

Arlington Heights Civic Association, February 11, 2020, Quarterly Meeting Minutes

The February 11, 2020 Meeting of the Arlington Heights Civic Association (AHCA) was called to order by President Kristi Sawert in the cafeteria at Alice West Fleet School at 7:02 PM.

Attendees: Kristi Sawert, Nick Carrasco, Maureen Critchley, Mary Crosby, Mahender Dudani, Evan Farley, Eileen Janas, Marilyn Marton, Habte Michael, Dan Morrisey, Anne O'Brien, Catherine O'Malley, David Pouliott, David Priddy, Susan Scott, Brian Sigriz, Betty Siegel, Amy Vennett, James M (Jay) Vennett.

Minutes of the November 12, 2019 AHCA Meeting were approved, with a follow-up correction to add Matthew Ambrose to the slate of officers elected.

Reports:

Habte Michael, ECDC report: Habte has had no neighborhood complaints. The meeting scheduled on January 14 to hear concerns from the neighborhood had no attendees. ECDC is talking with county reps and the Career Center about 316 spaces in the parking garage.

Kristi Sawert: Please give annual dues checks to Nick, who will get them to Matt Ambrose. "Jerry" Jerusalem Soloman, is the county employee responsible for the TJ field. There are red markers for surveyors; please don't remove them.

Representatives of the Arlington County Police Department (Capt. Butler, Criminal Investigations Division, Cpl Joe Green, Community Outreach, Lt. Novak, Criminal Investigation Unit) provided an update on neighborhood safety. From Feb 2019-Feb 4, 2020, 40% of the neighborhood reports were about the Purple Lounge and the McDonalds for noise and intoxicated people. The person responsible for the shooting in Sept 2019 was arrested. #3 for complaints was the Career Center with complaints of juveniles and petty larceny. There have been three burglaries during that time, with two committed by the same person in vacant houses, and one burglary outside the Purple Lounge.

Susan Scott said there was an apparent increase in homelessness with people sitting on the bench in front of Walgreens. The police have talked to an individual trying to build a rapport with him but the individual doesn't want help. He will pass on our concerns to the Watch Commander.

Regarding the Purple Lounge, they can no longer have live music. Habte Micheals reported that he sees people drinking behind the McDonalds in the evening.

Captain Butler reminded us to lock our cars; that bands of teenagers will hit 20-30 in a night and steal cameras, money, GPS devices. These are difficult crimes to prove if they catch them a few streets away. The police are not allowed to keep fingerprints or DNA. Please continue to report all crimes.

Maureen reported the issues with Fleet traffic blocking the Arbors.

David Priddy, Career Center Working Group, reminded attendees of the BLPC Meeting on Wednesday Feb 18. A new traffic study has been requested. There was discussion of traffic issues for parents picking up children at the Montessori School, issues with a surface garage, the 7th St pickup site for Wakefield, Key and other locations.

A number of accessibility issues have surfaced at Fleet: elevator needs a key card; during a shelter in place a wheelchair has to go in the stairwell; the decibel level in the atrium is very high; the playground isn't adaptive; a basketball hoop was erected on sloping ground.

Bill Browning, Master Naturalist, gave a presentation on the growth of the deer population of Arlington, damage to plantings, lack of a culling policy.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Janas
AHCA Secretary