Winn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Jay Moore seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM. *Submitted by Susannah Keefe, Secretary*